

Life and Death and Life

Jesus did not merely come back from the dead to take up the kind of life he had previously inhabited. Jesus passed through death to a radically new kind of life.

Lazarus came back from the dead. Or rather, Jesus brought him back from the dead to pick up his life where he had left off.

God gave Jesus that new life. Jesus did not give it to himself. After all, he couldn't give himself anything. He was dead as a doornail. The dead don't pull themselves up by their own bootstraps.

You see, resurrection can happen only once there is no hope of reviving the old life that we had worked so hard to build and sustain. The path to Easter always passes through Good Friday.

Jesus is risen. And he is imparting his new life to us—to you and to me—as we stumble and scurry and skip and dance and scooch our way along our various paths. One day our lives will come to an end and we will fully inhabit the new life imparted by Christ.



Bishop Jake

For now, we are growing into eternal life gradually, one day—sometimes one moment—at a time. Growing into eternal life is not something we achieve. We can't speed it up by trying harder or getting the hang of it. Eternal life doesn't even come as a reward for good conduct, exemplary spiritual practices, or exceptional faith.

You just have to die. And then God gives you eternal life. As a gift. Those of us who choose to follow Jesus intentionally walk a path punctuated by dying and rising.

Before we draw our last breaths, we will from time to time meet death. Now it won't be our final death, but it will be real and unavoidable. The life that we have grown so accustomed to and worked with such love and sweat to nurture and tend grinds to a halt or shatters or evaporates or grows unbearably hollow.

We will certainly mourn that good life. For some time we'll struggle to admit that the life we knew is no more. We may resist the very idea that it's gone, trying again and again to revive it. All to no avail.

I experienced that sort of death as a child when my parents divorced.



The death of a loved one or the end of a relationship can shatter a life. Our bodies age us into new seasons of living. Good things like graduation from high school and college mark the end of a pattern of life.

We have to let go of the old life in order to take up and to grow accustomed to the new life we've been given. Sometimes we enter that new life

with such joy that we hardly notice the grief. But this is not always true. Sometimes, our sorrow is so deep that we can't imagine any new life at all.

That's how we find Mary Magdalene on the day of resurrection. Well, for her, it was the third day since her world had come to an end. Wracked with grief, she was going through the motions of an old life robbed forever of all its former light and laughter. Jesus had been at the center of her world. And without its center, that once glittering, orderly world had become a heap of dusty rubble.

Jesus chose to show himself first of all to Mary Magdalene. And he wasn't content just to show himself. He took pains to teach her what it means to give herself to the resurrection power of God's love.

"Don't cling to me," he said. In other words, don't cling to the me I used to be, to the life we used to have.

Mary imagined for just a moment that Jesus was back from the dead. They could pick up where they had left off. The life she feared she had lost was restored. At least, that's what she thought.

But Jesus was not back from the dead. He had passed through death to new life. Magdalene's old life—the life that she shared with Jesus and the other disciples—was over. He came to give her and them and the rest of us a new life.

Jesus was teaching Mary Magdalene to cling to the risen Christ.

And as difficult and painful as it would be, Mary had to let go of that old life to begin—step by step—to inhabit the new life that Jesus was bringing her.

Letting go of the old life can be very hard. And it is also true that we will spend some time feeling awkward and disoriented in the new life that Christ is giving us. Feeling at home in eternal life takes time, and no little amount of trial and error.



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.)

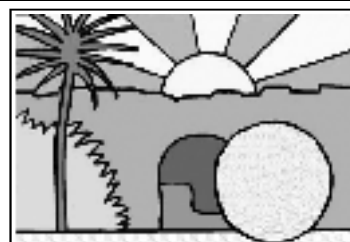
Last summer Susan served as our assistant director for the summer. Susan will begin her ministry on May 12 and her final day will be August 12. Susan brings years of Hardtner experience and a deep knowledge of Camp Hardtner and a desire to be a part of the missional church—we are blessed to have her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

The Season of Easter, the oldest and greatest feast in the church year, celebrates the feast of Christ's resurrection and is the central day in the liturgical year. Easter Day begins the Easter season, which lasts for fifty days, until the Feast of Pentecost. The readings for this season center on the events of the resurrection and the appearance of Jesus to his disciples.



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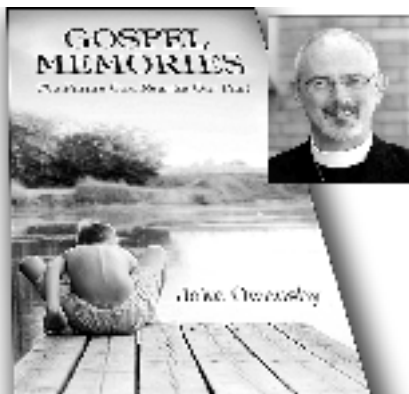
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Give a gift of Summer Camp at Hardtner

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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Around the Diocese

CVI/Youth Commission Conference explores "Where are all the Youth?"

by Joy Owensby

More than 40 people spent the day at Camp Hardtner on Saturday, March 18, to participate in a conference entitled "Where Are all the Youth?" Jointly sponsored by the Diocesan Youth Commission and the Congregational Vitality Institute, this event featured keynote speaker Jamie Martin-Currie, Missioner for Christian Formation in the Diocese of Texas and President of Forma, a national network of Christian Formation leaders from the Episcopal Church and other denominations.

Using research from the recently published book, *Growing Young: Six Essential Strategies to Help Young People Discover and Love Your Church*, Jamie's presentation focused on ways churches can be more effective with young people. Some of the topics she covered were mentoring, intergenerational faith formation, confirmation, and faith at home.

In addition, Jamie provided concrete resources that participants were able to review and come up with ways they might use them in their own congregations. She also challenged those present to examine



why their churches are resistant to change and to come up with ways to overcome these obstacles. Not only did conference attendees leave with helpful materials and fresh approaches to youth ministry, they also took with them renewed energy and a desire to put these strategies into practice.

Women's Time for Joy

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 Roberson
1217 Winfield Road, Princeton, LA 71067

For more information, please contact Shetwan Roberson, 318-707-2570,
womensecw1n@gmail.com or Megan Rowzie, 337-570-9220,
pianagrl8@aol.com.

Around the Diocese

JOY! was the word

It was a joyous day March 19 at St. Paul's, Shreveport when Bishop Jake made his annual visit. The Bishop, and those confirmed, reaffirmed and received were honored at a reception following the Eucharistic feast.

Confirmed: Dr. Julie Mook Broadwell, Laura Anne Deas Collette, Julian Chandlee Dahlman, Kenneth Michael Favrot, Jillian Scurlock Favrot, Bryce Christian Iadarola, Krista Justine Chapman Iadarola, Ethan Frederick Maynard, Meghan Nicole Penwell, Katherine Diane Phillips, Victoria Lauren Phillips, Alisha Emerich Roberts, Samuel James Vickers, Gavin Timothy Hill Woolley, Matthew Timothy Woolley

Reaffirmed: Harold Lee Byerly, Michael Paul Collette, Penny Lynn Gourley, Austin Hunter Griffin, Virginia Louise Conkling Jackson, Kelly Ann Jeanes, Janis Ann Kutschbach, Stephen Gregory Roberts, Jr., Rebecca Jane Beckham Seiden, Walter Charles Thompson



Received: David Charles Iadarola, Gregg Wayne McVay

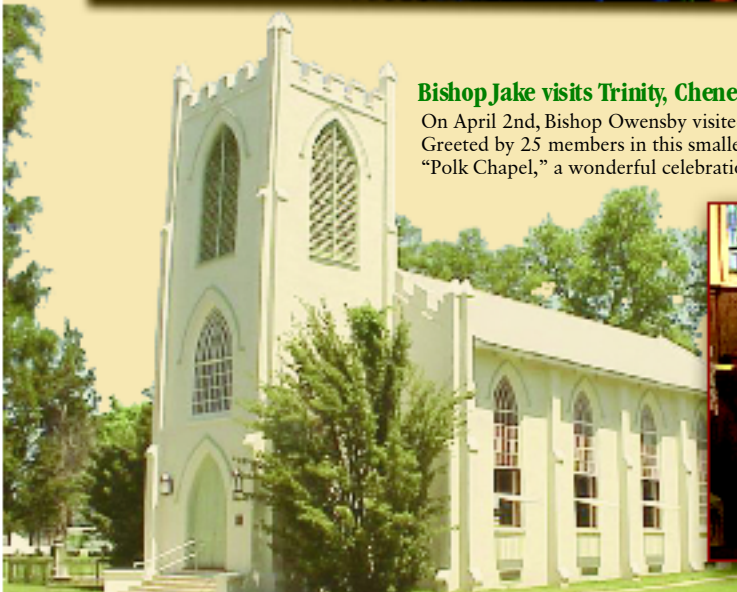


Clergy spouses, your assignment: Relax Renew Relate

Camp Hardtner was the scene, March 10-11 when clergy spouses were afforded a unique opportunity to Relax, Renew, and to Relate. Those present to take advantage of this opportunity were, front row left to right: Harriet Woollett, Adrienne McKee, Donnal Bedingfield, Cindy Heying, Erinah Nsubuga, Amy Donald, Linda Echols, Joy Owensby. Back row left to right: Bill Wolfenbarger, Liza Johnson.

Bishop Jake visits Trinity, Cheneyville

On April 2nd, Bishop Owensby visited Trinity Episcopal Church in Cheneyville. Greeted by 25 members in this smallest of missions still worshipping in an historic "Polk Chapel," a wonderful celebration was had by all with our Bishop.



CVI 2017

Appreciative Inquiry for Vital Congregations

by The Rev'd Rob Voyle

Saturday, July 15, 2017, 10 a.m.–2 p.m., St. James Episcopal Church, Alexandria



The Rev'd Dr. Rob Voyle is an Episcopal priest, executive coach, and a licensed psychologist. In addition to a doctorate in psychology he has degrees in mechanical engineering and theology. He is a recognized leader in the use of appreciative inquiry in church related settings.

As the founder and director of the Clergy Leadership Institute he is committed to providing advanced training in clergy leadership to enhance ministry effectiveness.

His work history includes twenty years of ordained

ministry, interposed with episodes of research and development engineering, behavioral medicine, clinical psychology, and organizational consulting.

Rob's personal mission is to be "helpful, humorous, and healing," which is manifested in a passion for conducting training and consultation. He is a gifted storyteller and has a penchant for mischievously confronting listeners with new insights that are both affirming and liberating.

Over 95% of the participants in Rob's workshop consistently rate Rob's presentations as "one of the best training programs I have attended in years."

Please note: CVI programs are on a "pay as you go" basis. Each event costs \$15 payable in advance (check or credit card) or at the door (credit card, check, or cash). Questions: contact Canon Bill Bryant (rectory@shreve.net).



It's "Thumbs Up" from Bishop Jake

Definitely a "Thumbs Up" from Bishop Jake after a tour of the construction site of the new EYC Youth Lodge at St. Paul's, Shreveport. St. Paul's EYC director Corey Harrington supplied the expertise as the Bishop saw the soon-to-be-completed structure which is adjacent to the St. Paul's campus.





2835 Camp Hardtner Rd., Polk, LA 71060

2017 Summer Camp Registration

For more than 60 years the Camp Hardtner Summer Camp Program has created an atmosphere of love and acceptance for more than 600 young people and staff in a safe environment. Making friends, playing sports, and making memories together for one week every year is play, laugh, and grow, and wonderful in the eyes of God.

✕ 2017 Summer Camp Registration Is Now Open!

Please consider Camp Hardtner as a place for your child to spend one week this summer, and it just might be the best week of their lives. Register online for our sessions, or get your child's name registered in our system.

First Camp, June 2 - 4 Grades 2 and 3, with parent!	\$200
Primary Camp, June 8 - 13 Grades 4 and 5	\$460
Sr. High Camp, June 17 - 24 Grades 11, 12, and recent graduates	\$690
Jr. High Camp 1, June 28 - July 4 Grades 6 and 7	\$575
Jr. High Camp 2, July 11 - 17 Grades 7 and 8	\$575
Mid High Camp, July 21 - 27 Grades 9 and 10	\$575
Camp Able, August 2 - 6 Ages 6 and up with special needs	\$400



*Fees based on 2017 2016 session fees



✕ www.camphardtner.org

office@camphardtner.org

318.765.3794 ✕

News from Camp Hardtner:

Camp Able sold out!

Adult and Youth Volunteers needed to enhance the experiences of the Campers

2017 summer camp registration is in full swing and we are very excited to report that Camp Able is the first session to sell out! With this in mind, we are putting out the call for youth volunteers and adult staff to help make this session come to life. If you are at least 16 years old, and would like to serve in this very special ministry, visit www.camphardtner.org or check out our Facebook page for more information and the online application.

Other summer sessions are filling up quickly, parents should register their children soon to get the session they want!

Parents, don't forget; the other summer sessions still have room, but are filling up quickly. Be sure to register your child before it's too late! Their summer just won't be the same without a regular dose of stargazing, four square, pav field games and more. Visit www.camphardtner.org or check out our Facebook page for more information and online registration.

We look forward to seeing everyone at Camp Hardtner this summer!

If you have any questions about the sessions, registration, volunteering or more, please don't hesitate to email Mandy at office@camphardtner.org or call 318-765-3794.

Bishop Jake

The essence of eternal life is love. Eternal life reflects the very heart of the God who imparts it.

As it turns out, getting the hang of eternal life involves growing into a life of habitual love. God's love is not a mere response to circumstances. It is a free and creative force that enters unlooked-for into the unlikely of places.

Love's presence raises up what has been cast down, makes new what has grown old, and brings all things to perfection in Christ, through whom all things were made.

Love has died to judging others for being different and embraces each person and every creature as the

continued from page 1

beloved child of God.

Love has died to the drive to get ahead and devotes itself to leaving no one behind.

Love has died to seeking its own status and guards the dignity of every human being.

Love has died to settling scores to make things right and forgives to restore right relationship.

Love has died to comfort and personal privilege and pursues justice for the forgotten and the persecuted, the despised and the oppressed.

Jesus did not merely come back from the dead. He passed through death to eternal life. And that is the path we follow when we cling to the risen Christ.

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!



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/>



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

April 2017

9 — Bishop's Visitation, Palm Sunday, St. James, Alexandria

11 — Chrism 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 Diocesan 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

26 — Bishop's Visitation, St. Paul's, Winnfield

3 — Bishop's Visitation, Holy Cross, Shreveport

October 2017

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

8 — Bishop's Visitation, St. Michael's, Pineville

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

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

22 — Bishop's Visitation, Trinity, Crowley

CLEY 2017



The Gospel According to the Simpsons: the CLEY Retreat 2017

by Laurent De Prins

"The Gospel According to the Simpsons." That was the theme for such a packed 40-hour retreat at a place many youth call home: Camp Hardtner. Some had never experienced Hardtner, and others have attended numerous events.

In my opinion, this weekend could not have gone any better. We deepened our faith growing through Christ that weekend. We first watched an episode of "The Simpsons" where one of the characters acted very skeptical. This tied into how we question our faith and the faith of others. Is it right to question the beliefs or doctrines of another person?

How does it make us feel when people question our faith? How do we respond? In small groups, we discussed those and similar questions.

Another episode dealt with how God answers our prayers. This provoked



conversations, again, within small groups about how we pray and how God responds to prayer. Sometimes we get an answer to our prayers but may not necessarily realize it.

Aside from a plethora of questions in small groups, we also played many fantastic games. One of which was an insane game of ultimate Frisbee in which nearly every person participated. The intensity of each participant throughout the games bounced off all of us.

We all enjoyed the retreat, the theme, the friends, and the acceptance Hardtner has to offer. CLEY was wonderful fun-filled, spiritual, and meaningful retreat for all in attendance. A BIG thank you to all the participants that came out and made it possible to share Christ's love.

Adult staff: Fr. Brandt Montgomery, Lisa Bates Hightower -coordinator; Brandi Hefner Doucet-coordinator, Alan Fraser-dad/head musician, Erin Fraser-mom
Cabin Counselors: Ben Whitley, Spencer Wyld, Laurent De Prins, Jacob "Cushionhead" Cutler, Katelin Wehunt, Deanna Lowe, Tracy Stodghill, Sara Lewis, and Brady Howard