

ALIVE!

JANUARY 2016

THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF WESTERN LOUISIANA

VOLUME XXXVIII, NUMBER 1



Beginning(s)

by The Rt. Rev. Jake Owensby, Ph.D, DD

For the most part the world doesn't notice. That includes millions of Christians.

We will be among those who watch the ball drop in Times Square, grab a kiss at midnight, or watch fireworks light up the night sky. Okay, so I'll probably be asleep, but I'm with you in spirit.



There's nothing at all wrong with ringing in the New Year with laughter and good cheer. The passing of the old year and the emergence of the new reminds us of a deep truth. God weaves hope into the very fabric of the universe.

No matter how tumultuous, heartrending, or mind-numbing our lives have been for a season, God has something new for us around the bend. In our dark moments, we

fear that a bleak and painful past determines the future for us or for someone we hold dear.

The New Year reminds us that God is about new beginnings. God promises reconciliation and restoration, redemption and healing. In God's hands, the future can rewrite the past, just as the empty tomb transforms the meaning of the cross from shame to glory.

Our Christmastide worship enables us to see the deep textures of hope in the creation. On Christmas Day and again on the First Sunday of the Christmas season, many of us will have heard the opening verses of St. John's Gospel: "In the beginning was the Word." (John 1:1)

We will miss the power of those six words if we think of "beginning" as the first moment in time, like the start of a race or a kickoff or an opening pitch. Thinking of "beginning" in this way could mislead us

into thinking that God gets the ball rolling and then sits back to watch what will come of it.

Deists think of God in these terms. God, they say, sets things in motion and then observes the choices we make and the way that events converge. From a Deist's point of view, God might step in to judge how we did at the end, but God stays above the fray of the universe.

By contrast, St. John uses the Greek words "en arché" to express God's ongoing relationship with all of creation. We render it as "in the beginning." Like even the best translation, "beginning" is at once accurate and misleading. The Greek word bears meanings that our English equivalent lacks.

"En arché" means at the root of things. Whatever is, whatever occurs, draws upon and depends upon something deeper. Something most fundamental. The Word is at the root of all things at every instant.

Each day, each moment is pregnant with a new beginning in God. Christ is at the heart of what may seem like the most godforsaken moment. That is why we can always hope. God is always at work making whole what is broken, mending what seems beyond repair, healing what we thought was terminal.

Many of us will enter the New Year with resolutions to lose weight, to exercise more, to watch TV less, and to read books more. In other words, we resolve to make more of the time we've been given. To begin again.

That's fine. But the Christian story is our defining story. And that story urges us to do something more. Look with hope and expectation at what God is making of your life. God is always in the beginning.

Diocesan News



A Safeguarding Update

Important Instructions Regarding *Safeguarding Online*

One of the benefits of *Safeguarding Online* is **password retrieval**. If you have forgotten your password, try to retrieve it yourself. Enter the e-mail used in your initial enrollment, and an option to find your account and change your password is offered.

If you need further assistance, contact our diocesan administrator (jowensby@diocesewla.org). **Please do not enroll in *Safeguarding* more than once.** Multiple enrollments for the same person can cause problems with the system.

Cursillo Music Fest

Saturday, January 30, 2016
Camp Hardtner

Make plans now to be a part of this great gathering. It's a time to relax, enjoy music, good food and fellowship.

Music Fest is a major fundraiser for the Cursillo Movement in the Episcopal Diocese of Western Louisiana. Funds raised will help cover the costs of future Cursillos in the diocese.

Email *ALIVE!* at rharwell39@att.net

St. John's, Minden to co-present study of the Gospel of Luke

The Gospel of Luke will be the subject of a joint teaching series presented by St. John's, Minden, and the Minden Presbyterian Church.



Hughes

This Bible study will be co-taught by St. John's rector, the Rev. Frank W. Hughes, and Pastor Tony Angell of Minden Presbyterian Church.

The study will be presented in eight (8) one-hour sessions beginning on Wednesday, January 27 at Minden Presbyterian Church, 1001 Broadway in Minden. The start time of each session will be 6:00 p.m. Class will not be held on Ash Wednesday, February 10.

"Pastor Tony (Angell) and I are excited about this series," said Father Hughes. "We ask that participants bring an accurate, modern translation of the Bible to the class." Father Hughes added, "If you participate in the class, you will hear different interpretations of the same texts."



WLA
on the Web:
News and information on the Episcopal Diocese of Western Louisiana
www.diocesewla.org



Epiphany
Epiphany means "revealing" or "showing forth" and begins January 6. The season begins with the showing forth of Jesus to the Gentiles, specifically the wise men of Matthew's Gospel, who are the first to know his divinity. Epiphany proclaims Jesus as Savior of the whole world and that God's promise of salvation now applies to all the people of earth.



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Robert Harwell Editor

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Copy deadline, next issue:
Monday, January 18, 2016

Upcoming in January

CVI 2016

Initiating and Managing Change in the Missional Church

Presented by the Rev. Dennis Campbell, rector
St. James' Episcopal Church, Eureka Springs, Arkansas

Saturday, January 16, 2016, 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m., Camp Hardtner

A one-time fee of \$25 covers attendance at all 2016 sessions of CVI.



The Rev. Dennis Campbell has served as a consultant, trainer, and conflict mediator to dioceses and congregations across the United States and Canada.

He has served as the canon for congregational development in the Diocese of Arkansas, as director of congregational development of the University of the South, School of Theology, and as the rector of a racially diverse parish in Seattle, Washington.

Currently, he is honored to serve as the vicar of the healthiest congregation he's ever encountered.

CVI's 2016 season is packed with a whole new lineup of speakers and topics. Spread the word to your congregation and bring a friend.

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 congregation in mutual ministry with their ordained clergy.

You can register to attend this CVI session on the homepage of the diocesan website. (www.diocesewla.org)



By the Grace of God
The Right Reverend Jacob W. Owensby
IV Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of
Western Louisiana

will ordain
Lois Rayner Maberry
to the Sacred Order of Deacons

in
Christ's One Holy Catholic and Apostolic
Church

Saturday, the thirtieth of January
two thousand sixteen
eleven o'clock in the morning
St. Mark's Cathedral
908 Rutherford St.

Shreveport, Louisiana 71104.

Your prayers and presence are requested.
Clergy: White Stole Reception follows



Happening at Camp Hardtner, January 22, 23, and 24, 2016

High School Students, Grades 9-12

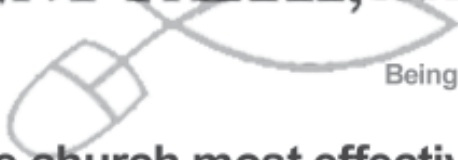
Happening is a national movement where teens share their faith with other teens. The symbol for Happening is the butterfly which signifies transformation.

Happening seeks to bring high school students to a fuller knowledge of and a more personal relationship with and deeper commitment to Jesus. During the three-day weekend at Camp Hardtner, the participants will experience the love of Jesus as shown through the sacraments and the ministry of fellow students, clergy, and lay adults. The teens are encouraged to take a new faith back into their worlds.

To attend the weekend, students must submit an application. The Happening application is available on the diocesan website. The application link on the website has complete instructions on the submission of the application.

Diocesan News

ANCIENT FAITH, MODERN TOOLS



Being the Church in a Digital World

How can the church most effectively use technology?

How can the church most effectively use technology? What does it mean to be a digital evangelist? What are the best practices for utilizing Facebook in ministry?

These are only some of the topics that will be addressed at the March 5 conference co-sponsored by the Christian Formation Commission and the Congregational Vitality Institute (CVI).

Who should attend this conference? Church leaders, youth ministers, VBS directors, clergy, parishioners—anyone interested in using contemporary electronic tools in the church should plan to participate. In fact, Bishop Jake would like for every congregation to send a team to the conference.

Registration is \$20 per person and is available on the home page of the diocesan website: <http://www.diocesewla.org>. You can also sign up for childcare for children up through 5th grade.

For further information, contact Joy Owensby (jowensby@diocesewla.org) or the Rev'd Canon Bill Bryant (rectory@shreve.net).

 where	 when	 time	 who
Camp Hardtner	Saturday, March 5, 2016	10:00am-3:30pm	Guest speaker Randall Curtis, President of Forma

Hosted by the Christian Formation Commission and CVI

Our conference presenter: Randall Curtiss
Randall Curtiss, who terms himself as “The Holy Geek,” works for the Episcopal Church in Arkansas where he is the Ministry Developer for Young Adults and Youth. He is also president of Forma, a network of Christian formation leaders in The Episcopal Church. The day will be lively and fact-filled and you will profit from Randall’s presentation.



DIOCESE OF WESTERN LOUISIANA

SPRING ASSEMBLY LIVING OUR STORY

“Be still and know that I am God...” Psalm 46:10

March 12, 2016, 9:30 a.m.– 3:00 p.m.

Registration: 9-9:30 a.m.

Registration, \$25 per person, \$30 at the door, Non refundable.

Hosted by the Alexandria Convocation at St. Timothy’s, Alexandria.

OUTREACH: Bring a new children’s storybook (ages 5 to 10 years) to be donated.

OUTREACH: Bring a new children’s storybook (ages 5 to 10 yrs) to be donated.

Our guest speaker is Paula Whitfield Jameson, who hold an M.A. in psychology and a B.A. in history. She is a trained oral historian, spiritual director and retreat leader, guest speaker, and past member of St. Timothy’s, Alexandria.

Paula lives in Austin, Texas, with her husband, the Rev. Parker Jameson. An engaging speaker, Paula will leave a lasting impression as she explores with us “Living Our Story.”

Make checks payable to DOK-Diocese of Western Louisiana (marked DOK Assembly)
Sharon Vercher, DOK Diocesan Treasurer
112 West Magnolia Street, Abbeville, LA 70510

Name: Contact:

Church: Amount enclosed:

DOK member: Non-DOK member:

Grow spiritually at Camp Hardtner during Lent

Explore this opportunity to expand your spiritual life and focus.

A silent retreat for those who want to walk the way of the Cross at the Triduum



Walking Three Days with Jesus

March 24-26, 2016 at the Hardtner Camp & Conference Center

- Beginning with Maundy Thursday super we will begin to walk the three days to the silence of the tomb.
- Included in the retreat will be the traditional Maundy Thursday liturgy, Good Friday Liturgy, Stations of the Cross, Holy Saturday Liturgy and a series of meditations. There will be time for silent meditation and reflection, walks and rest.

From Maundy Thursday to the Great Vigil of Easter, walk a sacred journey—Jesus sitting at table with his disciples, instituting the Eucharistic feast—the quiet time in the garden praying with Jesus—the journeys from garden to judgment to the cross and you'll see Jesus crucified.

This is a retreat for anyone who would like to take these three days for retreat and meditation before the great feast of Easter. Enjoy quiet times as well as time when we can talk together. There will be space for spiritual direction.

Our retreat leader: The Very Rev. Ronald Clingenpeel, a priest associate with the Episcopal Diocese of Western Louisiana.



Dean Clingenpeel has been a campus minister, diocesan administrator, dean of a cathedral and has led many retreats over the years.

Dean Clingenpeel will lead retreatants in the Way of the Cross in living these three days with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Retreat costs:

Single occupancy room: \$225 (all inclusive)

Double occupancy room: \$185 (all inclusive)

Some scholarship aid may be available.

Please submit this completed form and your booking fee to:
Hardtner Camp & Conference Center, 2393 Camp Hardtner Road,
Pollock, LA 71467.

Name:

Single: Double: (Roommate preference)

Contact: Email: Phone:

Booking fee due at registration \$40, balance due March 17, 2016.

Falling in Love with God, A Retreat for Women, has been cancelled!

“Falling in Love with God,” a retreat for women with Sister Barbara Jean of the Anamchara Fellowship of Episcopal Nuns, set for Camp Hardtner February 19, 2013, has been cancelled.

Efforts are underway to reschedule this retreat for this fall.

Diocesan Notables

Bishop Jake Owensby visits Church of the Redeemer

On Sunday, December 13, the Rt. Rev. Jake Owensby, Bishop of the Western Diocese of Louisiana, preached and administered the Rites of Baptism and Confirmation. Pictured are: Front Row L-R: Stephanie Thompson (confirmed), Lauren Osafo (confirmed), Andie Taylor (confirmed), Audrey Hennigan (confirmed), Mason Gantt (baptized), Middle Row L-R: Lisa Gantt Pepper (baptized and confirmed), Logan Gantt (baptized and confirmed), Back Row L-R: Trey Skains (confirmed), Donnie Welch (re-affirmed), Bishop Owensby, Devin Herbert (Bishop's chaplain), Chris Gantt (confirmed), Michelle Gantt (confirmed), and the Rev. Bill Easterling, rector.



Diocesan MAP Grant brings about refurbishment at St. Patrick's, West Monroe

The building housing St. Patrick's in West Monroe, was built in the early 60's with the intent that the structure would be torn down to make way for a larger, permanent church building and school.

Fast forward to 2015 when St. Patrick's was awarded a diocesan MAP Grant of \$5,000 to replace a cracked and sagging ceiling in that temporary structure.

When the contractor removed the old ceiling it was discovered that several horizontal ceiling joists had separated and had to be replaced. That task was added to the work in progress.

By December 15, 2015 the majority of the work was complete, but unfortunately pews stored during the work, suffered moisture damage, even though covered, and needed corrective work. That too, has been accomplished and the St. Patrick's community is worshipping "at home" once again.





“Father Bill” retires as rector of St. Matthias, Shreveport



The Rev. William McBride retired as rector of St. Matthias, Shreveport on January 1, 2016.

A reception honoring Father McBride and his wife Cheryl, was hosted by the St. Matthias ECW on Sunday, December 20. Father Bill was presented an acrylic plaque with the inscription “Father Bill We love the face of Christ we see in you. Thank you for your years of service to your St. Matthias family. February 1, 2007 to January 1, 2016.”

Cheryl McBride was presented a Waterford Crystal Celtic cross. Additional gifts presented to Father Bill and Cheryl included a cash purse and a unique signature quilt.

The quilt consisted of fabric squares, on which members of the congregation had inscribed a remembrance, an expression of gratitude or wish for future well-being. The fabric squares were then assembled into a lap quilt that will hopefully provide warmth both literally and figuratively.

ESA creates Advent traditions

At Episcopal School of Acadiana, students are encouraged to take charge of their own learning as they follow their passions and interests. As a kindergartner, Henry Fuller expressed an interest in leading the Lower School’s Advent wreath lighting in Chapel. Henry, an acolyte at St. Barnabas Episcopal Church in Lafayette, has continued in the role of student leader each Advent season.

This year, as a fourth grader, Henry is leader of the Advent Committee. He has been joined by two other fourth graders, and they have invited younger students to participate so that they can pass on the tradition. Henry and his committee light the Advent wreath’s candles and share the lessons during Chapel each Monday throughout the Advent season.

Chapel at ESA presents an opportunity for students and faculty members to share beliefs, life lessons and talents in a supportive and encouraging environment. It forms one of the cornerstones of ESA’s close knit community.



ESA fourth graders Henry Fuller, Curtis Hidalgo and Anna Breaux lead the lighting of the Advent wreath during Chapel.

Camp Hardtner

2016 Summer Camping is just months away!

Now is the time to make reservations for the Hardtner camp of your choice.

Summer Camping Notes:

Head Counselor

- Applications are now being accepted for head counselor of the 2016 camping season.

More information and applications are online at the Camp Hardtner website:

www.camphardtner.org

- The time and place for interviews will be announced soon.

2016 Permanent Staff positions

- Information and applications for these positions are also online: www.camphardtner.org.
- Interviews will be held at Camp Hardtner on Saturday, June 16, and in Baton Rouge on Saturday, June 23.

Clergy deans for summer camping sessions

- Members of the clergy who would like to serve as Dean of a summer camping session should contact Mr. Michael Wiley, mikepwiley@gmail.com

Camp Nurses

- Nurses interested in working at a session of camp, please contact Susan Walpole, susan@nolagratitude.com

Camping Information to Congregations

- Complete information on the summer camping program will be received by congregations during the month of January 2016.

Registration Online

- ANYONE may begin registering for a camp session NOW!
- Registration is online at www.camphardtner.org.

Parent's Overnight Special

- We are offering a Parent's Overnight Special for those parents who would like to travel to Hardtner the night before pick-up. This allows parents to come the evening before, stay overnight and retrieve their children at 9:00 a.m. the last day of camp. Details of the program will be available later.

2016

CAMP HARDTNER SUMMER CAMPS

FIRST CAMP, Grades 1 & 2 w/parents*

June 3 - 5, \$200 per person

\$200 person - a \$50 discount for each registration beyond the first person in a family will be applied when registering.

SENIOR HIGH CAMP, Grades 11 & 12 & Graduates*

June 9 - 15, \$690

JUNIOR HIGH CAMP 1, Grades 5 & 6*

June 19 - 24, \$575

PRIMARY CAMP, Grades 3 & 4*

June 28 - July 2, \$460

JUNIOR HIGH CAMP 2, Grades 7 & 8 *

July 8 - 13, \$575

MID HIGH CAMP, Grades 9 & 10*

July 18 - 24, \$690

CAMP ABLE, Ages 9+ with special needs*

July 30 - August 4, \$460

*Discounts will be applied for siblings attending Camp Hardtner

- Those with questions, contact, the Very Rev. Ronald Clingenpeel at rhclingenpeel@yahoo.com or phone: 314-249-5908.

- Register for camp sessions online at www.camphardtner.org

Presiding Bishop Curry: Brain surgery and top staff difficulties

by G. Jeffrey MacDonald

Presiding Bishop Michael Curry was discharged from a Virginia hospital Friday, December 11, 2015 after an eventful week in which he underwent brain surgery, placed three senior staff members on administrative leave, and announced an investigation into possible misconduct in the church's top management ranks.

As Bishop Curry was preparing to leave the hospital, he released a letter to staff explaining the action he had taken on Wednesday, one day after his Tuesday, December 8, surgery. He had placed three senior leaders on leave: Chief Operating Officer Stacy Sauls, Deputy COO Samuel McDonald, and Director of Public Engagement Alex Baumgarten.

"This is a result of concerns that have been raised about possible misconduct in carrying out their duties as members of senior management of the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society," Curry wrote. "My decision should not be confused with a finding of fault, but is necessary to allow us to find clarity. We are taking these allegations seriously and there will be a full and fair examination."

Decisions in Intensive Care

Curry took the step on a day when he most likely woke up in the intensive care unit. He had undergone urgent brain surgery to drain a subdural hematoma, or pooling of blood beside the brain. Following such a procedure, the standard practice is to keep a patient in the ICU for at least one day after surgery for close monitoring, according to Dr. Alex Valadka, chair of the department of neurosurgery at Virginia Commonwealth University Medical School.

Valadka did not discuss Curry's particular condition, but he explained what post-hematomal patients generally experience on the day after surgery. Some receive painkillers for headache in the ICU, he said. Some are alert enough to address business matters from the bed.

"The Presiding Bishop has always maintained his capabilities throughout his stay in the hospital," said Neva Rae Fox, the church's officer for public affairs, via email.

Raised eyebrows

Friday's letter from Curry raised eyebrows, not only due to the allegations' seriousness and stature of those involved, but also on account of the timing. Whatever precipitated the action, it must have been something that could not wait even a few days until Curry resumes a partial work schedule from home, according to Peter Williams, professor emeritus of church history at Miami University (Ohio).

Urgency felt needed

"There must be an urgency to this," Williams said. "It sounds to me like something he's just trying to get ahead of before it hits the press or something like that."

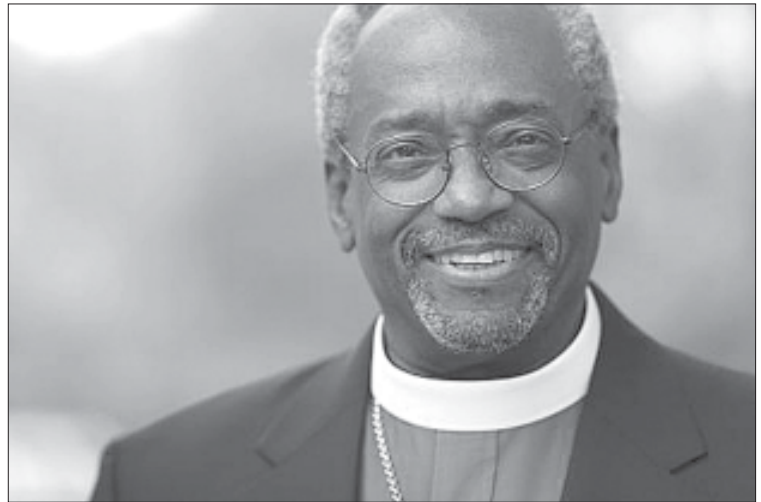
What type of misconduct might have transpired has observers posing questions but few answers thus far. Williams wonders whether the Episcopal Church's financial structure, which he finds "odd" and "convoluted," might invite misuse. But others note that the church put extensive safeguards in place after former treasurer Ellen Cooke stole more than \$2 million in the early 1990s.

"Since then, the fiscal management has been extraordinarily tight and well-controlled," said Duncan Ely, executive director of the General Board of Examining Chaplains. "Everyone follows the advice of counsel and auditors for the most responsible fiscal management and all of that. It seems very unlikely to me that anyone has absconded with any money, but who knows?"

Holdovers from the past

Sauls, who has a background in corporate law, served as Bishop of Lexington from 2000 to 2011, when he took the reins as chief operating officer of the Domestic and Foreign Mission Society. That same year he appointed McDonald, who had been his canon to the ordinary in Lexington, to the deputy COO position. Before joining the national church staff in 2004, Baumgarten worked in Washington, D.C., as a lobbyist.

In his letter, Curry urged staff members to pray for those affected by the administrative leave.



Presiding Bishop Michael Curry

"I also ask that we all refrain from speculation, difficult though that may be," Curry wrote. "We all have a responsibility to protect the integrity of all the human beings involved and also the integrity of a fair and just process in this matter."

Bishop Curry investigation

On Friday, December 18 Presiding Bishop Curry released a letter, which he distributed to staff of the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society. He wrote:

"I have today engaged a law firm to conduct an independent investigation of the concerns that led me to place three members of senior management on administra-

tive leave last week. The firm is Curley, Hessinger & Johnsrud LLP, of New York and Philadelphia, and the work will be carried out by Michael A. Curley, the firm's senior partner, and partner Lindsay Vest. The Curley firm has begun a review of the concerns that have been raised, and is expected to brief me about its plan for the investigation early in the new year."

No further information on the investigation has been made public.

—G. Jeffrey MacDonald writes for *The Living Church*. This article from that publication's website.

PB Curry calls new canon for evangelism and reconciliation

Presiding Bishop Michael Curry has called the Rev. Stephanie Spellers as canon to the presiding bishop for evangelism and reconciliation, beginning with the new year.

"Her work will involve helping to spread the good news of Jesus to the church and through the church to the world," Bishop Curry said.

"There's no better time than this to be in the Episcopal branch of the Jesus Movement," Spellers said. "So many of us are ready to partner, risk, heal and celebrate the good news in our neighborhoods. So many of us are hungry to fall more deeply in love with Jesus and to create spaces where different people can grow in that love, too. So many of us are yearning to follow Jesus beyond fear, beyond comfort and beyond the walls keeping us from each other and from our neighbors. I can't wait

to commit my whole heart and energy to this Spirit work with our whole church."

Spellers is a faculty member and director of mission and reconciliation at General Theological Seminary in New York. She is senior consultant and director of new ministry development at the Center for Progressive Renewal. She serves as a consultant for various church organizations and as an editor at Church Publishing.



Canon Spellers

Previously she was canon for mission vitality for the Diocese of Long Island and a member of the chaplain team for the House of Bishops. She served as the co-chair of the Standing Commission on Mission and Evangelism (2009-12). Spellers was founding priest of The Crossing at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul in Boston. Before ordination she worked at Harvard Divinity School and as a religion reporter.

She is the author of several books, articles, and resources focused on embracing emerging cultures and Episcopal traditions, including *Radical Welcome* and *The Episcopal Way* (with Eric Law). She is a former Episcopal Church Foundation fellow.

Anglican primates encircled by prayer ahead of Canterbury meeting

by Matthew Davies

The Anglican Communion is being called to prayer as its 38 primates – the senior archbishops, presiding bishops and moderators – head to Canterbury, England, next week for their first official meeting in five years.

“I invite Episcopalians to join me in prayer for this gathering, that God will be fully present with us and that we may follow our Lord Jesus in the ways of His love and in so doing be part of God’s blessing to the world,” said Episcopal Church Presiding Bishop Michael B. Curry in a January 7 statement.

A first for Presiding Bishop Curry

Curry will be attending his first Primates Meeting since his installation as the Episcopal Church’s presiding bishop and primate last November.

Earlier in the week, Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby released a video message calling for prayer and recognizing that the primates are expected to deal with “some very, very difficult issues – within the life of the Anglican Communion, but also hugely difficult issues that are affecting the whole church of Christ and our whole world.”

The agenda will be set by common agreement with all primates as they begin their Jan. 11-16 meeting at Canterbury Cathedral, widely regarded as the mother church of the Anglican Communion. Issues addressed during the meeting are expected to include religiously motivated violence, the protection of children and vulnerable adults, the environment, and human sexuality, according to a Lambeth Palace press release.

“What I would ask people to pray for more than anything else is wisdom and love,” said Welby, who has visited every province in the Anglican Communion since becoming Archbishop of Canterbury in 2013, a commitment he set out early in his primacy.

The last Primate Meeting was held in Dublin, Ireland, in January 2011, making this the longest period of time between two meetings since they began in 1979.

Seven primates chose not to attend that meeting because of the presence of then-Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori and developments within the Episcopal Church and the Anglican Church of Canada supporting the full inclusion of gay and lesbian people.

ACNA leader to attend

In an effort to avert a similar boycott, Welby has invited Archbishop Foley Beach, the leader of the Anglican Church in North America (ACNA), to gather with the primates for conversation before the official Primates Meeting commences.

ACNA is composed largely of former Episcopalians who chose to break away from the Episcopal Church. The leaders of some provinces, mostly in Africa, have declared their affiliation to ACNA and claim to be in a state of impaired communion with the Episcopal Church and other provinces whose actions they dispute.

Archbishop Stanley Ntagali of the Anglican Church of Uganda issued a statement Jan. 6 calling for “discipline and godly order” to be restored in the Anglican Communion during the Canterbury “gathering” – otherwise he said he will withdraw from the subsequent official meeting.

The focus of the gathering

The hope expressed by Archbishop Fred Hiltz of the Anglican Church of Canada is that the agenda would “reflect a good balance between matters that are domestic and of particular concern within the household of faith, and matters that are global and of overwhelming concern to our common humanity and our common home, the Earth itself.”

Hiltz’s Jan. 7 statement made particular reference to the church’s response to the global refugee crisis, climate change and advancing the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

Curry, following his historic election as presiding bishop in June 2015, told ENS that the Anglican Communion is as much about relationships as it is about structure and organization. “It really is a network of relationships that have historical roots, but



What is the Anglican Communion?

The Anglican Communion isn’t itself a church; it’s a family of churches, spread across 165 countries, with around 85 million members. Many of these churches trace their parentage to missionaries from Britain who, from the 17th Century onwards, left home to spread the Christian faith in regions which had not yet received it.

actually have missional roots,” he said. “What really binds us together is that we are followers of Jesus in the Anglican way, and that relationship holds us together.”

“Of course, we’re struggling – we’re struggling, we know that – but I really do believe that we can continue to work together in partnerships that help to serve God’s mission in this world by joining together so that children don’t go to bed hungry, to help so that people have water, to help so that education is available to children, to help so that women can support their families. We’ve got some work to do; we’ve got some Jesus work to do ... This world is crying out for us and it needs us, and the Anglican Communion is one way that God uses us together to really make this a better world.”

A website has been launched with resources pertaining to the meeting and will include collects and prayer requests as the primates gather.

Primates are the senior archbishops and presiding bishops elected or appointed to lead each of the 38 autonomous provinces of the Anglican Communion. They are invited to the Primates Meetings by the Archbishop of Canterbury to consult on theological, social and international issues.

Defining the meeting and participants

The Anglican Communion Primates Meeting is one of the three instruments of communion, the other two being the Lambeth Conference of bishops and the Anglican Consultative Council, the communion’s main policy-making body. The Archbishop of Canterbury, as *primus inter pares*, or “first among equals,” is recognized as the focus of unity for the Angli-

can Communion.

Each province relates to other provinces within the Anglican Communion by being in full communion with the See of Canterbury. The Archbishop of Canterbury calls the Lambeth Conference, chairs the meeting of primates and is president of the ACC.

In some Anglican provinces the primate is called archbishop and/or metropolitan, while in others the term presiding bishop – or as in Scotland, *primus* – is used.

The Archbishop of Canterbury also invites to the primates meetings the moderators who lead the united ecumenical churches of North India, South India and Pakistan.

In 1978 Archbishop Donald Coggan, the 101st Archbishop of Canterbury, established the Primates Meeting as an opportunity for “leisurely thought, prayer and deep consultation.”

The primates have met in Ely, England, in 1979; Washington, D.C., in 1981; Limuru, Kenya, in 1983; Toronto, Canada, in 1986; Cyprus in 1989; Newcastle, Northern Ireland, in 1991; Cape Town, South Africa, in 1993; Windsor, England, in 1995; Jerusalem in 1997; Oporto, Portugal, in 2000; Kanuga Conference Center, Hendersonville, North Carolina, in 2001; Canterbury, England, in 2002; Gramado, Brazil, in May 2003; London, England, in October 2003; Newry, Northern Ireland, in February 2005; Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, in February 2007; Alexandria, Egypt, in February 2009; and Dublin, Ireland, in January 2011.

—Matthew Davies is an Editor/reporter for the Episcopal News Service.

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 events.

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

January 2016

- 15 — Last day for Happening Registration, Register online at the diocesan website
- 16 — ECW Gathering and Installation of Officers, St. Michael's, Pineville, starts at 11:30 a.m.
- 16 — CVI Training for Congregational Growth, Camp Hardtner, 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
- 17 — Bishop's Visitation, St. Paul's, Shreveport
- 22 — JEYL Staff Applications Due, Register online at the diocesan website
- 22-24 — Happening, Camp Hardtner, starts at 5:00 p.m.
- 24 — Bishop's Visitation, St. Timothy's, Alexandria
- 30 — Cursillo Music Fest, Camp Hardtner, 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
- 30 — The Ordination of Lois Rayner Maberry to the Sacred Order of Deacons, St. Mark's Cathedral, starts at 11:00 a.m.
- 31 — Bishop's Visitation, Christ Memorial, Mansfield

February 2016

- 7 — Bishop's Visitation, St. John's, Minden
- 10 — Bishop's Ash Wednesday Visitation, St. James, Alexandria
- 21 — Bishop's Visitation, Epiphany, New Iberia
- 23 — Meeting of the Commission on Ministry, Diocesan House, starts at 10:00 a.m.
- 26 — JEYL Registration Deadline for t-shirt, Register online at the diocesan website
- 26-28 — Hardtner Alumni Retreat, Camp Hardtner, starts at 5:00 p.m.
- 28 — Bishop's Visitation, St. Matthias, Shreveport

March 2016

- 4 — Last Day for JEYL Registration, online at the diocesan website
- 5 — "Ancient Faith, Modern Tools" Seminar, Camp Hardtner
- 6 — Bishop's Visitation, Christ Church, Bastrop
- 11-13 — JEYL Retreat for Middle High Youth, Camp Hardtner, starts at 6:00 p.m.
- 12 — DOK Spring Assembly, St. Timothy's, Alexandria, starts at 9:30 a.m.
- 20 — Bishop's Visitation, St. James, Alexandria
- 24-26 — Walking Three Days with Jesus: A Silent Retreat, Camp Hardtner, starts at 5:00 p.m.
- 27 — Bishop's Visitation, St. Mark's Cathedral, Shreveport

April 2016

- 3 — Bishop's Visitation, Trinity, Cheneyville; Holy Comforter, Lecompte
- 10 — Bishop's Visitation, St. Patrick's, West Monroe
- 12 — Meeting of the Commission on Ministry, Diocesan House, starts at 10:00 a.m.
- 15-17 — Time for Joy Women's Retreat, Camp Hardtner, starts at 6:00 p.m.
- 17 — Bishop's Visitation, St. Andrew's, Moss Bluff
- 20 — Bishop's Midweek Visitation, Trinity, DeRidder
- 21-24 — Cursillo #150, Camp Hardtner, starts at 6:00 p.m.
- 24 — Bishop's Visitation, St. George's, Bossier City

May 2016

- 1 — Bishop's Visitation, St. Mark's Cathedral, Shreveport
- 8 — Bishop's Visitation, St. James, Shreveport
- 15 — Bishop's Visitation, Good Shepherd, Lake Charles
- 17 — Meeting of the Commission on Ministry, Diocesan House, starts at 10:00 a.m.
- 22 — Bishop's Visitation, Good Shepherd, Vidalia

Anglican issues



The ancient crozier head, a relic traditionally associated with sixth-century Pope Gregory, is being put on display at Canterbury Cathedral. Photo courtesy of Canterbury Cathedral

by Trevor Grundy

CANTERBURY, England (RNS) Relics of British Christianity now in the hands of the Vatican will be flown to England, where they will be displayed at Canterbury Cathedral just ahead of an important summit that may decide the fate of the Anglican Communion.

The first item to arrive is an ivory handle of a staff, or crozier, used by St. Gregory, the pope who helped establish Christianity in England in the sixth century. It was Gregory who sent St. Augustine to England to help convert the Anglo-Saxons.

Valued at \$365,505, the handle will be on view to the public and the 38 Anglican prelates gathering this weekend to attend a make-or-break meeting of the 80 million-strong Anglican Communion, which is bitterly divided on the subjects of full rights for gays, the ordination of women as priests and their consecration as bishops.

The idea of the two Christian churches

temporarily exchanging relics came after a cricket match between Catholic and Anglican priests in 2014.

In December, a much more eye-catching "holy" relic will be flown in from Rome — the bloodied vestment worn by St. Thomas Becket when he was beheaded at the high altar of Canterbury Cathedral by four armed knights loyal to King Henry II, after a quarrel between the king and his archbishop.

The summit will take place here Jan. 11-16.

"At a time of intense crisis in the Anglican Communion, the handle is a sign of prayer and a support from our fellow Christians," a Church of England source told The Times on Wednesday (Jan. 6).

—Trevor Grundy is a contributor to RNS based in Britain. From the website site of Religion News Service

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Western Louisiana
www.diocesewla.org

Christmas: a rear-view glance

St. George's, Bossier City

The St. George's, Bossier City ECW's annual Christmas gathering Saturday, December 12, was a potluck brunch and white elephant gift exchange.

Each year all the ladies bring a toy for a five year old, which the church delivers, in the guise of Santa, to two Head Start programs in the Benton, LA area which help provide Christmas gifts for about 80 children.



St. Matthias, Shreveport

Credit the St. Matthias ECW for this holiday gathering, held at the home of Shirley Kelly December 6, where St. Matthias women and guests enjoyed a potluck meal, fellowship, and a Santa take-away exchange of gifts.

Church of the Redeemer, Ruston

Santa and his reindeer and assorted helpers from Church of the Redeemer in Ruston gathered to share Christmas Carols with shut-ins, other friends, and downtown Ruston shoppers to brighten the season. Credit unseasonably warm weather in December for Santa's unconventional attire.

