

VOLUME XXXVII, NUMBER 9



#### Making Disciples: Engaging God's Mission

by the Rt. Rev. Jake Owensby, Ph.D., D.D.

In just a few weeks we will gather again for our annual Diocesan Convention. Thanks are due in advance to the people of the Lake Charles Convocation for their planning and



The dates for this year's Convention are October 23 and 24. We will be at the West Cal Arena in Sulphur for all of our events, including our worship. Fran McKendree will be our guest musician. He will lead our music during worship and provide entertainment for our Friday evening celebration.

As many of you know, Diocesan Convention is now conceived as a missional gathering. While we conduct the business of the Church, we place emphasis on building up our gifts for serving our Lord, deepening our bonds of affection across the Diocese, and clarifying our common ministry focus.

This year's theme is Making Disciples. Together we will think about our ministries of Christian Formation and Evangelism. We will hear lay witnesses, view videos, attend workshops, and share spiritual stories at our tables.

A delegation from the Dominican Republic and members of the Dominican Development Group (to which we belong) will be our special guests. Once again our Convention will be enriched by the participation of our official youth presence and college ministry delegates.

Whether you are a delegate, an alternate, or a guest, you can participate in the missional activities of Convention. If you are concerned about getting home in time to vote, remember that early voting is open to anyone. Just check the web for information.

I look forward to seeing you all down south!

### Fall at Hardtner

### Cursillo #149 set for Camp Hardtner Oct. 29 – Nov. 1

Cursillo is a short, intense course in



Christianity that has been formulated to build a foundation of leaders in the lay order of the Episcopal Church.
Cursillo weekends are conducted by lay men and women

with members of the clergy acting as spiritual advisors. It has been said many times that the only way to truly describe Cursillo is to actually live it.

The three-day Cursillo weekend joins Episcopalians from different backgrounds from every area of the diocese to worship and share experiences while broadening their knowledge of the Church. What's expected is to build stronger Christians by stressing the concepts of piety, study and action. There is no charge to participate in a Cursillo weekend.

The next Cursillo weekend in the Diocese will be held October 29 – November 1, 2015 at the Hardtner Camp and Conference Center in Pollock, Louisiana. This will be Cursillo #149 with a team from the Diocese of Western Louisiana staging it.

If you are interested in attending a Cursillo weekend, ask someone in your congregation who has attended Cursillo to sponsor you. Applications are available online at the Cursillo of Western Louisiana Web site, <a href="https://www.wlacursillo.com">www.wlacursillo.com</a>.



#### The Season of 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.

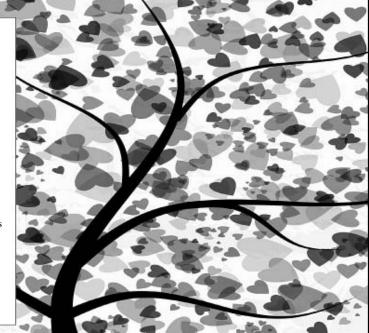
# CVI, Saturday, November 7 Hospitality is so much more than "We're here for you."

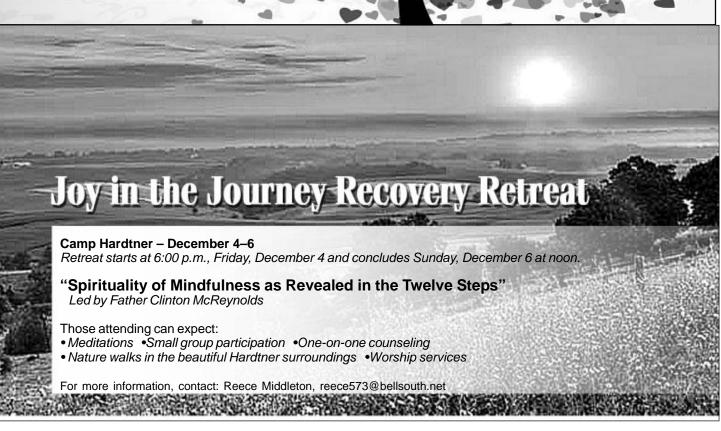


Presented by: The Rev. Elizabeth Ratcliff, Canon for Generosity and Hospitality for the Diocese.

This will be an all-day session at Camp Hardtner, from 10:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m. 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.

CVI is a leadership training program focused on strengthening the spiritual and organizational life of Western Louisiana congregations. The aim is to equip leaders to serve in their congregations in mutual ministry with their ordained clergy.





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Robert Harwell ..... Editor

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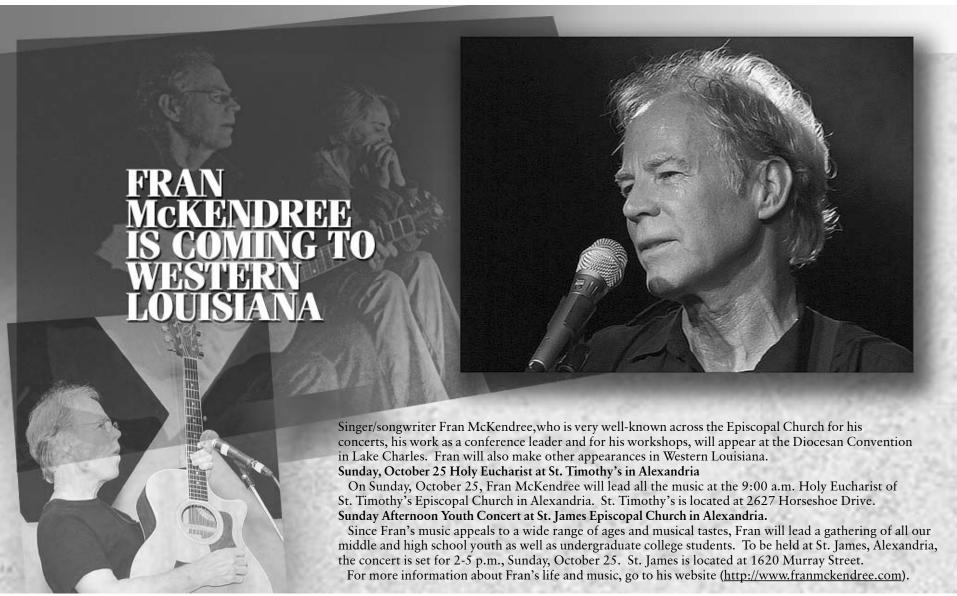
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High school students have numerous opportunities to help lead various youth events in the diocese. All high school students interested in serving as staff for any diocesan program must attend a leadership workshop.

This one-day training will help the participant gain the skills and confidence needed to serve effectively as a staff member. There is no charge for the training, and lunch is included.

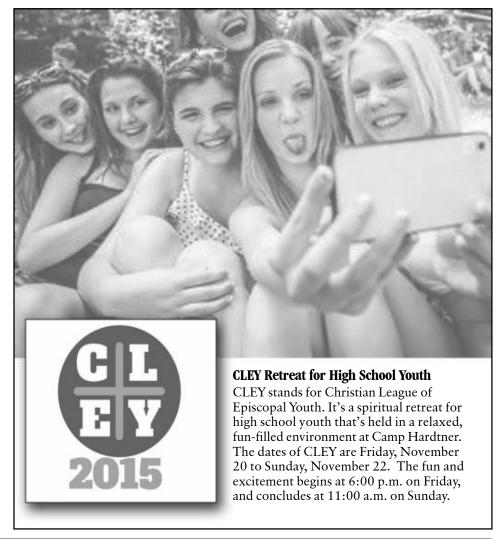
#### The workshop scheduled for this year:

Saturday, October 17, 10 am-2 pm at St. Barnabas, Lafayette (register online at diocesan website, <a href="http://www.diocesewla.org">http://www.diocesewla.org</a>, by October 14)

#### You are only required to attend this workshop.

For additional information, contact Joy Owensby (<u>jowensby@diocesewla.org</u>) or Mtr. Mitzi George (<u>mitzi@saintbarnabas.us</u>).

All youth events are underwritten by the Episcopal Diocese of Western Louisiana. Thank you to our congregations who support diocesan ministries through their annual pledges.



# News of the Diocese

#### Bishop Jake's September 27 visit to Grace Church, Lake Providence



Every minute counted during Bishop Jake'svisit to Grace Church, Lake Providence. Seven baptisms were performed including: Emma Grace Griffin, Abigail Brooke Griffin, Karson Lee Sasser, Kaylee Alexis Sasser, Chanden Jerrett Ragus, Robert Eugene McIntyre, II, and Sylvia Emmons "Kathy" McIntyre.

Six others were confirmed and one was received: Collin Reece Fisher, Emily Renee Fisher, Philip Scott Liberatore, Monica Renee Russell Liberatore, Sylvia Emmons "Kathy" McIntyre, Robert Eugene McIntyre, Sr., and Geri Denise Ragus.

#### Bishop Jake visits Trinity Church, Tallulah

Bishop Jake's very busy Sunday, September 27 included quality time spent at Trinity, Tallulah. He celebrated the Eucharist, preached, and baptized Lane Carpenter Whitman. He also addressed the congregation prior to a feast that delighted all. As is usual with the Bishop, his activities were documented and shared on Facebook.





#### St. George's, Bossier City, holds its first "Quinceanera"

St. George's, Bossier City, has held it's first Quinceanera celebration. What is a "Quinceanera" celebration, you ask?

Quineanera is the traditional rite of passage for fifteen-year-old girls

Quineanera is the traditional rite of passage for fifteen-year-old girls in Latin countries. Highlights of the ceremony include changing from children's shoes to young lady shoes and the wearing of a tiara, signifying that the young lady is a daughter of the King!

Congratulations to Isabella Hill, St. George's first Quincanera celebrant.



#### 36TH ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF WESTERN LOUISIANA

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#### THE CONVENTION SCHEDULE





36th Annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Western Louisiana Making Disciples: Engaging God's Mission Sulphur, LA

#### Friday October 23

8:30 a.m. Registration

11:00 a.m. Convention Assembles

- 1. Call to Order Bishop Owensby
  - a. Opening Prayer Fr. Jack Myers, Dean of Lake Charles Convocation
  - 2. Verification of Quorum Chair of Credentials and Privileges
  - 3. Election of Convention Secretary a. Appointment of Asst. Sec.
  - Report from Committee on Dispatch of Business
  - Appointments of a Parliamentarian and an Asst.
  - Adoption of Rules of Order
  - Introductions and Courtesies by the Bishop
    - a. Convention Guests (Institutions and Ministries)
    - b. Clergy resident since the last convention
    - c. Members of the Standing Committee and the Diocesan Council
  - 8. Minutes of the 35th Diocesan Convention -The Secretary
  - Report from the Committee on Credentials and Privileges
    - Vote for Seat and Voice for Official Youth Presence
    - b. Vote for Seat and Voice for Official College Student Presence
  - 10. Report from the Nominating Committee and Elections Committee
  - 11. Report from the Committee on Resolutions
  - 12. Table Introductions
  - 13. Appointments by Bishop Owensby
    - a. Convention Committees
    - b. Treasurer
    - c. Other Appointments
  - 14. Sharing the Walk: Who helped make me a disciple? (a personal witness)
  - 15. Noonday Prayer and recess for lunch

#### Lunch (Noon to 1:30 p.m.)

1:30 p.m. Convention Resumes

- 16. Sharing the Walk: An example you follow
- 17. Acknowledgements for Ministry and Service
- 18. Report from the Nominating Committee and elections (overview of elections)
- 19. Report from Camp Hardtner
- 20. Report from the Committee on Constitution and Canons (overview)
- 21. Recess for workshops and hearings

2:30 Ministry Workshops and Hearings:

Budget Hearing Resolution Hearing Constitution and Canons Hearing St. Luke's Mobile Medical Mission Disaster Relief

5:00 Holy Eucharist at The Convention Center 6:15 Hospitality 7:00 Dinner and Entertainment

#### Saturday, October 24

7:00 Breakfast at Hotel

7:30 Resolution Hearings (as needed)

8:30 Morning Prayer

9:00 Convention Resumes

- 22. Report from Dispatch of Business
- 23. Report from the Nominating Committee and elections (first ballot)
- 24. Convention Address: Bishop Owensby
- 25. Sharing the Walk: How do you keep growing and help others grow?
- 26. Report from Resolutions Committee
- 27. Report from Constitution and Canons
- 28. Report from the Nominating Committee and elections (second ballot if needed)
- Sharing the Walk: A Formation Video
- 30. 2016 Budget Presentation
- 31. Recess for workshops

10:30 Missional Workshops

How to Be a Missional Congregation: Congregational Vitality Institute Christian Formation: Making Disciples of All Ages Standing up for Children: Bread or Stones

**Evangelism Strategies** 

#### Noon Lunch

#### 1:15 Convention Resumes

- 32. Sharing the Walk: Bringing Christ to the World
- 33. Report from Nominating Committee and Elections
- 34. Report from Committee on Resolutions
- 35. Report from Constitution and Canons
- 36. Report from Com. on Courtesy Resolutions 37. Commissioning of Diocesan Leadership
- 38. Other Business of Convention
- 39. Closing prayers, blessing, and adjournment



Oach Income	Office Expenses	Adult Dragrams
Cash Income	Office Expenses	Adult Programs:
For General Purposes	Staff Travel	Commission on Anti-Racism 3,000.00
Unrestricted Pledges	Staff Auto Expenses	Com.on Spiritual Formation 3,650 .00
Diocesan Convention	Life Insurance + LTC (Retired Bishop) 7,6000.00	Total Christian Formation Department \$39,050.00
Bishop's Travel Reimbursement750.00	Life Insurance-Bishop(Diocese Beneficiary) 3,000.00	Finance Department
From Budget Reserve	Telephone	Finance Department
Budget Reserve-Interest Income	Mobile Telephones	Camp Hardtner Devlopment
Cenla Mission - Income (Cheneyville-\$1,200, Lecompte-\$4,401)	Postage	Election of New Bishop
5,601.00	Printing and Supplies	General Convention Youth Fund
From Good Shepherd, Vidalia (Re: Phillips pkg)20,000.00	Service Contracts & Maintenance 16,000.00	General Convention Apportionment 186,980.00
Total General Purposes\$961,669.00	Ins & Repairs (Prop, W C, Liab) 30,000.00	General Convention Deputies20,000.00
Income From Designated Endowments and	Bishop's Ministry Fund	Lambeth Travel Expense
Other Funds and Restricted Pledges	Diocesan Audit	School of Theology, Sewanee
Restricted Pledges	Chancellor's Office Expense	Seminary of the Southwest, Austin
AICWO-Retired Clergy Funds 10,958.00	Diocesan Convention	Seventh Province Assessment
Bishop's Housing	Dean's Expenses	Seventh Province Convocation
Budget Reserve Fund Income 165,097.00	Deployment	Seventh Province Synod
Continued Education Fund	Historiographer	Trustee Reimbursement
Diocesan Endowment	Janitor 5,665.00	University of the South
Episcopal Services Fund	Journal	Total Finance Department \$358,053.00
Goodloe Stuck Succession Fund Income 30,597.00	Church Attorney Retainer	
Haynesville Shale Fund Income 203,297.00	Purchase of Office Equipment 10,000.00	Ministry Development Department
Mineral Lease Reserve Fund Income 46,926.00	Equipment Maintenance & Repairs 3,500.00	Congregational Vitality Institute/Stewardship 7,500.00
Miscellaneous Fund Income	Committee Meetings 6,000.00	Clergy Conferences
Theological Education Fund	Treasurer's Expenses 500.00	Diocesan Curacy Program
Venture in Mission	Utilities and Pest Control 10,000.00	Commission on Ministry 5,000.00
Victory Fund	Med/Life Retired Clergy 59,805.00	COM Expenses - \$3,500
Worrell Fund	Total Office Expenses \$275,820.00	Psychologicals - \$1,500 Theological Education
Worrell Fund - Retired Bishop's		Retired Clergy-Pastoral Ministry
Life + LTC insurance 7,600.00	Mount Olivet Chapel Altar Supplies	Ministry Support 10,000.00
Mission Development Fund 49,991.00	Custodial	Servant Leadership Corps 50,000.00
Total From Designated Endowments	Maintenance	Canon for Cogregational Vitality-Stipend 39,851.00 Canon for Congregation Vitality-Housing 14,500.00
and Other Funds 1,133,767.00	Utilities 500.00	Canon for Congregational Vitality-Travel 10,000.00
Total Revenues \$2,095,436.00	Total Mt. Olivet Chapel \$3,993.00	Missioner for Christian Formation & Youth
10tai 116 veilues \$2,030,700.00		Salary 54,590.00
Cash Expenses	Christian Formation Department	M "Christian Formation & Youth-Pension 7,643.00 M "Christian Formatioin & Youth-FICA 3,385.00
Bishop and Staff	General Programs & Administration 3,600.00	M " Christian Formation & Youth-M'Care 792.00
Bishop's Stipend	(Com. on Christian Ed)	M " C F& Youth-Grp Life/Disb1,608.00
Bishop's Continued Education	Christian Formation Conference\$1,000	Youth/Young Adult Servant Ldrshp. Corps.
Bishop's Housing	Scholarships to CF Conf at Kanuga\$1,000	Salary 11,158.00 Youth/Young Adult Servant Ldrshp. SS 854.00
Bishop's LTC Supplement	Other Administrative Expenses \$ 500	Youth/Young Adult Servant LdrshpPension 2,162.00
Bishop's Med/Life 30,936.00	Grant Fund-Grants for Ministry to Children	Youth/Young Adult Servant Ldrshp
Bishop's Pension	and /or Youth 3,000.00	Insurance 1,297.00
Bishop's Social Security Reimbursment 23,179.00	Youth Programs:	Youth/Young Adult Servant LdrshpTravel 1,000.00 Youth/Young Adult Servant LdrshpExpenses 500.00
Sabbatical	New Beginnings	
Transition/Deployment Officer-Stipend 26,203.00	Youth Programs:	Total Ministry Dev. Department \$315,840.00
Transition/Deployment Offier-Travel 8,000.00	CLEY 2,500.00	Mission Department
Missioner for Administration / Finace Salary 55,956.00	Com.on Youth & Young Adults Min. 2,600.00	College Chaplaincy Pool
Missioner for Admin./Finance Pension 7,834.00	Bishop's Ball	Canterbury, L.C. (McNeese)18,000
Missioner for Admin./Finance Med/Life 13,608.00	Happening/Prayer Support 3,000.00	LA Tech. University, Ruston 6,300
Missioner for Admin./Finance M'care 812.00	JEYL 2,000.00	University of LA at Monroe6,000
Missioner for Admin./Finance FICA 3,470.00	WinterFest 3,200.00	Canterbury, Shreveport 16,084
Missioner for Admin. & Communications	National Youth Event 5,000.00	Methodist Cooperative Program,
Salary 39,305.00	Provincial Youth Event	Lafayette 6,000
Missioner for Admin. & CommFICA 2,437.00	Provincial Youth Network	NSU Canterbury Club 6,200
Missioner/Admin. & CommM'Care 570.00	Young Adult Programs:	Grambling-Canterbury Progm 3,000
Missioner/Admin. & CommMedical 10,908.00	Young Adult Retreat2,500.00	Canterbury Min St. Barnabas,
Missioner/Admin. & CommPension 5,503.00	General Programs & Administration 1,500.00	Lafayette 6,000
Total Bishop and Staff\$415,359.00		Facility maintenance 4,000
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#### PROPOSED 2016 BUDGET

Episcopal School of Acadiana		
Chaplaincy 100,000.00		
Mission Development 114,500.00		
CENLA Mission Field 13,500		
Polk Memorial, Leesville 6,000 Small Congregation Support 10,000		
St. Luke's, Grambling85,000		
Mission Contingency		
Total Mission Department \$374,334.00		
Mission Application Program (MAP)		
Missional Church Block Grants- Outreach/		
Ministry Work 100,000.00		
Missional Church Block Grants-Capital		

Total Mission Application Program ..... \$150,000.00

Improvements ...... 50,000.00

Outreach Department Dominican Development Group	12,000.00
Kairos	
Church Periodical Club	100.00
Shepherd Center, St. Joseph	16,000.00
Millennium Development Goals	14,249.00
St. Luke'Mobile Medical Ministry	15,000.00
Community Renewal International	5,000.00
Central & Northern LA Interfaith	10,000.00
Total Outreach Department	\$74,349.00

Total Expenses: \$2,133,638.00
Total Program Department \$126,840.00
Solo Flight
Disaster Relief Co-ordinator 6,000.00
Addiction Recovery Retreat 4,500.00
Louisiana Interchurch Conference 9,365.00
Liturgy and Music 500.00
Lay Diocesan Conferences

Income \$2,095,436.00 Expenses (\$2,133,638.00) Difference (\$38,202.00)

**Program Department** 

Communications	91,408.00
Daughters of the King	2,000.00
Ecumenical Officer Expenses	. 5,367.00
ECW Triennial	2,200.00
Education for Ministry	2,500.00



Canon 5 of The Diocese of Western Louisiana requires, in part, that the Treasurer render an annual accounting of the Diocesan receipts and disbursements provided in the budget and a statement of each parish and mission with regard to its pledge. Below is a recap of the financial statements for the period ended December 31, 2014 that were reviewed by an independent CPA firm, and an unaudited report for the period ended July 31, 2015. The review includes assets, revenues and expenses from the Diocesan Trustee Funds.

From the December 31, 2014 Review:

\$33,178,503 Total assets \$ 1,361,613 Less liabilities \$31,816,890 Total net assets

Revenues, Gains, Other Support and Reclassifications \$ 4,401,519 Less expenses \$ 2,338,828

Change in Net Assets \$ 2,062,691

From the unaudited financial report dated July 31, 2015

	Budget	Actual
Revenue	\$1,022,975	\$856,991
Expenses	\$1,111,774	\$1,147,005
YTDDeficit	\$(87,799)	\$(290,014)

The July 31, 2015 unaudited statement does not include any activity from the Trustee Funds other than budgeted contributions to the operating budget.

Respectfully submitted,

Gray Easterling, Treasurer



The Diocesan Council of the Episcopal Diocese of Western Louisiana meets on a quarterly basis on the third Tuesday of that month, unless there is not enough business to warrant a meeting. The Council has met four times since the 35rd Annual Convention of the Diocese in 2014. The Council reviews the financial status of the diocese and prepares the annual budget to present at Diocesan Convention. The annual budget is approved by the Diocesan Council following the Convention. A verbal report from each of the Council departments and a report on the activities of various ministries of the diocese are given at every meeting. A representative from each of the five convocations updates the Council on activities taking place in their convocation.

During the 2014 – 2015 Term, the Diocesan Council acted on the following mat-

- 1. Diocesan Council authorized MAP Grants to be administered. Missional Outreach Grants were approved for nine initiatives, for such things as: community meals and summer camps, Canterbury, and, Hispanic ministry. Capital Improvement Grants were approved for ten requestors. This will provide items such as: heating, ventilation and air conditioning units lawnmower, and, restored or modernized rooms.
- 2. As St. John's, Oakdale, ceased to be viable some years ago, the Council approved putting the property up for sale.
- 3. The 2015 Diocesan Budget was accepted.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Barnes Shaw, Secretary



The Chancellor's office has enjoyed an uneventful 2015. The only significant and outstanding legal issue of interest to the Diocese last year was a matter involving a drainage issues on Diocesan property in Calcasieu Parish.

This suit was resolved to all parties' satisfaction in early 2015. Other than this resolution, the Diocese has no other significant legal issues and I know of no other circumstances that could lead to a significant legal issue in the future.

The Chancellor and Vice Chancellor hope for a quiet and idle 2016.

Respectfully submitted,

Kyle C. McInnis





## **Episcopal Diocese Of Western Louisiana**August 2015 Pledge Report - All Funds

Organization	Pledge	Payments	Balance	% Paid
Ascension Church, Lafayette	\$65,000.00	\$40,000.00	\$25,000.00	61.54%
Calvary Church, Bunkie	\$3,500.00	\$3,500.00	.00	100%
Christ Church, Bastrop	\$8,400.00	\$5,600.00	\$2,800.00	66.67%
Christ Church, Mansfield	\$29,166.00	\$15,932.00	\$13,234.00	54.63%
Christ Church, St. Joseph	\$6,118.00	\$6,118.00	\$0.00	100.00%
Church of the Good Shepherd, Vidalia	\$5,089.00	\$2,700.00	\$2,389.00	53.06%
Epiphany Church, New Iberia	\$33,485.00	\$22,323.36	\$11,161.64	66.67%
Epiphany Church, Opelousas	\$5,300.00	\$2,100.00	\$3,200.00	39.62%
Good Shepherd Church, Lake Charles	\$109,222.00	\$72,814.65	\$36,407.35	66.67%
Grace Episcopal Church, Monroe	\$70,000.00	\$49,583.31	\$20,416.69	70.83%
Grace, Lake Providence	\$3,993.00	\$2,662.00	\$1,331.00	66.67%
Holy Comforter Episcopal Church, Lecompte	\$4,659.00	\$4,659.00	\$0.00	100.00%
Holy Cross Episcopal Church, Shreveport	\$27,163.00	\$20,372.22	\$6,790.78	75.00%
Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, Sulphur	\$6,000.00	\$4,000.00	\$2,000.00	66.67%
Leonidas Polk Memorial Church, Leesville	\$2,643.00	\$1,765.00	\$878.00	66.78%
Redeemer Church, Oak Ridge	\$1,713.00	\$1,713.00	\$0.00	100.00%
Redeemer Church, Ruston	\$13,000.00	\$8,666.64	\$4,333.36	66.67%
St. Alban's Episcopal Church, Monroe	\$18,000.00	\$12,000.00	\$6,000.00	66.67%
St. Andrew's Church, Lake Charles	\$4,253.00	\$4,253.00	\$0.00	100.00%
St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, MerRouge	\$8,270.00	\$5,513.36	\$2,756.64	66.67%
St. Barnabas Episcopal Church, Lafayette	\$90,000.00	\$30,333.35	\$59,666.65	33.70%
St. Columba's Episcopal Church, Winnsboro	\$1,958.00	\$0.00	\$1,958.00	0.00%
St. David's Episcopal Church, Rayville	\$4,910.00	\$4,910.00	\$0.00	100.00%
St. George's Episcopal Church, Bossier City	\$20,000.00	\$13,336.00	\$6,664.00	66.68%
St. James Episcopal Church, Alexandria	\$129,720.00	\$75,670.00	\$54,050.00	58.33%
St. James Episcopal Church, Shreveport	\$20,953.00	\$13,968.64	\$6,984.36	66.67%
St. John's Episcopal Church, Minden	\$24,000.00	\$16,000.00	\$8,000.00	66.67%
St. Luke's Chapel, Grambling	\$2,100.00	\$2,100.00	\$0.00	100.00%
St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Jennings	\$3,674.00	\$1,840.00	\$1,834.00	50.08%
St. Mark's Cathedral, Shreveport	\$200,000.00	\$133,333.36	\$66,666.64	66.67%
St. Matthias Episcopal Church, Shreveport	\$25,374.00	\$16,916.00	\$8,458.00	66.67%
St. Michael & All Angels Episcopal Church, LO	\$38,835.00	\$25,889.68	\$12,945.32	66.67%
St. Michael's Episcopal Church, Pineville	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00%
St. Patrick's Episcopal Church West Monroe	\$12,396.00	\$8,264.00	\$4,132.00	66.67%
St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Abbeville	\$4,500.00	\$4,500.00	\$0.00	100.00%
St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Winnfield	\$930.00	\$0.00	\$930.00	0.00%
St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Shreveport	\$66,410.00	\$40,000.00	\$26,410.00	60.23%
St. Thomas Episcopal Church, Monroe	\$8,825.00	\$4,350.00	\$4,475.00	49.29%
St. Timothy's Episcopal Church, Alexandria	\$20,000.00	\$13,332.00	\$6,668.00	66.66%
Trinity Church, Cheneyville	\$2,579.00	\$1,934.25	\$664.75	75.00%
Trinity Church, Crowley	\$1,500.00	\$1,000.00	\$500.00	66.67%
Trinity Church, DeRidder	\$2,920.00	\$1,948.00	\$972.00	66.71%
Trinity Church, Tallulah	\$5,000.00	\$0.00	\$5,000.00	0.00%
Trinity Episcopal Church, Natchitoches	\$22,739.00	\$17,054.25	<u>\$5,684.75</u>	<u>75.00%</u>
Grand Total:	\$1,134,297.00	<u>\$712,955.07</u>	<u>\$421,341.93</u>	62.85%



#### THE EPISCOPAL OFFICE



#### BISHOP'S OFFICIAL ACTS

BISHOP'S OFFICIAL ACTS - August 1, 2014 - July 31, 2015

The Rt. Rev. Jacob W. Owensby, Ph.D., D.D.
Consecrate and ordain other bishops0
Ordain deacons
Ordain priests
Received priests
Impose sentences of Suspension, Depositions
Remove sentences of Suspension, Depositions
Receive Renunciation of Orders0
Consent to elections, consecrations and resignations of bishops4
Did not consent to elections, consecrations and resignations of bishops0
Confirm
Receive
Reaffirm
Baptisms
Receive Letters Dimissory
Issue Letters Dimissory0
Give permission for remarriages
Weddings 1
Approve retirement applications for clergy
License clergy to officiate in diocese
License Eucharistic Ministers81
License Eucharistic Visitors
Sign death notice for clergy from Church Pension Fund
Sermons
Holy Eucharists63
Funerals - members of the clergy
Blessing and Dedication of Structures and Appointments
Deconsecration and secularization of churches



In our responsibility as the council of advice to the Bishop, to consent to the diocesan elections and to approve the ordination of clergy, the members of The Standing Committee met 8 times with the Bishop to discuss matters of concern. The Bishop has continued to keep The Standing Committee informed of his plans, policies and activities regarding the future of the Diocese of Western Louisiana.

This report reflects the actions of The Standing Committee for the year 2015.

#### Episcopal Elections, Ordinations and/or Consecrations of Bishops and Diocesan Consents

Reed as Bishop Coadjutor of the Diocese of West Texas.

Consented to the Election of Peter Eaton as Bishop Coadjutor of the Diocese of Southeast Florida.

Consented to the Election of Audrey Cady Scanlan as Bishop Diocesan of Central Pennsylvania.

Consented to the Election of James Russell Kendrick as Bishop Diocesan of Central Gulf Coast.

Consented to the Election of George R. Summer as Bishop Diocesan of Dallas Consented to the Election of Moisés Quezada-Mota as Bishop Coadjutor of the Diocese of Dominican Republic.

Priesthood/Diaconate

Recommended David Seth Donald and Michael Joseph Bordelon for Ordination to the Transitional Diaconate and to the Priesthood.

Recommended Lois Maberry for Candidacy to the Diaconate and Frank Fuller for Candidacy to Priesthood.

#### **Property Matters**

Consented to the proposed closure and sale of St. John's Episcopal Church in Oakdale.

#### Other Matters

Concurred with the appointment of Holly Davis as staff support for The Standing Committee, having been appointed by the Bishop to take minutes, prepare documents, and electronically send out consent information to members for review before meetings.

I thank the Bishop and the members for their dedication to this ministry.

Respectfully Submitted,

The Rev. Thomas Nsubuga Standing Committee Chair



The Board of Trustees continues to meet quarterly at Diocesan House in Pineville or through Go To Meeting. The Diocesan Board of Trustees monitors the performance of the investment portfolio of the Diocese. We continue to be pleased with the management of our portfolio by BlackRock Investment Management, LLC who also reports to us quarterly at our meetings. The Board finalized a revised investment policy statement during the past year.

I am appreciative to the members of the committee for their time and service, those members being Gray Easterling, Treasurer, Steve Yancey, Judge David Painter, Steve Skrivanos, Foster Walker, and Barbara Lambert. Many thanks also to Kathey Richey for her work and of course, Bishop Owensby.

Respectfully submitted,

Kem Hargrove St. Mark's Cathedral, Shreveport



It has been another challenging year for your Board at Hardtner- a year of ups and downs and even some surprises. Following last year with its sewage challenge which demanded the best from Jason Ezell, our Director, his resident staff and a very flexible summer staff for the camp, this has been a year of planning and preparation.

We had a good summer camp session with almost 500 campers and an excellent staff counselors.

The Vatican has been condemned and we are planning on removing it. The underpinnings are no longer safe and the flex in the floor can produce waves of nausea for those with weak stomachs walking across it. We are not planning on replacing it.

Henton Hall may have a reprieve! Another contractor is producing a plan that may stabilize the foundation and provide for re-attachment of the meeting room. There is a lot of nostalgia attached to that gathering space and it would be nice to be able to save it, but safety is key. More on this will follow in future issues of ALIVE!

We are keenly aware that one of the reasons we do not have more adult attendance for scheduled events is the condition of the sleeping accommodations in the Holy Day Inn. Opportunity will be provided for ndividuals, congregations and diocesan groups to redo the rooms at a reasonable cost. An "adopt a room" plan is being developed to repaint, recarpet and refurnish the rooms and you will be hearing more about this in the future also.

Staffing remains quite a challenge. Our master plan study revealed that 85% of our

See Hardtner Trustees, page 15



The function of the Commission on Ministry is to advise the Bishop concerning persons who are discerning a call to ministry, whether that call is to lay ministry, or to the ordained ministry. Currently there are several Congregational Discernment Groups functioning throughout the diocese. One of these groups has completed their work and the COM will interview this aspirant shortly, followed by others, as CDGs complete their task. After the interview is completed, the COM makes their recommendation to the Bishop. There are four members of the COM who are responsible for training each CDG that is formed: Mother Liz Ratcliff and Susie Drell train those in the Southern part of the diocese, and Susan Sparks and Laura Boyd train those in the Northern part.

In addition to the nominees/aspirants, there are at present four people who have been granted Postulancy for Holy Orders by the Bishop, and they are Dr. Frank Fuller, Trinity, Natchitoches; Lois Maberry, St.

See Commission on Ministry, page 15



College of Arts & Sciences

Enrollment from the Diocese of Western Louisiana: 11 students total (3 report Episcopal (heritage)

Financial aid awarded to all college students from the Diocese of Western Louisiana: \$156,849.00

The School of Theology

Enrollment from the Diocese of Western Louisiana: 4 students total (2 in the summer Advanced Degrees Program) The Beecken Center

Education for Ministry (EFM) Groups: 1 EfM Diocesan Coordinator: Mrs. Debra Kay Fontenot

Support Received from the Diocese of Western Louisiana: \$6,000

Support Received from the Diocese of Western Louisiana churches: \$18,620 **About Sewanee** 

The University of the South is home to an outstanding liberal arts college, a School

See University of the South, page 16



#### DEPARTMENT OF CHRISTIAN FORMATION



The Commission on Christian Formation supports both Diocesan and parish programs. This year, the Commission engaged in two major activities. Engaging God's Mission: Making Disciples Lifelong and Life wide, a Diocesan retreat, involved more than a hundred participants at St. James, Alexandria. Dr. Lisa Kimball, Director of the Center for Ministry of Teaching, and Professor of Christian Formation and Congregational Leadership at Virginia Theological Seminary, led a day-long workshop of mutual communication, planning and sharing. Another retreat is planned for spring, 2016.

The Commission also reviewed grants to small congregations, funded by the Diocese, for Christian Formation projects at the Parish level.

The Commission combined face-to-face with on-line meeting strategies to use members' time effectively. Their activity was supported by, and supports, the work of the Missioner for Christian Formation.

Respectfully submitted, Frank Fuller Ph.D.



This is the brief report of the Cursillo, Diocese of Western Louisiana for the year 2015.

We held the Music Fest, a fund-raiser for Secretariat at Camp Hardtner on February 7, 2015. It was a great success.

Cursillo #148 was held from April 9 thru April 12, 2015. Fifteen (15) candidates attended the weekend.

We amended the Secretariat's By-Laws to allow and encourage those attending the current Cursillo weekend to submit a team application immediately rather than waiting for 6 months.

We held Diocesan Ultreya on September 9, 2015 at Camp Hardtner on the theme: "Mission Outside of Church Walls". Cursillo #149 will be held October 29-November 1, 2015 at Camp Hardtner.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rev. Thomas Nsubuga Spiritual Director

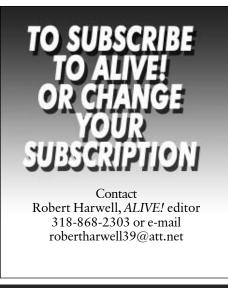


The Youth Commission was very busy in 2015, providing various youth events for the Middle and High school-aged people of our diocese. All events this year seemed to show an increase in attendance over recent years, and we thank all of you for supporting these

We have tried to look forward and focus on offering our youth some new and exciting programs while still maintaining the old favorites like JEYL (Jr. Episcopal Youth League) and CLEY (Christian League of Episcopal Youth) and Happening! This was the second year of Winterfest, a late December retreat that is missional in focus and intended for both Middle and High school folks. This past year we enjoyed fireworks, a dance, bonfire, some good hard work around Hardtner to assist in maintaining the grounds and buildings, and worship of course! This year we are planning some of the same sorts of activities with more games, small group, and spiritual exercises included. Please check the diocesan calendar for dates. We are also offering New Beginnings for the first time in many years. That event will occur before this publication, but I have no idea at the time of writing this report what the outcome will be. We certainly hope for a great response!

Respectfully submitted,

The Rev. Dr. Mitzi George Youth Commission Chair





www.diocesewla.org

continued from page 12

scholarships were given to two of the Daughters. Judy Bordelon was installed as vice president of Province VII DOK and will take office in September. Denise Rox will remain on the province board as Prayer Chair and Anita Luff will remain as Daughter-at-large Chair.

Triennial was held this year in Midway, Utah. Seven Daughters from across the diocese attended: Debbie Fitzpatrick from Shreveport, Debbie Langlois from Sulphur, Judy Bordelon, Denise Rox, Celeste Robair, Joan Jeffers, and Sheryl Anderson all from Alexandria. Full scholarships were given to five of the Daughters and partial scholarships were given to the other two. The theme was "Shining the Light of Christ". lt was a week spent up on the mountain with Christ. What an AWESOME experience! Everyone is making plans to attend the next Triennial in 2018 in Austin, Texas. Start saving your money!

Executive committee members attended the installation of new Daughters at Epiphany, New Iberia last fall. Several discernment classes are currently being held with several installations scheduled for this fall. The DOK Board encourage Chapters from around the diocese to notify them of upcoming installations so that the Board might celebrate the day with the new Daughter(s) and expose them to the larger body of Christ.

Unfortunately, the Order lost two Daughters this year to death, Clare Mack from Good Shepherd, Lake Charles and Mamie Jo Cheneval from St. Timothy, Alexandria. Our heart and prayers goes out to their families. They will be missed. Please notify the executive board of any deaths within your chapters so the Order can honor these Daughters at the Diocesan and Provincial

The diocese will be hosting a president's overnight meeting Friday, September 18. Chapter presidents are encouraged to attend and bring another Daughter that might be interested in being an officer of the Order. The overnight meeting with be held at Camp Hardtner during Celebration weekend, September 18 & 19. The cost for Friday night will be covered by the Order. Supper and breakfast will be provided. The Daughters will be staying together in a cabin. The meeting will end with installations of the new officers and the Daughters can stay and participate in Celebration. Please RSVP to Judy Bordelon at pres.wla@gmail.com by September 9.

The Order will be hosting a table at the annual Diocesan Convention this October. Members will be present to answer any questions and hand out brochures. This is a great way to meet Daughters from around the state. See you in Sulphur! Accomplishments this year:

1.) A new diocesan banner was blessed during this years Spring Assembly. The banner was used to represent the Diocesan at the DOK Triennial in Midway, Utah this June in the "Hall of Banners".

2.) Free conference call phone number was established as a tool to improve communication among the board and chapter presi-

3.) Annual overnight meeting of the board and presidents to foster cohesiveness and spiritual growth, along with tools to take back to chapter meetings.

If you are interested in becoming a Daughter or starting a new Chapter please contact anyone on the Executive Board. Pres: Judy Bordelon 318-664-7844 or pres.wla@gmail.com

VP: Debbie Langlois 337-526-7604 or dalanglois@ymail.com

Treasurer: Sharon Vercher

337-356-9682 or angeloaks26@gmail.com Sec: Dara Antee 318-715-2900 or daraantee@gmail.com

Dates to Remember:

March 5 Diocesan Spring Assembly April 22-24 Provincial Spring Assembly

Grace and Peace to all through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Respectively Submitted,

Judy Bordelon, President of the Diocesan Assembly of Western Louisiana.

#### **ESA**

continued from page 16

for our teachers and improvements to wireless internet services on both campuses.

We successfully completed the second year of the The Tates/Tutwiler Endowment Fund Matching Gift Challenge. This threeyear matching challenge has increased ESA Alumni donations to the fund, and prompted an anonymous donor to pledge to match non-alumni gifts to the fund. During the school year, the Development Office, Dr. Baker and the Tates and Mr. Tutwiler, the faculty members for whom the fund is named, traveled to Houston and New Orleans for two extremely successful alumni

I am constantly reminded of how blessed I am to work in a school that lives out its mission of scholarship, honor and service to others.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Baker, PhD Headmaster Episcopal School of Acadiana



#### DEPARTMENT OF MISSION AND DEPARTMENT OF OUTREACH



The purpose of the Congregational Vitality Commission is to assist the Episcopal congregations of the Diocese in strengthening their VITALITY through providing resources in many forms—educational and training information found on websites, training seminars, presentations through the Congregational Vitality Institute and special visits with congregations. This year many resources provided on the Web by organizations engaged in congregational vitality such as the Episcopal Church Foundation "Vital Practices", ChurchNext, and Five Marks of Mission are being sent to our congregations. Last spring, a large group of laity and clergy teams gathered at Camp Hardtner for training in missional Christian ministry led by a group from Leadership Development Initiative. To further the training, this was followed by a series of weekly webinar sessions.

The initial presentation by the Congregational Vitality Institute (CVI) was a special two days of presentations on the theology of stewardship taught by the Rev'd Timothy Dombek, Canon for Stewardship and Planned Giving of the Episcopal Diocese of Arizona. The first CVI presentation of this year was a day-long teaching by Mack McCarter, founder of Community Renewal International (CRI). A result is a partnership having been formed between our

See Congregational Vitality Institute, page 13



Episcopal School of Acadiana, the Diocesan School for the Episcopal Diocese of Western Louisiana, is now in its thirty-sixth year of serving Acadiana families in the Episcopal tradition of educational excellence, honor, and spiritual growth. ESA opened the 2015-16 school year with 539 students. 221 students attend preK-3 through fifth grade on the Lafayette campus and 318 students are in grades six through twelve on the campus in Cade. ESA will graduate thirty-nine seniors in June

Last June, as we closed the 2014-2015 school year, forty-two seniors graduated in a ceremony in the Cade campus gym. ESA seniors continue to attract the attention of colleges and universities across the nation. The seniors in the Class of 2015 submitted 264 applications for admission and were admitted to 82 different colleges and universities. Thirty-eight members of the class (90%) were offered merit aid totaling over \$6,000,000. The graduates are attending 26 different schools this fall including Belmont University, Centenary College of Louisiana, Colorado School of Mines, Columbia University, Georgia Institute of Technology, Hendrix College, Lewis & Clark College, Louisiana State University, Loyola Marymount University, Marymount Manhattan College, Mercer University, Millsaps College, Oxford College of Emory University, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Southern Methodist University, Trinity University, Tulane University, United States Air Force Academy, University of Alabama, University of California – Berkley, University of Central Arkansas, University of Louisiana - Lafayette, University of Mississippi, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Wake Forest University, and Yale Univer-

Three members of the Class of '15 were recognized by the National Merit Scholarship program for exceptional performance on the on the PSAT administered in October 2013. Two were National Merit Commended Students and one was named a National Merit Scholar. In addition, the Class of 2015 had a National Achievement Scholar Semi-Finalist and a National Achievement Scholar.

ESA students continue to lead in Acadiana and are among the top in the state on standardized test performance. With a class median ACT composite score of 29 and the mid 50% scoring between 25 and 32, ESA ranks well above local, state, and national averages. This past May, 85 upper school students took 210 Advanced Placement Exams with 91% of the students earning at least one score of 3 or higher. The College Board recently recognized 16 of these students as AP Scholars, 4 as AP Scholars with Honors, 16 as AP Scholars with Distinction, and 6 as National AP Scholars.

ESA students excelled in athletics as well. The Falcons captured two state championships in the 2014-15 school year, in boys' Cross-Country and boys Golf. The girls Track & Field team brought home the state runner-up trophy. Four teams were district champions: boys' Cross-Country, girls' Cross-Country, Baseball, and boys' Golf. Two ESA graduating seniors will participate in their sports at the college level one will swim at Centenary College and one will be an LSU cheerleader.

The Performing Arts department graduted 14 seniors this year, between cast and crew members. Their swan song was Hairspray, which many say was ESA's best musical yet. Some of these seniors will continue on to college to study theatre tech, music, dance, and theatre. Two straight plays, a combination of horror short stories and the comedy Fools, by Neil Simon, rounded out the drama department's season. Musicians performed rock ballads and original music at Coffee House and at evening concerts, and the choir continued

to receive awards at Honors Choir competition. In the Visual Arts, students from Episcopal School of Acadiana participated in a juried exhibition hosted by the LSU School of Art. Eight students' work was accepted into the show, and ESA students came home with the Second Place, Third Place, and Honorable Mention awards. The Director of the LSU School of Art, Mr. Rod Parker, joined independent study students for a private critique of the annual Senior Art Exhibition. Three students submitted artwork to the District Rally at ULL and were awarded Second Place and Honorable Mention.

ESA's Chapel program and religious studies courses are now led by our new lay Chaplain, Dr. Andrew Armond. Dr. Armond is teaching an academically rigorous Introduction to Religion class to the 8th graders at ESA. The course approaches religious education from a comparative religions standpoint, focusing not only on "who believes what," but on the complexities of the historical, social, and geographical interactions that fuel religious ideas and practices. In addition, Dr. Armond is stressing ESA's motto, "Excellence," in ensuring that

See ESA, page 16



The past twelve months have been quiet thankfully as hurricanes go. Thanks be to God! However, we did have quite a bit of flooding, tornadoes, and even devastating mass shooting events in our diocese. Yes, all of these qualify as disaster relief events.

Most of our congregations have a very narrow understanding of disaster preparedness and the kinds of disasters that can befall a community or congregation. I invite all of our convocations and/or congregations to be educated in disaster relief preparedness. It involves much more than you think and the information you receive will be invaluable. Please feel free to call or email Mother Mitzi+ to set up a training program for your congregation and/or con-

Respectfully submitted,

The Rev. Dr. Mitzi George



The Servant Leadership Corps of the Episcopal Diocese of Western Louisiana is now in its second year and has seen many good things evolving from the efforts of this program. There has been quite a bit of com-

munity organizing, tutoring programs for both English and Spanish speaking students, and some very positive political action taken by the Servant Leadership and those supporting this effort.

As many know, St. Joseph has long been in need of clean, potable water. The water system of the community has been in crisis for over a decade. The Servant Leadership has taken a leadership role in trying to combat political powers that have prohibited the correction of this problem along with other community issues.

The Servant Leadership program is looking forward to new members this year and we anticipate future growth in both the interest to serve but also in what we are able to accomplish in the delta area of our dio-

Respectfully submitted,

The Rev. Dr. Mitzi George Servant Leadership Director



Faced with unrest in the Dominican Republic and problems here at home, medical/dental mission teams from St. John's in Minden and St. Michael and all Angels in Lake Charles were unable send mission teams to that island nation this summer. Both are planning on resuming their mission work in the Dominican Republic in

That was not the case with the ACTS Honduras mission team, which made its eighteenth mission trip to Trinidad, Honduras, where they staged medical and optical clinics for three mountain villages.

Reporting on the trip, Georgia West stated: "Our little girl, Patricia Nicole, who we first saw two year ago, with congenital glaucoma is doing well. We continue to support her care." Georgia also said that the church in Trinidad and mountain top, El Retiro, continue to thrive.

Next year's ACTS Honduras mission team will be led by Scott and Elizabeth Hamilton of St. Barnabas in Lafayette. If you're interested in being a member of the team or in offering support, contact them

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Campbell



#### DEPARTMENT OF PROGRAM



Due to circumstances beyond the Commission's control, a retreat was not held during the 2014/15 ministry year.

The Joy in the Journey Recovery Retreat with the theme of: "Spirituality of Mindfulness Revealed in the Twelve Steps," will be held at Camp Hardtner, December 4-6, 2015. The presentor will be Father Clinton McReynolds.



In keeping with the Bishop's charge to us, the Anti-Racism Commission is working locally. That is, various members of the commission are exploring ways to carry out the dismantling racism work of the commission that are best suited to their local community.

The most developed effort currently underway is in St. Joseph, La., where, with the help of the Servant Leadership Corps, an interfaith, interracial group called Tensas Faith Community has formed. This organization's primary goal is to develop relationships between people and institutions that cross historic divides of race, socio-economic status, religion and geography to work together for the good of St. Joseph and Tensas Parish. A major concern of the organization so far has been the lack of potable water within the town of St. Joseph. TFC will celebrate its first year of relationship building Saturday, October 3, with a town picnic.

Although the Anti-Racism Commission does not plan a diocesan-wide program at this time, Commission chair Archdeacon Bette Kauffman owns the film "Traces of the Trade: A Story of the Deep North," and the rights to screen it in religious settings. The film is a documentary about a Connecticut family's confrontation with their ancestors' deep involvement in the slave trade. Archdeacon Kauffman is available to screen the film and conduct a discussion for any church of the Diocese that might be interested. A screening and discussion was conducted at Holy Cross in Shreveport this past summer.

Finally, the Commission grew this year by adding several members from the Alexandria Convocation. Please contact Archdeacon Kauffman if you are interested in working with the Commission on a dismantling racism project in your own community.

Respectfully submitted,

Archdeacon Bette J. Kauffman Chair, Anti-Racism Commission



The Communications & Public Relations Commission\_of the Episcopal Diocese of Western Louisiana is tasked by the Bishop with reflecting on and providing strategies, guidelines and guidance for those working these areas in our diocese.

Members of commission include The Rev'd Whitfield Stodghill, Chair; Diocesan Council Liaison: Karen Nash; Bess Maxwell, Tricia Grayson, Archdeacon Bette J. Kauffman, Ph.D., Melanie Torbett, Darrell Rebouche, Holly Davis, Ex-Officio for Electronic Communications; and Robert Harwell, Ex-Officio for Print Publication.

The commission met two times since the last Annual Convention of the diocese in 2014. The first meeting was face-to-face and held at Diocesan House on July 14 and the other was held electronically via Go-To-Meeting on August 20. The group plans to meet on a monthly basis.

During this term, the Communications & Public Relations Commission acted on the following matters:

·Organized and arranged a schedule of meetings;

·Created a list of Ideas for Action to be reviewed by the Bishop;

·Made a preliminary review of diocesan churches' websites and web/social media presence;

Examined some Social Media Policies from around the Church;

Discussed various needs in our Diocese; Began the creation of vision statement for the work of the commission for the Bishop's review and comment. This is intended to clarify the group's priorities.

Discussed how best to educate and disseminate information and learning that will meet the diverse needs and abilities of the churches in the diocese.

Respectfully submitted,

The Rev'd T. Whitfield Stodghill, III Chair



The Order of the Daughters of the King in the Diocese of Western Louisiana consists of twenty chapters representing approximately 280 women, covering all five convocations. The Daughters are a community of women that make a lifetime vow to uphold the two Rules of the Order: the Rule of Prayer and the Rule of Service. The Daughters are prayer warriors praying daily for clergy, for the parish and those in need as requested by friends and family. As part

of our Rule of Service, each Daughter promises to be Christ's faithful servant in the extension of God's Kingdom; to regularly take part in worship, study and work of the Church; to render at all times aid to the clergy as deemed necessary for the spiritual up building of the parish. The Daughters held its Spring Assembly in March with over 50 women in attendance. The theme was "Daughter's Care" and our guest speaker was the Right Reverend Jake Owensby. The day was spent in reflection and of learning community resources available to care for oneself, so that Daughters may care for others. A big thank you to the Shreveport Convocation who hosted the Assembly. The loose offering was donated to a family in the area with high medical cost. The assembly also voted to give the Provincial VII OutReach fund to St Luke's Medical Van ministry in Shreveport.

A short business meeting was held during the Assembly and new officers were elected. The new board will be installed September 19 during "Celebration of Women's Ministry" at Camp Hardtner. The officers are: Judy Bordelon from St. Timothy, Alexandria re-elected for a second term as president; Denise Rox from St. Timothy, Alexandria will be stepping down as Vice President but will remain on the Executive Board as advisor to the president; Vice president Debbie Langlois from Holy Trinity, Sulphur; Sharon Vercher from Epiphany, New Iberia will be the new Treasurer; and Dara Antee from St. Timothy, Alexandria will be the new secretary. Thank you ladies for volunteering your time and energy to The Order.

The Province VII Assembly was held in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The diocese had three Daughters attend: Denise Rox, Judy Bordelon and Ruth Gayle. Partial

See DOK, page 10



The Diocesan Episcopal Church Woman (ECW) is an inter-generational community of women seeking spiritual wholeness and personal development. Togetherwe strive to help each other become the women God has called us to be and to carry out God's mission in our parishes, our diocese, and throughout the world. The Diocese of Western Louisiana ECW Board carries out its mission statement by seeking to serve the women of the diocese with two spiritual retreats each year, providing summer camp scholarships for our youth to attend Camp Hardtner, and offering assistance and support for special projects that are within the scope of our community and mission. The ECW Board originally scheduled its annual meeting and retreat at Camp Hardtner for January 9-10, 2015. However, winter weather forced the meeting to be postponed and abbreviated to one day on Saturday, January 31, 2015 at St. Michael's in Pineville. The spirits of those attending were not deterred and the meeting was lively and productive. Plans were developed for the Time for Joy and Celebration retreats along with general business for the Camp Scholarship Program 2015. The Diocesan ECW Officers and Convocational Representatives for 2015 are: President Suzanne Corley, St. Michael's - Pineville

Past President, Sharlotte Finley Epiphany -Opelousas; Vice President of Programs, Beverly Rasbeary St. Michael/All Angels -Lk Charles; Secretary, Cindy Verret, Holy Trinity - Sulphur; Treasurer, Ione Dean, St. Mark's - Shreveport; Prayer & Worship Chairprsn, The Rev. Rowena White, St. Mark's - Shreveport: Praise & Music Chairman, Roxanne Myers, Holy Trinity - Sulphur; Communications Chairprsn, Shetwan Roberison, St. George's - Bossier City; Daughters of the King, Judy Bordelon, St. Timothy's - Alexandria; United Thank Offering, Jeanette Leger, Epiphany -Opelousas; Diocesan Liaison, Joy Owensby; Time for Joy Liaison, Ione Dean, St. Mark's - Shreveport; Diocesan Altar Guild, Ginger Norvell; Ascension -Lafayette; Acadiana Conv. Rep, Tammy Carpenter, Ascension - Lafayette; Acadiana Conv. Rep, Sharon Vercher, Epiphany -New Iberia; Alexandria Conv. Rep, Clara Kirk, St. Michael's - Pineville; Alexandria Conv. Rep, Gail Wilking, St. Michael's -Pineville; Lake Charles Conv. Rep, Paula Mclean, St. Michael/All Angels LkCharles; Lake Charles Conv. Rep, Jan Barber, Holy Trinity - Sulphur Monroe Conv. Rep, Alexa Hokanson, St. Thomas'- Monroe; Monroe Conv. Rep, Open; Shreveport Conv. Rep, Barbara Moore, St. George's, Bossier City; Shreveport Conv. Rep, Open

The ECW Board met in April prior to the beginning of the Time for Joy weekend (April17-19, 2015) to continue plans for the Celebration weekend in September (Sept 18 & 19,2015) and to fund the scholarship program for summer camp. The scholarship program is made available through the Virginia Hodge Paul Fund, which was established in 1982 to honor the first diocesan ECW president and to provide scholarships for youths wishing to attend summer camp at Camp Hardtner. The funds are given to Camp Hardtner to distribute where the need is the greatest and to ensure that no child is turned away from Camp due to lack of funds.

The Time for Joy retreat was held in April and led by Paula Mclean as chair and Roxanne Myers as co-chair. The Hargrove House once again provided a great space and plenty of room and resources for facilitating the weekend. Time for Joy is an opportunity for women to get away from

See ECW, page 16



#### DEPARTMENT OF PROGRAM



The Episcopal Schools in our diocese are listed below. The Episcopal School of Acadiana is the only diocesan school and they have a separate report.

Ascension Day School, Lafayette

,		
ast year 750		
821		
85		
16		
135		
\$ 10,000,000		
PK3 – 12th		
Mr. Paul Quick		
Head of School Email: Pquick@aesgators.org		
ors.org		

#### Bishop Noland Episcopal Day School, Lake Charles

Enrollment at the end of last year	: 34.
Current year enrollment	339
Current Faculty	
Full time	36
Part time	4
Total Faculty and Staff	56
Total Budget for 2015/16 \$	3,275,372
Grades Served	$PK2 - 8^{th}$
Head of School: The Rev. Frances	"Boo" Kay
Head of School Email:	
bkay@episcopaldays	school.org

Web address: www.episcopaldayschool.org

#### Epiphany Day School, New Iberia Enrollment at the end of last year

Current year enrollment	81
Current Faculty	
Full time	13
Part time	8
Total Faculty and Staff	25
Total Budget for 2014/1	5 \$861,000
Grades Served	PK3 – 5th
Head of School:	Courtney Dawson
Head of School Email:	
Cda	awson@esd-ni.com

Web Adress: www.eds-ni.com Episcopal School of Acadiana,

#### Cade and Lafayette

Enrollment at the end of la	st year 501
Current year enrollment	539
Current Faculty	
Full-time	76
Part-time	4
Total Faculty and Staff	115
Total Budget for 2015/16	\$ 7,697,000
Grades Served	PreK3-12
Head of School:	Paul Baker, PhD

pbaker@esacadiana.com Web Address: www.esacadiana.com

Grace Episcopal School, Monroe Enrollment at the end of last year 292 Current year enrollment 296 **Current Faculty** Full time teachers 38 Part time teachers 4 Total Faculty and Staff 42 Total Budget for 2014/15 \$1,799,635 Grades Served PK3 – 8th Head of School: Dr. Beth Ricks

bricks@graceepiscopal.org Web Address: www.graceepiscopal.org

#### St. James Day School, Alexandria

Head of School Email:

Enrollment at the end of l	last year 125
Current year enrollment	120
Current Faculty	
Full time	23
Part time	8
Total Faculty and Staff	31
Total Budget for 2014/15	
Grades Served	6 weeks – 4years
Head of School:	Annelise Eaglin
Head of School Email:	

sjedsdirector@saintjamesonline.org Web Address: www.saintjamesonline.org

#### St. Mark's Cathedral School,

Shreveport	
Enrollment at the end of last y	ear 35
Current year enrollment	353
Current Faculty	
Full time	5.
Part time	1
Total Faculty and Staff	6.5
Total Budget for 2012/13	\$ 3,508,924
Grades Served	PK3 – 8 <sup>t</sup>
Head of School:	

Christopher R. Carter D.Min. Head of School Email:

ccarter@stmarksschool.com Web Address: www.stmarksschool.com

#### St. Paul's Day School, Shreveport

200 1 ddin 2 2 dy 2000 201, 2111 2 . 2 p	
Enrollment at the end of last	year 185
Current year enrollment	188
Current Faculty	
Full time	(
Part time	20
Total Faculty and Staff	20
Total Budget for 2015/16	\$ 450,000
Grades Served	PK3 - PK4+
Head of School: Ms.	Jo Ann Rose
Head of School Email:	
joann@stpauls-shrev	report.org
Web Address: www.stpaulsepis.org	

Web Haaress. WV	· w.stpataisepis.org
Trinity Episcopal Pres	chool, Natchitoches
Enrollment at the enc	d of last year 48
Current year enrollme	ent 50
Current Faculty	
Full time	2
Part time	7
Total Faculty and Staff	
Total Budget for 2014	<del>1</del> /15 \$ 181,200

PK3 - PK4 +

Mrs. Susan Begnaud

Grades Served

Head of School:

Head of School Email:

tepnatchitoches@gmail.com Web Address: www.trinityparish.info

Respectfully submitted, The Rev. Frances "Boo" Kay



The Ecumenical Officer, the Rev'd Dr. Wayne E. Carter has represented the Diocese in various ecumenical venues over the past ten years. These include attending the National Workshop on Christian Unity (NWCU), the Annual Meeting of the Episcopal Diocesan and Ecumenical Officers, (EDEIO, the Annual Assembly and the meetings of the Board of Directors of the Louisiana Interchurch Conference (LIC) and the meetings of the Faith and Order Commission of the LIC.

Madré Annie Etheredge has served as the co-ecumenical officer for the past three years. She has attended the National Workshop on Christian Unity (NWCU) and the Episcopal Diocesan Ecumenical and Interreligious Officers EDEIO) meetings in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, Columbus, Ohio and Charlotte, North Carolina.. She attends both the Annual Assembly and the Board of Directors meetings of the Louisiana Interchurch Conference. She is Regional Coordinator for Region Five of the LIC.

As Ecumenical Officers for the Diocese, Fr. Carter and Madré Etheredge also are members of the Episcopal Diocesan Ecumenical and Interfaith Officers (EDEIO), a network of Ecumenical Officers of the Episcopal Church.

The National Workshop on Christian Unity is a national group made up of Roman Catholics, Orthodox, Episcopalians and mainline Protestants. This year's meeting was focused on the theme "A Christian Unity may be closer than you Think" and was held in Charlotte, NC, from April 20-23.Both Fr. Carter and Madré Etheredge attended the EDEIO and NWCU meetings.

The Louisiana Interchurch Conference (LIC), with the Rev. Dana Krutz, an Episcopal Priest of the Diocese of Louisiana, as Executive Director, is a cooperative fellowship of Christian judicatories in the State of Louisiana whose purpose is to work for the betterment of the people of Louisiana and to explore and respond to ecumenical concerns that involve the larger Church. The Annual Assembly of the LIC was held in Lake Charles on March 2 - 3 and was attended by both Fr. Carter and Madre Etheridge. They will also attended the Fall Board of Directors Meeting of the LIC in Baton Rouge, LA on September 21-22 and the meeting of the Faith and Order Commission on September 2.

Respectfully Submitted,

The Rev. Wayne E. Carter, PH.D. **Ecumenical Officer** 



The Commission on Liturgy and Music continues to assist the Bishop with various services throughout the diocese as needed. At last year's convention we had to be very flexible as a tornado hit Monroe the week of Convention and our gathering venue was changed with very short notice. Members of the Commission are: The Rev'd Richard Norman, chair; The Very Rev'd John Bedingfield; The Rev'd Canon Thomas Nsubuga; Dr. Frank Fuller; The Very Rev'd Alston Johnson; Canon Bryan Mitnaul; Joe Roberts; Roy Rosenthal; and Canon Jim Boyd (Ex Officio).

Respectfully submitted,

The Rev'd Richard Norman

#### **Congregational Vitality Institute**

continued from page 11

Diocese and CRI. Since then, a group of lay and clergy have participated in a twoday training by CRI.

Subsequent presentations at the CVI have provided teachings on how to be a missional congregation by the Rev'd Richard Norman; how, in glorifying God in our music, we have many opportunities to be missional in Christian ministry, taught by Mr. Bryan Mitnaul, Canon for Cathedral Music, St. Mark's Cathedral, and, more recently, a Saturday retreat that deepened our understanding and appreciation as to who we are as Anglicans, taught by the Rev'd Whit Stodghill. The next presentation will be a day of realizing our call as Episcopalians to show hospitality to all, led by the Rev'd Liz Ratcliff.

Finally, where individual congregations of the Diocese request it, members of the Congregational Vitality Commission meet with the leadership in that place. The work of the Commission on Congregational Vitality is on-going, and has planned a "vital" program for next year.

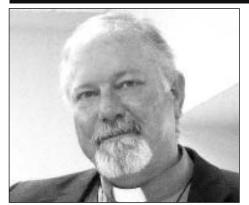
Respectfully submitted,

(The Rev'd Canon) William Reid Bryant

Head of School Email:



### CANDIDATES FOR STANDING COMMITTEE Elect One Priest and One Laity At-Large



#### The Rev. George "Rich" Snow

Alexandria, LA
How long have you been an
Episcopalian? ........cradle Episcopalian
of 46 years
Parish/Mission: St. Timothy's, Alexandria
since April 2015

#### Completed by Nominator

1. What, in your opinion, recommends this person to the position to which he/she is being nominated? [40 words or less] Rich is knowledgeable about how Standing Committees work, as he has previously served in this position in his former diocese

2. Identify the particular gifts or skills you believe this nominee has which would equip him/her for the office for which you are nominating. [50 words or less]

Father Snow is diplomatic and, at the same time, will be forthright and honest if asked his opinion. He listens carefully and does not dominate a meeting. He is steady and clear thinking.

#### The Rev. Liz Ratcliff

#### Completed by the Nominee

1. History and present positions of Christian service through the Diocese of Western Louisiana. [Give approximate dates]
A. Parish/Mission: Rector of St. Timothy's in Alexandria since April 2015 to present.
B. Diocese:

- C. Province or National:
- D. Community:
- E. Please provide a brief description of occupational responsibilities in or outside the home. [25 words or less]
- 2. Please give us a brief explanation as to why you would like to serve in this office. (40 words or less) As I formerly served on the Standing Committee in the Diocese of Wyoming. I look forward to continuing this ministry here at home.



#### **Fred King**

West Monroe, LA
How long have you been an
Episcopalian? ....... 60+ years
Parish/Mission: Redeemer, Ruston since

#### Completed by Nominator

1. What, in your opinion, recommends this person to the position to which he/she is being nominated? [40 words or less]

Fred has served on parish-wide offices such as Vestry, Finance Committee, delegate to Diocesan Convention multiple times, as well as many other special functions. He has also served on Diocesan Council and Standing Committee on the Diocesan level under three different bishops. He is a font of knowledge as well as a valuable resource to this diocese and we should utilize all he has to offer us.

2. Identify the particular gifts or skills you believe this nominee has which would equip him/her for the office for which you are nominating. [50 words or less]

Fred has the skill and expertise to serve on Standing Committee, skills that have been honed by 25 years as an attorney and before that, several years as an engineer. He is a person used to serving in his community and his church and is very willing to share his experience.

#### The Very Rev. W. Easterling

#### Completed by the Nominee

1. History and present positions of Christian service through the Diocese of Western Louisiana. [Give approximate dates]
A. Parish/Mission: Served as Junior Warden on two occasions; numerous times as delegate to the diocesan convention as well

as other special functions.

B. Diocese: Have served either three or four terms on the diocesan council and one on the standing committee as well as finance and other committees under Bishops Henton, Hargrove and MacPherson.

C. Province or National:

**D. Community:** Rotary Club, Chenault Aviation & Military Museum; have worked with soccer association and Boy Scouts.

See Fred King, page 15



Shreveport, LA
How long have you been an
Episcopalian? ........ lifelong
Parish/Mission: The Church of the Holy
Cross since 1969

#### Completed by Nominator

1. What, in your opinion, recommends this person to the position to which he/she is being nominated? [40 words or less]

Ginger has served extensively and faithfully in the parish, in the diocese and on the national level, planning, organizing and working with people. She cares deeply and has always been a positive force in our community and our church.

2. Identify the particular gifts or skills you believe this nominee has which would equip him/her for the office for which you are nominating. [50 words or less]

Ginger identifies issues thoughtfully, asks good questions to clarify and is discerning in making decisions. She seeks to act in the best interest of the Church, always. She is a good leader and a valuable member of a committee and has a good sense of the history of our diocese.

#### The Rev. Mary B. Richard

#### Completed by the Nominee

1. History and present positions of Christian service through the Diocese of Western Louisiana. [Give approximate dates] A. Parish/Mission: Since 1969, I have been: Sunday School Teacher; currently, ECW member, Choir member, Altar Guild member and Vestry member. Currently Senior Warden.

**B. Diocese:** 1976 President of ECW; Executive Committee as 1993 Chair of Social Justice Committee; 1996 Anti-Racism Committee; Alternate Deputy to two General Conventions.

C. Province or National. 1988-1991 Province VII representative to National Board of ECW; 1991-1994 President, National Board of ECW; 1994-2000 Member of National Executive Council, Chair of Agenda Committee and member of Finance Committee; 2000-2006 Episcopal Church Lay Representative to the National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA

See Ginger Paul, page 15



#### **Nancy Barnes Shaw**

Ragley, LA How long have you been an Episcopalian? ...... lifelong Parish/Mission: St. Andrew's, Moss Bluff, Lake Charles since 2008

#### Completed by Nominator

1. What, in your opinion, recommends this person to the position to which he/she is being nominated? [40 words or less]

Nancy served as the secretary of last year's Diocesan Convention. She currently is serving a term on the Diocesan Council. She understands and enjoys the work at the di-

2. Identify the particular gifts or skills you believe this nominee has which would equip him/her for the office for which you are nominating. [50 words or less]

Nancy is very organized. She loves tasks that demand her attention to detail. Her writing and editing skills are superb. She is a person who takes her commitments seriously. She also just chaired a discernment committee. She is a lady of many talents.

#### The Rev. Frances "Boo" Kay

#### Completed by the Nominee

1. History and present positions of Christian service through the Diocese of Western Louisiana. [Give approximate dates] A. Parish/Mission: Bishop's Warden (2014-present), Vestry member St. Andrew's (2011-2014), Vestry member Holy Trinity, Sulphur (2006-2007), Lay Reader, Lay Eucharistic Minister, Lay Eucharistic Visitor, Church secretary, taught Bible school, EFM graduate

**B. Diocese:** Secretary of Convention (2013-present), Standing Committee (2010-2013), Discernment Committee facilitator, Camp Hardtner First Camp lay assistant (2006), Camp Hardtner fanatic since childhood.

C. Province or National: none

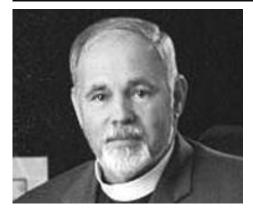
**D.** Community: Visitation ministry to elderly, participant Family Night, Youth activities

E. Please provide a brief description of occupational responsibilities in or outside the home. [25 words or less]

See Nancy Barnes Shaw, page 15



#### 36TH ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF WESTERN LOUISIANA Candidate for Clergy Trustee of the University of the South



The Rev. Paul D. Martin

Shreveport, LA How long have you been an Episcopalian? ...... 65 years Parish/Mission: St. Paul's, Shreveport

#### Completed by Nominator

1. What, in your opinion, recommends this person to the position to which he/she is being nominated? [40 words or less] Paul is a long time priest of our diocese who has served as a Trustee previously. He attended seminary there and is committed to the future of the school.

2. Identify the particular gifts or skills you believe this nominee has which would equip him/her for the office for which you are nominating. [50 words or less] Paul is very familiar with Sewanee and the Board of Trustees. He has a love for the seminary and will serve it and our diocese well.

#### The Very Rev. Jack Myers +

#### Completed by the Nominee

1. History and present positions of Christian service through the Diocese of Western Louisiana. [Give approximate dates] A. Parish/Mission: St. Paul's Episcopal Church: Youth Minister, 1997-2003; Assistant Rector, 1997-2012; Rector, 2012-

B. Diocese: Commission on Theology, 1990-1992; Evangelism, 1995-2011(Chair); Diocesan Council, 2009-2011; Spiritual Director-Cursillo, 1998-2014; Trustee, Sewanee, 1991-1994, 2000-2015

C. Province or National:

tion (homeless ministry); Purchased, not for priest through my service. sale; CCC visitor

E. Please provide a brief description of occupational responsibilities in or outside the home. [25 words or less] I am rector of St. Paul's, Shreveport.

2. Please give us a brief explanation as to why you would like to serve in this office. [40 words or less] I have been a trustee for some time which has allowed me to gain insight into the workings of the Board and the future issues facing the Board. I love Sewanee.

#### Fred King

continued from page 14

E. Please provide a brief description of occupational responsibilities in or outside the home. [25 words or less]

I have operated a law practice for over 25 years after operating an engineering practice for many years.

2. Please give us a brief explanation as to why you would like to serve in this office. [40 words or less]

I have served on this committee previously and can make a contribution to the diocese in this position.

#### **Ginger Paul**

continued from page 14

D. Community: 1970's and 80's Board of YWCA, Shreveport; 2006 Philadelphia Center (HIV Ministry) as member and several times board member as I am currently, Shreveport Summer Music Festival

E. Please provide a brief description of occupational responsibilities in or outside the home. [25 words or less] President of Elm Grove Plantation, Inc., a family-owned business primarily responsible for management of mineral interests.

2. Please give us a brief explanation as to why you would like to serve in this office. [40 words or less] Serving the Episcopal Church for many years has been and continues to be not only a joy, but has provided me the opportunity to do the ministry I believe God has called me to do.

#### **Nancy Barnes Shaw**

continued from page 14

Assist in church office. No other regular occupational responsibilities. Retired from Calcasieu Parish Schools. Help husband on cattle ranch, as needed. Visit grandchildren when I'm invited.

2. Please give us a brief explanation as to why you would like to serve in this office. [40 words or less]

I enjoy serving and supporting my church at the Diocesan level. As a member of the laity in a mission church, I can offer a viewpoint from a "grass roots" level. I am able D. Community: Involved in Hope Connecto enrich my congregation and support my

#### **Hardtner Trustees**

continued from page 9

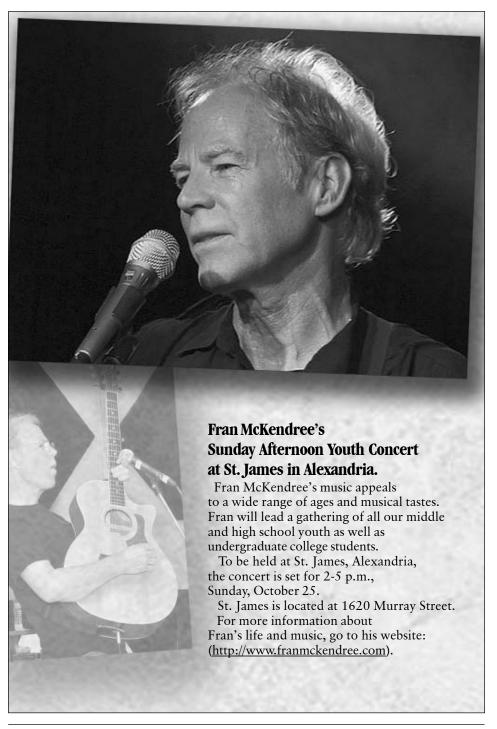
use is for youth events... this requires food but no room service. Adult use including overnight stay requires both, but that occurs only on certain weekends during the year. It is not feasible to maintain fulltime kitchen and room service staff when they are needed primarily on weekends and our facilities are vacant during the weekdays. We cannot rent space which puts us in competition with local hotels/motels and maintain our tax exempt status; our primary use must be for non-profits. We ask members of the diocese to think about this and help us fill the weekdays by steering non-profits our way for their meetings, conferences, overnights, etc.

Hardtner belongs to all of us and it provides space and facilities not available in most of our congregations. It is an exten sion of our congregations' campuses. Consider vestry retreats, parish overnights, and family weekends. On a larger scale- what about sharing good teachers in diocesanwide events, possibly a diocesan Bridge tournament, a men's weekend (we haven't had one in the two decades I have been in this diocese), a convocation event? We can provide the facilities, you provide the program. As you put together an annual calendar, consider using your camp and conference center for an event.

I began by thanking Jason Ezell, our Director, for his leadership through the challenges of 2014, but on behalf of us all, I want to thank him for his years of service, inspiration and dedication as he leaves us for a position in the Diocese of Mississippi. He will be greatly missed, but his contributions have been deeply appreciated. The Very Rev. Ronald Clingenpeel, the diocesan Transitions Consultant, has been appointed as Interim Director. We welcome him and look forward to working with him in the time ahead as we seek a new Director.

Respectfully submitted,

The Rev. Guido Verbeck Chair Hardtner Board of Trustees





#### 36TH ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF WESTERN LOUISIANA

#### ESA

continued from page 11

Chapels are educational, meaningful, and professional programs that bring students, faculty, and administrators together to celebrate the life of the school. Dr. Armond also looks forward to teaching an upperschool elective on World Religions in the spring of 2016 and remains active as a scholar and layperson in the Episcopal tradition. Eucharist services at ESA's Cade campus are being celebrated by Fr. Matt Woollett of the Episcopal Church of the Epiphany in New Iberia and at the Lafayette campus by Fr. John Bedingfield of St. Barnabas in Lafayette.

Last fall, we introduced The ESA Experience, a brand book designed to capture the unique appeal of ESA and to steer the direction of our future branding and marketing efforts. In November, niche.com ranked ESA in the Top 3 for private schools in Louisiana, along with two New Orleans private schools. The brand book, the top 3 ranking, Facebook campaigns and happy families helped to give ESA one of our best years for admissions, and we opened the 2015-2016 school year with the most students the school has ever had. We also had one of our best fundraising years ever. We came within \$12,000 of our goal for Annual Giving and had great success with the fundraising events led by our Parent Group. With the funds, on the Cade campus we were able to complete much-needed renovations to the Counseling Office; install new ceilings, lights and carpeting in eight classrooms; install a new roof on one of the original classroom buildings; and renovate the girls' locker room. In Lafayette, we completed erosion mitigation and improvements to the courtyard and grounds and installation of ceiling fans over the lunch areas. We also funded professional development

See ESA, page 10

#### **ECW**

continued from page 12

the demands of work, family and daily life. The retreat gives guests a chance to have time for themselves to renew their relationship with Jesus Christ. It's a time for Jesus, Others and Yourself (JOY) and offers encouragement for women and their involvement in the mission and ministries of the diocese. The Rev. Dr. Rowena White led a spiritual reflection and spoke about her own life experiences; how God has spoken to her throughout her life as a daughter and a mother (now a grandmother) and through her diverse careers. She offered prayer and programming for the multi-generational weekend. Other activities included making prayer beads, 10-minute recipes, making bath salts, journaling, hand & foot massages and planting in flower pots. There were late-night games and plenty of singing at all hours. Meals, desserts and snacks were prepared through generous shared dishes brought by the staff. The weekend is a special gift and a blessing to all those who can attend.

The annual Celebration of Women's Ministries is scheduled for Sept. 18 & 19, 2015 at Camp Hardtner. The theme is Forgiveness and features the Rev. Liz Ratcliff who will cover how we as Christians can stand up for our rights and still be forgiving at the same time. The Rev. Rowena White will continue her spiritual guidance and lead meditations. The Celebration will include annual meetings of the Diocesan ECW and Daughter's of the King. There will be an Altar Guild Workshop called "Tricks of the Trade for Parishes of all Sizes" plus a presentation on the use of Healing Oils and doing Chair Yoga. Celebration Weekend is a time of sharing and learning from each other through the unique inspiration which comes from the women of each congregation who are deeply devoted to their ministries for Christ Jesus. The weekend is both a celebration and a reflection on the activities that Episcopal Church Women are part of in their home congregations every day.

Additional activity in 2015 included sending a team to the Triennial Convention in Utah June 25 - July 3, 2015. Their insights will be shared at our September Board Meeting during Celebration Weekend. Also in September, the Monroe Convocation is holding a local event (morning tea) to further the communication and understanding of how the ECW Board conducts its outreach. We all endeavor to support the Annual Diocesan Convention in Lake Charles October 22-24, 2015.

The Diocesan ECW Board members continue to be blessed in our work and ministries. We are privileged to serve the diocese and each other. Our hearts and gratitude are always with those who continue to support our efforts - especially Mother Rowena White and Bishop Jake and Joy.

Respectfully submitted,

Suzanne Corley ECW President Diocese of Western Louisiana

#### The University of the South

continued from page 9

of Letters, and a School of Theology. Located atop the Cumberland Plateau between Nashville and Chattanooga, Tenn., Sewanee's 3,000-acre campus, the second largest campus in the United States, provides vast opportunities for research, recreation, and reflection. Within the traditionally strong curriculum of humanities, sciences, and graduate theological studies, Sewanee faculty members promote intellectual growth, critical thinking, and handson research.

The University's Board of Trustees is com-

posed of the bishops of the 28 owning dioceses, together with clerical and lay representatives elected by each diocese and representatives of other University constituencies. The Board of Regents, to which the Board of Trustees delegates some of its responsibilities for governance, is composed of Episcopal bishops, priests, and lay people, and may include a limited number of members of other Christian bodies. The chancellor of the University, elected by the Board of Trustees, is a bishop from one of the 28 owning dioceses.

An Episcopal Center of learning The University of the South is an institution of the Episcopal Church dedicated to the pursuit of knowledge, understanding and wisdom in close community and in full freedom of inquiry, and enlightened by Christian faith in the Anglican tradition, welcoming individuals from all backgrounds,

to the end that students he prepared to search for truth, seek justice, preserve liberty under law, and serve God and human-

The University was founded by church leaders from the southeastern United States in 1857 and is the only university in the nation that is owned and governed by dioceses of The Episcopal Church, specifically the 28 dioceses that are successors to the original founding dioceses. The historic ownership and governance of the University by these Episcopal dioceses has produced a living synergy of leadership, resource, and mutual support, enriching the Church and advancing the University's role in American higher education.

#### 2014-2015 Statistics for the University of the South

College of Arts and Sciences total students: 1631 (full-time and part time)

Class of 2018:466 SAT combined: 1740-2020 ACT: 26-30

High School GPA: 3.69/4.0

Female: 56.9 % Male: 43.1% Percentage of all college students declaring

Episcopal heritage: 25.1%

College tuition and fees: \$ 37,100 College faculty: 148 (Full-Time) and 72 (Part-t-ime)

Student/faculty ratio: I0.2 to 1

School of Theology students: 157 (includes summer students)

School of Theology full-time tuition and fees: \$ 16,748

School of Theology faculty: Full-Time: 12
Part-Time: 9

Student/faculty ratio: 7/1

University Fiscal Year July 1, 2014-June 30, 2015 (unaudited)

Unrestricted operating revenue: \$66 mil-

Endowment: \$350 million

2014-2015 Highlights from the University of the South

Details may be found at http://news.sewanee.edu/ and theology.sewanee.edu/news.

- . Stephens Receives Freeman Award; October 8, 2014
- . MacSwain Contributes to Discussion on Art and Theological Education; November 13, 2014
- . The School of Theology Makes Fourth Trip to Cuba; January 21, 2015
- . Vice Chancellor McCardell Appointed Chair of the Board of Directors of NAICU; February 4, 2015
- . CRE Adds New Position; February 12, 2015
- . School of Theology Named to Seminaries that Change the World; February 24, 2015
- . New Sewanee Inn Ranks #1 in Tennessee (Trip Advisor); March 11, 20I5
- . Tree Ring Data Sheds Light on History of Rebel's Rest and Local Forest; April 1, 2015
- . The School of Theology Confers Degrees; May 11, 2015
- . Gift to University Supports School of Theology's Vision; June 8, 2015

. Board of Regents Approves School of Theology Move Back to Central Campus; June 18, 2015

. Owning Diocesan Bishop Elected to be 27th Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church; June 27, 2015

. Education for Ministry Celebrates 40th Anniversary; June 30, 2015

#### **Commission on Ministry**

continued from page 9

James, Shreveport; Layton Porter, Church of the Redeemer, Ruston; and Madge McLain, St. Barnabas, Lafayette. Layton has just begun seminary at Virginia Theological Seminary. By the time this report is read, these numbers will have changed.

The COM sponsored the third extremely successful Discernment Conference on April 25th, at St. James, Alexandria. The attendance was excellent, and the conference was enthusiastically praised! Mother Liz Ratcliff and Susie Drell were the cochairs of this and did a superb job. Thanks you, Liz+ and Susie!

Anyone interested in the discernment process should discuss this with their priest and review the Discernment Process Manual, which may be obtained from his/her parish office, or from the diocesan website. If you have any questions regarding the work of the Commission on Ministry, please do not hesitate to contact me or any of the members of the COM: Deacon Don Leger, The Rev'd Dr. Mitzi George, The Rev'd Liz Ratcliff, The Very Rev'd Alston Johnson, The Rev'd John Bedingfield, The Rev'd Richard Norman, The Rev'd Whit Stodghill, Canon Bill Bryant, Susie Drell, or Susan Sparks.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Boyd Chair, Commission on Ministry

# **Episcopal Church News**

### Two Canons will serve Presiding Bishop Curry

Two canons will serve the Rt. Rev. Michael Curry when he becomes the Episcopal Church's 27th presiding bishop on Nov. 1. The Rev. Canon Michael Buerkel Hunn will oversee ministry within the Episcopal Church and the Rev. Canon Charles K. Robertson will oversee ministry beyond the Episcopal Church.

The Rt. Rev. Stacy F. Sauls announced the two appointments late Monday afternoon. Bishop Sauls, chief operating officer, will be Bishop Curry's chief of staff and will oversee the leadership team.

"The role of the presiding bishop, as set forth in our constitution, canons, and history, is enormously broad in its scope, both within and beyond the Episcopal Church," Bishop Sauls said. "These roles include those of presiding bishop, primate, and chief pastor, and encompass such functions as ecumenical and interfaith officer, primary teacher, and chief evangelist. Bishop Curry's plans involve two canons supporting him in these responsibilities, which are part of an even broader portfolio that also includes his role as chair of the Executive Council and president of the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society."

#### Canon Michael Hunn

Hunn has served since 2006 as the Canon to the Ordinary for Program and Pastoral Ministry in the Diocese of North Carolina.

In his new role, Canon Hunn will be responsible for supporting the ministry of the presiding bishop among Episcopalians. He will support the presiding bishop's work as president of the House of Bishops, chief pastor to the church's 108 dioceses and areas of special jurisdiction, and chief theological educator and evangelist.

"This is an exciting time to be an Episcopal follower of Jesus," Hunn said. "Don't we have something beautiful to say to our aching world? I am eager to assist Bishop Curry and excited about the conversations and adventure we all will share together in the years to come. I hope to be useful to our beloved church."

"Canon Hunn and I have worked together

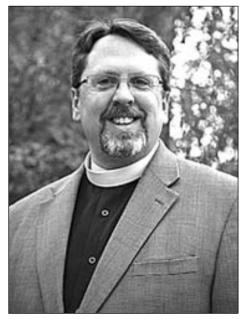


The Rev. Canon Michael Buerkel Hunn

for nine years in the Diocese of North Carolina," Bishop Curry said. "He really is a person of prayer, penetrating insight, deep wisdom, and experience in helping us to live fully into that calling in our time as part of the Jesus movement."

Hunn is the author of a short story, "Al's Garage and Soul Repair Shop," that won the 2009 Middlebury Magazine Fiction Contest, and he is seeking a publisher for a novel, Getting Over Jordan. He maintains a YouTube channel.

Canon Hunn holds degrees from Middlebury College (BA, history and religion) and Cambridge University (MA, theology) and a Certificate of Advanced Theological Study from Seabury-Western Theological Seminary. Ordained in 1996, Hunn served Kent School in Connecticut as chaplain, head baseball coach, and chairman of the theology department. He served as senior associate rector of the Church of the Holy Comforter in Kenilworth, Illinois, and as Episcopal chaplain to Davidson College and associate rector of St. Alban's Church in Davidson, North Carolina.



The Rev. Charles K. Robertson

Canon Hunn will be based in Raleigh, where he lives with his wife, the Rev. Meg Buerkel Hunn, assistant rector at Christ Church on Capitol Square; their two teenage sons, Dexter and Murphy; and a daughter, Dosie.

#### Canon Charles Robertson

The Rev. Canon Charles K. Robertson, has served as Canon to Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori since 2007.

In his new role, Canon Robertson will be responsible for supporting the ministry of the presiding bishop among those who are not members of the Episcopal Church. He will support the presiding bishop's role as primate of the Episcopal Church (one of 38 member Provinces of the Anglican Communion) and as chief ecumenical and interfaith officer for the church.

"I am deeply grateful to be asked by the Presiding Bishop-elect to serve the church in this role," Canon Robertson said. "It is a privilege to be engaged in the work of building bridges and strengthening partnerships for the sake of the gospel and the growth of the church. And I look forward to the opportunity to work together with Canon Michael Hunn."

"Canon Robertson and I have worked together in a variety of efforts for all the years he has served as canon to our Presiding Bishop," Bishop Curry said. "I know him to be a deeply faithful person, a trusted colleague in the gospel ministry, with wide experience in building and nurturing relationships with our brothers and sisters in the wider Anglican Communion as well as the ecumenical and interfaith communities. We are truly blessed to have Canon Robertson and Canon Hunn working as a team to assist and facilitate the ministry of the presiding bishop as we seek to engage this mission moment together as the Episcopal Church."

Canon Robertson holds a BA in communication from Virginia Tech and an MDiv from Virginia Theological Seminary. While earning his doctorate in theology from Durham University, he assisted at Durham Cathedral from 1996 to 1999.

He has served as rector of parishes in Central Florida and Atlanta and as Canon to the Ordinary in the Diocese of Arizona.

Canon Robertson is a fellow of the Episcopal Church Foundation, a distinguished visiting professor at General Theological Seminary, and a member of the Council on Foreign Relations. He has also worked extensively with the Department of Education, the White House, and Hollywood studios and guilds as executive director of Film Clips, Inc.

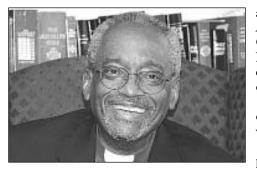
Canon Robertson has served on several national boards, including the Governing Board of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA, and has written and contributed to 11 books. He is general editor of the Studies in Episcopal & Anglican Theology series.

A native of Texas, Canon Robertson has been married for 24 years to Debbie. They have two sons, David, and Jonathan, and a daughter, Abigail. He will continue to work from the Episcopal Church Center in New

#### The Holy Eucharist with the Installation of Bishop Michael Bruce Curry as the Presiding Bishop

[Episcopal Church Office of Public Affairs press release] The Holy Eucharist with the Installation of the 27th Presiding Bishop of The Episcopal Church, Bishop Michael Bruce Curry, will occur on Sunday, November 1 at noon Eastern at Washington National Cathedral.

The Rt. Rev. Michael Bruce Curry, Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina, was elected and confirmed as the 27th Presiding Bishop of The Episcopal Church



at the 78th General Convention on June 27. According to the Canons of The Episcopal Church, he becomes Presiding Bishop on November 1. Bishop Curry is the first African-American to be elected Presiding Bishop of The Episcopal Church.

The Holy Eucharist with the Installation of the 27th Presiding Bishop will be live webcast

The service will be reflective of the comprehensiveness of the Episcopal tradition

and community. Bishop Curry will preach at the service.

Episcopal, Anglican, ecumenical, and interreligious guests are expected to join bishops, General Convention deputies, Executive Council members, and other leaders, members and guests of The Episcopal Church for the celebration.

# Around the Diocese



#### Diocesan Convention conflicts with Gubernatorial Election

This year's October 23-34 Diocesan Convention in Lake Charles conflicts with the October 24 Gubernatorial Election. Here are several points to help you attend Convention, and still make it to the polls.

**Early Voting.** Parishes have designated October 10-17 as an early voting period. You do not need a reason to vote early, simply visit your local Registrar of Voters office and vote.

**Voting after Convention.** If you are unable to vote early, don't worry. Convention will be finished early enough for those near Lake Charles to vote before polls close on Saturday, October 24.

Vote by Mail. Eligibility for voting by mail is subject to select individuals. Military, Disabled Veterans, Minister (and spouses), and those who will be absent from their parish territory during the early voting period AND election day are able to vote by mail. Check with your local registrar of voters for details.

## Archbishop launches monastic-inspired community for young Christians

[Lambeth Palace] Archbishop Justin Welby commissioned the first members of the Community of St. Anselm in a special service at Lambeth Palace on Sept. 18.

Thirty-six young men and women from across the U.K. and around the world became the first members of the Archbishop of Canterbury's new monastic-inspired community at Lambeth Palace.

The Community of St. Anselm – a program for Christians aged 20-35 to spend a year praying, studying ethics and theology, and serving the poorest in local communities – was officially launched in a special service at Lambeth Palace Chapel.

The first intake of the community has 16 residential members from around the world – including the USA, Kenya and Australia – who will live at Lambeth Palace. They are joined by 20 non-resident members who will be living in London and continuing their jobs in finance, media, education, the civil service and elsewhere.

During the service the members committed to a year of prayer, study and service to the poor, during which they will live by a challenging Rule of Life inspired by the monastic traditions.

Welby, who has made the renewal of prayer and religious communities a prior-

ity for his ministry, preached at the service.

In his sermon he said religious communities are "ancient and current reflections of the love of God seen in the Trinity" in which people "risk everything to seek to emulate that love."

"Changed by the love which finds and directs us, changed by that grace, we too are to be sources of love and healing," he said.



Archbishop Welby greets the new community.

The archbishop said his prayer for the community was that it "speaks God's truth to itself and the world – in other words, that it is prophetic."

He added: "We commit to receive each other as a gift. That is a challenge for you, and for all at Lambeth Palace for whom this is a radical change, including me – es-

## clergy notes

#### Celebrations of New Ministry

Nov. 5 - Trinity, Natchitoches, The Rev. Suzanne Wolfenbarger

Nov. 12 – St. Paul's, Abbeville, The Rev. Christopher Heying

Dec. 3 – St. James, Alexandria, The Rev. Deborah Heathcock



#### What is a MAP Grant in Western Louisiana?

Fourteen 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 explained by Bishop Jake, "The 2015 budget put our money where our mouth is." In order to encourage missional thinking and risk taking, the budget included a grant program entitled the Ministry Application Program or MAP. The 2015 budget total for MAP was \$150,000.

Details of the program and applications for grants are on the diocesan website (www.diocesewla.org).

In short, annual grants for missional initiatives for up to \$7,500 were available. Grants for capital improvements in support of mission capped at \$5,000. Both kinds of grants were awarded to new initiatives. They will not be used to supplement operating budgets. These grants were in addition to our longstanding grant program for Formation in Small Congregations.

The MAP grant program made awards for Missional Initiative (\$7,500) or a Capital Improvement (\$5,000).

The 2016 draft budget contains MAP grants.

pecially me. You are God's gifts to me, and astonishing as it may seem, I to you, and all to each other. If we receive those gifts, we will bear fruit, now and in the future for decades even into eternity."

Several members gave testimonies during the service, including 23-year-old Peter Angelica, who is joining the Community from New York City, where he worked as a financial analyst.

He said hearing God's call to join the Community amidst the noise of New York "was not an easy task, even after much thought, prayer and contemplation."

"But through God's love, and the support my family, friends and those I worked with, I have come to realize the importance of this decision for me and for others."

Frances Germain, a London-based doc-

tor, and George Karanja Njiri, a recent divinity graduate from Kenya, both in their twenties, also spoke about their journey towards becoming members of the Community.

The community is open to men and women from any Christian denomination, and this year includes Anglicans, Methodists, Roman Catholics and Pentecostals, among others. It takes its name from a Benedictine monk and brilliant scholar, who was Archbishop of Canterbury from 1093-1109. St Anselm's motto was 'faith seeking understanding', a reminder that the faith journey begins with an active love of Godand from this love a deeper knowledge of God follows.



#### 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! This central calendar is designed to help avoid overlapping

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

#### October 2015

- 6 Meeting of the Standing Committee, Diocesan House, starts at 10 a.m.
- 11 Bishop's Visitation, St. Michael's, Pineville
- 14 Registration Deadline for Leadership Training for Youth, Register online at the diocesan website.
- 14 Meeting of the Board of Trustees, Diocesan House, starts at 11a.m.
- 17 Leadership Training for Youth, St. Barnabas, Lafayette, starts at 10 a.m.
- 21 Last Day to Register for the Diocesan Youth Rally, Register online at the diocesan website.
- 23-24 Diocesan Convention, Lake Charles
- 25 Diocesan Youth Rally, With special musical guest Fran McKendree,
  - 2 5:00 p.m., St. James, Alexandria, FREE! Register online at the diocesan website by October 21.
- 28 Cursillo Staff Overnight, Camp Hardtner, starts at 5 p.m.
- 29-11/1 Cursillo #149, Camp Hardtner, starts at 6 p.m.

#### November 2015

- 1 Bishop's Visitation, Trinity, Natchitoches
- 1 Bishop Jake at the Cursillo Closing, Camp Hardtner
- 3 Meeting of the Standing Committee, Diocesan House, starts at 10:00 a.m.
- 5 Celebration of a new ministry, *Trinity*, *Natchitoches*,
- The Rev. Suzanne Wolfenbarger
- 6 CLEY Registration Deadline for t-shirt, Register online at the diocesan
- Congregational Vitality Institute Presentation: "Hospitality is so much more than 'We're here for you," 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., Camp Hardtner
- 8 Bishop's Visitation, Epiphany, Opelousas
- 10 Meeting of the Diocesan Council, St. James, Alexandria, starts at 10 p.m.
- 12 Celebration of a new ministry, St. Paul's Abeville, The Rev. Christopher Heying
- 13 Last Day for CLEY Registration, Register online at the diocesan website
- 15 Bishop's Visitation, Good Shepherd, Vidalia
- 18 Bishop's Midweek Visitation, St. Columba's, Winnsboro
- 20-22 CLEY High School Student Retreat, Camp Hardtner, starts at 6:00 p.m.
- 22 Bishop's Visitation, St. Luke's, Grambling

#### December 2015

- 1 Meeting of the Standing Committee, Diocesan House, starts at 10:00 a.m.
- Bishop's Midweek Visitation, Christ Church, St. Joseph
- 3 Celebration of a new ministry, St. James, Alexandria,
  - The Rev. Deborah Heathcock
- 4 Happening Staff Application Due, Register online at the diocesan website.
- 4-6 Joy in the Journey Recovery Retreat, Camp Hardtner, starts at 6:00 p.m.
- 6 Bishop's Visitation, Grace, Monroe
- 13 Bishop's Visitation, Redeemer, Ruston
- 20 Bishop's Visitation, St. Thomas, Monroe
- 22 Last Day for Winterfest Regis., Register online at the diocesan website.
- 24 Bishop's Visitation, Early: St. Mark's, Shreveport
- Late: St. James, Alexandria, 29-1/1 — Winterfest, Camp Hardtner, starts at 6:00 p.m.

#### January 2016

October 2015

- Happening Registration Deadline for t-shirt, Register online at the diocesan website.
- Bishop's Visitation, St. James, Alexandria
- 15 Last day for Happening Registration, Register online at the diocesan website.
- 16 ECW Gathering and Installation of Officers, St. Michael's, Pineville

#### **Grace MAP Grant**

continued from page 20

ping-pong, air hockey and foosball among other activities.

#### Grace parishioners join the renovation efforts and contribute furnishings

The grant for the Upper Room brought forth quite a bit of support from parishioners. Many Grace parishioners have shared their memories of the "Upper Room" on the third story at Grace as youth participants or adult volunteers. Over the last several weeks, the Upper Room committee set up an online shower registry at Walmart and asked the congregation to participate in completing the needs of the room with purchases of bean bags, bistro tables, utensils, glass ware and various kitchen items.

Almost 100% of the items requested have been purchased by the congregation in a tangible show of their support of the project.

#### Youth are elated with space

The reaction of the youth to this investment by the Diocese and Grace Church has been elation, anticipation and even disbelief that such a room is actually being created for them. The renovation of the Grace EYC Upper Room will see continuing returns for many years. Just recently, several fifth-grade moms have begun discussing the possibility of a monthly EYC meeting for their children. And, when the original 8th graders that revitalized the middle school group begin high school next year, plans are underway to continue their participation with a high school meeting also.

#### **SOFA**

continued from page 20

furniture. We have a network of furniture stores that refer customers to us-some more often than others. In the past we have sent out blast e-mails to Ascension Episcopal School parents and hope to do the same this year with Episcopal School of Acadiana seeking furniture from people who are redecorating or downsizing and may have extra pieces to share. We frequently have articles in the church newsletter. Our Facebook page is very active and we will soon have our own website. Every now and then, we get a larger donation from an agency replacing furniture or corporate apartments that are refurbishing. We do not accept donations of appliances for reasons of space, size and risk.

Clients are required to arrange to come pick up their furniture. One of our biggest problems is getting donated furniture picked up and brought to the warehouse. Many of our donors are elderly and don't have a way to bring the furniture to us. Occasionally, we have had to pay a mover. We also match up clients and donors when we can.

#### SOFA by the numbers

In the last 6 months, we have served the

- •33 homeless families with 76 people received 48 pieces of furniture.
- •37 families who fled an abusive relationship with 80 people received 71 pieces of furniture
- •2 families who had fires with 6 people received 13 pieces of furniture
- •1 family who had a flood with 2 people received 5 pieces of furniture.

This is a total of 73 families, 164 persons and 183 pieces of furniture.

When we started this ministry, we thought most of our clients would be from fires or flood and it didn't turn out that way. What we did learn is the need is great in Lafayette Parish.

#### SOFA's continuing needs

Our sources of funding are an annual grant from Ascension's Outreach Committee, a few small grants, some fund-raisers and direct donations. In addition to rent

and insurance, our expenses include occasional hiring of a mover. We would like to also have money to occasionally purchase a crib or bed frames.

Some of the things that we also need are a humidifier for each of the three units, industrial fans for each unit and a dormtype refrigerator for the main unit so we can keep cold water for volunteers. God's guidance along with volunteers and funding are the glue that keep SOFA going.

#### Board chair voted "Acadiana Hero"

In August, we were honored to receive the Acadiana Heroes award of \$3,000 from KLFY TV and Giles Auto. They give the award every month as viewers vote for one of three people in the community who have been nominated. One of our board mem-



Accepting the check for SOFA.

bers nominated Board Chair, Jan Hamilton. The word was spread for people to vote. We used social media, church bulletin and school email among other venues and it worked. It gave wonderful attention to our ministry and dollars to our coffers.

#### A job for every volunteer

What we never have enough of is volun teers. From sending thank-you notes to promoting fund-raisers, contacting furniture stores to cleaning furniture, from making talks to civic clubs to making media appearances and many more chores. There is a job for all volunteers.

God has blessed this ministry from day one so we must have faith that SOFA will continue to flourish to serve those in need.

### Last look, this issue

#### Diocesan MAP Grant enables renovation of EYC facility in Monroe

During the past year, St. Alban's and Grace Episcopal joined forces to revive the Middle School EYC program for the Monroe/West Monroe area. Grace Episcopal School joined the effort by emailing notices of the monthly events to all of its 6th-8th grade students. The response from the middle schoolers has resulted in an interdenominational group from several different schools with a core group of twelve 8th grade attendees at the once a-month events during the spring. The group hit a record high in July with 27 middle school attendees in grades 6-8th for a Pizza & Pool party held at a Grace parishioner's house.

### MAP Grant made Grace renovation possible

As part of its efforts to revitalize the youth program, Grace Episcopal Church applied for and received the blessing of a Capital Improvements MAP grant for the purpose of renovating its third floor youth room. After many years of use as the EYC room, it was repurposed several times

as the Grace Episcopal School library, a Girl Scout meeting room and even hosted the school Chess Club. Its original purpose for the EYC was, unfortunately, lost in the shuffle.

A committee was formed of parishioners to oversee the work and the space was re-



Before renovation

named the "Upper Room." The wood paneling, outdated flooring, chipped Formica counters and appliances were replaced with neutral colors, commercial flooring and new appliances. A ping- pong table, foosball table and air hockey/billiards table will soon fill the space. Forty place settings of unused stoneware from Camp Hardtner are enjoying a new home in the Grace Episcopal Church Upper Room. A 50" Smart TV is being installed to allow streaming of up-



After the MAP Grant enabled renovation

to-date Bible study material as well as Christian music videos.

Plans are underway to have Grace School's art teacher assist with painting the youth's favorite scriptures on the walls of the room to help establish their ownership of the Upper Room. When finished, the EYC will meet monthly for a worship service, spiritual study, and dinner followed by the opportunity to engage in fellowship in a Christian environment enjoying board games,

See Grace MAP Grant, page 19

#### Ascension's SOFA project sees God's hand in its work



Sofa volunteers pause for a break while storing furniture.

by Jan Hamilton

SOFA (Service, Outreach, Furniture, Acadiana) is a ministry born of the Outreach Committee, of the Episcopal Church of the Ascension. Our mission is to provide furniture at no cost to persons in

Lafayette Parish who have been victims of an abusive relationship, or have suffered from fire, flood or other natural disaster.

Our ministry is just two and a half years old but we have seen God's hand in the ministry from day one. At the end of the Holy Eucharist during the thanksgiving and

blessing we are charged: "and now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do." We feel that is what we are doing with the SOFA ministry.

### SOFA borne of Bishop Jake's "20-minute challenge"

SOFA is definitely a ministry that fits into the challenge made a year ago by Bishop Owensby to go 20 minutes from your church in each direction and see what the needs are. Ascension supports nine other local outreach projects plus the major project supporting the Uganda school and hospital with Ascension Episcopal School. We invite you to come spend a day with us serving a few clients. See us be able to provide beds to a mom coming from an abusive relationship with four small children that have been sleeping on one air mattress, or a family that has been sleeping in their car and just got a small house but no furniture. See the smiles on their faces and their continued expressions of thanks and God's blessings.

#### Working with many agencies

We get referrals from many agencies such

as: Faith House, CUPS, Acadiana Cares, Families Helping Families, Catholic Social Charities, Lafayette Parish School Board Homeless Division, Goodwill, Volunteers of America and Love, INC to name a few.

Clients are screened and we try to give them beds and something to sit on in their living room. Larger families get a little more. We are always short on furniture.

Bishop Owensby was there to cut the ribbon at our grand opening on Ascension Day of 2013. In February of this year, we moved around the corner and a couple blocks down the road to larger space at Uncle Bob's Self Storage. The managers at Uncle Bob's have sort of adopted us and are always looking out for people getting rid of furniture, etc.

#### Where does the furniture come from?

Our source of furniture is mostly individual donors who are getting new furniture and give us their old

See SOFA, page 19