

ALIVE!

St. Matthias, Shreveport stages special-needs VBS



Wow! What a great time was had at the first St. Matthias Rhythms of Grace vacation Bible school. As many as eighty-six people attended various sessions

Rhythms of Grace is a interdenominational worship service for families with special-needs children and young adults.

At the Bible school, we told an interactive story, and then went to activities that reinforced the lesson. We provided activities that used gross motor skills, fine motor skills, and sensory integration with music and the celebration of the Holy Eucharist. Our VBS was set up to operate like a regular Rhythms of Grace worship service.

As a VBS geared specifically for participants

with special-needs, we had a parents' lounge with lively discussion on parenting special-needs individuals, as well as a little parent pampering. We also had a quiet room if things got too loud for one of our special guests and participants from ages 3 to 28.

As part of our special needs ministry, Rhythms of Grace, each participant had a

buddy and, while we are quite sure the participants learned a lot, it may be that the buddies and volunteers learned as much, if not more than our VBS participants.

The Stories of Us

Her brown eyes were not gazing into mine. She was taking in the four of us at the table. Greeting us with a smile of recognition. Chatting with us briefly like the group of regulars that we were.

We had spoken to each other dozens of times. At least, she had taken my order at more happy hours than I like to admit. But on this night, I saw her eyes. Well, actually, I just couldn't stop looking at them. Framed at each corner by tiny laugh lines, her eyes hinted at an earthy warmth and a worldly sincerity.



Bishop Jake

I was sneaking discreet glances at her while she was talking to my friends. When her brown eyes looked into mine and she asked, "What will you have," my throat froze for an awkward moment.

What I was thinking was something like, "I just want you to sit down. You can repeat the specials or read the phone book or recite the Gettysburg Address. I just want to look into your eyes." I managed to say, "Ugh, I'll take the nachos and a beer."

That night I had no idea that this person had been a countercultural figure in high school, had graduated summa cum laude from the University of Georgia, and had walked away from a successful career teaching high school students to search for something more in life. I had just glimpsed a compelling mystery in a set of brown eyes.

Some time later, this woman and I would agree to get married. And now those eyes show me many, many more things. They show me the road that my wife Joy and I have traveled together. Who she has become. Who I have become. Who we have become. And it is the "we" that I find most extraordinary and most revealing on a weekend that the Church ponders its central mystery: the Trinity.

Joy's eyes have seen much of what I have seen over more than three decades. And more to the point of understanding the Trinity, our eyes have loved the same people and places. They weep at the absence of those who no longer walk among us. Tears of laughter and anger and relief have filled our eyes as we faced together life's incongruities and cruelties and unforeseen breaks.

We have shared travel and study. Career struggles and financial hardships. The birth and growth of children. We have celebrated our children's graduations, held our breath through our daughter's heart surgery, and have taken one agonizing day at a time during our oldest son's deployment to a war zone.

Film and television frequently portray love as two becoming one. And while there is some truth in this depiction of love, it remains incomplete. For starters, love does mean losing yourself for the sake of a greater whole but it also involves finding and taking hold of yourself more intentionally. And crucially, love at its deepest levels always involves a third.

Diocesan News

CHORAL EVENSONG CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS

875 Cotton St. Shreveport 71101

The Rev. Mary B. Richard, Rector

*Celebrating Holy Cross'
Name Day*

Pentecost XIV

September 10th at 2:00

Bishop Owensby, Officiant

Music by Dyson, Elgar, and Merbecke



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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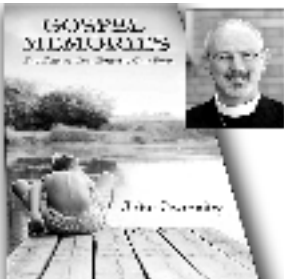


Adults who work with Children!

Safeguarding God's Children

Make time this summer to go online and update your Safeguarding God's Children certification before the mad dash during September to resume Sunday School and other youth programs.

<https://armatus2.prosciadiuminc.com/armatusUser/login>



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.

WLA on the Web:

News and information on
the Episcopal Diocese of
Western Louisiana

www.diocesewla.org



There will be a Celebration of Women's Ministries at Camp Hardtner September 15-16, 2017.

This will unfold as a diverse celebration; a time for ministries to come together and celebrate in the name Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

The ministries of the Diocesan Daughters of the King, the Diocesan Episcopal Church Women, and the Altar Guild women, along with our guest speaker, Madre Annie Etheredge, who is rector of the Episcopal Church of the Epiphany in Opelousas, will be showcased. Spiritual Direction will be available during the weekend offered by Maureen Locke of St. Matthias in Shreveport.

The weekend begins Friday evening, September 15, with registration from 4 to 6 p.m. immediately followed by a "Meet and Greet," Social and Dinner. Madre Annie Etheredge will also make her first presentation during this kick-off event.

A Hardtner breakfast is first up on Saturday morning followed by a meeting of the Episcopal Church Women. After a short break, the Daughters of the King will gather to meet. The last organization to meet will be the Altar Guild. This gathering is the ideal way for you to see what is going on in other congregations. So please, avail yourself of this opportunity, and enjoy time spent with your contemporaries. Feel free to share what's going on in your parish and you will also be able to get great ideas from other parishes.

All women are encouraged to attend any of the meetings of their choice. You need not be a member to attend.

Early registration is a must

Early registration is suggested and registrants will receive a detailed schedule of the Celebration weekend. We hope to see each of you at our annual celebration weekend! We are going to have a glorious time!!

A bargain for those interested in Women's ministries

The cost for the weekend is \$65 (covers a night of lodging, three meals, snacks and the speaker). If you prefer to drive down for Saturday only, the cost is \$15 (covers the session and two meals). Private lodging is \$85 (covers a night of lodging, three meals, snacks and the speaker), space permitting.

For more information, please contact Ms. Shetwan Roberison (318-707-2570 or womensecw1@gmail.com) or Mrs. Megan Rowzie (337-570-9220 pianogr18@aol.com).



Enjoy these features of the weekend:

Our Guest Speaker: Madre Annie Etheredge, rector of Epiphany, Opelousas will make several presentations.

Spiritual Direction: Spiritual Direction will be available offered by Maureen Locke of St. Matthias, Shreveport.

Linen Care for Altar Guilds: The A, B, C's of linen care for Altar Guild members.

Seminar on how to make and use Prayer Beads: Judy Bordelon will present this seminar.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

2017-2018 Diocesan Youth Events



JEYL (6th-8th grade): November 17-19, 2017

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.

HAPPENING #56 (9th-12th grade): January 12-14, 2018

Happening is a Christian experience presented by 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.

CLEY (9th-12th grade): March 9-11, 2018

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, CLEY takes place at Camp Hardtner.



AS EYE17 closes, 'peacemakers' make a path home

by Lynette Wilson

[*Episcopal News Service*] As the sun began to set July 12 on Oklahoma City, Episcopal youth assembled by diocese and processed from St. Paul's Cathedral four blocks south on North Robinson Avenue to the Oklahoma City National Memorial for a candlelight vigil.

The vigil followed an earlier visit to the memorial's museum, which traces the timeline beginning 30 minutes before the April 19, 1995, bombing that killed 168 people and wounded 680 others, through the 2001 execution of Timothy McVeigh.

"The way that it's set up, you move through time and it's a stunning thing," said Kiera Campbell, 16, an Episcopal Youth Event 2017 planning committee member from the Diocese of Olympia. "It's amazing to see how a city pulled together and how a city was able to find peace in each other."

Thirteen hundred youth from 90 of the Episcopal Church's 109 dioceses attended the 13th annual Episcopal Youth Event from July 10 to 14 at the University of Central Oklahoma in Edmond, a 20-minute drive from downtown Oklahoma City. The Beatitudes, particularly Matthew 5:9 – "Blessed are the Peacemakers for they will be called children of God," – inspired EYE17's theme, "Path to Peace."

Genesis of the "Path to Peace"

It was the history, but more importantly, the human response and its lasting impact that Oklahoma Bishop Ed Konieczny wanted the youth to experience. The bombing, he said, brought together the people of Oklahoma in a spirit of unity, in what became the "Oklahoma Standard," that continues today.

Even though the youth attending EYE17 weren't yet born in 1995 – they range in age from 13 to 18 – they live in an increasingly violent world. For that

reason, Konieczny wanted to co-host EYE17 in his diocese and share Oklahoma City's story as an example of peace and resilience. Responding to violence and hatred with love was packed into the Path to

A FAVORITE EYE Moment



"One of my favorite EYE17 moments occurred during the opening Eucharist. During Bishop Curry's sermon on the splashed blessed water on the congregation."

—Father Whit Stodghill



OPENING EUCHARIST
Presiding Bishop Michael Curry preached and presided during the opening Eucharist of EYE17. Photo: Lynette Wilson/Episcopal News Service

READY TO FLY!
Western Louisiana's delegation to EYE17 posed before departure for the week-long event in Oklahoma. Back row (l-r): Thomas Stodghill, Joanitah Nakiggwe, Paxton DePingre, Kirby Hennigan, Piper Naudin, Katelyn Hackett. Front row (l-r): Eric Stevenson, Fr. Whit Stodghill, Corey Harrington, Hudson Norman

Peace message.

"The reality is that hatred doesn't work and violence doesn't work. Human beings were made by love, because I believe that God is love, and we were made to love and life only works when we love. And this memorial is a painful reminder that hatred hurts and harms, and we weren't made for that," said Presiding Bishop Michael Curry, at the site of the memorial. "We've been put on this earth to find a better way. To find life and love for everybody, and so coming to this memorial and being here this day is an opportunity to be reconsecrated and rededicated to creating a world where love rules."

A year ago, the 16-member EYE17 youth planning committee visited Oklahoma City and the museum and memorial, to get a sense of what their peers would experience. "The EYE mission planning team started imagining what this event might be like over 18 months ago. They based the event in Matthew's scripture and the Beatitudes," said Bronwyn Clark Skov, the Episcopal

Church's director of formation, youth and young adults, who oversees youth ministry. "We are very much taken with that entire package, but also because of what has been happening in the world, we really honed in on 'blessed are the peacemakers.'"

EYE17: an introduction to the wider church

The triennial youth event, a mandate of the church's General Convention, drew 1,400 people in all, including 35 bishops, as well as chaperones, chaplains, medical and other volunteers. Every preacher, speaker, exhibitor and praxis session presented the theme in one way or another.

Presiding Bishop Michael Curry preached during the July 11 opening Eucharist and later that day offered two back-to-back workshops on the "Jesus Movement," followed by a question-and-answer period. Other speakers, including President of the House of Deputies the Rev. Gay Clark Jennings, bishops, Episcopal Church staff members, representatives from Episcopal

See EYE17, page 10

Around the Diocese

The Bishop's Commission on Addiction & Recovery presents the 2017 Joy in the Journey

Save these dates!

The Joy of Living: Action is the key word

A three-day retreat presented by
John McAndrew, MA, MDiv

September 29–October 1, 2017
at Camp Hardtner



Our presenter
John McAndrew, MA, MDiv

John McAndrew is a theologian, teacher, counselor, musician, hospice chaplain and poet. With a background in literature, theology, music, and counseling, he has worked in treatment settings, classrooms, corporate consultancy, parish communities, detention facilities, and hospice care.

During his tenure as Director of Spiritual Care at the *Betty Ford Center* in Rancho Mirage, CA, he began to incorporate these varied experiences into ideas which took shape in *SensibleSpirituality.org*, offering spiritual counseling and tools for recovery.

John currently provides Spiritual Care for *Wilshire Hospice* in San Luis Obispo, CA, continues to offer Retreats for people interested in recovery, and facilitates the *Spiritual Development Process* for those seeking deeper spiritual engagement.

See the next issue of *ALIVE!* or the diocesan website (www.diocesewla.org) for complete Joy in the Journey pricing and registration information.

Diocesan Commission and Province VII collaborate on dismantling racism workshop

July, 2017 – Members of the Diocesan Dismantling Racism Commission and the Province VII Anti-Racism Network came together at St. Thomas' in Monroe for a two-and-a-half day "Seeing the Face of God in Each Other" workshop. Father Brandt Montgomery, Archdeacon Bette Kauffman and Ayesha Mutope-Johnson, Chair of the Province VII Network, organized and conducted the training.

The Seeing the Face of God in Each Other training materials were developed by the Episcopal Church of the U.S. several years ago to continue the work of dismantling racism and moving toward reconciliation and celebration of diversity. The Diocesan Commission is working on a plan to offer this training around the Diocese.



Above: Archdeacon Bette Kauffman, Fr. Brandt Montgomery and Ayesha Mutope-Johnson planned and conducted the training. Top right: The sun porch at St. Thomas' was a perfect venue for the training. Middle right: Fr. Brandt Montgomery holds the "talking stick" while listening to a workshop participant. Bottom right: Province VII's Anti-Racism display.



Around the Diocese



2017 MAP Grants

St. Timothy's, Alexandria Capital Improvement MAP grant

St. Timothy's, Alexandria made application for, and received a 2017 Capital Improvement grant in support of Mission from the Diocese's MAP grant program.

St Timothy's was in need of a new organ and in their application for the MAP grant they acknowledged the integral part that music plays in effective and attractive worship, not only for St. Timothy's congregation but as a tool of evangelism in regard to those being led to Christianity and to membership at St. Timothy's.

Outside parties, such as those seeking a place to stage a musical event or an organ concert will be attracted to the vastly upgraded facilities offered by the parish.

St. Timothy's was awarded a grant of \$5,000 for the organ purchase, a sum matched by the parish.

St. Timothy's, Alexandria's Missional Initiative MAP grant

St. Timothy's also received a \$5,000 Missional Initiative grant, which enabled the parish to purchase a new oven/stove that will be used to enhance fellowship events, but also used in the preparation of meals for fundraisers that are dedicated to outreach.

As with the acquisition of the organ, funds from the MAP grant for the oven/stove were matched with funds provided by the parish.

St. Joseph's Shepherd hosts Wednesday morning Service of Morning Prayer

By Sam Corson

The Shepherd Center in St. Joseph, Louisiana, is heavily supported by the congregation of Christ Episcopal Church of St. Joseph.

In addition to volunteers to man the operation of the center, Jane Barnett, a lay reader at Christ Episcopal, has been leading a Service of Morning Prayer at the Shepherd each Wednesday morning for more than a year. Her continuing effort is a multi-denominational gathering that worships from The Book of Common Prayer, and sings hymns chosen from a variety of sources.

Other Christ Episcopal members often volunteer to lead the Psalms and readings for the day.

This unique Service of Morning Prayer often closes with the singing of a special version of the hymn "Amazing Grace," led by regular participant Eddie

—Sam Corson is the "Good News Dude" at Christ Episcopal Church in St. Joseph, LA



Daughters of the King Installation Service held at Holy Cross, Shreveport

The installation of Daughters of the King-St. Mary Chapter at Church of the Holy Cross was held Sunday, July 16 during the 11:00 a.m. service.

The new daughters are Frances Jones, Sara Townsend, The Rev. Margaret Ayers and Jo Ann Horton. The Rev. Mary Richard was installed as chaplain.

A reception followed in the Undercroft.



St. Paul's, Shreveport McRae Youth Lodge is dedicated



Terri and Fran McRae with Youth Director Corey Harrington

During ceremonies dedicating the new St. Paul's McRae Youth Lodge, St. Paul's rector, the Rev. Paul Martin said, "The construction of this Youth Lodge marks the fruition of a dream I had twenty years ago when I arrived here at St. Paul's as the youth minister. I claimed this building as a future youth building even though it was as a Masonic Lodge at the time. Through God's grace this vision has become a reality to the glory of God."

Dedicated Sunday, July 16, the McRae Youth Lodge is indeed the culmination of more than 20 years of prayer and planning by many for the youth ministries at St. Paul's. Built in 1954 by the Grand Lodge of the State of Louisiana Free & Accepted Masons, the Masonic

Lodge properties are adjacent to St. Paul's on its eastern perimeter with St. Paul's parking lot as accessible to the Masons as it was to St. Paul's Parishioners. "Situating as it is the building has always appeared to be a part of the St. Paul's complex, and now it is," added Father Martin.

In 2014, when the Masonic Lodge property became available for sale, St. Paul's showed great interest in purchasing the land and buildings. At that point in time, funds for a purchase were not available, and the Masonic Lodge was sold to a third party. Shortly thereafter, longtime St. Paul's parishioners and avid supporters Fran and Duncan McRae made known their intention to make a gift supporting the creation of "a place of their own," for the youth of St. Paul's. Negotiations with the purchaser of the Lodge property were begun, and the acquisition of the Lodge property was



Duncan and Fran McRae

finalized by late 2015.

Design of the "Youth Lodge" began quickly with youth director, Corey Harrington, and a youth design team working closely with lead architect Brian Yeates of Bledsoe Architects, LLC and a vestry-based building committee chaired by Gene Young.

Interest on the part of the St. Paul's congregation was certainly high as the deconstruction of the structure began in 2016, with the re-visioning and construction of the Youth Lodge continuing through the end of the year and into 2017. Various individuals and small groups were able to get "sneak peeks" with all agreeing that the design team and contractors were "getting it right."

Boggs and Poole Construction was central to the success of the project. "It was wonderful to work with Boggs and Poole. They were diligent in their commitment to building this Lodge, and they completed their work on time and under budget," said Father Paul Martin.

The cost of the acquisition, design and rehabilitation of the structure and grounds totaled more than \$1.4 million dollars.

At the dedication, a beaming Duncan



Top, St. Paul's rector The Rev. Paul Martin with Youth Director Corey Harrington. Bottom, St. Paul's youth are delighted with their new quarters.

McRae gave credit to his wife Fran for her unwavering support of the youth. "This wonderful place should really be named the 'Fran McRae Youth Lodge' because it's always been her desire for the youth of St. Paul's to have 'a place of their own.'"

Youth Minister Corey Harrington, who is working from a sparkling new facility, said, "We hope to minister to many more young people in our community. We cannot thank the McRae family enough for making this dream come true. Our youth have already made it their home! We are thrilled to share our home with you!"

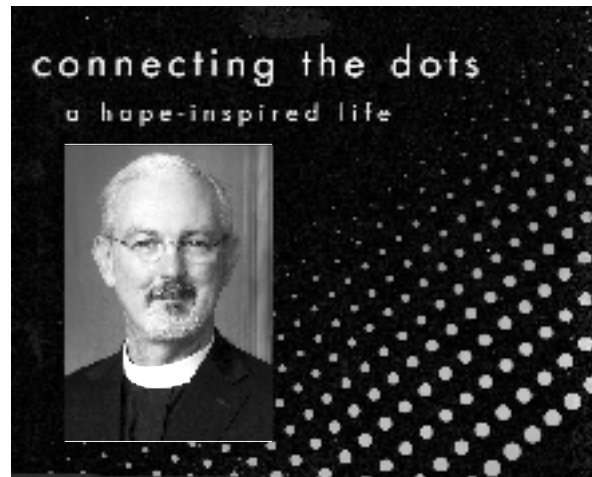
Diocesan News

On sale for the first time!

Bishop Jake Owensby's connecting the dots

Order from Amazon.com or
by emailing Holly Davis in
the Diocesan Office:
HDavis@diocesewa.org.

\$5



St. Paul's, Abbeville "Backpack" ministry is "Alive and Well"

St. Paul's Episcopal Church in "Beautiful Downtown Abbeville" was once again able to donate 200 fully-supplied backpacks to the Vermilion Parish School Board for distribution to elementary public schools in Vermilion Parish.

This has been an ongoing ministry which the congregation of St. Paul's has continued to support for the past eight years.

Helping with the delivery to the school board are Kennedy and Chloe Davis, Carlee and Andrew LeBlanc, Cherie DeHart, Sandra Broussard and Jenny Milligan.

Accepting the backpacks for the school board was Ms. Ellen Arceneaux, Asst. Vermilion Parish Superintendent.



Redeemer, Ruston's VBS: 37-151

The Episcopal Church of the Redeemer in Ruston held Vacation Bible School the week of July 3-7, 2017. Thirty-seven children attended and 151 items for Christian Community Action, an organization where the needy receive food and clothing, was collected.

Have you wondered about monastic life in the Episcopal Church?



The Episcopal Convent of Saint Helena in South Carolina is hosting a free Come-and-See retreat for single women during Labor Day weekend, September 1-3.

A flyer invitation with details is posted on our website at <https://www.osh.org/becoming-a-sister>. Contact vocations@osh.org or 803-426-1616.

Core values of OSH:

- *Prayer: We celebrate the Holy Eucharist and pray the Divine Office daily. We practice individual prayer, intercession and meditation.
- *Hospitality: We offer an oasis of welcome for visitors, both individuals and groups.
- *Service: We minister and serve where our gifts meet the world's needs.
- *Tradition and Innovation: With Benedictine roots we are women living communally under a vow of monastic poverty, celibate chastity and obedience to God.

Convent of Saint Helena, 414 Savannah Barony Drive, North Augusta, SC 29841

**Applications now accepted for
Official Youth Presence
at Episcopal Church
General Convention 2018**

**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
38th Annual Diocesan Convention
Hosted by the Alexandria Convocation
Holiday Inn, Alexandria, Louisiana
Friday, November 3 and Saturday, November 4, 2017**

Applications are now accepted for high school students who want to participate in the General Convention Official Youth Presence (GCOYP) at the Episcopal Church 79th General Convention to be held Thursday, July 5 to Friday, July 13, 2018 at The Austin Convention Center, Austin, Texas (Diocese of Texas).

“Each General Convention, we look forward to welcoming the members of the Official Youth Presence to the House of Deputies,” said the Rev. Gay Clark Jennings, House of Deputies President. “The perspectives and experiences of high school students are critical to our legislative deliberations and make our debates more lively.”

“General Convention resolutions dating back to 1982 provide for an Official Youth Presence,” noted Bronwyn Clark Skov, Episcopal Church Director for Formation, Youth, and Young Adult Ministries, whose office, together with the General Convention Office and President Jennings, coordinates the application and discernment process for teens who want to become members of the OYP. “Under the current Rules of Order of the House of Deputies, members of the OYP are granted seat and voice in that house.”

Skov explained that no more than two high school youth from each of the Episcopal Church’s nine provinces will be selected.

Criteria

To be eligible to apply, candidates must meet the following criteria:

- Be an active member and communicant in good standing of an Episcopal Church congregation;
- Be at least 16 years old and no older than 19 during General Convention 2018;
- Be a current high school student enrolled in 9th, 10th, 11th, or 12th grade during the 2017/18 school year;
- Be capable of traveling alone by plane or train to and from the meetings in the United States with no escort;
- Be available to travel to the mandatory orientation and training from April 5 - April 18, 2018 in Austin. This weekend will include community building, worship and training on the legislative process;
- Be available to be present at General Convention in Austin from July 2 – 13, 2018.

The Episcopal Church budget covers travel, lodging and meals for OYP participants attending the orientation weekend and General Convention.

Deadline for applications and nominations is November 1. All applicants must identify a non-family member nominator who can complete an on-line essay nomination form by November 1.

Applications will be reviewed by a committee that includes House of

See GC2018, page 10

NOMINATION FORM

TO BE ELECTED: [Circle Position]

Disciplinary Board 1 Clergy
2 Laity

Standing Committee Monroe — 1 Laity
Shreveport — 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, 2017

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

GC2018

continued from page 9

Deputies Vice-President Byron Rushing of Massachusetts, Deputy Ariana Gonzalez Bonillas of Arizona, members of the Youth Ministry Network Leadership Council and the Formation Department staff.

Nominators may be contacted in early January and applicants will be notified of their status in February. The Official Youth Presence team will be announced in March.

Questions should be directed to Skov at bskov@episcopalchurch.org or 646-242-1421.

General Convention

The Episcopal Church's General Convention is held every three years to consider the legislative business of the church. General Convention is the bicameral governing body of the Church, comprised of the House of Bishops, with upwards of 200 active and retired bishops, and the House of Deputies, with clergy and lay deputies elected from the 109 dioceses and three regional areas of the Church, at more than 800 members. Between Conventions, the General Convention continues to work through its committees and commissions. The Executive Council of the Episcopal Church carries out the programs and policies adopted by General Convention.

—General Convention Information from the Episcopal News Service.

EYE17

continued from page 4

Relief & Development, Forma, Episcopal Service Corps and others, offered various workshops.

During a press conference on July 11, Trevor Mahan of the Diocese of Kansas, a member of the planning committee, said the youth intentionally designed the event to introduce youth to church leadership and the wider Episcopal Church, offering ways to engage further at all levels.

"We want people to be able to go back home and connect with other Episcopal organizations," she said, and bring back the Path to Peace message to encourage other youth to become involved.

Konieczny sees real hope in today's young people, who are far more inclusive than previous generations. The makeup of EYE17, the most diverse group ever, attested to that.

"As I said during my homily at the vigil, today's young people can make a real difference in the world," he said.

"They are at that age now where they're setting the stage for how their generation is going to live together, and you can already see the level of acceptance, inclusion and willingness to live in diversity and honor each other. And that's not always been the case for generations that have gone before; it's this is us, that's them and let's just keep our distance," said Konieczny.

Bishop Jake

continued from page one

Joy and I love each other, certainly. But our love matured not merely by getting to know each other better and by differentiating ourselves with grace. Our love grew in our shared love for someone or something else.

We share a love for hymns and for simple, well-prepared meals. For travel to new places and for walking and talking in the woods. This common appreciation deepens our relationship. But the love grows exponentially with a third who can love in response.

Since we're parents, you might expect me to draw on experiences with our children. And I could certainly do that. Instead, I'll draw on our experience with our dog Gracie. We rescued her from a local shelter when she was ten weeks old. She has been our constant companion—at work and at home—for the past year.

The depth of my affection for Gracie has surprised me. Joy says the same. Recently I watched Gracie lay her head on Joy's lap and Joy gently stroke her head and back. I saw their love for one another. And I also experienced delight in their love for each other. I loved them in their mutual affection. Two became three.

As you might imagine, the dynamic of the third deepens even further when that third can take the kind of role I just described in the story about Joy and Gracie. Now that our three children are adults, Joy and I are hearing their perception and their

versions of the family story. And the "we" is stretching and expanding as a result. Let me tell you, growth is not always comfortable.

Each of us tells the story of us. Who each of us is occurs in those intersecting stories. The truth of "we" emerges from the lips of multiple narrators. That's what it means to live in community. Sometimes our stories conflict. Sometimes they amplify or complete each other. If some group of individuals tells the same story with no variations and no contradictions, we should suspect coercion, collusion, and mendacity.

The Bible tells us that God is love. The Church teaches us that God is Triune. One in three and three in one. In other words, the Holy One is a community. Three persons perpetually and eternally loving each other.

That same Bible says that God created humans in the divine image. We are what and who we are in community. The human community has many stories and many narrators. We will only be truly human when we have the courage to hear and honor all these stories. Especially the ones that stretch us the most.

If you enjoy the Bishop's articles, check out his blog for weekly posts. The address is <https://jakeowensby.com>. You can subscribe by email to receive notifications for each post.

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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

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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

August 2017

- 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.*
- 24 — Diocesan Clergy Day (with spouses), *St. James, Alexandria, 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.*
- 24 — The Ordination to the Transitional Diaconate of André Bordelon and Madge McLain, *St. James, Alexandria*
- 27 — Bishop's Visitation, *St. Columba's, Winnsboro; St. David's, Rayville*

September 2017

- 9 — Musicfest/Diocesan Ultreya, *Camp Hardtner, starts at 8:00 a.m.*
- 10 — Bishop's Visitation, *Holy Cross, Shreveport*
- 15/16 — Celebration of Women's Ministries, *Camp Hardtner, starts at 6:00 p.m.*
- 26 — Bishop's Visitation, *St. Paul's, Winnfield*
- 29-31 — Joy in the Journey Retreat, *Camp Hardtner*

October 2017

- 1 — Bishop's Visitation, *St. Michael & All Angels, Lake Charles*
- 8 — Bishop's Visitation, *St. Michael's, Pineville*
- 10 — Meeting of the General Convention Deputation, *starts at 11:00 a.m.*
- 15 — Bishop's Visitation, *Trinity, Tallulah; Grace, Lake Providence*
- 17 — Meeting of the Diocesan Council, *St. James, Alexandria, starts at 10:00 a.m.*
- 22 — Bishop's Visitation, *Trinity, Crowley*
- 28 — CVI presentation, *St. James, Alexandria, starts at 10:00 a.m.*

November 2017

- 3-4 — 2017 Diocesan Convention, *hosted by the Alexandria Convocation*
- 12 — Bishop's Visitation, *Epiphany, Opelousas*
- 19 — Bishop's Visitation, *Holy Trinity, Sulphur*
- 21 — Commission on Ministry, *Diocesan House, starts at 10:00 a.m.*

December 2017

- 3 — Bishop's Visitation, *Grace, Monroe*
- 12 — Meeting of the Diocese Council, *St. James, Alexandria, starts at 10:00 a.m.*
- 10 — Bishop's Visitation, *Redeemer, Ruston*
- 12 — Meeting of the Diocese Council, *St. James, Alexandria, starts at 10:00 a.m.*
- 24 — Bishop's Visitation, *Christmas Eve: St. Mark's, Shreveport (early); St. James, Alexandria (late)*

January 2018

- 7 — Bishop's Visitation, *St. James, Alexandria*
- 14 — Bishop's Visitation, *Christ, Memorial, Mansfield*
- 21 — Bishop's Visitation, *St. Matthias, Shreveport*

February 2018

- 4 — Bishop's Visitation, *St. Thomas, Monroe*
- 14 — Bishop's Visitation, *Ash Wednesday (noonday) St. James, Alexandria*
- 18 — Bishop's Visitation, *Trinity, Natchitoches*
- 25 — Bishop's Visitation, *St. Paul's, Shreveport*

March 2018

- 4 — Bishop's Visitation, *Redeemer, Oak Ridge*
- 25 — Bishop's Visitation, *St. James, Alexandria*

April 2018

- 1 — Bishop's Visitation, *(Easter) St. Mark's Cathedral, Shreveport*
- 15 — Bishop's Visitation, *St. Barnabas, Lafayette*
- 7 — Bishop's Visitation, *Good Shepherd, Lake Charles*

Last Look!

St. Mark's Cathedral Choirs perform at New York City's Carnegie Hall

The St. Mark's Cathedral Choirs auditioned last year and were selected to participate in a performance of *Requiem* by Maurice Durufle on June 19, 2017 at Carnegie Hall in New York City. While there were several choirs that were selected to participate, with 25 singers, the St. Mark's Choirs represented the largest group of choristers from one location. Participating choirs were from the states of Texas, Florida, Illinois, New Mexico, New Jersey, Louisiana and New York.

The St. Mark's Cathedral Choirs spent the last year learning the Durufle *Requiem* which is considered to be a very difficult work by any standard. The final requirement for the St. Mark's Choir to participate was the submission of a recording of the choir performing the *Requiem* in May 2017. If it was determined that the performance was not satisfactory, the St. Mark's Choirs would have been eliminated from the performance.

The concert at Carnegie Hall was conducted by Dr. Alan Raines who is considered to be one of the foremost authorities on the history and performance of the Durufle *Requiem*. The concert was followed by a gala reception at New York City's Planet Hollywood.

In addition to time spent in rehearsals, the choirs saw a Broadway performance of *Phantom of the Opera* and worshipped at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, as well as Trinity Church Wall Street, where ringers from St. Mark's participated in the change ringing prior to and after the service.



St. Mark's will present a performance of *Requiem* by Maurice Durufle on Sunday, November 12 at 4p.m. as part of a Choir Festival being held that weekend. The concert will be under the direction of Dr. Alan Raines and will be open to singers from throughout the Diocese. Please contact Canon Bryan Mitnaul at bryan@stmarkscathedral.net or 318.226.4034 for further information.

Top center, the choir on-stage in Carnegie Hall;
Left center, diligence in the practice hall;
Center, nervously awaiting the first rehearsal;
Bottom left, familiar faces dotted the audience;
Top right, Canon Bryan Mitnaul closely observes his singers;
Bottom right, Dr. Alan Raines with the singers before the concert.