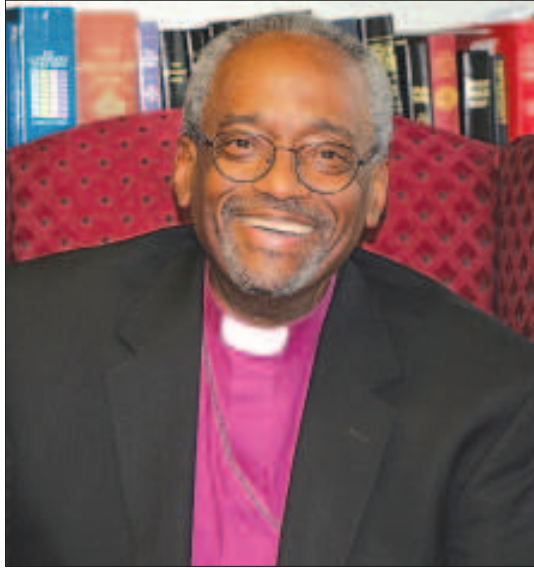


# ALIVE!

## Four chosen as nominees for 27th presiding bishop



The Rt. Rev. Thomas E. Breidenthal



The Rt. Rev. Michael B. Curry



The Rt. Rev. Ian T. Douglas



The Rt. Rev. Dabney T. Smith

[*Episcopal News Service*] The Joint Nominating Committee for the Election of the Presiding Bishop May 1 announced the names of the bishops it will nominate this summer to succeed Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori.

See **PB Candidates**, page 9

## Wants and Needs

The Rt. Rev. Jacob Owensby, Ph.D., D.D.

Miss Beth was my oldest son Andrew's first grade teacher. She ably and lovingly taught her little charges how to read and write. Increasing their knowledge base was part of her job description.

And yet like all truly good teachers she understood that her vocation included much more. Miss Beth intentionally nurtured the humanity of the children under her care by imparting life wisdom.

For years in the Owensby house we would repeat one of her practical questions for sorting out our motivations: Do you want it or do you need it?

Wants and needs are the engine that drives our lives. They are our fundamental motivators. All of us wither and fade when our needs go unmet. Miss Beth also recognized that some of us—children and grownups alike—grow frantic and miserable when we cannot have what we want, even when we don't need it.

Her life lesson was simple but profound and fundamental. Be clear about what you truly need. This clarity can keep your life focused. Everyone will experience wanting things we can't have. Recognizing them for mere wants, we liberate us from the tyranny of perpetual dissatisfaction. After all, there's always something to want that we don't have.

Initially you may think that Miss Beth advocated a bottom-line existence. Many people think that our needs are very minimal: food, water, air, safety. And we do need these things.

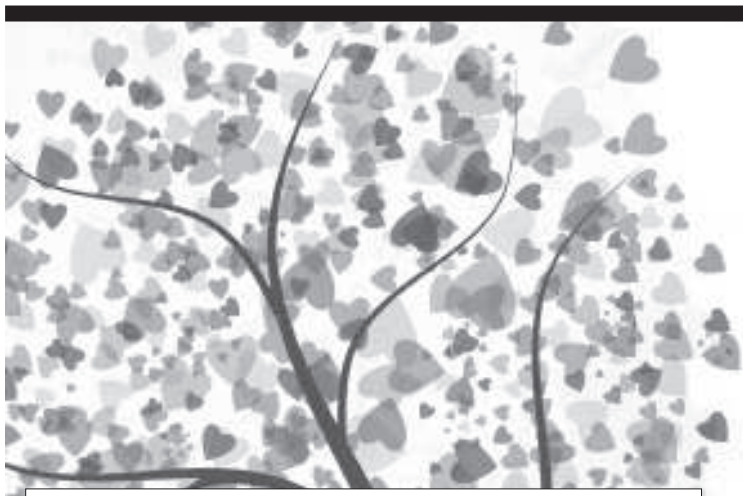
But as Abraham Maslow once taught, humans have higher order needs.

Once we meet our physiological needs we will yearn for love and belonging. Just as surely as we need air to breathe, we need deep connection and enduring bonds.

We need acceptance and nurture from others. But perhaps more importantly, we need the sense that we belong to a group of people so dedicated to each other that each member of the group would give their lives for the sake of the group.

Some of us experience this in family or friendship or twelve-step groups. A recent TED radio hour reported the result of research that showed that platoons actively

See **Bishop's Message**, page 11



**PB candidates**  
*continued from page 9*

election and until confirmation is received. I know this will be a challenge, but ask your cooperation and faithfulness to our mutual life and accountability,” Jefferts Schori said in her letter to the bishops.

The presiding bishop-elect will preach at the convention’s closing Eucharist on July 3, and Jefferts Schori will preside. The presiding bishop-elect’s nine-year term officially begins Nov. 1, 2015.

The presiding bishop is primate and chief pastor of the church, chair of the Executive Council, and president of the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society.

The 78th General Convention meets June 25 – July 3, in Salt Lake City, Utah.

**When in Our Music God is Glorified**

the CVI offering in June at St. James, Alexandria

The Saturday, June 6 offering of the Convocational Vitality Institute, will be focused on Music. The program will focus on showing that

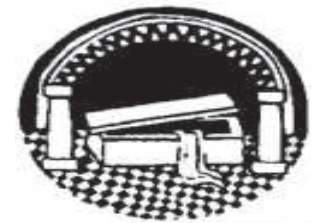


music—which is a very important element of Anglican liturgical worship—can be missional in that it can be performed anywhere; with voices only, or with those voices accompanied with any portable musical instrument that is available.

We will emphasize that smaller congregations need not think only in the “large congregation/grand organ mode.” God can be glorified and our worship enhanced no matter how limited our resources may seem to be.

Bryan Mitnaul, of St. Mark’s in Shreveport is the presenter for this one-day session to be presented at St. James, Alexandria.

A one-time fee of \$25 covers attendance at all 2015 sessions of CVI. As is usual the presentation will begin at 10:00 a.m. and conclude at 3:00 p.m.



**The Season of Easter**

The Season of Easter, the oldest and greatest feast in the church year, celebrates the feast of Christ’s resurrection and is the central day in the liturgical year. Easter Day begins the Easter season, which lasts for fifty days, until the Feast of Pentecost. The readings for this season center on the events of the resurrection and the appearance of Jesus to his disciples.



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Robert Harwell ..... Editor

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**Polk Memorial’s Maundy Thursday feast**

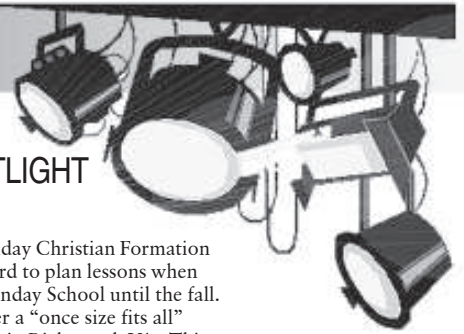


Every quarter Polk Memorial Church in Leesville provides a feast to anyone who needs a meal. This past Maundy Thursday, Polk Memorial served approximately sixty people with a tasty repast consisting of lasagna, salad, dessert and drinks.

At this quarter’s feast there were newcomers, and Polk welcomes this influx. Active in the feast preparation were: Sabra Browning, Linda Harris, Bill Jedrzynski, Randy Browning, Angela Hulhof, Dorinda Jarrell, Lea Kimbrell, and Margaret Rachal.

Polk is readying its congregation for participation in the City of Leesville’s “Trash Bash,” where teams from different organizations vie to pick up the most litter and trash. The winning organization gets a cash prize from the city.

**Copy deadline, next issue:  
Thursday, May 21, 2015**



## CHRISTIAN FORMATION RESOURCE SPOTLIGHT

### Intergenerational Summer Christian Formation

If your congregation is like many other Episcopal churches across the country, you may be about to shut down Sunday Christian Formation for the summer. Church attendance declines during June, July, and August when people go on vacation, and it is hard to plan lessons when you don't know if anyone will show up. Often church leaders decide it makes sense simply to take a break from Sunday School until the fall.

That being said, many people still long for spiritual nourishment during the summer months. While there is never a "once size fits all" solution to this issue, here is a story about what works at Grace and Holy Trinity Episcopal Church (<http://ghctc.org>) in Richmond, VA. This article was posted May 7, 2014, by Carolyn Moomaw Chilton and is archived at <http://www.buildfaith.org>, an online Christian Formation resource center presented by the Center for the Ministry of Teaching at Virginia Theological Seminary.

### The Good Book Club – How to Run Intergenerational Sunday School in the Summer



#### The Good Book Club

Adam is in the fourth grade. He and his parents are in church every Sunday. In the summer they come to the Good Book Club. We offer a continental breakfast and Adam eats a lot – sausage biscuit, fresh fruit, bagel, maybe more. He slumps in his chair, eats and plays mobile games. But don't underestimate Adam or think he isn't participating – or worse yet – doesn't know his Bible stories.

"So, this week we read about Jacob. Who is Jacob?" asks the leader of the Good Book Club.

Adam sits up in his chair and answers. He doesn't just say who Jacob is, he keeps going... that Jacob is Isaac's son, and that he married Rebekah.

"Why did he trick his brother, and how did the brother react?"

Adam knows.

"Was God involved in this trickery, do you think?"

Adam has an opinion. So does sixth grader Steven whose Bible looks like a comic book, and even four-year-old Lisa who is coloring. It's often hard for adults to get a chance to answer the questions!

#### Summer Sunday School for All Ages

The Good Book Club is summer Christian Formation for all ages at Grace & Holy Trinity Church. We're an urban church in Richmond, VA, where many of our parishioners are gone on summer weekends. With reduced numbers, and wanting to encourage inter-age Bible study, we don't offer traditional age-graded Sunday School. Instead we do the inter-generational Good Book Club. It meets at 9:00 a.m. between our two services, and lasts for 45 minutes. With continental breakfast, including Starbucks coffee (very important!), we gather around the table to talk, study, eat and be together.

#### Details and Topics

We offer a Nursery for infants and toddlers,

and for older children we put out coloring sheets that correspond to the stories we're studying. We get out maps and study internet sites. Sometimes our music director leads us in studying and singing hymns that correspond to particular Bible stories. There is a syllabus that outlines the summer reading as well as a weekly study sheet. These are handed out a week ahead of time, and posted on our website, and everyone is asked to read and study the stories prior to coming on Sunday morning.

The Good Book Club idea was created by our staff four years ago, and was designed and written by the Rev. Michael Cadaret (VTS '03). The purpose is simple: encourage people to read and study the Bible. To date, Michael has developed three years of curriculum. Year One is the Great Stories including Creation, Noah, Moses, David, Jesus' birth and baptism and parables. Year Two is reading portions on course: the Abrahamic cycle through Joseph; the Gospel of Mark; and portions of Acts including Paul's travels. Year Three begins with Old Testament heroes (and goats): Joshua, Judges, and David (includ-

ing portions from the Psalms); different portraits of Jesus from each of the four Gospels, and Paul comparing accounts of his life (from Acts) with portions of his letters.

#### A Community of Learning

It works. It's fun. It's a simple premise with a profound end result. We meet new people, adults learn that children often know more than we do, children learn that adults will listen to them, we all learn to love the Bible even more, and we have a good time together. If you have questions about the Good Book Club and the curriculum please contact the Rev. Michael Cadaret at [Michael@ghctc.org](mailto:Michael@ghctc.org)

*Carolyn Moomaw Chilton writes and blogs (Nellie's Garden) as a spiritual discipline and an invitation to conversation with others. You can also follow her on Twitter @episcoevangel and Facebook as EpiscopalEvangelist. She is currently on staff at Grace and Holy Trinity Episcopal Church in Richmond, Virginia as the Assistant for Evangelism and Stewardship.*



## 2015/2016 Diocesan Youth Events

Next year's youth events have already been scheduled, so mark your calendars now! Look for registration information and other details as we get closer to the dates.

#### Saturday, August 29, 2015 Youth Sponsors Training

10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Leadership training for all adults who work with youth or any other adults interested in youth ministry. The location of this event will be published later.

#### Friday, September 25, 2015 – Sunday, September 27, 2015 New Beginnings

New Beginnings begins at 6:00 p.m. September 25, and ends at 11:00 a.m., Sunday, September 27.

New Beginnings is a spiritual retreat for youth in grades 7-9 to be held at Camp Hardtner.

#### Friday, November 20, 2015 – Sunday, November 22, 2015 CLEY Retreat for High School Youth

CLEY begins at 6:00 p.m. Friday, November 20, and ends at 11:00 a.m., Sunday, November 22.

CLEY stands for Christian League of Episcopal Youth. It is a high school youth retreat at Camp Hardtner.

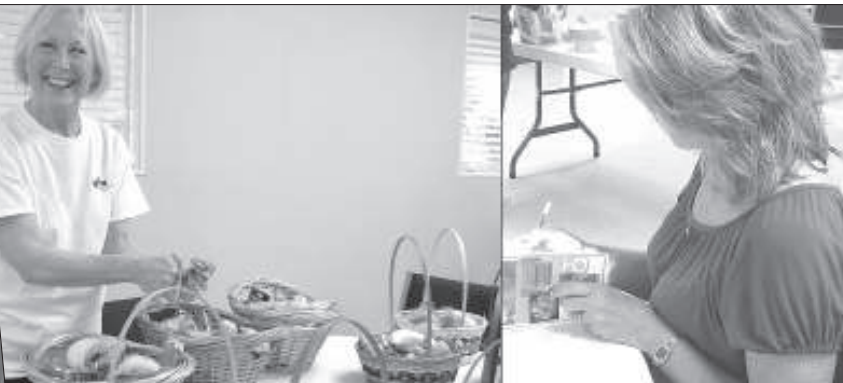
#### Tuesday, December 29, 2015 – Friday, January 1, 2016 Winter Fest at Camp Hardtner

Winter Fest begins at 6:00 p.m. Tuesday, December 29 and ends at 10:00 a.m., Friday, January 1, 2016.

Middle and high school youth mission project and retreat at Camp Hardtner.

See Youth Calendar, page 4

## Diocesan News



### St. James, Shreveport hops forward to fill the gaps

The Filling in the Gaps ministry at St. James Episcopal Church in Shreveport completed Easter Baskets for delivery on the evening of April 1—the final evening of the Lenten study sessions. Twenty-four individuals were surprised with baskets containing a variety of fresh fruit, sweets, snacks, and toiletries—and of course, dyed Easter eggs. Recipients included those on the Meals on Wheels delivery route, home-bound parishioners, and neighbors who are sick or injured. Each was surprised and expressed pleasure and joy at the unexpected visits.

The items were all donated by parishioners—or purchased with funds donated for the cause,

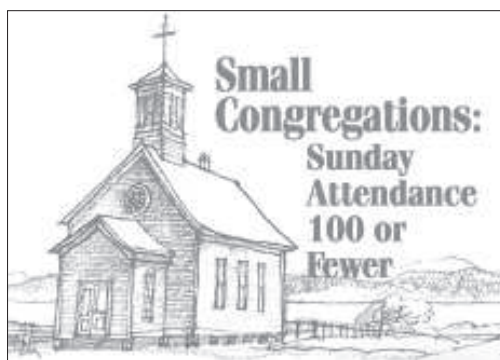
and it was amazing how quickly the baskets were filled. Not only did many hands make the work light the day the actual work was done, but even the act of claiming the individual tasks was astonishingly quick: within ten minutes of composing a list of items to be included in the baskets and hitting the send button on the e-mail to the parish, every item on the list had been claimed and extras had been added by parishioners who wanted to contribute, but weren't fast enough to grab up the original offerings.



### Small congregation youth ministry grants are available

If you are part of a small congregation that is trying to strengthen its ministry to young people, you may be eligible for a diocesan grant. Once again this year, parishes with an average Sunday attendance of 100 or fewer are invited to apply for funds to subsidize innovative start-up, one-time projects, programs, or events that will have an ongoing impact on ministry to children and/or youth.

These awards are designed to nurture these specific ministry areas and will not be offered to support general operating expenses. The size of each grant will depend upon the total number of grant proposals



approved for funding.

All applications should be received by July 15, 2015. They will be reviewed by the Christian Formation Commission, and grant recipients will be announced September 1, 2015. While we hope that grants will continue to be offered beyond 2015, we can only guarantee their availability this year.

For further information and to download an application, go to the diocesan Christian Formation webpage (<http://www.diocesewla.org/christian-formation/>) or contact Joy Owensby, [jowensby@diocesewla.org](mailto:jowensby@diocesewla.org).



*continued from page 3*

*Friday, January 22, 2016 – Sunday, January 24, 2016*

#### **Happening**

Happening begins at 6:00 p.m., Friday, January 22 and ends at 5:00 p.m., Sunday, January 24, 2016.

Happening is a spiritual retreat for high school youth at Camp Hardtner.

*Friday, March 11, 2016*

#### **JEYL Retreat for Middle School Youth**

JEYL begins at 6:00 p.m., Friday, March 11 and ends at 11:00 a.m., Sunday, March 13, 2016.

JEYL stands for Junior Episcopal Youth League. It is a middle school youth retreat at Camp Hardtner.

# Diocesan News



## Ordinations to take place this summer

Bishop Jake will perform three ordinations this summer. On May 16, at Church of the Ascension in Lafayette, **Peter Nathaniel Johnston** will be ordained to the Sacred Order of Deacons. The Rev. Deacon **David Seth Donald** will be ordained to the Priesthood on July 25 at Church of the Good Shepherd in Lake Charles. At St. James, Alexandria on August 1, the Rev. Deacon **Michael Joseph Bordelon** will be ordained to the Priesthood.

The Rev. Deacon Seth Donald will be on the staff of Church of the Good Shepherd, Lake Charles. The Rev. Deacon Michael Bordelon will be a Priest Associate at St. James, Alexandria from May through August 2015. He will resume his seminary studies at the University of the South in late August.



## Maunder Thursday with the Homeless

by The Very Rev. Mary Richard

April 2 of this year has to have been the most moving and memorable Maundy Thursday most, if not all of us, have experienced. Our Bishop had asked that we share a Eucharist and foot washing with the people of the Texas Avenue neighborhood. These are our friends. We know them from Hope House and from meeting on the street and from Sunday services. Most of them we know their name and they know ours. Most are homeless, some live in apartments or houses in the neighborhood. All live in extreme poverty.

The day was cloudy and breezy, perfect for gathering in the parking lot in front of Hope House at Austen Place and Texas Avenue. Lois Mabery had bought 32 pairs of shoes and many more pairs of new white socks. St. George's fabulous chefs had made lunch and were there to serve it. St. Luke's van was on hand for medical assessment and treatment when needed. Two members of the Physical Therapy staff at LSU Medical School were there to help with any treatments. The Reverends Morgan McIntyre, Bill Bryant, Alston Johnson, Guido Verbeck, Jaime Flowers, Frank Hughes, David Greer and Mary Richard – and of course, Bishop Jake Owensby – and many volunteers were

See Foot Washing page 10

## Diocesan Notables

# Your Money at Work!

Fifteen Western Louisiana congregations will benefit from grants made by the Diocese through the Ministry Application Program (MAP) instituted by and heavily advertised by the Diocese.

As often stated by Bishop Jake, "The 2015 budget puts our money where our mouth is." In order to encourage missional thinking and risk taking, the budget includes a grant program entitled the Ministry Application Program or MAP. The 2015 budget total for MAP is \$150,000.

Details of the program and applications for grants are on the diocesan website ([www.diocesewla.org](http://www.diocesewla.org)).

In short, annual grants for missional initiatives for up to \$7,500 are available. Grants for capital 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.

There is still some grant money available in the 2015 diocesan budget and congregations can still apply for a Missional Initiative (\$7,500) or a Capital Improvement (\$5,000) MAP grant.

See the list of awards for the variety of improvements and mission efforts funded.

### 2015 MAP Grants

#### Missional Initiatives

Christ Church, St. Joseph \$6,000  
Servant Leadership Corps to purchase Printer/Copier

St. Barnabas, Lafayette \$3,500  
New Canterbury

Trinity, Crowley \$3,500  
Summer day care program for area children

St. Michael's, Pineville \$6,750  
Beyond the Walls (camera, laptop computer, Live Stream Support, Internet)

St. Alban's, Monroe \$5,000  
Hispanic Ministry

Holy Cross, Shreveport \$7,500  
Neighborhood Case Management and Spiritual Support

St. James, Alexandria \$7,500  
The Community Breakfast

Epiphany, New Iberia-Solomon House \$700

Week long summer camp for kindergarten and first grade, underserved

#### Capital Improvements

St. Andrew's, Moss Bluff \$5,000  
Stove top, oven and lawn mower

St. Thomas, Monroe \$5,000  
Community park project (replace old pier, landscape)

Christ Church, St. Joseph \$5,000  
Parish house HVAC system installation

Trinity, Crowley \$5,000  
Repair/replace Heating Unit

Redeemer, Ruston \$4,634  
Sanctuary heating, ventilation, and air conditioning

Holy Cross, Shreveport \$5,000  
Hope House showers and rest room improvements

Holy Comforter, Lecompte \$3,100  
Cages for three (3) air conditioning units

St. Andrew's, Mer Rouge \$2,050  
Painting the Exterior of the Church  
Outdoor sign for the church \$2,399

Grace, Monroe \$5,000  
Reclaim and restore youth room

St. George's, Bossier City \$5,000  
Electronic sign for church



## Western Louisiana receives first-time award

Holly Davis, the Missioner for Administration and Communications, recently represented the Diocese at the national Episcopal Communicators Conference in Buckeyestown, Maryland, on April 8-11. She returned with a Polly Bond Award which acknowledges excellence and achievement in the ministry of church communication, a first for Western Louisiana. In the category of Marketing/Outreach, Holly won the Award of Excellence for her graphic design of the Congregational Vitality Institute Rack Card which features the 2015 schedule of events.

As an Episcopal Communicator, Holly is committed to connection, realizing that communication is a vital component at all levels, from the congregation to the diocese to the global church.



## clergy notes

The Rev. (George) Rich Snow is being called as rector of St. Timothy's, Alexandria. Father Snow has been serving there in an interim capacity for several months.



### Administrative Professionals visit the Diocesan Office

April 28 was Administrative Professionals Day in the diocese. All paid and volunteer administrative support staff from across the diocese were invited to Mt. Olivet for refreshments and a tour. After that the group, plus diocesan staff members, then moved to Cajun Landing Restaurant in Alexandria where they enjoyed good food, great fellowship, exciting door prizes, and meaningful conversation about creating an Administrator Resource Network in the diocese.



## The 2015 Hardtner Camping Season is upon us!

by Jason Ezell

If you are reading this, then you know the 2015 Summer Camping season will be upon us in mere weeks! If you have not registered your child for camp and paid the deposit, we cannot guarantee a place in camp. Also, please remember that all enrollments for summer camp are based on the camper's current grade in school for the 2014-2015 school year. If you log into your account and notice the wrong grade listed for your camper, please call the camp office ASAP so we can help you correct the problem and get your child in the correct session. All payments and doctor-signed Camper Health Form (found on website) are due **2 weeks** prior to your camping session. Camp Hardtner operates with a very small administration staff. Having all payments and paperwork come in at the last minute creates problems in assisting our camp families. Thank you for your consideration!

Although we have allowed campers to move from one session to another in the past, that is no longer allowed by the Summer Camping Committee. All camp programming is age-appropriate, and we need campers in the correct sessions. By allowing campers into the incorrect session, we run the risk of excluding campers from their proper session as waitlists are created. Thank you so much for your cooperation in this matter!

### Calling All Volunteers!

We need your help this summer and every summer. If you have gifts, talents, time, and love of the summer camping ministry, we might have a place for you. We are always on the lookout for good people to help us deliver this all-important summer camping program. Are you a former camper, counselor, Camp Staff, Dean, Nurse or interested in helping out for the first time? This is your opportunity to give back to Camp Hardtner! We are accepting applications for volunteer summer staff on our website, [www.camphardtner.org](http://www.camphardtner.org). We need people ages 16+ to serve at one or both Camp Able sessions this summer. There are a host of roles to fill and we strive to maintain at least a 1:1 camper/staff ratio at Able. This is an amazing opportunity to participate in a community that is dignity-driven in celebration of all our diverse abilities, not our disabilities.

We also need people to volunteer for our classic camp sessions for grades 1-12. Staff for these sessions will be at least 18 years of age. If you are between 15 and 18, you may apply as a Counselor In Training (CIT). However, you must be at least 2 years removed from the session you wish to CIT.

The Camp Staffs for each session are looking to add a few people to their ranks to help with camper supervision, behind the scenes work, worship, photography, volunteer driver (for emergencies and town trips), and creating an atmosphere of love and acceptance as disciples of Christ. All volunteer applications need to be completed by May 15, 2015.

All volunteers must complete Safeguarding Online before arriving for any camping session. The Episcopal Church requires this training for anyone working with youth. Safeguarding Online is found at: [http://www.praesidiuminc.com/armatus/safeguarding\\_login.php](http://www.praesidiuminc.com/armatus/safeguarding_login.php)

The password to enter the system the first time is "diocesewla318". Please complete all modules of the training. Once complete you may print your completion certificate



for your files. We maintain an online record of who has completed which modules. This training is good for 3 years after which time a short refresher course is required. Thank you in advance for your care of our children!

### Scholarships

We have not had the scholarship support this year that we have experienced in the past. This is unfortunate, but if you need financial assistance to attend camp, please check with the rector of your church parish first. Our scholarship funds are extremely limited. If you would like to donate to scholarships, Camp Able, or purchase items on our wish list, it can be found by going to our website and looking for "DONATE" at the very top of the page. It is through your generosity that we are able to create opportunities for campers that otherwise wouldn't happen.

### New This Summer

We have made a few changes for the upcoming summer regarding registration and transportation. Although we offered bus transportation the last 2 summers, we don't have enough demand to arrange buses this summer. You are encouraged to create

carpools to help get campers to and from Hardtner. Please remember, if you are going to ride home with someone after camp, they must be listed as someone we can release the camper to in the Camp Registration system. You may log in to your account and add that information once determined.

Registration will operate slightly different this summer. Once you arrive at camp, registration will take place in the Café as usual. You must first check in with the administration, receive your water bottle and cabin assignment, and visit with the nurse. Sending all medical information at least one week prior to your camping session can greatly help speed this process on registration day. Once checked in with administration and the nurse, you will take your camper to his/her cabin to help them make their bed and settle in for the week. While

checked out with administration in the Café where they will receive their camp T-shirt, camp photo (yes, it is coming back this summer), and any meds from the nurse. Once a camper is checked out, you may go to their cabin to collect their things before departing.

### The Hardtner Mail Service

Once again this summer we will offer the Hardtner Mail Service. This is a service provided by the Permanent Staff allowing parents to drop off all mail and packages for their camper at check in labeled with name and day of delivery. Simply drop it off in the office with the Permanent Staff member on registration day before leaving camp. As the mail is somewhat unreliable during the summer due to volume of mail received, we often end up getting mail for campers after they have left. The Hardtner Mail Service is free, but donations are accepted. All money donated to the Hardtner Mail Service is spent by the Permanent Staff on service projects during the summer to enhance the summer camping program.

Finally, Taste of Hardtner is back on the calendar for this summer! It will take place on Saturday, May 30 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The cost is \$10 and includes lunch. This event was created as a way to open our summer camping season while encouraging diocesan community building. We will have staff operating several of our activity areas during the day such as Arts & Crafts, Games, Music, Swimming, Hiking, and Canoeing. This is a family friendly event and no child-care is provided. If you would like to spend the night, you will need to contact the camp office to make lodging arrangement. Lodging will be limited.

Session	Dates	Camper	Grade	Cost	Dean
First Camp	June 4-6		1 & 2	\$175	Fr. Richard Norman
Camp Able 1	June 9-13		Ages 9+	\$460	Fr. John Bedingfield
Primary Camp	June 16-20		3 & 4	\$460	Fr. Whit Stodghill
Jr. High Camp 1	June 23-28		5 & 6	\$575	Fr. George Gennuso
Jr. High Camp 2	July 2-7		7 & 8	\$575	Mtr. Ally Perry
Sr. High Camp	July 10-16		11 & 12	\$690	Madre Annie Etheredge
Mid High Camp	July 19-25		9 & 10	\$690	Fr. Jeff Millican
Camp Able 2	July 28-Aug 1		Ages 9+	\$460	Fr. Chris Robinson

Please contact us at [office@camphardtner.org](mailto:office@camphardtner.org) or 318-765-3794 for questions and assistance. We can't wait to see you this summer!!





**The 78th General Convention**  
The Episcopal Church

**Four chosen as nominees for 27th presiding bishop**

*Presiding Bishop election will take place June 27 during General Convention in Salt Lake City.*

The Joint Nominating Committee for the Election of the Presiding Bishop May 1 announced the names of the bishops it will nominate this summer to succeed Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori.

The four names will be formally submitted to the General Convention during a joint session on June 26, the day prior to the day set for the election by the House of Bishops of the 27th presiding bishop.

The nominees are:

The Rt. Rev. Thomas Breidenthal, 64, Diocese of Southern Ohio

The Rt. Rev. Michael Curry, 62, Diocese of North Carolina

The Rt. Rev. Ian Douglas, 56, Diocese of Connecticut

The Rt. Rev. Dabney Smith, 61, Diocese of Southwest Florida

The committee's formal announcement, along with biographical information about each nominee, is posted on the General Convention website in English, Spanish and French.



**Breidenthal** was dean of religious life and of the chapel at Princeton University in New Jersey when he was elected on Nov. 11, 2006, to be the ninth bishop of Southern Ohio. He was ordained and consecrated April 28, 2007. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1974 from Portland State University, a Master of Arts degree from the University of Victoria, in British Columbia, in 1977, a Master of Divinity degree in 1981 from Church Divinity School of the Pacific and a Doctor of Philosophy degree in theology from Oxford University in 1991.



**Curry** was the rector of St. James' Episcopal Church, Baltimore, Maryland, when he was elected on February 11, 2000, to be the 11th bishop of North Carolina. He was ordained and consecrated on June 17, 2000. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1975 from Hobart and William Smith College, in Geneva, New York, and a Master of Divinity degree in 1978 from the Berkeley Divinity School at Yale.

**Douglas** was the Angus Dun Professor of Mission and World Christianity at Episcopal Divinity School when he was elected on Oct. 24, 2009, to be the 15th bishop of Connecticut. He was ordained and consecrated on April 17, 2010. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1980 from Middlebury College, Middlebury, Vermont, and a Masters of Education in counseling and consulting psychology from the Harvard Graduate School of Education in 1982. Douglas earned a Master of Divinity degree from Harvard Divinity School in 1983. In 1993, he earned a Doctor of Philosophy degree in religious studies from Boston



from Middlebury College, Middlebury, Vermont, and a Masters of Education in counseling and consulting psychology from the Harvard Graduate School of Education in 1982. Douglas earned a Master of Divinity degree from Harvard Divinity School in 1983. In 1993, he earned a Doctor of Philosophy degree in religious studies from Boston University.



**Smith** was rector of Trinity Church, New Orleans, Louisiana, when he was elected on Dec. 9, 2006, to be the fifth bishop of Southwest Florida. He was ordained and consecrated on Sept. 15, 2007. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in broadcasting production from the University of South Florida in Tampa in 1980, a Master of Divinity in 1987 from Nashotah House and a Doctor of Ministry from Seabury-Western Theological Seminary with special focus on congregational development in 1999.

The announcement of the nominees now opens a 12-day process to be followed by any bishop or deputy who wants to nominate from the floor a bishop not on the committee's slate. The committee recently outlined the process that must be followed before any additional bishop may be nominated in that manner.

Jefferts Schori and President of the House of Deputies the Rev. Gay Clark Jennings recently wrote to their houses with information about the bishops' election and deputies' confirmation process that will be followed at convention.

All of the nominees will be given the opportunity to address both houses of General Convention the afternoon of June 24. Their names will be formally submitted to the General Convention during a joint session of the two houses on June 26. Nominations from the floor, done according to the committee's process, will happen during that session as well.

Bishops will gather at the Convention Eucharist at 9:30 a.m. on June 27 in the Salt Palace Convention Center. Following that, the bishops with seat, voice, and vote will board buses to travel to St. Mark's Cathedral, where the election will take place in the context of prayer and reflection.

Once the election has taken place, Jefferts Schori will send a delegation to Jennings to inform her of the name of the bishop who has been elected. Jennings will refer the name to the House of Deputies legislative committee on the Confirmation of the Presiding Bishop without announcing the name to the full House. The legislative committee will make a recommendation to the House of Deputies whether to confirm the election or not confirm, and the House of Deputies will immediately vote on the recommendation. Jennings will then appoint a delegation of deputies to notify the House of Bishops of the action taken.

"No communication is permitted from the House of Bishops during the

*See PB Candidates, page 2*

## General Convention to deal with “Reimagining of the Episcopal

by Robert Harwell

Why must the Episcopal Church change? Many who are closely involved in the ministries and governance of the church, hold the belief that “something is not right,” the Church at this time in history is not as effective and dynamic as it needs to be. They insist that if the Church is to meet the ministry challenges of the twenty-first century, significant change must take place.

The idea of “change” is frightening to so many, so substitute the term “reimagining.” That’s exactly what the 2012 General Convention of the Episcopal Church did when that body created the Task Force for the Reimagining of the Episcopal Church.

### Quickly Down to the nitty gritty

Created, populated, staffed and tasked (TREC) moved forward, buoyed with the certainty that the Holy Spirit is calling The Episcopal Church to participate in God’s mission in a faithful and life-giving way in a rapidly changing world.

Twenty-four members (bishops, priests and laity) appointed by the presiding bishop and president of the House of Deputies, met for the first time in late February 2013 and then again five times during the next two years, while working virtually between formal meetings. Their final report was submitted in December 2014.

As specified in C095, (the General Convention resolution creating the group) a special gathering to receive responses to the group’s report and recommendations was held at the Washington National Cathedral with hundreds actually on premises and more than 4,000 virtual attendees a part of a Webcast of the event.

In the process of producing their report, TREC spent two years in conversation with thousands of Episcopalians. They also reviewed broad research on the identity and mission of The Episcopal Church, while studying other churches and non-religious organizations on how they organized to pursue their missions in our changing world. TREC members also prayed daily as they went about their tasks.

TREC found these realities in today’s complex world in which the Church exists and does ministry:

### Our Church’s place

The twenty-first century represents a profoundly different environment for The Episcopal Church with new challenges and opportunities. While The Episcopal Church once held a place of cultural privilege in American Society, it must now earn a hearing as one small voice among many competing for influence in the public square. In some circles, the church gained a reputation as the Church of the white, wealthy,

and powerful, but this exclusivity is at odds with God’s call to us today.

### Structure and governance “creaky”

The Church’s structures and governance processes have not yet responded to the profound changes occurring across the country and around the world. We see this in our inability to deal with very real and pressing issues: many of our parishes are no longer financially self-sufficient and cannot afford full-time stipended clergy. Many of our churches are disconnected from the neighbors who surround them, with expensive buildings that consume too many resources to maintain. Young people called to ordained ministry face a mountain of debt at the end of their seminary training that they may not be able to repay.

### Ministry opportunities abound

Episcopalians collaborate in many ways from local collaborations around youth ministry or serving the poor, to working together on global challenges that call for Christian witness and support. But there are also enormous opportunities that we miss or abandon. For example, collaboration among dioceses, whether through sharing resources, staff, or engaging in more joint initiatives would strengthen the practice of our faith and the Church itself.

TREC’s mandated final report to the General Convention summarizes its findings and proposes specific actions to begin the “reimagining” of The Episcopal Church.

### Advancing the Marks of Mission

The changes in the Church’s structures, governance, and administration contained in their document are TREC’s prescription for the advancement of the Five Marks of Mission:

The Mission of the Church is the Mission of Christ

- To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom;
- To teach, baptize, and nurture new behaviors;
- To respond to human need by loving service;
- To seek to transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind;”

•To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth

TREC stresses that it doesn’t believe that the structural and technical changes called for will complete the reimagining of the Church, but they term these changes essential to show progress in this effort, even at

the local level.

Chosen wisely and implemented well, these changes will give the church more time, energy and financial resources for innovation and adaptation; speed decision making; provide Church leadership with a bold and holistic agenda for change; and reinvent the role of Church-wide organizations away from “doing” mission and towards enabling mission by connecting communities and individuals for mutual support, learning and collaboration.

TREC has developed a set of recommended changes to the Constitution and



Canons, that if adopted, will create a streamlined, unified and more effective Church-wide governance structure, critical to enable Church leaders at the local, diocesan and Church-wide levels to pursue other needed changes.

Three resolutions are proposed, which call to all parts of the church, not just the central governance structures, to engagement. Change around these issues will be both technical and adaptive based on specific canonical recommendations that are included; and experimentation and learning at local, diocesan and Church-wide levels. They propose renewed ways not only of speaking to the world, but also of being together, and progress will be by a commitment to collaboration across structures that may have no formal connectivity today. The resolutions are:

- 1) A001: Restructure for Spiritual Encounter

- 2) A002: Reimagining Dioceses, Bishops, and General Convention

- 3) A003: Restructure Assets in Service of God’s Mission in the Future

Each of the resolutions is breathtaking in the scope of change that is suggested. Legal, ethical, theological issues abound.

How this report will be received by Convention is not known. No area of the church would be spared significant alterations if TREC’s blueprint for the future of The Episcopal Church is implemented. “Going slow” will seem attractive to many.

TREC concludes its report with several challenges for Episcopal decision makers:

• “We can move forward together with faith: the Holy Spirit has breathed new life into the Church at countless times and in countless ways in the past, and the same Spirit will continue to guide us in the future.”

• “The members of the Task Force believe that the recommendations we have laid out will help the Church focus and direct the extraordinary spiritual, human, and material resources God has entrusted to us. Moving forward, in several ways and places, yet always as one Body, we can be truly faithful and effective in participating in God’s mission in the world.”

—To read the full report and evaluate the changes proposed for The Episcopal Church, go to: <https://extranet.generalconvention.org/staff/files/download/12219.pdf>

### Foot Washing

*continued from page 5*

present to wash and be washed and to share Communion and fellowship. In all, around 100 people!

Bishop Owensby celebrated the Eucharist, using the Common Cathedral liturgy. We told the story of Jesus’ last supper with his disciples and explained Jesus’ new command that we love one another and that we serve one another. We talked about how he modeled this, by washing the feet of his friends. We prayed together, shared the Body and Blood of Christ, and began the foot washing and treatment. And then we shared lunch.

Many good conversations before and after the service strengthened the bonds. All of us left with a deeper understanding of Jesus’ command to us and the depth of that evening that begins the Trium in our church.

## DIOCESAN DATES OF NOTE

### Planning an event in the diocese? CONTACT JOY 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

#### May 2015

- 10 — Bishop's Visitation, *St. Mark's, Shreveport*
- 16 — Ordination to the Diaconate of Peter Nathaniel Johnston, *Ascension, Lafayette, 11:00 a.m.*
- 17 — Bishop's Visitation, *Ascension, Lafayette*
- 24 — Bishop's Visitation, (*Pentecost & Memorial Day weekend*) *Calvary, Bunkie*
- 27 — Summer Camp Permanent Staff assemblies, *Camp Hardtner*
- 29-31 — Taste of Hardtner, *Camp Hardtner, starts at 2:00 p.m., May 29*
- 31 — Bishop's Visitation, *Trinity, Cheneyville*
- 31-June 3 — Summer Camp Counselor Training, *Camp Hardtner, starts at 4:00 p.m.*

#### June 2015

- 2 — Meeting of the Standing Committee, *Diocesan House, 10:00 a.m.*
- 4-6 — First Camp, *Camp Hardtner, starts at 4:00 p.m.*
- 6 — Congregational Vitality Institute Presentation: "When in Our Music God is Glorified," *St. James, Alexandria, 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.*
- 7 — Bishop's Visitation, *Trinity, DeRidder*
- 9-13 — Camp Able 1, *Camp Hardtner, starts at 2:00 p.m.*
- 14 — Bishop's Visitation, *St. Barnabas, Lafayette*
- 16-20 — Primary Camp, *Camp Hardtner, starts at 2:00 p.m.*
- 21 — Bishop's Visitation, *St. James, Shreveport*
- 23-28 — Junior High Camp 1, *Camp Hardtner, starts at 2:00 p.m.*
- 25-July 3 — General Convention of the Episcopal Church, *Salt Lake City, Utah*

#### July 2015

- 2-7 — Junior High Camp 2, *Camp Hardtner, starts at 2:00 p.m.*
- 7 — Meeting of the Standing Committee, *Diocesan House, 10:00 a.m.*
- 10-16 — Senior High Camp, *Camp Hardtner, starts at 2:00 p.m.*
- 15 — Board of Trustees, *Diocesan House, 11:00 a.m.*
- 19-25 — Middle High Camp, *Camp Hardtner, starts at 2:00 p.m.*
- 25 — Ordination of David Seth Donald to the Priesthood, *Good Shepherd, Lake Charles, starts at 11:00 a.m.*
- 28-August 1 — Camp Able 2, *Camp Hardtner, starts at 2:00 p.m.*

#### August 2015

- 1 — Ordination of Michael Joseph Bordelon to the Priesthood, *St. James, Alexandria, starts at 11:00 a.m.*
- 4 — Meeting of the Standing Committee, *Diocesan House, 10:00 a.m.*
- 9 — Bishop's Visitation, *St. Luke's, Jennings*
- 16 — Bishop's Visitation, *St. Andrew's, Moss Bluff*
- 21-23 — Hardtner Alumni Retreat, *Camp Hardtner, starts at 6:00 p.m.*
- 23 — Bishop's Visitation, *St. David's, Rayville*
- 26 — Bishop's Midweek Visitation, *St. Andrew's, Mer Rouge*
- 29 — Youth Sponsor's Training, *location to be announced, starts at 10:00 a.m.*

#### September 2015

- 1 — Meeting of the Standing Committee, *Diocesan House, 10:00 a.m.*
- 5 — Diocesan Ultreya, *Camp Hardtner, starts at 9:00 a.m.*
- 6 — Bishop's Visitation, *Holy Trinity, Sulphur*
- 12 — Congregational Vitality Institute Presentation: "Why We Are Anglicans," *Camp Hardtner, 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.*
- 13 — Bishop's Visitation, *Holy Cross, Shreveport*
- 15 — Meeting of the Diocesan Council, *St. James, Alexandria, 10:00 a.m.*
- 18-20 — Celebration of Women's Ministries, *Camp Hardtner, starts at 6:00 p.m.*
- 20 — Bishop's Visitation, *St. Alban's, Monroe*
- 25-27 — New Beginnings Spiritual Retreat, grades 7-9, *starts 6:00 p.m.*
- 27 — Bishop's Visitation, *Trinity, Tallulah*

### Bishop's Message

continued from page 1

and frequently engaged in combat develop precisely this kind of bond. When Jesus formed us into his Body the Church, he envisioned precisely these kinds of deep, enduring connections between us in him.

We also need what Maslow called self-esteem. By this he did not mean that we should all adopt an inflated sense of our own wonderfulness. Instead, we all yearn to be at home in our own skins. As Brene Brown puts it, each of us needs to say with our hearts, "I am enough."

Even as we strive to learn and grow and improve, we need to be able to accept who we are right where we are. Too many of us reside in the misery of delayed self-acceptance. We'll be satisfied with ourselves once we've lost ten pounds, reached that next career goal, or won that prestigious award. Only, we won't be.

Finally, Maslow talks famously about self-actualization. This is easily misinterpreted to mean having it all together. Instead, Maslow's meaning is best captured in his idea of the peak experiences that self-actualized people frequently have.

In the midst of peak experiences people lose themselves in something they love: cooking, playing with children, singing, working in the garden. In other words, self-actualization is about getting over yourself.

When these higher order needs go unmet we will wither and fade spiritually and psychologically just as surely as the lack of food and shelter will diminish us physically.

God creates us as beings with mind, body, and spirit. Our whole being requires nurture to grow and flourish. And that nourishment comes from beyond ourselves. The body, the mind, and the soul will grow or decay as our needs are met or go unmet. And we must always reach out beyond ourselves to have our needs met.

When Jesus refers to himself as the Good Shepherd, he is recognizing us as beings with vital needs and identifying himself as our indispensable help in meeting those needs. The Good Shepherd lays down his life for us, the sheep. (John 10:11-18)

Jesus came to nurture us into life. Eternal life. He is the source of unconditional belonging. His love for us makes us enough. And with his gracious help, we can follow his example in living a life surrendered to nurturing others.

The Good Shepherd gives himself away for the sake of his sheep. For us.

To use a feminine illustration, Jesus is

like a mother carrying a child in her womb. Her entire body and all of her energies are devoted to sustaining the child that abides within her. Mother and child are internally connected. The mother imparts her own life to the baby so that the child can grow and mature. Jesus says something very similar later in John's Gospel. "I am the vine, you are the branches." (John 15:5)

Through Jesus we are growing in eternal life even now. Our full maturation will come only after our hearts have beat their last and we have drawn our final earthly breath. And our maturation itself is not a smooth progression. We sometimes move in fits and starts. We stumble and drag our feet and take a few steps back from time to time. But Jesus keeps nurturing us.

The writer of 1 John outlines some of the contours of eternal life as we can begin to know it. In a word, we are living eternal life when we lay our lives down for others. He says, "We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. How



does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help?" (1 John 3:16-17)

Love is the defining shape of eternal life. Jesus himself said that the highest expression of love is to lay down your life for your friend. And we strive to make everyone our friend in Christ. (John 15:13) As the writer of 1 John puts it, "Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action." (1 John 3:18)

Our problem in life is not that we want too much. On the contrary, we go off the rails when what we want is small and insignificant and ultimately unsatisfying. Jesus came to help us recognize what we truly need and to want that with every fiber of our being. What we need—what we truly want—is life in Christ.

The paradox that is God's love in Christ is that we learn to want this life precisely because God is already giving it to us.

—Bishop Jake preached this sermon for Good Shepherd Sunday at St. George's in Bossier City.

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# COMMUNITY

## Breakfast

### ST. JAMES, ALEXANDRIA OFFERS LENTEN COMMUNITY BREAKFASTS

The Community Breakfasts that were held each Sunday morning during March have been a joy in so many ways. Members of the community around St. James were invited to breakfast for eggs, bacon or sausage, grits, pancakes, fruit and fellowship. Members of the congregation were invited to setup, serve and welcome our guests.

Many of our guests were homeless and hungry, and they really appreciated the fellowship. Interestingly, one of our breakfast workers met two of the homeless men he had talked with at breakfast several weeks later while out in the community. One, seen at a jobsite, smiled broadly while expressing appreciation.

After the Tuesday evening organ concert at St. James, as that same breakfast worker and his wife were walking to their car, a homeless man was walking by. He said hello to the couple and said, "You're from that church, and we had breakfast together." When the St. James worker responded with his first name, the homeless man's eyes lit up and a big smile went across his face.

Sharing Christ is an amazing experience. It happens so easily if we let it, and it can go in more than one direction."



### St. Paul's, Shreveport EYC participates in Homelessness Event



The St. Paul's, Shreveport EYC participated in the "Sleepout 4 Independence" sponsored by Providence House to help bring awareness to others about homelessness. Held Saturday night, April 11, at Shreveport's Independence Stadium, a myriad of people, came to the event to build cardboard shelters to live in for that one night.

Providence House provided live music, a shelter competition, and informational tour all evening long.

The St. Paul's EYC contingent worked very hard on their shelter, and were extremely proud of what they had accomplished together. Their efforts were rewarded with a third place win in the shelter competition. But, more important than the

award they earned, was the knowledge they gained of what it feels like to be homeless. Central to what they learned was the realization that homelessness does not fit only a certain type of person, and that being employed my not always mean that you have a home.

As the event played out, many of the participants realized that when the event ended, they would go home knowing that they had a bed waiting for them at their home, and how great a blessing that really was.

They also left with a commitment to continue donating time and money to the Providence House and to truly stay in the fight to end homelessness.