

ALIVE!

MAY 2016

THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF WESTERN LOUISIANA

VOLUME XXXVIII, NUMBER 5



Jesus was a no-show.

Expecting to find a corpse, the women were bringing spices. They had watched Jesus draw his last breath.

Joseph of Arimathea carried Jesus’ limp, tortured body to a tomb that he had bought for his own future use and laid Jesus to rest there instead. Having followed Joseph to the burial site, the women were certain just where to go to find Jesus’ grave.

So, when they got to their sorrowful destination, they knew that they were in the right place. Instead of a shattered corpse, they saw an empty tomb. No Jesus.

We’ve heard this story often enough to commit it to memory. Each year we imagine the women’s shock, their bewilderment, and ultimately their joy as they begin to realize that the empty tomb points to a risen Christ. Believers ever since have been reassured of the truth of the resurrection by drawing on the empty tomb as evidence.

But the empty tomb provides an additional and an equally crucial lesson. And that lesson emerges when we remember that Jesus chose to appear on several occasions. So, not appearing on this occasion was a significant choice. It conveys a decisive lesson.

Luke recounts two appearances of the risen Christ in the Gospel bearing his name. Matthew records two different appearances. And John gives us four additional accounts of Jesus choosing to show himself to his followers. St. Paul says that Jesus appeared to 500 people at one time.

People can touch Jesus’ resurrection body. He eats like everybody else. And yet he appears and disappears at will. He can pass through locked doors. He walks to Emmaus with two disciples and also travels back from Emmaus to Jerusalem in an instant.

Jesus’ body is real but it is more than an earthly body. It is what Paul calls

a spiritual body and the Roman Catholic Catechism calls a glorious body. He can dwell in space and time and yet is no longer constrained by their limitations. It’s the sort of body that awaits us in the resurrection.

Clearly, Jesus chooses when and where and to whom to appear. And yet here, on this first morning, Jesus chooses not to appear to these faithful, bereaved women. For that matter, Jesus was a no show when Peter dashed to the tomb after the women had reported what they had seen. Or, who they had not seen, to be more precise.

The experience of the empty tomb teaches the women to look for Jesus in the right places. Angels appear at the tomb to help them get the point: “Why do you look for the living among the dead?” (Luke 24:5) They were looking for Jesus in the wrong place.

The angels’ lesson is in keeping with Jesus’ primary mission from the start. Jesus came to show us where to look for God.

For centuries humans had looked for God in all the wrong places.

We projected our own frustration and anger and resentment into the sky and conjured up a wrathful moral bean counter.

Or, devoted to the pursuit of our own comfort and status, we projected a celestial enforcer who would justify our own agenda and ensure its success.

Perhaps more humble but just as misguided, we yearned for a butler to fetch our own small wants and needs for us: a good grade, a sports victory, a choice parking space, a get out of suffering free card.

We had been—and from time to time still are—looking for God as if God is who we would be if we were God.

To put an end to this God became a man. God took on human flesh to

See Bishop Jake, page 11

Diocesan News

MAP grants are once again available to Western Louisiana congregations

Your congregation could benefit from grants made by the Diocese through the Ministry Application Program (MAP) instituted by the Diocese.



Fourteen congregations received MAP grants in the 2015 budget year. Begun in 2015, the program encourages congregations to apply for (1) Missional initiatives in amounts up to \$7,500 and grants for capital improvements in support of mission awarded in amounts up to \$5,000. In 2015 fifteen congregations were awarded more than \$87,500 for missional initiatives and for capital improvements.

In 2016 both type of grants will again be awarded to new initiatives. They are not to be used to supplement operating budgets.

While introducing the initiative in 2015, Bishop Jake Owensby said: "Our 2015 (and 2016) budget(s) put our money where our mouth is." Bishop Jake went on to explain that the purpose of the grants is to encourage "missional thinking and risk taking." If your congregation matches this profile, perhaps a MAP grant is in your future.

The specifics of the MAP grant program and applications for grants can be found on the diocesan website. (www.diocesewla.org) The deadline for submission for 2016 grant application is June 30, 2016.



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.



May 2016, Volume XXXVIII, Number 05

ALIVE! is published by the Episcopal Diocese of Western Louisiana, The Episcopal Church USA. The Rt. Rev. Jacob W. Owensby, Ph.D., D.D. is bishop of the diocese and publisher of *ALIVE!* Oversight of *ALIVE!* is the responsibility of the Diocesan Commission on Public Relations and Communications, chaired by the Rev. Whitfield Stodghill, III.

Robert Harwell Editor

Graphic production of *ALIVE!* is performed by Harwell Productions, Inc. of Shreveport, Louisiana.

New manuscripts and photographs are solicited. All materials should be sent to *ALIVE!*, c/o Harwell Productions, Inc. 4321 Youree Drive, Suite 400, Shreveport, LA 71105.

All materials are subject to editing and become the property of the diocese unless specified. If specified, a self-addressed, stamped envelope must be included. When this is done, a reasonable effort will be made to return the original materials to their source. All inquiries should be directed to: The Editor, 4321 Youree Drive, Suite 400, Shreveport, LA 71105. You may telephone 318-868-2303, or E-mail: robertharwell39@att.net

ALIVE! (USPS 564-030)(ISSN 0273771X) is published monthly (except for July) by the Episcopal Diocese of Western Louisiana, 335 Main Street, Pineville, LA 71360. Periodical postage paid at Dallas, Texas, and additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: send address changes to "*ALIVE!*," P.O. Box 2031, Alexandria, LA 71309-2031

Copy deadline, next issue:
Friday, May 27, 2016

clergy notes

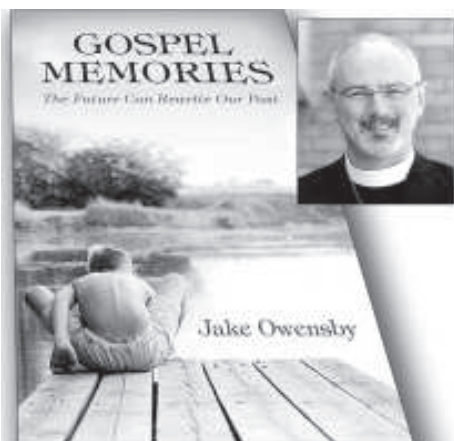


The Rev. David Seth Donald, who is currently an assistant at Church of the Good Shepherd in Lake Charles, has accepted a call to become rector of St. Michael & All Angels in the same city. Father Donald will take up his new post June 1. He was ordained to the diaconate in January 2015 by Bishop Owensby and to the priesthood later in the same year. He is a graduate of the University of the South.

Church of the Good Shepherd in Vidalia has been closed due to the shifting demographics of Louisiana's central delta. The action was taken early April 2016.

Good Shepherd, Vidalia's vicar, the Rev. William "Bill" Phillips, will be an assisting priest at Polk Memorial in Leesville.

Frank Fuller was ordained to the Sacred Order of Deacons, Saturday, April 30 at St. Mark's Cathedral in Shreveport. The Rev. Deacon Fuller has been assigned to St. Paul's in Winnfield.



Gospel Memories

The Future Can Rewrite Our Past

by the Rt. Rev. Jake Owensby

***Gospel Memories The Future Can Rewrite Our Past*, is available at Amazon.com, in Paperback or in the Kindle format.**

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News and information on the Episcopal Diocese of Western Louisiana

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The Redeemer Choir will present a
CHORAL EVENSONG
Sunday, May 22, 2016 at 4:00 p.m.
Episcopal Church of the Redeemer, 504 Tech Drive, Ruston, Louisiana

Please join the congregation as they worship our Lord in a spiritual, peaceful, liturgical setting in the Anglican Tradition.
RECEPTION TO FOLLOW IN HASKELL HALL
The Rev. Bill Easterling, Rector Dr. Tracie Ellerman, Organist/Choirmaster

Christ Memorial kitchen ministry recognized for impact on their community

The Brother Lawrence Kitchen Ministry of Christ Memorial, Mansfield, a ministry of volunteers who cook and deliver meals to the home bound and those in need in Mansfield and DeSoto Parish, has received the Public Service Award of the DeSoto Parish Chamber of Commerce.

The Brother Lawrence Kitchen Ministry at Christ Memorial began four years ago with two people, Cal Smith and Stacey Burgess, asking this question. “Isn’t there something we can do to help out people who, because they are sick or elderly, have difficulty getting out of the house or providing for themselves?”

That desire to provide Christian support for their neighbors in Mansfield began a process of discussion and prayer. That led to the formation of a small group of volunteers at Christ Memorial Episcopal Church, who gather each Tuesday morning to prepare meals and deliver them to those in need. Starting with a short list of parishioners, those being served by the ministry rapidly grew to include those outside Christ Memorial’s congregation. In very short order, the delivery list grew to include over 50 people per week.

Today, the Brother Lawrence ministry team includes parishioners from Christ Memorial and volunteers from other local churches. The number of weekly deliveries varies from week to week, but the meaning of each meal remains constant: A good meal served with love and covered in prayer. It is not only the meal that is important.

The Brother Lawrence Kitchen Ministry considers each meal as an opportunity to let a person know that their brothers and sisters love them and are praying for them.



About the name:

Brother Lawrence was a seventeenth century French monk who sought to be in constant conversation with God, especially while engaged in his daily work. Lawrence spent much of his time working in the kitchens and the gardens of his Carmelite monastery.



Christ Memorial adopted Brother Lawrence as the patron of their food ministry because he seemed an appropriate guide for those who were seeking to be godly presence in the lives of our neighbors through the making and delivery of a simple meal.



At the presentation of the Public Service Award: left-to-right, Todd Eppler who made the presentation for the Chamber, Mrs. Tabatha Sparks - president of Christ Memorial ECW, Mr. Henry “Cal” Smith - one of the founders of Brother Lawrence Kitchen Ministry, Mrs. Martha Sayers, Mrs. Brenda Fleniken, Mrs. Debbie Harris, and Christ Memorial rector, the Rev. Michael Millard.

Around the Diocese



St. Mark's Cathedral to host RSCM Children's Summer Music Camp

St. Mark's Cathedral in Shreveport is once again offering a Royal School of Church Music (RSCM) based Music Camp for children ages 7-13.

The camp will be under the director of Bryan Mitnaul, St. Mark's Canon for Cathedral Music. Camp activities will be held from June 20-24 from 9:00 a.m. until Noon at St. Mark's, which is located at 908 Rutherford Street in Shreveport.

At the camp participants will learn the fundamentals of singing, and enjoy music based arts and crafts as well as games and other activities. No prior music experience is required for participation.

Now in its fifth year, the camp is offered free of charge and parents can register their children and/or obtain additional information by calling Canon Bryan Mitnaul at 318-226-4034. The registration deadline is June 13.

Save November 4-5 for the 38th Annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Western Louisiana in Shreveport!

Our theme — Being a Neighbor: Engaging God's Mission

Time For Joy 2016, time for Jesus, Others and Yourself

Just when you thought that last year's Time For Joy was wonderful, this one comes along. This year's staff put everything they had into making the 2016 Time for Joy as unique and beautiful as past years' efforts.

Our guests learned how to do a variety of things, such as learning duties of the Altar Guild, to walking the labyrinth, to getting foot massages, to enjoying the comfort of the newly remodeled Holy Day Inn. These ladies were fed well, very well during their weekend retreat at Camp Hardtner. To top the weekend off, Mother Rowena White closed out Sunday morning with a homily in the Chapel, which was followed by a beautiful brunch.

Guest Whitney Brown stated, "We were spoiled to death! I hated to leave! It was so so, so fantastic! The gifts given us, and the time taken to make the gifts, plus all the extra touches and the love and caring and pampering. Wow!!!"

Looking ahead, please join The Episcopal Church Women as we participate in the Celebration of Women's Ministries to



be held at Camp Hardtner on September 16-17, 2016. Invitations will be mailed to each congregation in the diocese soon.

If you have any questions about that week-

end, you may contact Ms. Shetwan Roberison at womensecw1@gmail.com or 318.707.2570. Please 'like' our Facebook page, Episcopal

Church Women of Diocese of Western Louisiana.

Around the Diocese

The Rev. Deacon Frank Fuller

Frank Fuller was ordained to the Sacred Order of Deacons at St. Mark’s Cathedral in Shreveport on Saturday, March 30.

Right: The Rev. Deacon Fuller and his wife Jane after the ceremony.
Far right: Deacon Fuller receives applause from diocesan clergy and Bishop Jake after his ordination.



2016-2017 Diocesan Youth Events



					DEADLINES	
EVENT	DATES `	DESCRIPTION	STAFF INFO	STAFF	T-SHIRT	FINAL
JEYL Retreat for Middle School Youth	Fri. 11/18/16, 7:00 p.m. - Sun. 11/20/16, 11:00 a.m.	JEYL stands for Junior Episcopal Youth League. It is a spiritual retreat for middle school youth in a relaxed, fun environment. Open to all youth in grades 6-8. It takes place at Camp Hardtner.	High school youth may apply to staff the retreat.	10/07/16	11/04/16	11/11/16
Happening #55	Fri. 01/13/17 7:00 p.m. - Sun. 01/15/17, 5:00 p.m.	Happening is a Christian experience presented by teenagers for teenagers with the help of clergy and lay adult leadership. During the Happening retreat, there are activities designed for spiritual enrichment, fun, and Christian community building among participants. Open to all youth in grades 9-12. It takes place at Camp Hardtner.	High school youth who have already attended Happening may apply to staff the retreat.	11/23/16	12/30/16	01/06/17
CLEY Retreat for High School Youth	Fri., 03/24/17, 7:00 p.m. - Sun. 03/26/17, 11:00 a.m.	CLEY stands for Christian League of Episcopal Youth. It is a fun-filled, spiritual retreat led by college students with the help of clergy and other adult lay leadership. Open to all youth in grades 9-12. It takes place at Camp Hardtner.	College-age students may apply to staff retreat.	02/01/17	03/10/17	03/17/17

Note: The cost for each weekend will be posted once registration opens.

Some Important Changes for 2016-2017

- **NO COST TO SERVE AS STAFF FOR ANY DIOCESAN RETREAT:** To make it possible for anyone to apply to staff one of our youth retreats, the diocese will cover staff costs for JEYL, Happening and CLEY.
- **DATES FOR JEYL AND CLEY ARE SWITCHED:** JEYL will now be in the fall and CLEY in the spring.
- **LATER START TIMES:** In the past, many participants have found it difficult to get to Camp Hardtner by the 6:00 p.m. start time on Friday night. We have changed all retreats to begin at 7:00 p.m.
- **FIRM REGISTRATION DEADLINES:** We will adhere to all posted deadlines for event registration. This means that if you want to serve on staff, you must sign up by the staff deadline; to receive a retreat t-shirt, you must sign up by the t-shirt deadline; and to attend a retreat, you must sign up by the final deadline.
- **MUSICIANS WANTED:** If you are a middle or high school youth who can sing or play any musical instrument, please consider becoming part of the music team for youth events.

QUESTIONS? Contact Father Michael Bordelon, Curate@gracechurchmonroe.org or Joy Owensby, jowensby@diocesewla.org

Diocesan Notables

St. Mark's staff member recognized

St. Mark's Events & Outreach Coordinator Jennifer Beruvides has been recognized by Community Renewal International with its annual *Angel Award*. The award recognizes someone from the community who "exemplifies a caring nature by caring for and serving others in their personal lives." Beruvides received the award during the annual Maggie Lee Henson Celebration of Caring, held in April.

She was recognized for her efforts in overseeing the St. Mark's Cooking Crew as well as coordinating volunteers for Providence House, Community Renewal's Friendship House and others.

Community Renewal's Lynn Bryan (left) presents Jennifer Beruvides the "Angel Award" for 2016.



Bishop Jake is "kept busy" during St. James, Shreveport visitation

By Jnanne Zepeda

May 8 was a fabulous day at St. James, Shreveport, and Bishop Jake was not given any slack from his duties. With the able help of Deacon Lois Maberry he celebrated a combined service, as there is currently no rector in residence, baptized two babies, confirmed two youths and three adults, and reaffirmed the faith of one adult.

We eagerly welcome Wrenn Hatcher Chapman and Madelyn Jeanne Johnson, the newly-baptized members of St. James, and rejoice in the affirmed faith of Raylie Chapman and Mason Garner, our younger confirmands, as well as Andrea Beach, Betty McDonald, and Michael Lopez, our adult confirmands, and Sarah Weeks-Lopez, who reaffirmed her faith.

—Jnanne Zepeda is the parish administrator of St. James, Shreveport.

St. Mark's Cathedral, Shreveport's Communion Celebration Class

St. Mark's Cathedral's "Communion Celebration Class" (first Communion) made that first Communion, Sunday, April 10. All second graders, they proudly posed for this celebratory photo. The class included: Sara Claire Blanchard, Tillman Augustus Brown, Colbi Grace Cantwell, Emma Katherine Caraway, Hayden Breaux Cowen, Madeline Elizabeth Dicharry, Thomas Roy Flores, III, Emma Catherine Grayson, Jackson Alexander Griffies, William Henry Herzog, Abigail Noelle Hood, John Hardin Irion, Anne Elizabeth Knicely, William Augustus Lea, Brooklynn Marie Morris, Kathleen Louise Ott, Analeigh Joye Turner, and Joni Camille Wood.





Church Professionals enjoy a day at Hardtner

On April 14, 2016, administrative support staff from across the diocese gathered at Camp Hardtner for the second annual ARN (Administrator Resource Network) celebration.

Hosted by Bishop Jake, ARN offers a day of fellowship and relaxation in appreciation for the invaluable role these men and women play in the life of our churches.

In addition to a delicious lunch and great conversation, participants enjoyed a tour of the camp, including the latest renovations taking place. There were also drawings for door prizes throughout the day, and each guest left with a gift bag.



Confirmations at St. George's in Bossier City

During his visit to St. George's Episcopal Church in Bossier City on Sunday, April 24, Bishop Jake confirmed three, two of which are pictured here. Left-to-right, back row: St. George's rector, the Rev. James Flowers, the Rt. Rev. Jacob Owensby, and the Rev. Guido Verbeck, who in retirement assists at St. George's.

Front row: Confirmands, Carter Hamm and Sarah Roussel. Not pictured is the third confirmand, William Shield. After the service, a splendid reception, organized by Denise Flowers, was enjoyed by all.

St. Luke's Canterbury at Grambling holds terms-end event

The Canterbury Association of St. Luke's Episcopal Chapel held its culminating activity on Sunday, April 17, 2016 at 4:00 p.m. Students who were recommended by their departments as potential members of the 2016 Graduating Class at Grambling State University and the Lady Tigers Basketball team were invited. The guest speaker was the Rev. Stavinoha Bradley, a recent graduate and the GUNAA office manager.

Shance Poole, a potential graduate and a member of the Lady Tigers basketball squad, received a gift card and a certificate along with ten other graduates.

Coach Nadine Domond and her assistant coach, Isayra Diaz brought the entire team. The team requested a home-cooked, Southern-style meal for the occasion, which was provided by a local catering business.

Team members present were Brenae Andrews, John'ea Thimpson, Takerra Parsons, Aliah Kennedy, Kiana Jones, Munisha Neal, Alexis Adams, Shakyla Hill, Jazmin Boyd, Janae Smith, Chant Lewis, Cree Atkinson, Kaelyn Causwell, Shance Poole, Melanie Williams, Keyundra Grant, and Ashley Baker.



The coordinator of the program was Dr. Grace Tatem, who was assisted by St. Luke's Senior Warden Mrs. Velora Duncan, Junior Warden Dr. Lemmie

Akoma, Chizi Akoma, Ms. Gloria Moore, Dr. Kathryn Newman and Dr. Karl Rubrecht, organist.

Camp Hardtner

Thomas Welch called as Director of Hardtner

POLLOCK, LA – Thomas Welch has been called as Director of the Hardtner Camp and Conference Center. Welch, a Mississippi native, comes to this ministry from his position as a representative to the John Hancock Financial Network, a representative of Southeastern Financial Partners. He also has experience as Property Manager, Village Charmant Condominiums in Ridgeland, Ms.



Welch is an Episcopalian who joined the Church in 1981 in Brookhaven, Ms. He has served on the vestry of St. Philip's, Jackson, Ms. and is a longtime delegate to the diocesan councils of the Diocese of Mississippi. Welch has also served on the Secretariat for Cursillo as well as a committee member for National Episcopal Cursillo, is a Lay Eucharistic Minister, belongs to the Camp Bratton-Green Alumni Association, has served as a Cabin Dad for 14 years, and as the Camp Director at Camp Funshine in partnership with the Mississippi Burn Foundation.

He has been involved with the Boy Scouts of America; Future Business Leaders of America/Phi Beta Lambda; and Mississippi FBLA/PBL Foundation, Inc. (Est. 1987), a 501c3 foundation established to provide scholarships to students as well as provide stipends for students representing the state at national competition, developing a blueprint for planned giving and conducting workshops.

Welch begins his duties in May. An important part of the ministry in the coming years will be to reestablish the conference ministry at Hardtner. Henton Hall is currently under renovation for adult, non-camping events and the Holy Day Inn is being remodeled on a room-by-room basis to add to the attractiveness and comfortability for adult guests. Room remodeling is being completed on a subscription basis. Interested parties, congregations or organizations should contact Hardtner to participate. The Very Rev. Ronald Clingenpeel, Interim Director, will conclude his ministry at Hardtner May 30. The Board of Trustees, meeting on April 9, changed the position title for the leadership of Hardtner to Director. The Director works closely with the Board of Trustees for the promotion, upkeep, maintenance and ministry of the Hardtner Camp and Conference Center.



Camp Hardtner moves ahead with facilities upgrades

Camp Hardtner's first summer camping session begins June 3 (First Camp for grades 1 & 2 with parents. Six other camps follow in rapid succession with the last session being Camp Able for those with special needs set for July 30-August 4. Camp Able is completely full.

The Swimming Pool, come on in the waters fine?

That will be a true statement when camping season arrives. The swimming pool, which has been a problem in past years, is currently being upgraded, including a new pool deck. This is a 3-4 week job that is set for completion before the start of camping season. There is to be no swimming in the lakes this summer.

A new addition to the pool is a mechanical lift that will place wheelchair bound Camp Able attendees in the shallow end of the pool, and back into their wheelchairs when their swim time is completed.

New Life at the Holy Day Inn

Eight of the twenty rooms in the Holy Day Inn have been remodeled and refurbished. First use of the updated rooms occurred during the April Clergy Conference. Two of the eight that have been redone are single rooms. Each room has been decorated differently; there is no cookie-cutter approach being taken as the renovations go forward. Individualism is the new norm at Holy Day Inn.

Born again Henton Hall

Henton Hall, which has been little-used in recent years, is undergoing a rebirth. Its foundation has been repaired, and the interior is being remodeled including an update for the service kitchen, new floor tiles, painting, and bathroom updates. The original balcony has been restored and a new ADA ramp has been added. All these upgrades have been made with the intention of using Henton Hall for conference center activities. No summer camping functions will be held in Henton Hall.

Time is getting short to claim a spot in Summer Camps

Waiting to the very last minute to register for a summer camp for this summer may mean that the youngster in your family that was so looking forward to a Hardtner summer experience will miss out. Don't take that chance. Consult the listing of camps sessions and then go to <http://www.camphardtner.org> and register NOW!

First Camp, Grades 1 & 2 w/parents*

June 3-5, \$200 per person
\$200 person-\$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.*



Bishop Jake with the St. Mark's Confirmands

Bishop Jake visits St. Mark's Cathedral to Baptize, Confirm, Re-affirm, and Receive

It was the day of Bishop Jake's visitation, and in the congregation awaiting the start of the Eucharistic celebration at St. Mark's Cathedral, Shreveport on Sunday, May 1 were excited.

Those with that sense of pleasure to come included candidates for confirmation, and of course, their families, and the families of candidates for Baptism. Several to be received into the parish family also waited with expectancy.

The service began and with his characteristic good humor, the Bishop made his duties look easy.

The liturgy was completed with these results:

Those Baptized: Kennedy Hayden Carter, Arabella Madeline Touchstone

Those Confirmed: Andrew David Atkins,

William Bradley Bates, II, Steven Lane Beruvides, Noah Edward Courtman, Whitten Danforth Davis, Colby Webb Grayson, Kelly Hargrove, Charles Owen Hardtner, Whitney Wilkinson Harmon, Carolyn Ann Harrison, Gray Randle Hodges, Richard Clayton Holmes, Mary McCullough Humphrey, Carmella Nakarie Jamerson, Theresa Fay Johnson, Carson Reed Jones, Abigail Elizabeth Koruna, Carson Massad, John Thomas Peterson, Beckett Allen Soignier, Jim Synder, Katherine Elizabeth Tharpe, Emma Kathryn Turner, William Christopher Weaver

Those Received: Dr. David Renda, Dr. William J. Roy, Jr., Susan Synder

Re-affirmed: Kristen Renda

EPIPHANY'S
LOBSTER FEST

The Episcopal Church of the Epiphany
14th Annual Lobster Fest

Order by: Friday, June 3 Pick up: Friday, June 10th
303 West Main Street, New Iberia, LA
5:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.
Live or Steamed

\$30 per lobster dinner

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

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.*

June 2016

3-5 — First Camp (*Grades 1 & 2 with parents*) *Camp Hardtner*

5 — Bishop's Visitation, *Ascension, Lafayette*

9-15 — Senior High Camp (*Grades 11 & 12 & graduates*) *Camp Hardtner*

12 — Bishop's Visitation, *St. Barnabas, Lafayette*

19 — Bishop's Visitation, *St. Alban's, Monroe*

19-24 — Junior High Camp 1 (*Grades 5 & 6*) *Camp Hardtner*

26 — Bishop's Visitation, *St. Paul's, Abbeville*

28-July 2 — Primary Camp (*Grades 3 & 4*) *Camp Hardtner*

July 2016

8-13 — Junior High Camp 2 (*Grades 7 & 8*) *Camp Hardtner*

16 — Congregational Vitality Institute, The Development and Growth of Missional Communities, *St. James, Alexandria, starts at 10:00 a.m.*

18-24 — Mid High Camp (*Grades 9 & 10*) *Camp Hardtner*

30-August 4 — Camp Able (*Ages 9+ with special needs*) *Camp Hardtner*

August 2016

7 — Bishop's Visitation, *Christ Church, St. Joseph*

14 — Bishop's Visitation, *St. Luke's, Jennings*

19-21 — Camp Hardtner Alumni Weekend, *Camp Hardtner*

21 — Bishop's Visitation, *St. Andrew's, Mer Rouge*

24 — Bishop's Midweek Visitation, *Calvary, Bunkie*

28 — Bishop's Visitation, *St. Columba's, Winnnsboro; St. David's, Rayville*

September 2016

4 — Bishop's Visitation, *Polk Memorial, Leesville*

10 — Diocesan Ultreya, *Camp Hardtner*

11 — Bishop's Visitation, *Holy Cross, Shreveport*

16-17 — Celebration of Women's Ministries, *Camp Hardtner, starts at 6:00 p.m.*

25 — Bishop's Visitation, *St. Luke's, Grambling*

27 — Meeting of the Commission on Ministry, *Diocesan House, starts at 10:00 a.m.*

29 — Meeting of the Diocesan Council, *St. James, Alexandria, starts at 10:00 a.m.*

30-Oct 2 — Joy in the Journey Retreat Weekend, *Camp Hardtner*

October 2016

2 — Bishop's Visitation, *St. Michael & All Angels, Lake Charles*

9 — Bishop's Visitation, *St. Michael's, Pineville*

15 — Congregational Vitality Institute, The Development and Growth of Missional Communities, *St. James, Alexandria, starts at 10:00 a.m.*

16 — Bishop's Visitation, *Trinity, Tallulah; Grace, Lake Providence,*

23 — Bishop's Visitation, *Trinity, Crowley*

19 — Cursillo Staff Overnight, *Camp Hardtner, starts at 5:00 p.m.*

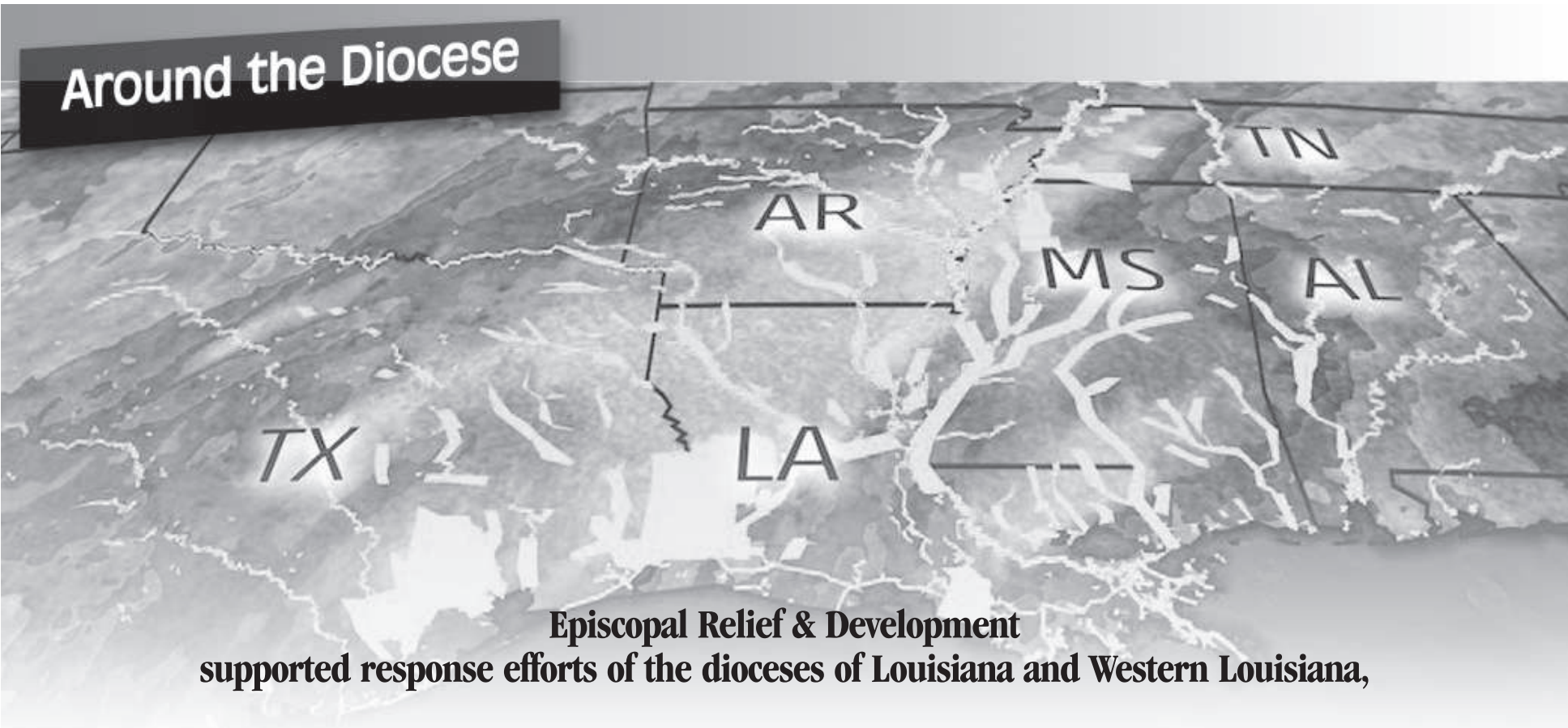
20-23 — Cursillo #150, *Camp Hardtner, starts at 6:00 p.m.*

30 — Bishop's Visitation, *Trinity, Natchitoches*

November 2016

4-5 — Convention of the Diocese of Western Louisiana, *Shreveport*

8 — Meeting of the Commission on Ministry, *Diocesan House*



Episcopal Relief & Development is supporting the response efforts of the Episcopal Dioceses of Louisiana and Western Louisiana, following storms that knocked out power and caused widespread flooding across the state. Both dioceses are working through local churches and community ministries to care for vulnerable people and assist with needs such as food, fuel, temporary housing and supplies to clean and repair damaged homes and other property.

“The churches in Louisiana and Western Louisiana have been incredibly resourceful and thoughtful about assembling their flood responses,” said Katie Mears, Director of Episcopal Relief & Development’s US Disaster Program. “They have done a fantastic job of identifying where they have local connections or community resources that can be used to assist people in need.”

The early March storm system began in the Gulf of Mexico and caused a series of tornadoes in Texas before moving east and settling over northern Louisiana, where it dumped up to 24 inches of rain over a five-day period. In southern Louisiana, the area north of Lake Ponchartrain received between 12 and 17 inches of rain in less than 24 hours over March 10-11. Flash flooding was widespread, and rivers reached 10-20 feet above flood stage, swamping areas as far as a mile on either side and damaging vehicles and property. Thousands of people evacuated or were rescued from their homes, often by boat as roads became impassable. At least six people died across the region due to the storms.

In the Episcopal Diocese of Louisiana, congregations in Hammond, Covington and Bogalusa are leveraging ministries, relationships and community resources to aid those in need. In Hammond, Grace Memorial Episcopal Church’s ongoing ministry with Meals on Wheels enabled quick assessment of 30 elderly households, and support from

Episcopal Relief & Development enabled the church to provide tarps and other materials to prevent further home damage. Christ Church in Covington is able to offer assistance and referrals to community services because of their connections through programs that serve at-risk children. St. Matthew’s in Bogalusa has mobilized members with deep community relationships to help assemble a list of families with outstanding needs, in order to supply gift cards for food, fuel and repairs. Christ Church is also working with the Bogalusa paper mill’s employee assistance coordinator to identify additional families in need of temporary housing and other aid.

“We have churches throughout the flooded area – active, engaged congregations with good leadership,” said Deacon Elaine Clements, Disaster Coordinator for the Episcopal Diocese of Louisiana. “The new senior warden of St. Matthew’s is an attorney in town who has been working with the mayor’s office on rescue and relief, and the congregation in Hammond has a member who is a social worker and is connected to community organizations. It’s hard to overstate how vital our members

and relationships are in disaster response.”

In the Episcopal Diocese of Western Louisiana, church leaders have aided local officials by assessing the needs of residents around their parishes. The primary needs are for cleaning and repair supplies, as well as temporary housing for those whose homes are not currently livable. Day shelters for homeless individuals in Shreveport and Monroe, which are supported by local Episcopal churches, are able to assist those who are temporarily without housing, as well as provide outreach to regular clients who may be experiencing greater vulnerability due to the storm. Stephen’s Ministries in several congregations are able to assist displaced people with emotional support and pastoral care.



Maberry

“Our clergy and parishioners have been incredibly helpful in communicating and coordinating with local government and disaster response agencies,” said Deacon Lois Maberry, Disaster Coordinator for the Episcopal Diocese of Western Louisiana. “This has allowed individuals to be directed to community resources that are offering aid, helping them to cope with this tragedy.” Episcopal Relief & Development will continue to work with dioceses across the impacted region to assess how church resources and connections can be leveraged to aid those most vulnerable.

Please pray for people impacted by these most recent storms, and for those who are providing urgently needed care and assistance. To support Episcopal Relief & Development’s response, please donate to the US Disaster Response Fund.

For over 75 years, Episcopal Relief & Development has served as a compassionate response to human suffering in the world. The agency works with more than 3 million people in nearly 40 countries worldwide to overcome poverty, hunger and disease through multi-sector programs.

Over 26 inches of rain triggers record flooding in the South

A torrential rain event during the first full week of March 2016 featuring over two feet of record March rain in the South unleashed major river flooding, rising to historic levels in some areas.

Record flooding occurred along a sizable stretch of the Sabine River along the Texas/Louisiana border, due to record releases from Toledo Bend Reservoir, first put in service in 1966.

Record flooding has occurred in nine locations, including the Bogue Falaya River in Covington, Louisiana, and Bayou

Dorcheat at Lake Bistineau, Louisiana.

The top rainfall total from this multi-day heavy rain event was just shy of 27 inches just south-southeast of Monroe, Louisiana. The official airport reporting station in Monroe had picked up 20.66 inches of rain from March 8-11. Incredibly, in just four days, this set a record for the wettest month in Monroe, outpacing October 2009 when 20.56 inches was recorded.

In just six days, the cooperative station outside of Monroe (26.96 inches), picked up half the average annual precipitation of

Monroe’s Regional Airport (53.71 inches).

Why This Happened

A massive, slow-moving, southward dip in the jet stream inched east across Mexico, then near the Gulf Coast, funneling deep, tropical moisture into parts of the South and Mississippi Valley, a rather unusual pattern for early March.

Diocese of Western Louisiana and Episcopal Relief & Development join in relief efforts in the Diocese

As the impact of the storms became apparent, the Diocese of Western Louisiana, quickly contacted Episcopal Relief & Development and received a commitment from ER&D to make grants available to those impacted in Western Louisiana.



Made available were:

1. Seven gifts of \$500 intended for assistance with immediate needs for households. Examples of expenditures covered included cleaning supplies, the replacement of school uniforms, storage containers needed by those having to relocate, and even towing expenses for cars.
2. Seven gifts of \$500 were made available for assistance with temporary housing caused by evacuation, or to assist a family that was unable to locate more permanent housing (Hotel expenses).
3. Seven gifts of \$1,200 were made available to assist families or individuals with

their moves into rental properties. This assistance was meant to help pay deposits and first month's rent, or at least a portion.

Qualifications

Members of the Episcopal Church were qualified for these gifts as were those known by church members to have suffered damage or losses due to the storms.

Recipients were expected to register with FEMA using the FEMA web site. Funds were dispersed through the Diocesan Office based on a written request from a clergy member, or a senior warden if a congregation was without a member of the clergy.

Any money given by ER&D and not used was expected to be returned to ER&D.

Congregations were urged to collect gift cards to Home Depot, Lowes, Wal-Mart or Target to be used by those with storm-related losses. Part of the diocesan grant proposal to ER&D was that there would be \$5,000 donated from the Diocese. These gift cards were considered a part of the Diocesan commitment.

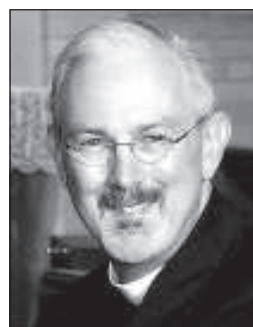
Disaster Relief Coordinator, the Rev. Deacon Lois Maberry, served as the point person for this disaster relief effort.

Bishop Jake

continued from page 1

show us just who God really is. God's identity apparently turned out to be quite a shock back then. It still is today.

From the start of Jesus' life, God turns out to be something different from what we expect. Instead of being born in a marble palace, Jesus chooses to arrive in an outbuilding on a poorly lit street in a rotten neighborhood of a town nobody wants to visit. What we take to be important, to mark us as successful or blessed, holds no attraction for Jesus.



Once Jesus starts teaching, plenty of people would rather that he keep his trap shut. The last will be first and the first will be last. All of our wealth and status and power counts for nothing. In the Kingdom of Heaven God recognizes only humble service as greatness.

Turn the other cheek. Forgive the unrepentant until it becomes second nature. Love your enemy. Jesus doesn't write anyone off, vote anyone off the island. And neither should his followers. Even and especially when those people are different or inconvenient or even dangerous.

Give your stuff away, especially the stuff you cling to most fiercely. Feed the hungry because they're hungry, not because they meet somebody's stingy standards for deserving aid. Shelter the homeless and liberate the oppressed because that's what Jesus tells you to do and who he wants you to become.

Once Jesus starts picking friends, he embarrasses us by simply failing to be selective enough. Tax collectors, street walkers, uncouth laborers, Bible scholars, seething revolutionaries, super patriots, girl scouts, slackers, embezzlers, and accountants follow him all the way from Galilee to Golgotha. Worst of all, he expects us to love one another as he loves us. How unspeakably awkward!

Jesus is the perfect revelation of God. God in the flesh. And in Jesus we see that God will go to any lengths to be in relationship with us and to bring us into relationship with each other.

He even dies on a cross. Lies in a tomb. Descends to hell to release the captives. Wherever we are, that is where Jesus goes. That is where God goes. To be in eternal relationship with all of God's children.

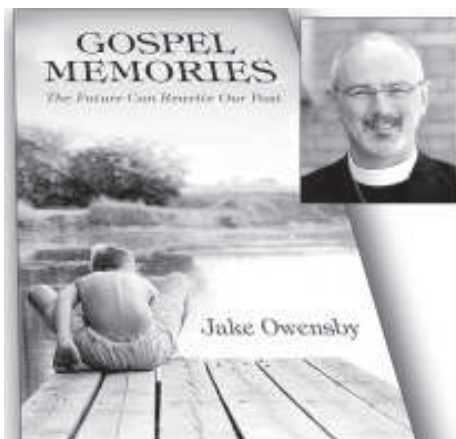
That's what love looks like.

If we stopped at the cross, then love would look a failed romantic ideal. But love did not stop there. God rolled away the tomb. God raised Jesus from earthly life to eternal life. Jesus raises us with him.

We find God in Jesus. In love in the flesh. In the suffering and joy of our neighbor. In the humble sacrament of bread and wine, body and blood.

In Jesus we see what Presiding Bishop Michael Curry and Rob Bell teach. We see that love wins.

—The Rt. Rev. Jacob W. Owensby, Ph.D., DD, is bishop of the Diocese of Western Louisiana.



Gospel Memories

The Future Can Rewrite Our Past

by the Rt. Rev. Jake Owensby

Gospel Memories *The Future Can Rewrite Our Past*, is available at Amazon.com, in Paperback or in the Kindle format.

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Last look

Choirmaster's composition performed by string quartet at St. George's



Kermit Poling, is the organist/choirmaster of St. George's, Bossier City. He is also in demand in the Shreveport/Bossier City area as a classical musician and composer. Poling was commissioned by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Shreveport to compose a musical work on the lives of seven saints. Written for string quartet and produced by Poling as a television program to run on Catholic television, the new work was premiered at the Catholic Center in March; a performance attended by St. George's rector, the Rev. Jaime Flowers. "I thought the work was just great and I asked Kermit if the quartet that performed, could come perform the work live at St. George's, which took place on Sunday, May 8.

Holy Trinity, Sulphur shows their appreciation for our soldiers' sacrifices

by Sandra Edwards

To show appreciation for the service of members of our country's military, Holy Trinity, Sulphur recently held a rather unique event. Thirty-five participants gathered on Saturday, April 9 at the Holy Trinity parish hall to participate in "Project Blanket."

"No sew" prayer blankets were made for soldiers currently deployed from Fort Polk in Leesville to Afghanistan. They will be returning from their deployment in June and when they return they will find handmade prayer blankets on their bunk. Seventeen blankets were made in just 2 hours accompanied by great fellowship and cookies! The event was a huge success and what great fun!

Holy Trinity has been presented with a plaque by the 5th Battalion, 25th Field Artillery Regiment for willingness to serve and show our appreciation to our soldiers.

—Sandra Edwards is a communicant of Holy Trinity, Sulphur.

