

# ALIVE!

## Summer's most popular outreach: VBS is huge hit at Trinity, Sulphur



After two solid months of preparation, Trinity, Sulphur's Vacation Bible School, "Celebration Reef" was staged July 1-5. "It was a 9 a.m.-12 noon, Monday through Friday endeavor for

students and those staging the event," said Trinity rector, Mother Ally Perry. "The set decoration was as if we were under water, and each day we 'dove deeper' into God. The daily themes were God

knows me; God hears me; God strengthens me; God loves me; God sends me." "Thirty-six children in grades 3-5 attended most days. We did crafts, singing, snacks, outdoor games and science experiments,

story time and even had a big whale to sit in while hearing the Jonah story," said Mother Perry. Lori Rushing was the Trinity  
*See Summer Outreach, page 11*

Read Luke 7:36-8:3

Cheryl Strayed used to write an advice column at The Rumpus called "Dear Sugar." Her readers knew her simply as Sugar.

Those who wrote to Sugar usually identified themselves with aliases. Sometimes the alias was a single letter like "M."

Other pseudonyms expressed the challenge, the heartache, or the chaos about which the writer was seeking counsel. "Mourning and Raging" stands out as an example.

Strayed's book *Tiny Beautiful Things* gathers together some especially poignant and vivid exchanges from her column. Most of them touch me and move me (and sometimes bewilder me and even unsettle me).

One writer's story—and the response that Strayed gave him—has stayed lodged in my head and my heart. The author called himself Beast with a Limp.

Born with a blood disorder, Beast's body is visibly lopsided. One side appears normal while the other is withered and contorted.

Honestly assessing his pronounced deformities and obvious disfigure-

## UGLY LOVE

ments, he calls himself an ugly, broken man. His words convey no hint of self-loathing or self-pity. Just realistic acceptance.

While Beast with a Limp has many friends, the special intimacy of romance has evaded him. He writes Sugar with a simple, blunt question.

Should he cling to the hope of finding that special kind of love with someone else, or should he set aside that hope as a fruitless, demoralizing fantasy?

Who, after all, would want to be embraced by, to be kissed by, to be caressed by his repulsive form?

Most of us inhabit bodies that fall into the normal range of appearance.



Bishop Jake Owensby

We might not like how our butts look in jeans or wish our abs looked more like a washboard than a washtub.

Our noses may seem to us big and our lips thin. Maybe the first word that comes to mind when we stand naked in front of the mirror is sagging, not tight.

No matter, we're in the broad part of the bell curve when it comes to

*See Bishop Jake, page 11*

# Diocesan News

CONGREGATIONAL VITALITY INSTITUTE  
**Invite, Welcome, Connect**



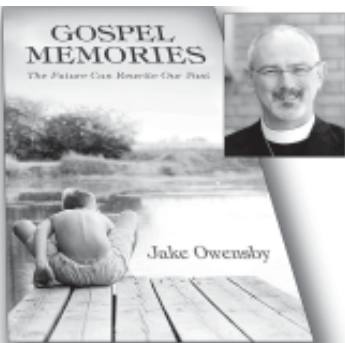
October 15, 2016      10 AM — 3 PM

Registration will soon be open for the Congregational Vitality Institute session to be held on Saturday, October 15 at St. James, Alexandria. Entitled "Invite, Welcome, Connect," this presentation will be a continuum of our Intent to teach missional ministry to our congregations and give them the tools for an organic shift into a new way of thinking and acting on our baptismal vows.

Session leader Mary Parmer is a congregational development consultant/coach, speaker, and retreat leader who lives in Austin, Texas. She currently serves as director of the Gathering of Leaders, a national leadership gathering of your Episcopal clergy, and as creator of Invite-Welcome-Connect, born out of the Diocese of Texas Newcomer Ministry Project.

Lunch will be provided. An annual payment of \$25 covers the cost of all CVI materials and meals. Payment of cash or check will be accepted on October 15 for those attending a CVI session for the first time.

Contact the Rev. Bill Bryant, Canon for Congregational Vitality with any questions you may have.



## 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.

Email **ALIVE!** at [robertharwell39@att.net](mailto:robertharwell39@att.net)

## Cursillo #150

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.



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.

There is no charge to participate in a Cursillo weekend.

The next Cursillo, #150, will be held October 20-23, 2016 at the Camp Hardtner.

If you are interested in attending a Cursillo weekend, ask someone in your congregation who has attended Cursillo to sponsor you.

The Diocesan Ultreya scheduled for Saturday, September 10, at Camp Hardtner has been **CANCELLED**

## MANAGE YOUR ALIVE! SUBSCRIPTION

Contact  
 Robert Harwell, *ALIVE!* editor  
 318-868-2303  
 or e-mail  
[robertharwell39@att.net](mailto:robertharwell39@att.net)

## WLA on the Web:

News and information on the Episcopal Diocese of Western Louisiana  
[www.diocesewla.org](http://www.diocesewla.org)



## 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.



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Robert Harwell ..... Editor

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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](mailto:robertharwell39@att.net)

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 Friday, August 19, 2016



## Around the Diocese



### The Celebration of Women's Ministries at the Hardtner Camp and Conference Center on September 16-17, 2016

The Celebration of Women's Ministries will be held at the Hardtner Camp and Conference Center on September 16-17, 2016. It will be a time for numerous and diverse ministries to come together and celebrate in the name of our Lord and Savior. The ministries of the Diocesan Daughters of the King, the Diocesan Episcopal Church Women, and the Altar Guild will be on hand with meetings and representatives can answer any questions you may have about these organizations.

We are beyond excited for everyone to join us in this Celebration of Women's Ministries retreat.

The celebration will begin on Friday evening, September 16, with a "meet and greet" reception starting at 4:00 p.m. and will run through Saturday until 3:00 p.m.

Our special guest speaker will be the Reverend Ally Perry. She is native of Virginia and attended seminary at Yale. She has been a priest for thirty years, serving congregations in Iowa, Texas, and Oklahoma. She lived in Jerusalem for a year and has been the rector at Holy Trinity Sulphur since 2014.

Friday evening, Mother Rowena White, St. Mark's Cathedral (Shreveport) will do a talk to explain spiritual direction. She will also be available for spiritual direction throughout Saturday.

Saturday will be filled with activities galore. There will be food, fellowship and a variety of activities to do. *We are also encouraging you all to bring a scrapbook or memory book to share. We will have a "Share Fair" so that we can have a chance to look at each other's ECW pictures.*

#### Celebration of Women's Ministries at Camp Hardtner

Please fill out this registration blank completely.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Church \_\_\_\_\_ Contact number(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Any special needs for the weekend \_\_\_\_\_

The cost of the weekend depends on the days you will attend (please circle):

• All weekend (1 night's lodging, 3 meals, snacks & speaker) .....\$65

• Saturday only (session, & 2 meals).....\$15

**Please note:** Private lodging is \$85/night extra—space permitting.

Total amount enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to Diocesan ECW & mail to:  
Shetwan Roberison 1217 Winfield Road, Princeton, LA 71067  
Or Stacy Taylor 5307 Hollyhock Lane, Bossier City, LA 71112  
For more information, please contact Shetwan Roberison,  
318-707-2570 or email: [womensecw1@gmail.com](mailto:womensecw1@gmail.com)

*Early registration is suggested and registrants will receive a tentative schedule of the Celebration weekend, as well.*

## St. Matthias of Shreveport opens their doors to a special school

Shekinah Academy is a school for special kids. Its mission is to educate for success by considering each student's individual strengths and weakness; therefore, encouraging each student to reach his or her full individual potential academically, socially and spiritually. The school is operated by Leesa Wallace, M.Ed. An individual education plan and curriculum is designed for each student. Shekinah Academy has been in operation since 2006.



When Shekinah Academy had to relocate, St. Matthias in Shreveport opened up its facilities and embraced this wonderful mission of educating children who needed a break and special instruction. Last year the school served 17 exceptional children ranging from first grade to 12<sup>th</sup>. The school offers services for a range of special-needs students such as the blind, nonverbal, autistic, de-

velopmentally delayed, emotional and behavioral challenged children. When you come to the school you see wheelchairs, walkers, service dogs and children helping each other grow. It is not unusual for some-

one to call for everyone to pray for a sick classmate or their family. This is a warm and welcoming school.

St. Matthias not only provides for the facility, but volunteers come and read to children. The church had a fall festival with Trunk and Treat for not only the school,



but other special-need children and their families. At Christmas the Young at Heart group joined the school for bingo, a meal and fellowship. The children attend several services that were held during the school day. The school had a kick ball tournament and several parishioners came out to play and to watch. The

school had a very successful year and is looking forward to many more in their new home. St. Matthias is pleased to be a part of this special ministry by offering its facilities. This experience has caused the church to look at other ways to minister to the special-needs families in the community.

# Around the Diocese

## 2016-2017 Diocesan Youth Events



### 2016-2017 DIOCESAN YOUTH EVENTS

Register online at <http://www.diocesewla.org>

| 2016-2017 DIOCESAN YOUTH EVENTS  |   |  | REGISTRATION DEADLINES |          |          |
|--|---|--|------------------------|----------|----------|
| FEE*   | LEADERS   | STAFF INFO   | STAFF                  | T-SHIRT  | FINAL    |
| <b>JEYL RETREAT FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH, Fri. 11/18/16, 7pm-Sun. 11/20/16, 11am</b><br>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.   |   |  |                        |          |          |
| <b>Participants: \$95</b><br>(\$130 cost-\$35 diocesan underwriting=\$95)<br><b>Staff: No charge</b><br>(\$130 cost-\$130 diocesan underwriting=\$0)   | Corey Harrington<br>Fr. Thomas Nsubuga                      | • High school youth may apply to staff the retreat.<br>• Required staff meeting Sat. 10/22, 10am-3pm @ St. James, Alexandria   | 10/07/16               | 11/04/16 | 11/11/16 |
| <b>HAPPENING #55, Fri. 1/13/17, 7pm-Sun. 1/15/17, 5pm</b><br>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. |   |  |                        |          |          |
| <b>REGISTRATION DEADLINES</b>  |   |  |                        |          |          |
| FEE*   | LEADERS   | STAFF INFO   | STAFF                  | T-SHIRT  | FINAL    |
| <b>Participants: \$100</b><br>(\$140 cost-\$40 diocesan underwriting=\$100)<br><b>Staff: No charge</b><br>(\$200 cost-\$200 diocesan underwriting=\$0)   | Fr. Michael & Lauren Bordelon<br>Mike & Haley Wiley         | • High school youth who have already attended Happening may apply to staff the retreat.<br>• Required staff meetings Sat. 12/3 and 12/17, 10am-3pm @ Camp Hardtner<br>• Required overnight retreat Fri. 1/6, 7pm-Sat. 1/7, 2pm @ Camp Hardtner | 11/23/16               | 12/30/16 | 01/06/17 |
| <b>CLEY RETREAT FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH, Fri. 03/24/17, 7pm-Sun. 03/26/17, 11am</b><br>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.   |   |  |                        |          |          |
| <b>REGISTRATION DEADLINES</b>  |   |  |                        |          |          |
| FEE*   | LEADERS   | STAFF INFO   | STAFF                  | T-SHIRT  | FINAL    |
| <b>Participants: \$95</b><br>(\$130 cost-\$35 diocesan underwriting=\$95)<br><b>Staff: No charge</b><br>(\$130 cost-\$130 diocesan underwriting=\$0)   | Lisa Hightower<br>Brandi Doucet<br>Fr. Brandt<br>Montgomery | • College-age students may apply to staff the retreat.<br>• Required overnight retreat (DATE, TIME & LOCATION TBA)   | 02/01/17               | 03/10/17 | 03/17/17 |

QUESTION? Contact Fr. Michael Bordelon, [Curate@gracechurchmonroe.org](mailto:Curate@gracechurchmonroe.org) or Joy Owensby, [jowensby@diocesewla.org](mailto:jowensby@diocesewla.org)

\*ALL YOUTH EVENTS ARE UNDERWRITTEN BY THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF WESTERN LOUISIANA.  
 THANK YOU TO OUR CONGREGATIONS WHO SUPPORT DIOCESAN MINISTRIES THROUGH THEIR ANNUAL PLEDGE!

### Our 2016-2017 Diocesan Youth Events

Here it is, the 2016-2017 Diocesan Youth Events schedule with complete details, including costs, who's leading each event, and even the dates set aside for staff training. Cut this schedule out and refer to it often.

Here are some very important points common to all events. Check them carefully!

- All are welcome. (You need not be an Episcopalian to attend.)
- Each participant will receive a diocesan supplement to help cover costs.
- There is No charge to serve as staff for any youth retreat.
- Staff applicants should remember that up-to-date Safeguarding certification and attendance at staff training events are required.
- Our deadlines are **FIRM!**

## News Briefs

### Legislators repeal sales taxes imposed on churches in March

Baton Rouge – Gov. John Bel Edwards signed House Bill No 51 into law June 28 as Act 12 of the 2016 Second Extraordinary Session for Louisiana Legislature, removing a number of taxes on church activities that were imposed in March as parts of Acts 25 and 26 of the 2016 First Extraordinary Session.

Although Act 12 took effect July 1, the Louisiana Department of Revenue has yet to issue an official interpretation. However, legislators have said publicly this measure should fix the difficulties created for churches by the earlier action.

When the LDR releases its guidance, churches should anticipate relief from collecting taxes on such things as cake sales and auctions, which were tagged with special tax rates from April 1, 2016 – June 30, 2018.

Act 12 can be read at [legis.la.gov](http://legis.la.gov) by using the “Bills” dropdown menu, clicking on “2016 Second Extraordinary Session” and choosing “Bill Numbers to Acts” in the left margin of the subsequent page.

### Episcopal Divinity School to stop granting degrees in June 2017

Episcopal Divinity School will cease to grant degrees at the end of the upcoming academic year, the seminary's board of trustees

decided July 21 on a 11-4 vote. During the next year, the board will explore options for EDS's future, some of which were suggested by a specially convened Futures Task Force to make plans for EDS's future.

Episcopal Divinity School, which is located in Cambridge, Massachusetts, was formed in 1974 through the merger of the Cambridge-based Episcopal Theological School and the Philadelphia Divinity School. It is one of the smallest of the 10 accredited seminaries of the Episcopal Church.

“A school that has taken on racism, sexism, heterosexism, and multiple interlocking oppressions is now called to rethink its delivery of theological education in a new and changing world,” said the Very Rev. Gary Hall '76, chairman of the board, in introducing the resolution. “Ending unsus-

tainable spending is a matter of social justice.”

The options suggested to the task force include merging with another theological seminary, establishing a center for Abrahamic studies, becoming a center for continuing education, fostering lay ministry, and using the seminary's assets to fund scholarships for seminarians devoted to working on issues of peace and justice.

No faculty or staff members will be laid off during the upcoming academic year, and all students, including EDS's final incoming class, which arrives on campus next month, will be “taught out,” Hall said.



## Around the Diocese

The Bishop's Committee on Addiction & Recovery presents the 2016 Joy in the Journey

### Soul Food for the Soul The 11th Step:

A three-day retreat presented by  
Joe Pack Arnold

Sept. 30-Oct. 2, 2016 at Camp Hardtner

Cost is only \$125. per person  
(includes materials, meals and room  
for the weekend)



#### Registration Form

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Please list special needs \_\_\_\_\_

No. Attending \_\_\_\_\_ Check or Money Order Amount Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks or money orders payable to Camp Hardtner.

Mail this form no later than August 31st to (Earlier is better, as space is limited.):

Whitney Brown, 813 N. Foote Avenue, Kaplan, LA 70548 - phone 267-455-3055 for questions

Voluntary Information - should you wish to share the information with us:

12-Step Affiliation(s) (i.e., AA, Alanon, GA, NA, CA,) \_\_\_\_\_

Religious Affiliation (if any) \_\_\_\_\_

Interests in future retreats (topics) \_\_\_\_\_



#### Our presenter Joe Pack Arnold

Joe Pack is a dynamic retreat leader and certified Addiction Counselor, in addition to being an ordained Presbyterian minister. His curriculum vitae includes serving as Spiritual Director for The Meadows in Wickenburg, Arizona and Pine Grove in Hattiesburg,

Mississippi. Now semi-retired, Joe Pack remains active as a Retreat Master in spiritual and recovery workshops, and therapies which include family counseling, death and dying counseling, trauma and intervention counseling. We are honored to have Joe Pack as our Retreat Master for this exciting weekend to explore our spiritual journey through the 11th Step ~ *Sought through prayer and meditation to improve our conscious contact with God, as we understood Him, praying only for knowledge of His will for us and the power to carry that out.*

## The Episcopal Church

### RIP: Bishop Edmond Lee Browning, 24th Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church

{*Episcopal Church Office of Public Affairs, Episcopal News Service*} Bishop Edmond Lee Browning, the 24th presiding bishop of the Episcopal Church, died on July 11, 2016. He was 87 years old and was living in Oregon.

Browning served as presiding bishop of the Episcopal Church from 1986-1997. Browning's election as presiding bishop in 1986 was seen as a reflection of the church's broadening diversity due to his extensive international and multicultural experience.

"The Episcopal Church is faithfully seeking to truly become, 'a house of prayer for all people,' as Jesus said quoting the Hebrew prophets, and that is greatly the case

because Presiding Bishop Browning taught us that the church must be a place where there are no outcasts," said Presiding Bishop Michael B. Curry, the 27th presiding bishop.

Browning's theologically liberal stance was admired by some and criticized by others both in the Episcopal Church and the Anglican Communion, particularly his views about the full inclusion of LGBT people in the life of the church.

Browning was elected at the 68th General Convention of the Episcopal Church in Anaheim, California, in September 1985. He was the last presiding bishop to serve a 12-year term.

During Browning's tenure, the Episcopal Church experienced a trend toward seeing baptism as a vocation.



**Browning**

Browning was born March 11, 1929, in Corpus Christi, Texas. He attended the University of the South, Sewanee, Tennessee, receiving a Bachelor of Arts in 1952, a Bachelor of Divinity in 1954, and a Doctor of Divinity in 1970.

Browning was ordained a deacon on July 2, 1954, and a priest on May 23, 1955. He served two parishes in Texas before going to Okinawa, where he served as a parish priest, as archdeacon and as bishop of the Convocation of American Churches in Europe, as executive of National and World Mission, Episcopal Church Center, New York, New York, as bishop of Hawaii, and 24th presiding bishop of the Episcopal Church, 1986-1997.

Browning was married to Patricia Alline Sparks in 1953 and the couple had five children, Mark, Philip, Paige, Peter and John.

## A Diocesan Summer

### Father Donald installed as rector of St. Michael and All Angels

During a special service, held July 28, celebrating the start of new ministry, Father Seth Donald was installed as rector of St. Michael and All Angels, Lake Charles. Father Donald, left, is pictured here during the service with Bishop Jacob W. Owensby, bishop of the Diocese of Western Louisiana.



### St. Timothy's, Alexandria, reaches out to the less fortunate

The Rev. Rich Snow, right, rector of St. Timothy's, Alexandria, and Senior Warden Don Savage present Major Ken W. Nelson of the Salvation Army in Alexandria with a check for \$1,089. The funds were raised at a recent St. Timothy's fish fry dedicated to outreach.



### 40 years in the priesthood

The Rev. Paul D. Martin, rector of St. Paul's, Shreveport was surprised with a celebration of his 40 years as a priest on Wednesday, June 29 in the parlor at St. Paul's. Father Martin, right, and his wife Christine are shown here with St. Paul's senior warden, Jim Taliaferro.





## Remembering Ascension: A Collective Memoir

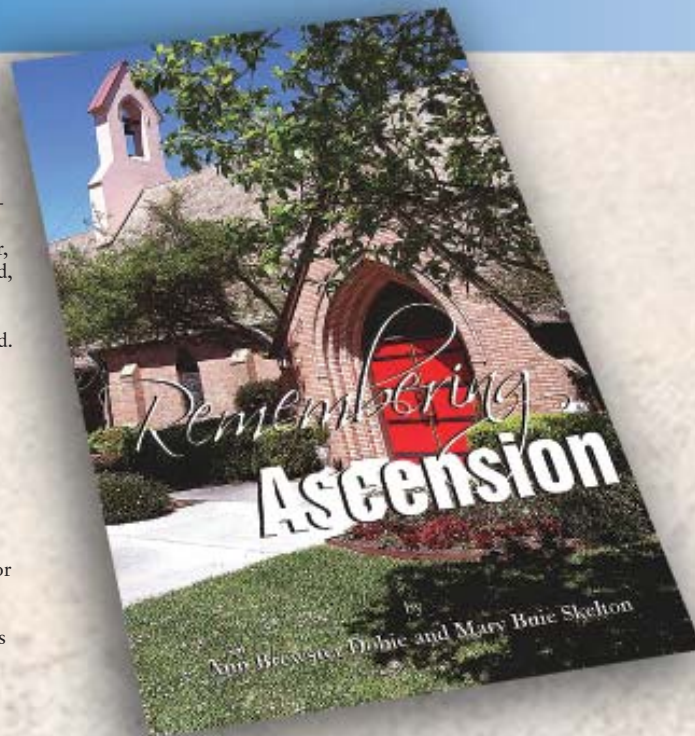
Marking the anniversary of Lafayette's Church of the Ascension's seventy years as a parish, Mary Buie Skelton and Ann Dobie have joined forces to collect stories, find old handwritten memoirs, discover lost scrapbooks and discarded bulletins, and turn up yellowed photographs curling at the edges—all of them telling the story of who the parish has been and what it has done. The result is a newly published book, *Remembering Ascension*.

The list of collaborators quickly grew from the initial two, to dozens more who came together to remember the worship services, the outreach efforts, and the good times. Going through desk drawers and attic boxes became an act of discovery and surprise. References to "a church scrapbook" set off a search that eventually turned up careful documentation of parish activities from mid-twentieth century to 1988. Some of the valuable records are new ones,

such as the recent photographs of the church's stained glass windows, a contribution from a parishioner-photographer. In short, the book is a collective memoir, a product of Ascensionites young and old, living and deceased.

Institutional memory is a notoriously fragile entity. It is easily lost or reshaped. By pulling together the many strands of the church's history, *Remembering Ascension* promises to stabilize the past and provide a foundation for the stories yet to come. "As it attempts to tell us who we were, perhaps it will even help us to know who we are and where we should go from here," state Skelton and Dobie.

*Remembering Ascension* is available for purchase for \$20 at the church office, Alexander's Books, and on Champagne Market's book rack in Lafayette. Copies are also available by contacting the authors at [annbdobie@gmail.com](mailto:annbdobie@gmail.com). All proceeds will go to support Ascension's efforts to aid the pygmies of Uganda.



## Summer Camps keep ESA campuses buzzing with activities

This summer, both ESA campuses were buzzing with activity as children of all ages attended the variety of camps offered each week.

*ESA Summer Adventure* was the theme for the six weeks of camps and they ranged from Cajun Music and Soccer, Underwater Robotics and Mathematics and everything in between.



ESA Middle School English teacher, Reese Fuller, shown here with a student during his *Rockin' Writers* camp, also offered *Fort Cade*, an outdoor fort-building camp in the wooded acres of ESA.



## Redeemer, Ruston honors their vets

At Redeemer, Ruston's 4th of July picnic, veterans in the congregation were honored for their service to our country.

Veterans attending were: Donnie Welch, Navy; Ed Collins, Air Force; Father Bill Easterling, Navy; Kenny Pepper, Marines; Rene Coleman, Air Force; Gene Thornton, Navy; and Paul Bissell, Air Force.



## Hardtner Happenings



### Loaded with blessings! by Tom Welch, Director

My first summer at Hardtner has been loaded with blessings. We had a staff that has to be among the finest group of college students with whom I've ever been associated. Join me in prayers of thanksgiving for their ministry: Head Counselor Molly Guidroz, Ben Whitley, Spencer Wyld, Jacob "Cushion-head"

Cutler, Jacob LeMeunier, Liam Norton, Collin Picard, Saxon Ball, Dan Mureray, Betsy Bradshaw, Katie Gallion, Alyssa Garner, Chloe Kingston, Madeline Reineke, Elana Flynn, Ivania Vallejo, Alex Angers, and Maddy Wilson. These young people have done a great good for Christ. As they leave their days here and move on in life, I'll be cheering them as they continue to "love and serve the Lord."

Efforts with the remodel of the Holy Day Inn continue. Individuals and parishes may "adopt a room" for \$4,000. Rooms are being completely redone,

painted, mattresses, furniture and bedding. We are half-way there! Please prayerfully consider donating to this cause. Rooms will be recognized with plaques recognizing the benefactor by name or anonymously.

The camp swimming pool went through a \$70,000 renovation; not budgeted, but provided through special efforts by our diocese. We welcome designated gifts there as well to help replace those monies within the Operating Budget of the Diocese.

Lastly, it is my personal goal to be in each parish by Memorial Day 2017. Please let me know when I may come be with your parish for a weekday, weeknight or Sunday morning. Better yet, come see us. There have been only a fraction of parishes within the Diocese to hold an overnight or even a day function here in the last two years. Frankly, we count on YOUR business to help keep things going!

# 75th Anniversary



## Sat. October 8th - 12-4 pm

Silent Auction - Raffle for Free Camps





PLEASE CUT OUT THIS FIRST PART OF THE NOMINATION FORM

Complete it along with the second part of the form found on page 10 of this issue of ALIVE! Both this page and the portion found on page 10, must be sent to the Nominating Committee along with a photo.

The Episcopal Diocese of Western Louisiana

37th Annual Diocesan Convention

Hosted by the Shreveport Convocation in Shreveport, Louisiana

Friday, November 4 and Saturday, November 5, 2016

Elections to be held at Convention - Nomination forms required

For General Convention 4 Clergy Deputies 4 Clergy Alternates 4 Lay Deputies and 4 Lay Alternates Nomination forms required

Disciplinary Board, See Canon 27 - Nominated at-large and elected by Convention

The terms of each position will vary according to the number of votes received at Convention. Among the clergy, the nominee receiving the most votes will serve three years and the runner-up will serve one year. Among the laity, the same principle applies resulting in one three-year term, one two-year term, and two one-year terms.

1 clergy person to be elected 1 lay person to be elected Nomination forms are required

Standing Committee (3-year term) See Canon 7 - (Nominated by Convocations and elected at Convention) More than one person from your convocation can be nominated for the Standing Committee.

Acadiana - a clergy person to replace Lou Davis Lake Charles - a lay person to replace The Rev. Mitzi George Submit a nomination form for each person nominated.

University of the South Elected by Convention for a three-year term 1 lay person to be elected to replace Andrea Marie Petrosch Nomination forms required

37th Annual Convention to be hosted by the Shreveport Convocation Picking up the pace of preparations for Diocesan Convention

Convocational Meetings in each of the Diocese's five convocations: We are now into the month of August and the pace of preparation is quickening for the November 4-5 Convention of the Diocese of Western Louisiana, to be hosted by the Shreveport Convocation.

Pre-Convention meetings will be held in each convocation Convocational deans have set a time and place for each of the meetings. With adequate notice given, every congregation

See Elections, page 10

NOMINATION FORM

TO BE ELECTED: [Circle Position]

2018 General Convention ..... 4 Clergy Deputies 4 Lay Deputies

Disciplinary Board ..... 1 Clergy 1 Laity

Standing Committee ..... Acadiana — 1 Clergy Lake Charles — 1 Laity

Trustee, University of the South ..... 1 Laity

Name.....

Address .....

Daytime Phone ..... How long have you been an Episcopalian? .....

Parish/Mission ..... Since.....

To be 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]

.....

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]

.....

Have you obtained from this person his/her willingness and availability to serve, if elected? Yes ..... No ..... The form must be as detailed as possible in order that the Nominating Committee may give your nominee proper consideration. A PHOTOGRAPH MUST BE ENCLOSED.

Signature of Nominator

Print name here

Please see page 10 for the second page of this nomination form.

## SECOND PAGE OF THE CANDIDATE NOMINATION FORM

This page, along with the portion found on page 9, constitutes the Nomination Form.

### To be completed by Nominee

1. History and present positions of Christian service through the Diocese of Western Louisiana. *[Give approximate dates]*

A. Parish/Mission

.....  
.....

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)

.....  
.....

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Nominee

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Nominee's Name

*Please indicate the address and phone number you would like to be published in the diocesan directory if elected.*

Address ..... City ..... State .....

Zip ..... Phone ..... E-mail .....

**Deadline for Consideration: September 1, 2016**

**Return to: The Nominating Committee  
P. O. Box 2031  
Alexandria, LA 71309-2031**

### Elections

*continued from page 9*

should be adequately represented. These gatherings are a wonderful forum for the dissemination of vital information. They also give interested persons the opportunity to participate in the selection of convocational representatives on the Diocesan Council and the nomination of individuals to be elected to diocesan offices at Convention.

#### The Meeting schedule is as follows:

August 10 – Alexandria Convocation, 10:00 a.m., St. James, Alexandria  
October 2 – Lake Charles Convocation, 1:00 p.m., Holy Trinity, Sulphur  
August 28 – Shreveport Convocation, 2:00 p.m., Garden Rm., St. Mark's Cathedral, Shreveport.

At press time, dates and times of meetings in the Acadiana and Monroe convocations had not been set.

Elections to Diocesan Council and nominations to diocesan offices from these convocational meetings should be forwarded to Diocesan House by September 1, 2016.

#### The following should be chosen at convocational meetings

*Acadiana* - a lay Clergy person to replace The Rev. John Bedingfield  
*Alexandria* - a woman to replace Melanie Torbett  
*Lake Charles* - a lay woman to replace Megan Rowzie  
*Monroe* - a lay woman to replace Renee Coleman  
*Shreveport* - a lay woman to replace Karen Nash

#### Resolutions to be included in the pre-convention mailing and packet

In order for resolutions to be included in the pre-convention mailing, the convention packet and the convention issue of *ALIVE!*, they must be submitted no later than September 1, 2016, and before this date if possible. Resolutions should be forwarded to: Resolutions Committee, P. O. Box 2031, Alexandria, LA 71309.

#### Other Resolutions of Substance (Courtesy Resolutions exempted)

Other resolutions of substance from the floor shall be submitted to the Secretary of Convention no later than 1:00 p.m. on the first regular business day of Convention. Such resolutions shall be submitted in writing with enough printed copies (300) for distribution to all voting delegates.





## Bishop Jake

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our looks.

And for many of us, that still doesn't quiet our fears.

Most of us have some story about ourselves or a hidden desire or a favorite fantasy that we keep caged in the darkest recesses of our hearts. It's our Beast.

We're sure that exposing the Beast would bring humiliation and rejection. And so we keep the Beast out of sight.



Frequently, we keep the Beast hidden from ourselves. And when we spot the beast in somebody else, we are quick to call for its annihilation or its expulsion or its immediate transformation.

Jesus has the uncanny, disconcerting ability to see through appearances. To see what we take to be our repulsive Beast.

When some people talk about the holiness of God, they say that sin is so repugnant to holiness that it cannot even approach the divine.

God would never tolerate a sinner's embrace, or kiss, or caress. In other words, most of us are out of luck if we're looking for intimacy with God in the lumpy stew that is our daily lives.

And yet, Luke tells us the story of Jesus and the sinful woman at the Pharisee's dinner party.

All the guests have reclined at the host's table. Don't think about your own dinner table. Diners back then lay on the floor with their heads propped on an elbow facing a low table. Their feet were stretched away from the table.

That's why the nameless sinful woman could kneel easily at Jesus' feet. She washed and caressed and kissed and anointed his feet and even dried them with her hair. Now, that seems more than a little intimate to me.

In disdain for Jesus and the woman, the Pharisee thought, "If he knew what a low life this woman was, Jesus wouldn't put up with this. Street walker! Some prophet!"

The irony is that Jesus reads people in a way that only God can.

We linger on appearances. Make assumptions about what we see on the surface. Draw conclusions from only brief observations.

Jesus sees the whole picture of our lives and the deepest chambers of our hearts. And he welcomes this sinful woman's embrace.

Jesus knows this woman better than she knows herself. And he knows the Pharisee.

He sees the contempt and the spiritual condescension and the political animosity. And yet he breaks bread with a man who despises him and dishonors him by withholding even the most basic gestures of hospitality.

The Pharisee thinks himself too morally

put together to suffer this woman's touch. Her very presence—to say nothing of her kiss and her caress—threatens to undo him. He withholds himself from her to prevent his own disintegration.

Paradoxically, by keeping this woman at a safe distance, the Pharisee erects a barrier between himself and the God who showed up at his very own dinner table.

The Pharisee lives under the delusion that his moral rectitude has made him presentable to God. His only challenge in this life is to retain the moral integrity he has already achieved and to point out to others how far short of the mark they still are.

The sinful woman has no such illusion. She realizes that we all fall. All of us. And we cannot rise on our own. Only God can bring us to our feet again. And in so doing, God makes us more than we were before we fell.

Jesus puts it like this. "Her sins, which were many, have been forgiven; hence she has shown great love."

She recognizes that she has fallen, that she will likely fall again, and that God is there to raise her up anew. She has compassion for everyone else who falls. She's been there.

She will not withhold her embrace from any of the fallen people she meets in the streets and the alleys and the bars and the dives of her life. For that is where she will embrace the living God.

God's love for her liberates her to love as best she can, even while she's still coming to terms with the beast that rattles around in her soul.

By contrast, the Pharisee's obsession with his own integrity incarcerates him in a loveless cell of self-righteous judgment.

Cheryl Strayed's advice to Beast with a Limp was simple and harrowing. The problem isn't that other people might not love you. Of course some people will reject you or be indifferent to you.

The problem is your fear of being hurt. Love means being vulnerable. And being vulnerable takes courage. Never give up on being loved.

And for those of us who have encountered Christ in some guise or other, we can say this. Never forget that you are loved. That is why you can love much.

*This article first appeared at Bishop Owensby's blog: [jakeowensby.com](http://jakeowensby.com). (The blog is called "Jake Owensby: Looking for God in Messy Places.") You can receive each new post by email by subscribing. Just use the address above to find his blog, press the subscribe button, and follow the simple instructions.*

## Summer Outreach

continued from page 1

chairperson, with Roxanne Myers leading the music (along with A.J. Gibson). Big contributors were the 18 helpers, aged 12-20. Jan Barber and Yvonne Leasure taught the little, little class, Nancy Hair and Debbie Waters did the craft projects, while Carolyn Owens blew the whistle and ran herd on the group. Priscilla Istre and Margaret Stevens did snacks, with Charlene

Grimmett responsible for registration and missions. Frances Wynn was the storyteller, and Pete Lund spent hours doing original art for the walls.

The Reverend Ally Perry led the games with the help of Alan Howell and Drew Rushing.

"The delight shown by the children who attended was a testament to the hard work and loving care put forward by our VBS team," said Mother Perry.

## 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](mailto: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](mailto:jowensby@diocesewla.org)

### August 2016

- 7 — Bishop's Visitation, *Christ Church, St. Joseph*
- 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, Winnsboro; St. David's, Rayville*
- 28 — Shreveport Convocation Pre-Convention Meeting, *Garden Room, St. Mark's Cathedral, Shreveport, starts at 2:00 p.m.*

### September 2016

- 4 — Bishop's Visitation, *Polk Memorial, Leesville*
- 10 — Diocesan Ultreya, *Camp Hardtner Cancelled*
- 10 — Alexandria Convocation Pre-Convention Meeting, *St. James, Alexandria, starts at 10:00 a.m.*
- 11 — Bishop's Visitation, *Holy Cross, Shreveport*
- 13 — Meeting of the Diocesan Council, *St. James, Alexandria, starts at 10:00 a.m.*
- 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.*
- 30-Oct 2 — Joy in the Journey Retreat Weekend, *Camp Hardtner*

### October 2016

- 2 — Bishop's Visitation, *St. Michael & All Angels, Lake Charles*
- 2 — Lake Charles Convocation Pre-Convention Meeting, *Holy Trinity, Sulphur, starts at 1:00 p.m.*
- 8 — Camp Hardtner 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration, *Camp Hardtner, 12 noon-4:00 p.m.*
- 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, starts at 10:00 a.m.*
- 13 — Bishop's Visitation, *Epiphany, Opelousas*
- 18-20 — JEYL Youth Retreat Weekend, *Camp Hardtner*
- 20 — Bishop's Visitation, *Holy Trinity, Sulphur*

## Last look

### Western Louisiana students will receive a warm welcome at St. Alban's Chapel at LSU-Baton Rouge

by the Rev. Andrew S. Rollins

As the first Episcopal chapel located on the campus of a state university, St. Alban's Chapel is ideally situated to proclaim the Good News to the staff, faculty, students, and tailgaters of Louisiana State University. Our purpose is to present the Good News of the Gospel of Jesus Christ through reverent and beautiful worship, open inquiry, intellectual challenge, and spiritual honesty.

Our liturgy and worship are designed especially to attract the students,



faculty, staff, and community of LSU. At St.

Alban's Chapel, we believe that Gospel speaks to all of us in our places of deepest suffering, need, confusion, failure, and doubt. Personally speaking, that message, and the community that naturally rises from it, has changed my life forever.

The students of LSU have always been the focus of our mission. Each Sunday evening, we provide a home-cooked meal for students following the 6:00 service. Our Sunday morning choir is made up of paid student singers from the LSU School of Music. The sanctuary is open 24/7 for students to stop to pray, reflect, play the piano, or to just carve out a quiet moment. We also have three active Twelve Step groups that meet here. We offer a Campus Ministry Intern Program that identifies and supports students with an interest in ministry, lay and ordained. Students from the Diocese of



St. Alban's popular Wednesday "Lunch with C. S. Lewis," draws as many as two-hundred from all over the campus.

Western Louisiana have served as our most dedicated student interns and leaders for which we are grateful. As chaplain, I make availability to students my priority. Many of them make our student center a regular stop in their daily routine.

Our primary outreach to students is our weekly "Lunch with C. S. Lewis" gathering that draws as many as two hundred undergraduate and graduate, international and Louisiana-reared, black and white, Chris-

tian and non-Christian students from all over campus. For the past ten years, a dedicated team of hosts from this congregation has worked to earn the reputation of the providing the best free lunch a student can find on this campus.

We look forward to receiving more students from the Diocese of Western Louisiana. If I can answer any questions for you, please call me on my cell phone (225/933-0241) or you can send me an email

([lsuchaplain@stalban.org](mailto:lsuchaplain@stalban.org)). And if you know of any students who would appreciate a "Welcome to LSU!" call, please let me know!

— The Rev. Andrew S. Rollins is chaplain at the St. Alban's Chapel at LSU Baton Rouge

### The Good News of Jesus Christ reaches as far as Tensas Parish



by Sam Corson, the designated "Good News Guy"

For the last two years, Christ Episcopal Church in St. Joseph has offered free tutoring to K thru 12 students in our Parish Hall. With the support of the diocesan former Servant Leadership Corps, the program consists of individual instruction, certified teachers and dedicated volunteers.

During the past year, ten students were helped three days a week with homework and testing skills. The program continued this summer offering one-on-one instruction and dyslexia therapy.

These missional efforts could not have begun without diocesan support through the Servant Leadership Corp, which has been phased out, and through MAP grants that improved our facilities. Our program continues, supported by Christ Episcopal Church and the volunteers who are teaching the children.

Diocesan support is critical to small, rural congregations and communities—and very much appreciated.

—Sam Corson, the "Good News Guy," is Junior Warden of Christ Episcopal Church, St. Joseph