

MAP grant helps bring roof, lost in 2010 earthquake, to Haitian church



Roofless in Cherident

St. Matthias in Cherident, Haiti has stood roofless and useless since the hurricane of 2010. That all changed Sunday, February 28, 2017. *SEE THE STORY ON PAGE 9.*

You. Me. God. Love Means No More Hiding

We all hide. To one degree or another, we conceal things about ourselves from other people and obscure things about

ourselves that we cannot bear to face. One of the peculiar things about humans is that we frequently wear masks.

We can pretend to be someone or something that we're not.

With a parakeet, an alligator, or a warthog, what you see is what you get.

My dog Gracie wears her tireless enthusiasm for life on her shiny black coat. She will never be too cool to fetch a tennis ball or to snuggle with me on the bed while we watch Animal Planet.

People, by contrast, hide behind masks for all sorts of reasons.

We cover our fear of being hurt with a mask of anger. Aloofness conceals our fear of rejection. Arrogance disguises self-doubt. Self-loathing masquerades as irritability. Crushing guilt poses as moral indifference. Despair disguises itself as cynical sophistication.

Jesus gets this. Using masks to hide from each other—and to hide ourselves from ourselves—is all too human. We create a gulf between us and our neighbor, and we open up fissures within our own soul.

In Jesus, God makes us one—and makes us whole—by entering into intimate union with us. Just as we really are. Underneath our masks.

God initiates this breathless union with us while we're still a mess. We don't coax God out of a distant heaven with our church-going and tithing and clean living. Neither is God waiting around until we die to pass judgment on the quality of our religious life.



Bishop Jake

Reaching out in friendship, God dwells right here in our midst. We open ourselves to friendship with our Maker by letting go of the masks that hide us. And the first masks to go are those that hide us from ourselves.

To give ourselves to God as we truly are, we have to admit who we truly are. We have to face ourselves. And we have to take the risk that God will really embrace the hot mess lurking behind our masks.

We don't have to make ourselves presentable or acceptable to God. The crucial spiritual work for us is to make ourselves utterly vulnerable to the love that will transform us.



News of Summer Camp

Susan Hackett Walpole to serve as Summer Camp Director

By The Rev. Canon Richard Norman

Change and transition are natural aspects of our shared life and ministry. On February 14, 2017, Tom Welch resigned as Director of Camp Hardtner for family reasons. Those who got to know Tom readily recognized that he brought a great excitement for the Gospel and a deep love of the Lord to Camp Hardtner.

On behalf of the Board of the Trustees I would like to thank Tom for his devoted and passionate service to Camp Hardtner. Our prayers and best wishes are with Tom as he moves through this transition in his life.

I am happy to announce that Susan Hackett Walpole has agreed to serve as our Summer Director—Susan lives in the Diocese of Louisiana and has a lifelong history with Camp Hardtner, having been a camper and on staff. (As a matter of fact, she was a camper in 1989 when I was a counselor.)

Last summer Susan served as our Assistant Director for the summer. Susan will begin her ministry on May 12 and her final day will be August 12. Susan brings years of Hardtner experience and a deep knowledge of Camp Hardtner and a desire to be a part of the missional church—we are blessed to have her on board for what promises to be a wonderful summer.



Names of potential candidates (and résumés) are being received by Dean Ron Clingenpeel at this time for the permanent position of Director of Camp Hardtner.

time for the permanent position of Director of Camp Hardtner.

—The Rev. Canon Richard Norman is Chair of the Camp Hardtner Board of Trustees.



The season of Lent

Epiphany is followed by Lent, the season of the church that runs for forty weekdays and six Sundays between Ash Wednesday and Easter. The penitential tone of the season is reflected in part by more subdued worship. The purpose of Lent is the preparation of our hearts and minds for Easter through concentration on fundamental values and priorities.



March 2017, Volume XXXIX, Number 3

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

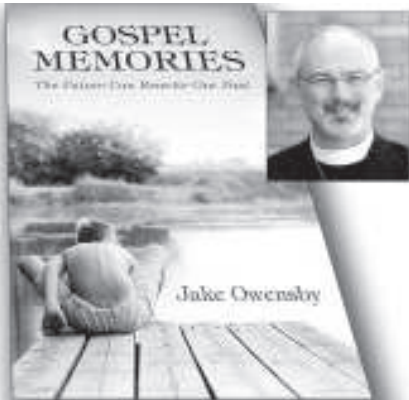
ALIVE! (USPS 564-030)(ISSN 0273771X) is published monthly (except for July) by the Episcopal Diocese of Western Louisiana, 335 Main Street, Pineville, LA 71360. Periodical postage paid at Dallas, Texas, and additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: send address changes to "ALIVE!," 4321 Youree Drive, Suite 400, Shreveport, LA 71105

Copy deadline, next issue:
March 17, 2017

Give a gift of Summer Camp at Hardtner

Contribute to the Joe Bordelon Scholarship Fund



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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THE WORKSHOP ON YOUTH MINISTRY!

**Saturday, March 18 – 10:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Camp Hardtner**

Where are all the Youth?

The Diocesan Youth Commission (DYC), in partnership with the Congregational Vitality Institute (CVI), is presenting a day-long workshop to help congregations develop and sustain youth ministry. Because nurturing adolescent faith formation is the work of the Church as a whole—not just youth ministers—all clergy and laity are encouraged to attend.

The featured speaker and facilitator will be Ms. Jamie Martin Currie, Missioner for Christian Formation for the Diocese of Texas. In this role, she oversees the diocesan youth ministries, assesses children's ministries, and develops new children, youth, and family ministers. She also serves as a curricula consultant and presents workshops at parishes throughout the Diocese. In addition, she assists the Episcopal Church at the provincial and national levels and is currently president of Forma (the national network of Christian Formation leaders in the Episcopal Church and other denominations).

Please note: Beginning in 2017, CVI programs will be on a "pay as you go" basis. Each event will cost \$15 payable in advance (check or credit card) or at the door (credit card, check, or cash). If you have questions about this event, please contact Joy Owensby (jowensby@diocesewla.org) or Canon Bill Bryant (rectory@shreve.net).



Jamie Martin Currie

Sprinting to the head of the line?

You have every intention of registering for Hardtner summer camp, but there's still plenty of time, Right? **WRONG!** Don't delay that registration. Summer Camping Program Registration is now underway.

See the camping schedule and information on this page, then go online to: www.camphardtner.org, and encourage others who are considering our program to follow your lead and register. For those who need financial assistance, we do have funds, which will be distributed by need.

If you have questions, or comments, or would like to support our summer camps financially, contact office@camphardtner.org.

2017 Summer Camp Dates

First Camp, Grades 2 & 3, with parent* \$200 each	June 2-4
Primary, Grades 4 & 5* \$460	June 8-13
Senior High, Grades 11, 12, & recent grads* \$690	June 17-24
Junior High 1, Grades 6 & 7* \$575	June 28-July 4
Junior High 2, Grades 7 & 8* \$575	July 11-17
Middle High, Grades 9 & 10* \$575	July 21-27
Camp Able, Age 9 & up with special needs \$400	August 2-6

*Grade based on 2017/18 school year.

Upcoming in the Diocese

A WEEKEND RETREAT DESIGNED TO GIVE WOMEN TIME AWAY FROM THE PRESSURES OF THEIR BUSY LIVES



TIME FOR JOY: Giving women time for themselves

APRIL 21-23 at CAMP HARDTNER

Time for Joy is a weekend retreat designed to give women a time to get away from the pressures of their busy lives. It was originally the idea of Bishop Robert Hargrove, who wanted to give women a chance to use time away from the demands of work and family to revive their relationship with Christ. The message, given through a joyful and carefree weekend, is that life is a gift from God, a gift he meant for us to enjoy. Not only do we want to give women a joyful time, free of responsibilities, but the *JOY is also an acronym: Jesus, Others, Yourself.* We daily devote ourselves to caring for our families and our churches, but we often neglect ourselves. Unless we are able to relax and be refreshed, we will not be able to meet our other responsibilities or develop our relationship with God.



Time For Joy at Camp Hardtner
 Please fill out this registration blank completely.
 Name _____
 Address _____ City _____ Zip _____
 Home Church _____
 Contact number(s) _____
 Any special needs for the weekend _____
 The cost of the weekend depends on the days you will attend (please circle):
 Friday night thru Sunday (lodging, meals & activities).....\$125.00
 Saturday only (meals, snacks & activities).....\$35.00
 Total amount enclosed \$ _____

Please make checks payable to *Diocesan ECW* & mail to: Shetwan Roberison
 1217 Winfield Road, Princeton, LA 71067
 For more information, please contact Shetwan Roberison, 318-707-2570,
 womenscw1n@gmail.com or Megan Rowzie, 337-570-9220,
 pianagr18@aol.com.





CLEY is a fun-filled spiritual retreat at Camp Hardtner for youth in grades 9-12. Led by Brandi Doucet, Lisa Hightower, and Fr. Brandt Montgomery along with a staff of college-aged adults, this year's theme is "The Gospel According to the Simpsons." Cost to participate is \$95.

Register by March 12 on the Diocesan Website (www.diocesewla.org) to order a T-shirt. Registration closes March 19.

Around the Diocese

Choose from thousands upon thousands of books of all types, sizes and classifications. Treasures for a fraction of the cost of new books, for children and adults. Fiction, non-fiction, every topic, and subject. Proceeds from the Good Shepherd Book Sales benefit Lake Charles area helping organizations. The sale is held in the Good Shepherd gym at 715 Kirkman Street.



Good Shepherd, Lake Charles Book Sale, March 24, 25, & 26

Jane Elisabeth Fuller

October 09, 1947 - March 02, 2017

Jane Elisabeth Newcomer Fuller, the wife of the Rev. Frank Fuller, died suddenly at her home Thursday, March 2.



Jane was born in Dallas, Texas, on October 9, 1947, to James and Ruth Newcomer. She was a graduate of Texas Christian University and received a Ph.D. from the University of North Texas. She also studied at the University of St Andrews, Scotland; The Episcopal Seminary of the Southwest, Austin; and the Diocesan School for Ministry, where she completed the diploma program in 2007.

Before retiring, she taught in the graduate program in Adult Education at Northwestern State University. She was an adult literacy educator and active in many civic, music, and church programs.

Jane spent several years working in Austin, TX, where she was a director of senior centers for the Austin Parks and Recreation Department. She enjoyed working with the elderly and created many activities to enrich their lives at the centers. She was an accomplished pianist and was especially fond of church music. She played the piano for several church youth programs and taught song leading in the Longhorn Recreation Laboratory.

Jane is survived by her husband Frank, her brother Rob and his wife Linda, her sister Mary McKinney and her husband Paul, nieces and nephews Charles, Molly, Harriet, Daniel and Philip, and many friends.

Funeral services were held at Trinity Episcopal Church, Natchitoches, Saturday, March 11.

Life is messy. And you'll find God right in the middle of it. That's the Jesus message. I write this blog to help you see how Jesus brings healing and recovery and peace. Reconciliation and forgiveness and justice.

LOOKING FOR GOD IN MESSY PLACES

Bishop Jake's New Blog

St. Mark's Cathedral, Shreveport to present Organist Thomas Trotter in concert March 28, at 7:00 p.m.

Acclaimed organist Thomas Trotter will present a recital on St. Mark's magnificent Aeolian-Skinner organ on Tuesday, March 28, at 7:00 p.m.

British virtuoso Thomas Trotter is the Birmingham City Organist, as well as organist at St. Margaret's Church, Westminster Abbey, and visiting Fellow in Organ Studies at the Royal Northern College of Music, Manchester.

The concert will feature works of Bach, Mendelssohn, Widor, Best and will include Max Reger's thrilling Fantasia on the chorale "Wachet auf! Ruft und die Stimmeln" ("Sleepers wake! A voice is calling!")

The concert will be presented as part of St. Mark's Great Masterpiece Series and is free and open to the public.



Around the Diocese



Dr. Andrew Armond is installed as Lay Chaplain for ESA

Bishop Jake Owensby officiated at the Service of Installation, Wednesday, February 22 in Henton Chapel at which Dr. Andrew Armond was installed as the Lay Chaplain for The Episcopal School of Acadiana.

Clergy in attendance included the Very Rev. Matthew Woollett, the Rev. John Bedingfield, and the Rev. Joseph Daly. A reception honoring Dr. Armond and his guests was held under the oaks following the service.



Monroe Convocation of Episcopal Church Women gathers for Mardi Gras

The ECW of the Monroe Convocation came together January 28 for a Mardi Gras party. It was a great success. Between 40 and 50 women from Grace, La Iglesia del La Esperanza de Las Familias Unidas, St. Alban's, St. Patrick's and St. Thomas' attended, shared food and ministries, and made plans to meet once per quarter going forward. *Photos by Hope Young*



Epiphany, New Iberia welcomes Bishop Jake

Epiphany rector, the Very Rev. Matthew Wollett, and the congregation welcomed Bishop Jake when he visited on Sunday, February 19. Three were confirmed including minors Ryan C. Boudreaux and Peyton Reed and Roderick C. Rigby, a member of St. Paul's, Abbeville. An added delight was the baptism of Bret Martin Pellerin.



ST. PAUL'S IN ABBEVILLE



Reaching Out by Cooking for Others

Diocesan MAP grants assisted the cooks at St. Paul's, Abbeville in starting a ministry that aids their congregation and community

To begin: St. Paul's is a small church in "beautiful, downtown Abbeville." We, the ladies of the church, have felt ourselves challenged to bring the mission of Christian Outreach as a group into the community in which we live. Our discussions led to a firm proposal, to start a cooking/visiting ministry focused on our church and community.

Once our idea for ministry had taken shape, we begin to look for ways to bring our ideas into reality. Diocesan MAP grant funding seemed a logical and attractive way to make our proposal a reality.

Diocesan MAP grants were offered in two categories: New Missional Initiatives and Capital Improvements. We made applications for grants in both categories and were delighted when our proposals were funded.

A Missional Initiative MAP grant of \$1,117.50 provided funds for food and all the inci-

dentials needed for our cooking/visiting ministry.

A Capital Improvement MAP grant of \$600 purchased the cooking utensils, pots and a storage freezer essential to such an undertaking.

We do our cooking at the church community center in pots we purchased through a grant and then our meals are frozen in the freezer grant money also provided.

We also hoped that these cooking gatherings would be occasions of fellowship for those participating. Our idea was to have two lady teams who would visit targeted church and community members to bring them a cooked meal and to visit briefly with them. This would include shut-ins, family deaths, health related situations, natural disaster, school family crises, house burnings, etc. Thus far we have had twelve (12) volunteers who have enthusiastically committed to this ministry.

In addition to the grant money provided by the Diocese, we were blessed with in-kind donations of storage containers, food ingredients, additional cooking utensils, another freezer, etc.

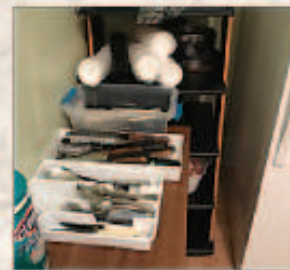
Thus far, on fifteen occasions, we have delivered meals to people in needy situations we identified while planning our efforts.

An added bonus is that we were contacted by Abbeville's Christian Service Center, which prepares meals for about 75 people, five days a week. We have been asked to provide them help with cooking to provide

some relief for the small staff of volunteers that have been doing this ministry for some time. So, we get to meet a lot of people in

our community who come to the Center for their daily meals.

MAP grants provided the tools for a growing new ministry



Around the Diocese



Trinity, Cheneyville honors area First Responders

In February, Trinity Episcopal Church, the mission church in Cheneyville, honored the members of Cheneyville's Volunteer Fire Department, and the Police Department of Cheneyville. Also honored were the Bunkie Fire and Rescue Department for their service to the community.

All members attended the service and a plaque with the names of each of the members inscribed was presented to each department.

The Rev. Pete Smith gave each member, and their wives who were present, an individual blessing. It was the first time any local church had so recognized these men. It goes without saying that a very great and lasting impression was made on each.

A reception was held following the service to further honor the individuals for their efforts on behalf of the citizens of the Cheneyville community.

Cursillo is an encounter with Jesus Christ

Cursillo is an encounter with Jesus Christ. It is an apostolic movement of Christians who view as their primary vocation in life the leavening of their environments.

The Cursillo Movement seeks to do this by selecting men and women who are natural leaders in their communities and spiritually developing and sustaining them in the work of Christian evangelization.

The Cursillo weekend is not a retreat, but an opportunity to meet clergy and laity seeking to strengthen our faith. It provides an environment to experience the reality of the gift of God's love through shared prayer, individual meditation, worship, study, fellowship, laughter, tears, and unconditional love.



*Cursillo will take place at Camp Hardtner, March 30 – April 2
Contact your rector or priest-in-charge for information on attending Cursillo*

Save the date, June 10, 2017

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MAP grant helps bring roof, lost in 2010 earthquake, to Haitian church

St. Paul's, Shreveport, in partnership with the First Presbyterian Church of Shreveport has a companion parish relationship with St. Matthias, Cherident, in the Diocese of Haiti.

The St. Paul's First Presbyterian partnership is heavily involved in support of the Haitian Church's Episcopal School. That support takes the form of supporting the salaries of teachers in both the pre-school and elementary school.

A feeding program that ensures that all pre-school and elementary students are fed at least one good meal a day is also an on-

structure, rightly seeing a restored church as a key to forward movement for Cherident.

A roofing fund was started, growing slowly since those supporting Haitian mission work were rightly concerned primarily with maintaining teacher support and the feeding program, both of which requiring a significant commitment.

In 2015 St. Paul's applied to the Diocese for MAP grants with Haitian mission work as the focus. St. Paul's received a MAP grant for \$7,500 Missional Initiative for the School Feeding Program, ensuring that it

Father Martin describes the Sunday Service: "With the Rt. Rev. Oge' Beauvoir, Bishop Suffragan of Haiti, presiding, seventeen priests coming from around the country, and over 600 people from the sur-

true offering procession in which more than twenty people processed down the aisle carrying vegetables, fruits, bags of rice and two roosters as offerings to the Lord."



Leading the celebration

The Rt. Rev. Oge' Beauvoir, Bishop Suffragan of the Episcopal Diocese of Haiti, celebrated at the 3-1/2 hour service.



Father Paul Martin and Mickey Quinlan look out over the village from an upper level of the newly roofed church.



Learning is difficult on an empty stomach.

A \$7500 diocesan MAP Grant received by St. Paul's, Shreveport helped fund the feeding program for the pre-school and elementary school's students for an additional year. Many of these children had nothing to eat before they began their two-hour walk to the school each morning.



going effort of the two Shreveport congregations.

A mission team from St. Paul's made a first visit to Cherident, high in the hills outside the Haitian capital of Port Au Prince several years ago and returned with verbal accounts and photos that beautifully captured the charm and great spirit of St. Matthias' people. Their photos also were visible proof of the significant damage still apparent from the catastrophic earthquake that struck Haiti in 2010.

One such photo (reproduced on page one of this issue of *ALIVE!*) showed their church standing without a roof. That church had been the center of the village's community life, and now it stood useless, a symbol of the continuing damage visited upon Haiti by the earthquake.

Father Paul Martin, St. Paul's rector, had been a member of that first visiting group. He was struck with the need to reroof that

would be on a firm foundation. A Capital Improvement MAP grant for \$5,000 was awarded for rebuilding the church roof in Cherident. That grant gave new life to the roofing fund, which finally received enough donations to fund the project.

Father Martin and parishioner Mickey Quinlan, who is heavily involved in all aspects of the Haitian ministry effort, recently visited Cherident. The occasion was the Feast of St. Matthias. Arriving Friday afternoon, the St. Paul's visitors could not help but see that the roof was not finished. With combined, renewed effort the workman did finish their work Saturday afternoon.

The church was then transformed overnight as Martin and Quinlan joined the people of the village to take down the scaffolding and prepare for Sunday's patron saint's feast day.



Image of the roofless Haitian church, once the community hub for service and refuge before the 2010 earthquake.

rounding hills in attendance, the glorious service lasted about three and one-half hours. Four choirs sang, the praise band and brass choir played. There was a twenty-minute Passing of the Peace, followed by a

Father Martin continued: "Prior to the final hymn and blessing, Father Fred Menales made the announcements, thanking various people for being there and for those who helped out. While it had not rained for some time, as Father Fred told of the companion relationship between St. Paul's and St. Matthias, and that St. Paul's had been responsible for the new roof, the heavens opened up with some much-needed rain."

Father Martin is convinced that the rain was intended to show off the new roof, for not so much as a single drop of rain fell on members of the congregation whose eyes were trained upward during the storm.

The relationship between St. Paul's and the St. Matthias Church and School continues with a return medical mission team from St. Paul's slated to visit Cherident at the end of March.

Tiny house 'village' for homeless developing with help of Montana church

by David Paulsen

[Episcopal News Service] A coalition of Episcopalians, architecture students and social service providers in Bozeman, Montana, are in the middle of an innovative project that aims to address homelessness in the city – 155 square feet at a time.

The concept is a village of tiny houses for the chronically homeless centered around a community resource center, where residents could receive counseling, medical assistance and employment help until they are able to move into permanent homes. Organizers still are looking for an appropriate site, but most of the other pieces of the project are falling into place as other groups and individuals in the community rally behind the idea.

"Suddenly, this coalition has risen up that is excited about what we wanted to do," said the Rev. Connie Pearson-Campbell, a deacon at St. James Episcopal Church in Bozeman who is one of the driving forces behind the planned Housing First Village.

Sara Savage, housing director at Human Resource Development Council, or HRDC, called Pearson-Campbell a "PR hurricane" in drumming up support for the project. HRDC, a nonprofit community action agency, brings to the table years of experience providing shelter and services to the local homeless population.

Montana State University is the third key player in the coalition. The School of Architecture created a course last fall in which students designed the tiny houses, and subsequent courses this year will help move the project through the regulatory and construction phases.

"We realize it's probably a couple of years, or at least a year, before we'd be able to move the first units onto a site," architecture professor Ralph Johnson said. "These things don't happen overnight. But we're moving faster than most of the communities" that have attempted similar projects.

Tiny houses are a big trend in the home-



Residents could receive counseling, medical assistance and employment help until they are able to move into permanent homes. Photo: Montana State University School of Architecture

building world and in popular culture. Multiple reality TV shows have popped up to feature these small living spaces, even prompting some in the tiny house industry to debate whether such shows are good or bad for the "movement." In that context, tiny houses are seen as a hip way to downsize your living space, but some communities, such as St. George, Utah, and Seattle, have shown that tiny houses can be tools for outreach to homeless or low-income populations.

The Episcopal Church has its own share of examples. St. James Episcopal Church on the Standing Rock Reservation in North Dakota used a United Tank Offering grant to build tiny houses for students. And St. John's Episcopal Church in St. Cloud, Minnesota, built a single tiny house to accommodate one homeless person on its property.

What makes Pearson-Campbell and St. James Episcopal Church unique is they represent one leg of a three-legged stool supporting a mission that came together almost by accident.

About 150 people are estimated to be homeless on any given night in Bozeman, and 30 percent are considered chronically homeless, a condition often tied to mental illness, substance abuse or other personal challenges, Savage said. Survival on the streets can be precarious, especially in Montana's harsh winter months.

"I have to say, having one of our local faith-based partners look within their own resources ... was so powerful and really made a direct impact on homeless women within a month," Savage said.

Separately, Pearson-Campbell said, she heard last summer from a friend about a tiny houses project in Detroit, and it got her thinking about trying something similar to address Bozeman's homelessness problem.

"I took one look at that and thought, oh my gosh, I think we can do this in Bozeman," she said.

She brought the idea up in a meeting with the city planning director in August. On her way out, she just happened to pass Johnson, the Montana State professor, who was on his way in to talk to the planning director on an unrelated matter. After introductions, a tiny house partnership quickly was formed.

Johnson took the idea back to the university and, with two other professors, created the course that fall in which 12 students took on the task of designing the tiny houses.

"I knew that within the School of Architecture there's a strong moral ethic among students," he said. "And so based upon Connie's personality and her aspirations, I offered a class in small shelters for the city of Bozeman."

The result was two models, each just 155 square feet or a bit larger. One was designed to be accessible to people with dis-

abilities. Each model featured a single bed, storage area, a shower and toilet, a compact refrigerator, a microwave, a sink and space for a chair.

Residents could receive counseling, medical assistance and employment help until they are able to move into permanent homes.

The students then created full-scale mockups from cardboard and tested them, including by inviting members of the homeless community inside. The semester concluded with an open house in December. More than 100 people came to see the models and learn about the project, Johnson said.

Six students will build the first of the tiny houses in a new course this semester that also will address some of the regulatory hurdles. Bozeman's building code, like building codes in many cities across the country, includes restrictions on lot usage, dwelling size and home layout that don't easily accommodate tiny houses, Johnson said. His students will research options that can be presented to city officials.

And then there is the challenge of finding an appropriate site for what eventually could be dozens of tiny houses and the community resource center. Savage doesn't have any definite timeline for securing a site. Factors include cost, zoning and proximity to other residences.

"Should the right parcel become available, we'd be able to move rather quickly," Savage said. "But it will require some alignment of the stars, as it does with any major project like this."

As for construction cost, the materials needed to build each tiny house are estimated at \$10,000 – or less, if any materials are donated.

St. James has committed enough money to build one of the houses, and one of Pearson-Campbell's tasks is to enlist more churches and community groups to give money or even assemble one of the houses themselves as a service project. Johnson's students eventually hope to develop assembly instructions that will make it easy for those groups to build the houses themselves, similar to an IKEA furniture kit, Johnson said.

The moral ethic Johnson sees in many of his students often materializes as a desire to build energy-efficient buildings, he said, but this project is built on a sense of social responsibility.

"If this can give those who are homeless an opportunity to resolve the issues that place them in a homeless circumstance, we owe it to them to give them that opportunity," he said.

—David Paulsen is an editor and reporter for the Episcopal News Service.

Life is messy. And you'll find God right in the middle of it. That's the Jesus message. I write this blog to help you see how Jesus brings healing and recovery and peace. Reconciliation and forgiveness and justice.

LOOKING FOR GOD IN MESSY PLACES

Bishop Jake's New Blog

<https://jakeowensby.com/>

Bishop Jake

continued from page 1

Understanding that our faith-work turns on vulnerability and surrender sheds light on Jesus' allergy to religious hypocrisy.

Jesus says, "Pray, give alms, and show contrition, but don't be a hypocrite about it!" He's not singling out hypocrites as the most egregious sinners. His warnings about hypocrisy clarify the meaning of our spiritual practices.

If we go to church and toss money in the plate and call ourselves a sinner to win points with God, we're missing the point.



And we can be pretty sure that we're on the wrong track when we catch ourselves looking down our noses at someone for being less holy or less moral than we are.

Jesus is not pointing a finger at the Ted Haggards and the Jim Bakkers and the abusive Roman Catholic priests caught in the glare of media scrutiny. These were people pretending to be something they were not. And they used their religious status to manipulate, use, and harm others. We don't really need a teaching about how toxic this is.

Instead, I suspect that Jesus is concerned about sincere but sometimes misguided people of faith. He has you and me in mind.

You see, the word "hypocrite" comes from a similar-sounding Greek word that means "actor." As you may know, ancient Greek actors wore large masks on stage. The word "hypocrite" soon evolved to point to people who hide their true selves under a figurative mask.

Let's fess up, we all hide. And so Jesus' words about hypocrisy are meant for us.

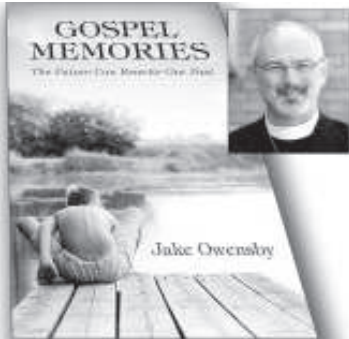
Jesus commends spiritual disciplines. And yet, he warns us that they bear a resemblance to medication. The most potent medicine is at once a means to health and a poison. Just ask anyone who has undergone chemotherapy.

Prayer and study, repentance and works of mercy can be a holy medicine. Through them, God can help us see ourselves and our neighbors as imperfect gifts received and loved by a gracious Redeemer. We can let go of our masks and discover ourselves as one in our weakness and need, one in God's love for us all.

Or, alternatively, spiritual disciplines can act like spiritual toxins. We can misconstrue prayer time and Bible study as exercises for making ourselves fit enough to be in the presence of God. This approach to the spiritual life is not about letting go of our masks. It's about making our masks appealing enough to be accepted by an exacting Judge. This way leads to condescension toward others and the creeping suspicion that we'll never measure up in the end.

As it turns out, Jesus spends much of his time and energy unmasking hypocrites. Hypocrites like you and me. His aim has nothing to do with pointing a finger of blame. He liberates us from our masks, so that we can see ourselves and each other as we truly are. As the beloved children of God.

Bishop Jake's new blog (*Looking for God in Messy Places*) is found at <https://jakeowensby.com>. It's easy to subscribe and get his weekly posts by email. Check it out!



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.

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

March 2017

- 18 — CVI/DYC Joint Conference on Youth Ministry, Camp Hardtner
- 19 — Bishop's Visitation, St. Paul's, Shreveport
- 24 — CLEY Retreat for High School Youth, Camp Hardtner, starts at 7:00 p.m.
- 30-April 2 — Cursillo #151, Camp Hardtner, starts at 5:00 p.m.

April 2017

- 2 — Bishop's Visitation, Trinity, Cheneyville; Holy Comforter, Lecompte
- 7 — Episcopal Camp and Conference Board Meeting, Camp Hardtner
- 9 — Bishop's Visitation, Palm Sunday, St. James, Alexandria
- 11 — Christ Mass and Renewal of Vows, St. James, Alexandria, starts at 10:00 a.m.
- 16 — Bishop's Visitation, Easter, St. Mark's Cathedral, Shreveport
- 18 — Meeting of the Diocese Council, St. James, Alexandria, starts at 10:00 a.m.
- 21-23 — Women's Time for Joy, Camp Hardtner, starts at 6:00 p.m.
- 29 — Cursillo Music Fest, Camp Hardtner, 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
- 30 — Bishop's Visitation, St. Patrick's, West Monroe
- 30 — Bishop's Visitation, St. Luke's, Grambling, starts at 2:00 p.m.

May 2017

- 7 — Bishop's Visitation, St. George's, Bossier City
- 9 — Spring Clergy Retreat, Camp Hardtner, starts at 2:00 p.m.
- 14 — Bishop's Visitation, St. James, Shreveport
- 21 — Bishop's Visitation, Good Shepherd, Lake Charles
- 23 — Commission on Ministry, Diocesan House, starts at 10:00 a.m.
- 28 — Bishop's Visitation, Ascension, Lafayette

June 2017

- 2-4 — First Camp, Camp Hardtner
- 4 — Bishop's Visitation, St. Barnabas, Lafayette
- 8-13 — Primary Camp, Camp Hardtner
- 11 — Bishop's Visitation, Trinity, Natchitoches
- 17-24 — Senior High Camp, Camp Hardtner
- 18 — Bishop's Visitation, St. Alban's, Monroe
- 25 — Bishop's Visitation, St. Paul's, Abbeville
- 28-July 4 — Junior High I Camp, Camp Hardtner

July 2017

- 11-17 — Junior High II Camp, Camp Hardtner
- 21-27 — Middle High Camp, Camp Hardtner

August 2017

- 2-6 — Camp Able, Camp Hardtner
- 6 — Bishop's Visitation, Christ Church, St. Joseph
- 13 — Bishop's Visitation, St. Luke's, Jennings
- 20 — Bishop's Visitation, St. Andrew's, Mer Rouge
- 22 — Commission on Ministry, Diocesan House, starts at 10:00 a.m.
- 27 — Bishop's Visitation, St. Columba's, Winnsboro; St. David's, Rayville

September 2017

- 10 — Bishop's Visitation, Holy Cross, Shreveport

Tend My Lambs

“We are called to go to hard places”

Good Shepherd, Lake Charles annual fish fry helps support mission work in Haiti.



by Mary Richardson

“I think we are called to go to hard places,” says Susan Turberville, executive director of the Haiti Education Foundation (HEF). “God’s children are in a hard place in Haiti and they need us.”

Turberville was the guest speaker at the annual Fish Fry for Haiti held at Good Shepherd Episcopal Church, Lake Charles, on Friday, March 3.

The annual fish fry supports St. Mathieu École Épisiscopale, a school located in the mountains of Haiti in the tiny village of Bégin. It was built by Good Shepherd in 1992 and rebuilt after the 2010 earthquake. In the past 25 years, approximately 8,000 children have received an education there.

The St. Mathieu school is one of 35 schools that Turberville’s organization oversees. Twenty of the schools have church sponsors, and these schools are supported by many denominations – Episcopal, Catholic, Baptist, non-denominational and more. The remaining 15 schools are supported by funds raised directly by HEF.

“We work through HEF because we know that 100 percent of the money goes directly to our school,” says Glenda Williams, head of the Tend My Lambs committee at Good Shepherd, which oversees the mission to Haiti. HEF has only two paid em-



Far left, Add to the cross that will carry greetings to Haiti. Center, Making sure that all the details are right for the dinner. Right, Haiti Education Foundation Executive Director, Susan Turberville makes her presentation.

ployees and their salaries are paid by special grants. “We know our money gets to the St. Mathieu in a safe and secure manner.”

Turberville has just returned from a trip to Haiti to check on the schools after the devastation of Hurricane Matthew, which hit Haiti in early October causing catastrophic flooding and killing at least 1,300 people. More than 35,000 were left homeless.

“The people lost their crops, and they lost their animals,” Turberville said. “We were afraid of famine. But I found a resilient people. They were working together and trying to get back to normal.”

Turberville said that Haitians in the northern part of Haiti were not as badly affected by the storm and they sent money to their relatives in the south and in the mountains. Good Shepherd raised special funds to provide immediate food relief for the families of their school, and HEF provided funds which were distributed by the mission priest, Père Frédéric Ménélas, to help the entire community. HEF also sent extra, unexpected paychecks to every one of their teachers, sponsored or not.

Ancy Fils Aime, HEF’s liaison in Haiti, told Turberville that, “It was like our whole community received a big hug. We knew that somebody out there cared and was trying to help.”

Turberville said she also had a great experience visiting Good Shepherd’s school in Bégin.

“I was in Haiti on other business, and just on a whim decided to head up into the mountains and visit St. Mathieu École Épisiscopale,” she said. “They had no earthly idea we were coming.”

She found professionally dressed teachers, students who were totally engaged, and

immaculate grounds. “It was the most wonderful thing,” she said. “I love that school. And it is vital to the community of Bégin.”

Turberville says she often hears people despair that any amount of aid can help Haiti, and that money just seems to go into a black hole.

“I get frustrated too, and sometimes I wonder why we do what we do” she admitted. “But these are God’s children, and they deserve a chance. Nothing will get better if we don’t educate the children. It does take time, but, really, education is their

only hope.”

She says it just takes one visit to understand that the Haitian people are not feeling sorry for themselves.

“These are a vibrant, beautiful people,” she said, “who just happen to live very close to the provisions of God. Every time I visit I gain an appreciation for the lives they lead.”

—Mary Richardson is a member of the congregation of Church of the Good Shepherd, Lake Charles.

The Faces of “Tend My Lambs”

