

ALIVE!

OCTOBER 2017

THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF WESTERN LOUISIANA

VOLUME XXXIX, NUMBER 9

CONVENTION 2017 By Word & Example KEEPING GOD'S MISSION



By Word and Example

BISHOP DINENBEY

The 38th Convention of the Diocese of Western Louisiana is fast-approaching. Our theme this year is "By Word and Example."

That phrase probably sounds familiar to you. In our Baptismal Covenant we promise to proclaim the Good News by word and example. At this year's Convention I will be challenging us to place special emphasis on keeping the promise we've already made.

For five years I have been helping us take hold of the missional model of the Church. In short, the Church is the people of God sent into the world.

Evangelism for us is more than inviting people to join us in our pews and to add their names to our membership roles. We have promised to take the Church to wherever the people are. To take Christ's love to the streets. To love our neighbors where they live so that they may experience Christ's own love.

This year's theme reminds us that we are making disciples. But only disciples can make disciples. So, Jesus call us all to commit ourselves to a lifelong process of discipleship.

If you want to hear more about how to make and be disciples, join us in Alexandria on the first weekend of November!

Diocesan News

Volunteers pitch in to clean up Georgia's Honey Creek Retreat Center after hurricane

[Episcopal Diocese of Georgia] Some 1,300 people were scheduled to arrive on Honey Creek Retreat Center's grounds on Sept. 17 for a revival featuring Presiding Bishop Michael Curry. Instead, 30 volunteers from the Diocese of Georgia spent the weekend clearing debris left by Hurricane Irma.



The Rev. Alan Akridge, rector of St. Mark's Church in nearby Brunswick, cuts a downed tree in front of the Chapel of Our Saviour at Honey Creek. Photo: Frank Logue

There were "five worksites focusing on yard and tree debris cleanup and a kitchen team working to feed everyone," said executive director Dade Brantley. To give an idea of the scope of the clean-up, last year with Hurricane Matthew there were 23 trees down which equaled 100 metric tons of debris. This year, 67 trees were down with double the tonnage, he said.

"It was grace, straight up grace" that there wasn't more damage to buildings, Brantley said. He pointed toward the chapel and the remains of two trees which he said "grew up in tandem and died in tandem next to the chapel."

ORGAN CONCERT BY
BRUCE POWER ORGANIST/CHOIRMASTER OF
CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS
 8175 Cotton St. Shreveport 71101
 The Rev. Mary G. Richard, Rector

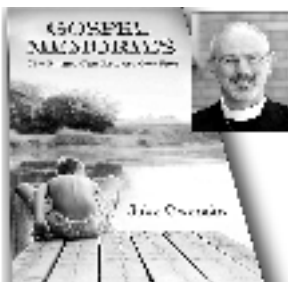
featuring guest artist
FRANCISCO JAVIER BALLESTAS SAYAS, TRUMPET

Pentecost XXXIII: The Sunday after All Saints' Day
November 5th at 2:00 p.m.
The concert is free.

One could have hit the chapel but it didn't. He pointed out similar examples at Jonnard Dormitory and the kitchen garden, trees that just missed landing on buildings.

The Revival: Fearless Faith, Boundless Love has been rescheduled for Jan. 20 at Honey Creek. "Good planning, great vendor partnerships and a little bit of luck enabled us to identify an alternative day for the revival," said Katie Willoughby, canon for administration. "

Email **ALIVE!** at robertharwell39@att.net



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.



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.



October 2017 Volume XXXIX Number 9

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Robert Harwell..... Editor

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WLA
on the Web:
 News and information on
 the Episcopal Diocese of
 Western Louisiana

www.diocesewla.org

Around the Diocese



JEYL is a spiritual-retreat for youth in a relaxed, fun environment. Open to anyone in grades 6-8, the cost to participate is \$95.

REGISTER BY NOVEMBER 5 TO ORDER A T-SHIRT. REGISTRATION CLOSING NOVEMBER 12.

REGISTER FOR JEYL AT THE DIOCESAN WEBSITE (www.diocesewla.org)

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER



The Redeemer Choir

will present a

Choral Evensong

All Saints Sunday, November 5, 2017 at 4 p.m.

at the Church of the Redeemer

504 Tech Drive, Ruston, LA 255-3925

Please join us as we worship our Lord in this spiritual, peaceful, liturgical setting in the Anglican Tradition

RECEPTION TO FOLLOW IN HASKELL HALL

The Very Rev. Bl. Eslerling, Rector
Dr. Wade Clement, Organist/Director

Tupelo

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funded through the Family Resource Center. With an education in public administration and a data-centered mindset, she is keen to support the approach MUTEH offers.

"We can address the symptoms of homelessness, but the community is failing if we're not addressing root causes," Maharrey said.

That's where public funding through the city's contract comes in. That money has been used to support an enduring and hands-on presence within the city by MUTEH staff.

"Having someone here is really going to help us reach out and do more," Tisdale said.

Community cooperation

But MUTEH doesn't go it alone and has no intent to replace the network of aid agencies performing vital work here in the city, the kind of work that gets going bright and early in a backroom kitchen at All Saints where a dedicated crew of volunteers arrive to start the coffee and serve up the day's helping of sausage, pancakes, cereal and other breakfast staples.

For 10 years, "Saints Brew" has offered free breakfast five-days a week, no-questions asked, to anyone that shows.

Warlick, the Saints Brew director, has for years referred homeless breakfast guests to MUTEH, even when the organization wasn't around so frequently as it is now. She's glad to see the group stake out a more active presence.

"This will speed up the referral process," she said.

At the Salvation Army, Major Jeff Daniel noted a history of cooperation locally over the issue of homelessness but also said there is more coordination of late.

He is glad for this and is quick to add that the local Salvation Army has increasingly focused its own efforts around a pipeline to independence.

"We began to treat the symptoms instead of just band-aiding the problem," Daniel said. "Don't get the idea this is home."

Transportation is a significant obstacle faced by many homeless persons. For someone working to escape homelessness, finding a way to the Department of Motor Vehicles or the Social Security Administration office to replace lost paperwork can be daunting.

Maharrey openly wished for a widely-available public transportation options.

Small steps may be underway on this problem, with the City Council set to soon consider limited public transit.

But even with documentation in hand,

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Around the Diocese

Almost 175 years of History!



The Life and Times of St. James Episcopal Church in Alexandria

Almost 175 years of history, photos and remembrances of St. James Episcopal Church in Alexandria are included in *Keeping the Faith -- The Life and Times of St. James Episcopal Church*. We will have a book sales table set up at the Nov. 3-4 Diocesan convention in Alexandria.

Sponsored by the Memorial and Fine Arts Committee of the church, the book was authored by church member Melanie Torbert.

**Available at
Diocesan Convention**

Making progress with a difficult problem

Tupelo homeless aid efforts aim for cooperation and long-term solutions



Denise Walters volunteers her time to serve food at the All Saints "Saints Brew" to give area homeless and others a free breakfast. The All Saints breakfast program is among a network of services that aid the local homeless in Tupelo, a population that fluctuates but is estimated at between 50 and 70. *Photo by Thomas Wells*

by Caleb Beddilion of *The Tupelo Daily Journal*

TUPELO — Fourteen people in four months. Fourteen people taken off the streets and placed in stable housing. Fourteen lives with a chance for new beginnings.

Dramatic numbers? Maybe not.

A solid start to a hard problem? Local leaders from churches, nonprofits and Tupelo City Hall think so.

"We know it won't happen overnight, but we're making progress," said Marcus Gary, community outreach coordinator for the city of Tupelo.

Tupelo has long been the hub of Northeast Mississippi — population center, crossroads of commerce and employment.

It also holds a homeless population that fluctuates but is often estimated at between 50 and 70. Some are from the area, some find themselves drawn here to the only homeless shelter within the region.

"They come and go. There is a continu-

ous flow," said Mona Warlick, who directs Saints Brew, a free breakfast served five days a week at All Saints Episcopal Church.

The All Saints breakfast program is among a network of services that aid the local homeless.

But earlier this year, Tupelo's elected leadership embarked on an effort to coordinate available resources and marshal new energy.

"Our goal from the beginning has been to pool our resources," Gary said.

To achieve this goal, the city brought on help from an outside agency, Mississippi United to End Homelessness, or, simply, MUTEH, pronounced like "mute."

In April, the Tupelo City Council agreed to pay MUTEH \$22,500 to test out a partnership for six months. A contract began later that spring and is set to run out this fall.

Mayor Jason Shelton's administration

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38TH ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF WESTERN LOUISIANA



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THE CONVENTION SCHEDULE



38th Annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Western Louisiana *By Word and Example: Engaging God's Mission* Alexandria, Louisiana

Friday, November 3, 2017

- 8:30 a.m. Registration
- Noon Lunch on Your Own
- 1:30 p.m. Convention Gathers
 - 1. Call to Order - Bishop Owensby
 - a. Opening Prayer - The Rev. Rich Snow,
Dean of Alexandria Convocation
 - 2. Verification of Quorum - Chair of Credentials
and Privileges
 - 3. Election of Convention Secretary
 - a. Appointment of Asst. Sec.
 - 4. Report from Committee on Dispatch of Business
 - 5. Appointment of a Parliamentarian and Asst.
Parliamentarian
 - 6. Adoption of Rules of Order
 - 7. Introductions and Courtesies by the Bishop
 - a. Convention Guests
(Institutions and Ministries)
 - b. Clergy resident, licensed, and in new cures
since the last convention
 - c. Members of the Standing Committee and the
Diocesan Council
 - d. Candidates for General Convention Deputation
 - 8. Minutes of the 37th Diocesan Convention -
The Secretary
 - 9. Report from the Committee on Credentials
and Privileges
 - a. Vote for Seat and Voice for Official Youth
Presence
 - 10. Report from the Nominating Committee
 - 11. Report from the Committee on Resolutions
 - 12. Report from Committee on Constitution and Canons
 - 13. Table Introductions
 - 14. Appointments by Bishop Owensby
 - a. Convention Committees
 - b. Treasurer
 - c. Other Appointments
 - 15. Mission Status for St. Michael's, Pineville, and
St. Matthias, Shreveport
 - 16. New Mission: Iglesia Episcopal La Esperanza de
Familia Unidas
 - 17. New Chapel and Chaplain: ULL
 - 18. New Chapel and Chaplain: ULM
 - 19. First Ballot for Standing Committee and Disciplinary
Board
 - 20. By Word and Example: Open Table (presentation)
 - 21. Acknowledgements for Ministry and Service
 - 22. Second Ballot for Standing Committee
 - 23. Report from Camp Hardtner
 - 24. Recess for the Day

- 5:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist at St. James
- 6:15 p.m. Hospitality
- 7:00 p.m. Dinner and Entertainment

Saturday, November 4, 2017

- 7:00 a.m. Breakfast at Hotel
- 8:30 a.m. Morning Prayer
- 9:00 a.m. Convention Resumes
 - 25. Report from Dispatch of Business
 - 26. Convention Address: Bishop Owensby
 - 27. Table Talk: The Bishop's Challenge
 - 28. By Word and Example: Disaster Relief
 - 29. 2018 Budget Report
 - 30. Report from Committee on Courtesy Resolutions
 - 31. Commissioning of Diocesan Leadership
 - 32. Other Business of Convention
 - 33. Closing Prayers, Blessing, and Adjournment

Noon Lunch and Depart





PROPOSED 2018 DIOCESAN MINISTRY BUDGET

2018 Diocesan Ministry Budget Narrative

The challenge in the Diocesan Ministry Plan has been to totally fund Bishop and Staff, administration, auto and travel and all office expenses using investment income. This goal has been accomplished for the last several years and presented the opportunity to reflect and celebrate what we have been able to accomplish: new mission initiatives, MAP grants and other diocesan programs and outreach ministry. Diocesan Ministries are fully funded by our congregations, every dollar given from diocesan congregations are budgeted and spent to enhance ministry and outreach. We are grateful to our congregations for their generosity as they wrestle with fewer available resources.

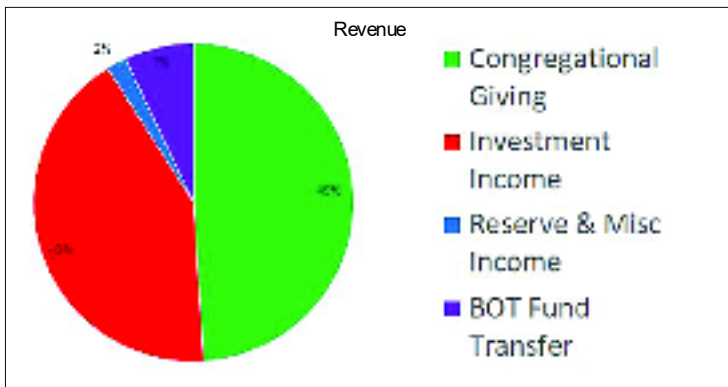
Bishop Owensby and his staff propose to invest the resources of the diocese in both new and familiar ways in 2018 to pursue our shared goals of growing Christian community, connecting faith to everyday life, and striving for justice. We anticipate that the income of the diocese will be drawn from these sources:

Congregational Giving	49%
Investment Income	42%
Budget Reserve & Miscellaneous Income	2%
Board of Trustee Transfer – Ministry Initiatives	7 %

Developing vital, vibrant congregations remain the diocese's top priority. The diocese works with lay and clergy congregational leaders in numerous ways, including leading retreats and offering support for individual congregation initiatives. Every member of the diocesan staff works to enhance the vitality of our congregations. The diocesan office exists to support the ministry of our congregations. Everything we do is with the congregations, for the congregations, or to help the wider communities, pastoring and supporting our clergy is a vital part of that.

Total Income \$2,437,118.00

2018 Anticipated Income



Congregational Giving: \$1,201,365

Bishop Owensby is asking all congregations to accept their full Asking Acceptance to the diocesan budget which supports all diocesan ministry and programs. For the 2017 year, 86% of parishes responded to their Acceptance with 68% of the Asking being accepted.

The missions and parishes of the diocese voluntarily provide the majority of revenue that sustains our ministries and programs through their annual pledge acceptance. This represents the largest share of our income – 49% for 2018.

Investment Income: \$1,027,171

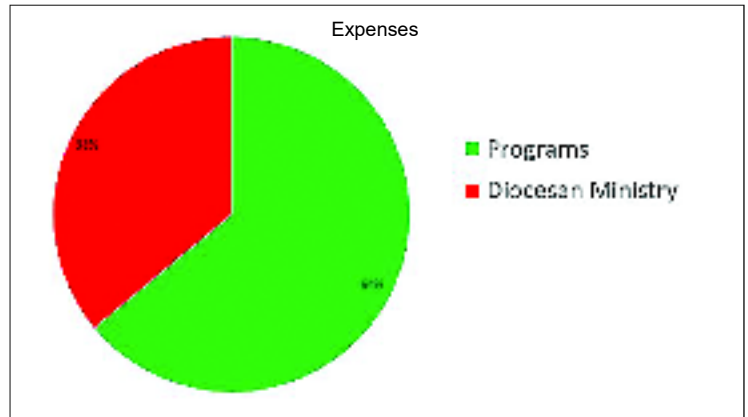
Income from Investment Funds supports mission and ministry across the diocese. As more congregations move toward full Acceptance, more investment income will be available for grants and other congregational initiatives.

Budget Reserve & Miscellaneous Income - \$27,408

Interest Income and Budget Reserve Fund Transfer make up the smaller portion and help to fulfill any deficit needed in order to balance the budget.

Board of Trustee Transfer – Ministry Initiatives - \$181,174

2018 Estimated Expenses



The expenditures of the diocesan budget are broken out in two different categories:

- (1) Programs, Outreach and Mission Development
- (2) Diocesan Ministries

Programs, Outreach and Mission Development

Diocesan Youth Ministry	\$ 95,438	0.040099%
Diocesan Young Adults and Adult Ministry	\$ 7,000	0.002941%
Camp Hardtner Support	\$ 151,000	0.063444%
Episcopate Reserve	\$ 10,000	0.004202%
General Convention 2018	\$ 22,000	0.009243%
Support for the Wider Church	\$ 183,511	0.077103%
Lambeth Conference	\$ 2,500	0.00105%
Province VII Assessment	\$ 6,073	0.002552%
Seminary Support	\$ 10,500	0.004412%
Congregational Vitality Institute / Stewardship	\$ 127,069	0.053389%
Clergy / Lay Conferences	\$ 8,500	0.003571%
Diocesan Curacy Program	\$ 50,500	0.021218%
Commission on Ministry	\$ 5,000	0.002101%
Theological Education	\$ 35,000	0.014705%
Ministry Support	\$ 12,500	0.005252%
College Ministry Support	\$ 54,400	0.022856%
ESA Diocesan Support	\$ 100,000	0.042016%
Mission Development	\$ 131,250	0.055145%
International Mission	\$ 26,000	0.010924%
MAP Grants	\$ 150,000	0.063023%
Outreach Ministry	\$ 164,054	0.068847%
Communication Ministry	\$ 64,319	0.027024%
Diocesan Programs	\$ 36,711	0.015424%
Retired Bishop Insurance	\$ 7,600	0.003193%
Retired Clergy Benefits	\$ 61,548	0.02586%

Total Program Expense \$1,522,473.00 64%

Continued on the next page.



PROPOSED 2018 DIOCESAN MINISTRY BUDGET

The allocation for **Diocesan Youth Ministry and Young Adults and Adult Ministry** includes programmatic and administrative support for all youth events and Christian Formation. This ministry promotes fellowship, creates an atmosphere for spiritual conversation and offers opportunities for those who are curious about the church to ask their questions in friendly, informal settings.

Support for **Hardtner Camp & Conference Center** will continue in 2018 as in 2017. This income assistance is provided to help offset camp budget income and expense, providing an enhancement to the Summer Camp programs for children and youth, Camp Able, Adult Ministry Programs, various retreats and repair and maintenance.

In addition to Diocesan budgeted support for Camp Hardtner, additional income has been disbursed for expenses related to repair and maintenance and income shortage.

The Diocese supports the work of the **wider Episcopal Church** – nationally and globally – by accepting its full Asking Acceptance which contributes to the budget of the General Convention of the Episcopal Church. That money supports the ministry of the Presiding Bishop Michael Curry, his staff and the ministries of the wider church. This ministry will focus especially on racial reconciliation and evangelism.

In addition, we will continue annual support of the work of **Province VII** through payment of our full assessment.

In addition to our support for the work of the greater church, we also fund reserves to (1) cover the expenses of our Diocesan Deputation to the triennial **General Convention** occurring in 2018 in Austin, TX: and (2) cover our Bishop's participation at **Lambeth Conference**, which occurs every ten years (next in 2018).

The Diocese has expanded its support of **Mission Development, College Ministry, Congregational Vitality Institute, International Mission, Outreach Ministries, and MAP Grants**. These ministry programs and outreach is funded by trust fund income. These expenses assist missions, college ministry, congregational vitality, International Mission, development, MAP Grants to all congregations, Spanish Ministry, outreach ministry throughout the diocese, theological education, prepare and support candidates for diaconate and ordination.

Also, funded by trust fund income, is an **Episcopate Reserve Fund, Seminary Support, Clergy Conferences, Curacy Program, Commission on Ministry, and Theological Education**. These funds assist in building an Episcopate reserve fund, supports our seminarians, provide an opportunity for clergy conferences and retreats, supports the curacy program, Commission on Ministry and their work within the diocese, and help to provide support for retired clergy assistance.

The **Office of Communication Ministry** supports mission and ministry through:

News and information emphasizing national, international and local interrelationships;

Resources that deepen understanding and practice of the Christian faith;

Practical internet and technology applications to enhance web sites and other electronic Communications diocesan wide.

Retired Clergy Support reflects continued support to retired clergy with the provision of a Medicare Supplement and Group Life Policy.

Diocesan Ministries

Bishop and Administrative Support Staff salary and benefits	\$454,753	.191067%
Bishop and Staff auto and travel expense	\$ 50,000	.021008%
Office Expenses	\$ 69,250	.029096%
Insurance and Maintenance	\$ 81,802	.03437%
Diocesan Convention	\$ 25,000	.010504%
Ministry Initiatives		
(Distressed Congregations & College Ministries)	\$181,174	.075456%
Total Diocesan Administrative and Operation	\$861,979.00	36%

Total Expenses

\$2,384,452.00

The Bishop and Staff of the Diocese

This office supports the Bishop in his **administrative responsibilities** as well as pastoral ministries. This includes work related to the implementation of both Diocesan and General Convention initiatives, Diocesan Council meetings, Board of Trustee meeting and policies and support of the ecumenical initiatives and relationships within the Episcopal Church and Anglican Communion.

The plan covers the salary, benefits, and automobile and travel expenses for the Bishop.

The plan also covers the salary and benefits for two administrative support staff for the Bishop; Missioner for Administration and Communications and Missioner for Administration and Finance, together with salary and benefits for a **Transition / Deployment Officer, Missioner for Christian Formation and Youth, and Canon for Congregational Vitality**.

The day-to-day costs of operating the ministry of the Diocesan Office (telephone, postage, supplies, computers, office equipment, etc.) are included here together with the cost of the annual audit by an independent certified public accountant.

Expenses included in the plan also cover the salary of a building custodian, utilities, insurance and repairs and maintenance of Diocesan House and Mt. Olivet Chapel.

The direct expenses of the diocese related to **diocesan convention**: reproduction and mailing of Pre-Convention and Diocesan Journals, hotel accommodations, transportation and meals for diocesan staff and guests, audio visual services and equipment leasing are also covered in this category, venue, food and other miscellaneous expenses related to diocesan convention.

A Focus on Growth

Congregations are being asked to accept their full pledge to the diocesan budget to support new initiatives, such as; congregational growth grants that foster collaborative parish partnerships in evangelism, worship, mission and justice work with underserved communities within the diocese; and the development of congregational financial strategies.

Tupelo

continued from page 4

currently plans to recommend a renewal of that contract, with a one-year term potentially considered.

\$51,000 is included for this purpose within the 2017-18 fiscal year budget and is available should the City Council decide to act on Shelton's recommendation.

Based out of Jackson, MUTEH receives and allocates some federal funds from the

Housing and Urban Development Dept.

The organization does not provide temporary shelter or emergency food supplies. Instead, it seeks to transition the homeless into stable living with a "housing first" approach. Once we take care of the housing piece, it's so much easier to help people," said Allen Tisdale, an outreach navigator with the organization who has worked within Tupelo.

And that's what MUTEH has done in the in the All-America City. The organization's

records show that from May through the end of August, it has taken 14 homeless individuals in Tupelo and placed them into stable housing, such as an apartment.

MUTEH conducts extensive fieldwork to directly locate homeless individuals and assess eligibility for services.

Staff connect eligible persons in need with federal subsidies and temporary financial assistance. Staff members walk the homeless through the housing search, explain lease agreements and help obtain replace-

ments for essential documents such as photo identification and birth certificates.

Through extensive case-management, MUTEH links the clients it serves with community resources and works to build a long-term plan with the client for stable living. Locally, this is an approach Hannah Maharrey is glad to see.

Maharrey is chairperson of the city's Homeless Task Force and manages an assistance program based at All Saints and

See Tupelo, page 3



2016 and 2017 ASKINGS AND ACCEPTANCES

Episcopal Diocese of Western Louisiana 2016 and 2017 Askings and Acceptances

(As of 9/30/2017)

<u>Parish / Mission</u>	<u>2016 Asking</u>	<u>2016 Accepted</u>	<u>2016 Paid</u>	<u>2017 Asking</u>	<u>2017 Accepted</u>	<u>2017 Paid-to-date</u>
Acadiana Convocation						
St. Paul's, Abbeville	\$10,929.00	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$13,837.00	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
Trinity, Crowley	\$4,422.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	\$6,190.00	\$1,500.00	\$0.00
St. Luke's, Jennings	\$3,601.00	\$3,601.00	\$2,700.00	\$3,472.00	\$3,472.00	\$3,472.00
Ascension, Lafayette	\$154,745.00	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00	\$138,402.00	\$50,000.00	\$33,333.36
St. Barnabas, Lafayette	\$104,369.00	\$52,185.00	\$52,185.00	\$100,912.00	\$52,185.00	\$39,323.91
Epiphany, New Iberia	\$31,490.00	\$31,490.00	\$31,490.04	\$32,317.00	\$32,317.00	\$24,237.72
Epiphany, Opelousas	\$12,158.00	\$5,500.00	\$5,500.00	\$11,243.00	\$5,500.00	\$4,500.00
Total Acadiana Convocation	\$321,158.00	\$149,276.00	\$148,375.04	\$306,373.00	\$149,974.00	\$109,866.99
Alexandria Convocation						
St. James, Alexandria	\$133,857	\$133,857	\$133,857	\$127,508.00	\$127,508.00	\$45,000.00
St. Timothy's, Alexandria	\$27,926.00	\$25,000.00	\$25,000.00	\$30,638.00	\$30,638.00	\$22,851.33
Calvary, Bunkie	\$4,382.00	\$3,500.00	\$3,500.00	\$3,398.00	\$3,500.00	\$3,500.00
Trinity, Cheneyville	\$2,367.00	\$2,367.00	\$2,367.00	\$3,077.00	\$3,077.00	\$2,307.75
Holy Comforter, Lecompte	\$5,342.00	\$5,342.00	\$5,342.00	\$4,805.00	\$4,805.00	\$4,805.00
Polk Memorial, Leesville	\$2,343.00	\$2,400.00	\$2,500.00	\$2,348.00	\$2,348.00	\$1,800.00
Trinity, Natchitoches	\$18,320.00	\$18,320.00	\$18,320.00	\$18,161.00	\$18,161.00	\$13,626.00
St. Michael's, Pineville	\$18,787.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4,637.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
St. Paul's, Winnfield	\$920.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Alexandria Convocation	\$214,244.00	\$190,786.00	\$190,886.00	\$195,572.00	\$190,037.00	\$93,890.08
Lake Charles Convocation						
Trinity, DeRidder	\$3,183.00	\$3,183.00	\$3,183.00	\$2,591.00	\$2,591.00	\$1,943.24
Good Shepherd, Lake Charles	\$113,057.00	\$113,057.00	\$117,767.75	\$123,897.00	\$123,897.00	\$61,948.50
St. Michael's, Lake Charles	\$43,846.00	\$34,638.00	\$31,751.72	\$42,042.00	\$40,000.00	\$29,999.97
St. Andrew's, Moss Bluff	\$3,370.00	\$3,370.00	\$3,370.00	\$5,329.00	\$5,329.00	\$3,996.75
Holy Trinity, Sulphur	\$20,780.00	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00	\$25,823.00	\$7,200.00	\$5,400.00
Total Lake Charles Convocation	\$184,236.00	\$160,248.00	\$162,072.47	\$199,682.00	\$179,017.00	\$103,288.46
Monroe Convocation						
Christ, Bastrop	\$9,809.00	\$6,980.00	\$4,653.28	\$9,295.00	\$9,295.00	\$6,970.64
St. Luke's, Grambling	\$3,958.00	\$2,200.00	\$1,500.00	\$3,524.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00
Grace, Lake Providence	\$4,495.00	\$4,575.00	\$4,575.00	\$4,148.00	\$4,148.00	\$3,101.00
St. Andrew's, Mer Rouge	\$9,495.00	\$9,495.00	\$9,495.00	\$10,426.00	\$8,862.00	\$6,646.60
Grace, Monroe	\$100,015.00	\$70,000.00	\$70,000.00	\$151,519.00	\$77,000.00	\$57,749.87
St. Alban's, Monroe	\$21,345.00	\$18,000.00	\$18,000.00	\$21,379.00	\$21,379.00	\$16,034.31
St. Thomas, Monroe	\$12,059.00	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$9,949.00	\$10,000.00	\$6,525.00
Redeemer, Oak Ridge	\$4,488.00	\$2,319.00	\$2,319.00	\$2,434.00	\$2,434.00	\$2,434.00
St. David's, Rayville	\$5,969.00	\$5,969.00	\$5,969.00	\$5,858.00	\$5,858.00	\$11,716.00
Redeemer, Ruston	\$22,000.00	\$15,000.00	\$15,001.00	\$21,400.00	\$17,000.00	\$12,749.94
Christ Church, St. Joseph	\$6,052.00	\$6,052.00	\$6,052.00	\$6,485.00	\$6,485.00	\$0.00
Trinity, Tallulah	\$9,092.00	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00	\$9,431.00	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00
Good Shepherd, Vidalia	\$4,242.00	\$4,242.00	\$800.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
St. Patrick's, West Monroe	\$12,201.00	\$12,201.00	\$6,000.00	\$10,885.00	\$6,000.00	\$4,500.00
St. Columba's, Winnsboro	\$1,936.00	\$1,936.00	\$1,936.00	\$1,936.00	\$2,130.00	\$2,130.00
Total Monroe Convocation	\$227,236.00	\$174,969.00	\$162,300.28	\$268,863.00	\$178,091.00	\$138,057.36
Shreveport Convocation						
St. George's, Bossier City	\$24,633.00	\$20,000.00	\$20,004.00	\$27,254.00	\$20,000.00	\$15,003.00
Christ Memorial, Mansfield	\$26,449.00	\$17,837.00	\$17,837.50	\$24,362.00	\$13,862.00	\$13,862.00
St. John's, Minden	\$35,878.00	\$20,000.00	\$24,000.00	\$32,992.00	\$20,000.00	\$2,000.00
Holy Cross, Shreveport	\$17,984.00	\$17,984.00	\$17,984.04	\$21,149.00	\$21,149.00	\$15,861.78
St. James, Shreveport	\$22,221.00	\$22,221.00	\$22,221.00	\$18,835.00	\$18,835.00	\$14,126.22
St. Mark's, Shreveport	\$288,669.00	\$175,000.00	\$175,000.00	\$274,611.00	\$175,000.00	\$131,249.97
St. Matthias, Shreveport	\$23,870.00	\$23,870.00	\$23,870.00	\$29,237.00	\$17,950.00	\$13,465.00
St. Paul's, Shreveport	\$129,414.00	\$60,000.00	\$60,000.00	\$136,801.00	\$60,000.00	\$40,000.00
Total Shreveport Convocation	\$569,118.00	\$356,912.00	\$360,916.04	\$565,241.00	\$346,796.00	\$245,567.97
Total Diocese	\$1,516,548.00	\$1,032,191.00	\$1,024,549.83	\$1,535,731.00	\$1,043,915.00	\$690,670.86
2015 Pledge balance paid in 2016						
St. Luke's, Jennings		\$1,834.00				
Ascension, Lafayette		\$5,000.00				
St. George's, Bossier City		\$1,667.00				
St. Andrew's, Mer Rouge		\$0.01				
St. Michael & All Angels		\$3,236.21				
			\$1,036,287.05			
2016 Pledge balance paid in 2017						
Christ, Bastrop					\$2,326.72	
St. Luke's, Jennings					\$901.00	
						\$693,898.58



THE EPISCOPAL OFFICE



DIOCESAN COUNCIL

The Diocesan Council of the Episcopal Diocese of Western Louisiana meets on a quarterly basis on the third Tuesday of that month, unless there is not enough business to warrant a meeting. The Council has met four times since the 37th Annual Convention of the Diocese in 2016. The Council reviews the financial status of the diocese and prepares the annual budget to present at Diocesan Convention. The annual budget is approved by the Diocesan Council following the Convention. A verbal report from each of the Council departments and a report on the activities of various ministries of the diocese are given at every meeting. A representative from each of the five convocations updates the Council on activities taking place in their convocation. During the 2016 – 2017 Term, the Diocesan Council acted on the following matters:

1. St. Michael's, Pineville, was changed to Mission status.
2. Iglesia Episcopal La Esperanza de Familias Unidas was established as an Episcopal Church Latino/Hispanic Mission of the Diocese of Western Louisiana. Services are currently held at St. Alban's, Monroe.
3. A no-interest loan of \$40,000 was provided to St. George's, Bossier, to pay for foundation for the building.
4. The stipulation that a parish receiving a MAP Grant must provide a monetary match was removed and replaced with the expectation of some form of participation in kind as a congregation is able.
5. An interest-free loan for St. Timothy's, Alexandria, of requested money, as was previously approved by the Finance Committee, was approved by the Council.
6. The sale of mineral rights on property in DeSoto Parish, which is owned by St. James Shreveport, was approved.
7. The boundaries of the John Long Jackson Fund was edited to allow monies to be loaned to all congregations, missions and parishes alike.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Barnes Shaw
Secretary



COMMISSION ON MINISTRY

The website, www.episcopalchurch.org says, "The functions of Commissions on Ministry specified in the canon (III.1) are to assist the bishop 'in determining present and future needs for ministry in the dio-

cese' and to assist 'in enlisting and selecting persons for Holy Orders.' ... They interview candidates prior to their ordination as deacons and may interview candidates prior to their ordination as priests, if requested by the bishop, reporting to the bishop in each case...."

In the Diocese of Western Louisiana, the Commission, made up of: Susie Drell, Marybeth McVie, Nancy Wade, the Rev. Deacon Lois Mayberry, the Very Rev. Mary Richard, the Rev. Canon Bill Bryant, the Very Rev. Rich Snow, the Rev. Richard Norman, the Rev. Susanne Wolfenbarger, and the Rev. Whit Stodghill, performs those functions with faithful dedication and professionalism.

Over the course of the last year, the Commission has met with and recommended Postulancy for: Paul White, Laurent De Prins, and Andrew Armond. The Commission also recommended that the following people be granted Candidacy for Holy Orders: Michael Porter; Lee Jefferson; André Bordelon; and Madge McLain.

The Diocese now has people involved in preparation for the diaconate or priesthood, at traditional seminaries, commuter seminaries, and local formation programs. In addition, there are several Congregational Discernment Groups at work around the Diocese, potentially adding more people to our pool of postulants in the coming year.

We also give thanks to God that on August 24, 2017, Bishop Jake ordained André Bordelon and Madge McLain to the transitional diaconate, on their way to becoming priests of the Church, hopefully in 2018. The Commission gives its thanks to the Rev. Deborah Heathcock and the people of St. James, Alexandria, for hosting a lovely ordination service and reception.

Anyone interested in the discernment process should discuss their interest with their rector/vicar/priest-in-charge and review the Discernment Process Manual, which may be downloaded from the diocesan website. If you have any questions regarding the work of the Commission on Ministry, please do not hesitate to contact me or any of the members of the COM.

Respectfully submitted,

The Rev. John Bedingfield
Chair, Commission on Ministry



CHANCELLOR

"The Chancellor's office continues to enjoy the Lord's peace. There have been no material litigation matters involving the Diocese since our last convention. The Chancellor and Andrew Texada, the Vice Chancellor, hope that this tranquility con-



TREASURER'S REPORT

Canon 5 of our diocese requires, in part, that the Treasurer render an annual accounting of the Diocesan receipts and disbursements provided in the budget and a statement of each parish and mission with regard to its pledge. Below is a recap from a preliminary audit report for the period December 31, 2016. The audit includes assets, revenues and expenses, and the Diocesan Trustees Funds. The final audit report was not available in time to include it in the convention issue. The year-to-date report of revenue and expense is unaudited.

From the preliminary audit for the period ending December 31, 2016:

Total Assets	\$35,314,873
Less Liabilities	1,427,317

Total Net Assets	\$33,887,556
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Revenues, Gains (Losses), Other Support and Reclassifications	\$ 5,004,683
Less expenses	\$ 2,647,935

Change in Net Assets	\$ 2,356,748
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From the unaudited financial report for the period ending August 31, 2017

	Budget	Actual
Revenue	\$1,334,879	\$847,751
Expenses	\$1,385,472	\$1,277,315
Year to date Deficit	\$ 50,593	\$ 428,564

The August 31, 2017 unaudited statement does not include any activity from the Trustee Funds other than the budgeted contributions to the operating budget.

Respectfully submitted,

Gray Easterling, Treasurer

tinues into 2018 and beyond."

Respectfully submitted

Kyle C. McInnis, Chancellor



CONSTITUTION and CANONS

The Committee on Canons is governed by Canon 11:

CANON 11, SECTION 1. There shall be a Committee on Canons composed of clergy and lay persons which shall be a standing committee with the power to sit between sessions of the Convention. The Committee shall be appointed by the Bishop

at Convention in such number as he or she from time to time may designate. The Committee on Canons shall consider and report upon all proposed amendments and additions to the Constitution and Canons of this Diocese.....

The Committee on Constitution and Canons has not had any request for revisions of existing and/or adoptions of new Constitution or Canon matters this year; therefore, the Committee has not met.

Respectfully submitted.

Mary Jones, chair



THE EPISCOPAL OFFICE



BISHOP'S OFFICIAL ACTS

BISHOP'S OFFICIAL ACTS – August 1, 2016- July 31, 2017
The Rt. Rev. Jacob W. Owensby, Ph.D., D.D.

Consecrate and ordain other bishops	0
Ordain deacons	0
Ordain priests	1
Received priests	0
Impose sentences of Suspension, Depositions	0
Remove sentences of Suspension, Depositions	1
Receive Renunciation of Orders	0
Consent to elections, consecrations and resignations of bishops	14
Did not consent to elections, consecrations and resignations of bishops	0
Confirm	108
Receive	20
Reaffirm	28
Baptisms	1
Receive Letters Dimissory	1
Issue Letters Dimissory	0
Give permission for remarriages	10
Weddings	0
Approve retirement applications for clergy	1
License clergy to officiate in diocese	0
License Eucharistic ministers	24
License Eucharistic Visitors	26
License Worship Leaders	29
Sign death notice for clergy from Church Pension Fund	2
Sermons	58
Holy Eucharists	65
Funerals - members of the clergy	1
Blessing and Dedication of Structures and Appointments	1
Deconsecration and secularization of churches	0



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Board of Trustees meets four times a year, at least twice in person at the Diocesan House in Pineville. When not meeting in person, we meet via "Go To Meeting".

The canonical responsibility of the Board of Trustees is to invest and reinvest the funds and securities of the Diocese for its benefit. The professional advisors of the Board of Trustees are Bo Smithwick, Jr. of Merrill Lynch and Greg Dvorocsik of BlackRock Private Investors. Bo and Greg have done a commendable job for the Board.

Particularly at our meetings at Pineville, Bishop Owensby relates to us his vision of the future of the Diocese and how the Board of Trustees may best assist him to accomplish his goals.

The members of the Board of Trustees are Gray Easterling (Treasurer), Judge David Painter, Steve Skrivanos, Foster Walker, Barbara Lambert and Kem Hargrove. We continue to be grateful for the valuable time and advice these members give for the good of the Diocese.

We are particularly thankful for Kathy

Richie, Missioner for Administration and Finance and for the invaluable assistance of Bishop Owensby hosting us at the Diocesan House and for giving us his articulate guidance.

We are always mindful of the numerous restrictions placed on many of the investments which the Board of Trustees has under its custody and control along with the significant accounts managed for parishes, missions and schools of the Diocese.

Respectfully submitted

Stephen R. Yancey II, Chair



HARDTNER TRUSTEES

The Executive Committee of the Board consists of me, Deacon André Bordelon (Vice-Chair), Robert Ratcliff (Treasurer), and Wesley Johnson (Secretary). The remaining Board members are the Bishop, Terry Clason, Mike Endicott, Bill Shearman, Richard Crowell, Fr. Michael Bordelon, Mother Ally Perry, and Canon Bill Bryant (Bishop's Representative). A heartfelt thanks to every member of the Board for

their service this past year—they are a wonderful Board with which to work.

The year 2017 has been a very "interesting" year at Camp Hardtner, to be sure. By "interesting" I mean busy, eventful, challenging, life-giving. So much has occurred that as I draft this report I am hopeful that I have not left anything out.

- On January 21, 2017, we had an on-site, two-day Board meeting/retreat at the Camp during which we took care of a good deal of business. One of the most exciting aspects was the acceptance of a solid Marketing Campaign—this campaign was created and executed by Hardtner alum Adam Chapman (his work on this project was his gift to Hardtner). The Campaign comprised new website, marketing strategies, merchandise options, options for giving, etc. Our summer enrollment hit 444, which represents a 9.05% increase over last year's enrollment. On behalf of the Camp and the Diocese—a huge thanks to Adam for the generosity of his time, talent, and energy.

- Just hours after our Board meeting on January 21, Camp Hardtner was hit by a tornado causing damages in excess of \$166,000—for a number of reasons (coordinating adjustors, negotiating with adjustors and contractors) repairs were not able to commence until May, but the work proceeded at a good pace and was completed.

- On February 21, 2017, Tom Welch, our Camp Director resigned effective immediately for family reasons—many thanks to Mandy and Cedric Holden (our key onsite employees) for their extraordinary efforts to keep the Camp functioning in the absence of a Director. The Board Chair and Executive Committee took on many of the decisions and actions usually addressed by a Director—at other times, the whole board was involved in the decision-making process. This has been a collaborative team effort which, though not ideal for running a Camp, worked very well as a stopgap measure.

- Susan Hackett Walpole (no stranger to Hardtner, Susan normally lives and works in the Diocese of Louisiana) was hired in February to serve as our Summer Camp Director—Susan moved on site in May. Susan did an amazing job as our Summer Director and proactively addressed many issues which will make the life of our new Director easier—as well, Susan provided a very complete list of items/issues to be addressed as your Camp moves forward into its next chapter of ministry. There are not enough words to thank Susan (and her husband Clint) for all that they accomplished on behalf of Camp this summer.

- In February 2017 we addressed Powder Post Beetle and Termite treatment for Hargrove House.

- In March, Deacon André Bordelon was appointed Chair of the Search Committee for a new Director (other members of the

Search Committee are Board Chair Mike Endicott, Bill Shearman, and Mother Ally Perry). As I write this report the Committee members are conducting interviews and preparing to recommend a final candidate to the Board and Bishop. I would like to thank Deacon André for keeping this process on track and "wrangling cats" when

See *Hardtner Trustees*, page 19



STANDING COMMITTEE

The Standing Committee is made up of three clergy and three lay members. Each of the five convocations elect one member and Diocesan Convention elects one at-large member. The rotation is set up so that a convocation elects a clergy person during one term and a lay person for the next term. Terms have been staggered so that the makeup of the committee is always three clergy and three lay members.

This year, over the course of our five meetings (at this writing) the Standing Committee consented to:

- the election of the Venerable Carl Walter Wright as Bishop Suffragan for the Armed Force and Federal Ministries of The Episcopal Church;
- the election of a Bishop Coadjutor for the Diocese of Haiti;
- St. Michael's, Pineville to move from parish status to mission status;
- the election of the Rev'd Jennifer Baskerville-Burrows as Bishop Diocesan for the Diocese of Indianapolis;
- the election of the Rev'd Canon John Harvey Taylor as Bishop Diocesan for the Diocese of Los Angeles;
- the election of the Rev'd Canon Rafael L. Morales as Bishop Diocesan for the Diocese of Puerto Rico;
- Candidacy for André Bordelon and Madge McLain;
- the election of the Rev'd Samuel S. Rodman, III as Bishop Diocesan for the Diocese of North Carolina;
- the election of the Rev'd Jennifer Brooke-Davidson as Bishop Suffragan for the Diocese of West Texas;
- the election of Bishop David C. Rice as Bishop Diocesan for the Diocese of San Joaquin (he had been serving as Provisional Bishop);
- St. Matthias, Shreveport to move from parish status to mission status;
- the Ordination of Madge McLain and André Bordelon as transitional Deacons, and,
- Candidacy for Lee Jefferson

It has been my honor and privilege to serve as President of the Standing this past year.

Respectfully submitted,

The Rev'd Richard Norman, Chair



DEPARTMENT OF CHRISTIAN FORMATION



COMMISSION ON CHRISTIAN FORMATION

The Commission on Christian Formation supports both Diocesan and parish programs that enhance the growth of our relationship with God, self, and others.

In June 2017, Commission Members Amy Donald, Joy Owensby, and Martha Whelan traveled to Kanuga in Hendersonville, North Carolina, to attend **Reimagining Faith Formation for the 21st Century**. The outstanding conference was led by John Roberto, a Roman Catholic layperson who has made faith formation his life's work.

John Roberto is president of Lifelong Faith Associates, editor of the journal *Lifelong Faith*, and works as a consultant to churches and national organizations, teaches courses and conducts workshops in faith formation, and has authored books and program manuals in faith formation. John created the theory and practice of *Generations of Faith*—an intergenerational, lifelong approach to faith formation; and administered the five-year Lilly Endowment funded project to develop lifelong faith formation in Catholic parishes across the U.S. He is the founder and was director of the Center for Ministry Development, where he worked for 28 years. In addition to his work at Lifelong Faith, John works on the Vibrant Faith team as Special Projects Coordinator involved in research, training, and consulting. His publications include *Seasons of Adult Faith Formation* (editor and co-author, 2015) *Reimagining Faith Formation for the 21st Century* (2015), *Generations Together: Caring, Celebrating, Learning Praying, and Serving Faithfully* (co-authored, 2014), *Faith Formation 2020: Designing the Future of Faith* (2010), *The Spirit and Culture of Youth Ministry* (co-authored, 2010), and *Becoming a Church of Lifelong Learners* (2006).

Our Diocesan Council appointed the Very Rev. Matt Woollett and the Rev. Dr. Frank Hughes as liaisons between our Commission and the Council. They will be invited to our meetings and will be in-

Continued on the next column.



CURSILLO

No report submitted

cluded on all correspondence.

In the past, the Commission on Christian Formation has sponsored one-day annual conferences such as *Blowing Up the Church: Fermenting Faith Explosions*; *Christian Formation, Life Long and Life Wide*; and *Ancient Faith, Modern Tools - Being the Church in the Modern World*.

The conferences were well received. Our goal is to build upon what we have learned and delve more deeply into Faith Formation. We will use John Roberto's model to guide us.

Respectfully submitted,

Martha Whelan



SUMMER CAMPING

WOW! What a magnificent summer we've had here at Camp Hardtner! Here are some fun facts by the numbers:

Sessions – 7

Campers – 443

Volunteers – 146

Chicken strips – 1,081

Milk & Cookies – 881 milks & 881 cookies – because “1 milk & 1 cookie!” (well 882 cookies, cause I took 2 one night – shhhh, don't tell anyone!)

Bedtime stories – 21

Arrows shot during archery – 12,600

Tags pulled – 4,430

Worship services – 63

As you can see it's been a fun-filled and amazing Camping Season! There has been so much love - and countless lifelong friendships created and renewed here - as is our greatest tradition. I've seen kids who've been coming here for years who started out so truly quiet and shy. Now – they're singing, performing stand-up comedy, and showing off their “silly human tricks” in front of their peers. (And rocking their talents as well, I must say). I've seen kids whose grandparents were on Camp Staff when I was a kid – talk about the circle of life at Camp. Those legacies are so cool. Add to the mix some brand new campers who became BFF's with some of our legacies – just wow!

I've been blessed to be around some of the sweetest kids on Earth this summer – and meet their fantastic parents. This summer has truly been an awesome adventure!

I've learned so much from our Hardtner kids about superheroes and comics, cool movies, music that's popular, and all their favorite camp games. I must say those have definitely withstood the test of time!!!

I couldn't be more proud of this Camp, our Permanent Staff, Deans, Camp Staffs, CIT's Campers and Year Round Staff! What an honor to have been a part of it all!

However, because there's always “a however” ... this amazing place, full of magic and love can't survive without your support. Camp Hardtner needs priests and lay people to serve as Deans, Assistant Deans, Camp Staff, and nurses. Serving in these roles not only gives us a true feeling of hope for the future (as seeing these kids in action shows that the world will be ok), but also gives them great, Episcopal role models. If we'd like to see our young people involved in the church, we MUST nurture them. They need it, and frankly you may need it too, although you may not see it until you're there.

Other ways you can support Camp Hardtner is by sending your kids – and their friends, talking it up at your church (maybe make a Camp Hardtner Sunday), and financially supporting it. Camp is hanging in there despite the fact that kids are super busy as per our culture – help it to thrive.

In gratitude,

Susan Hackett Walpole,
2017 Summer Camp Director



DIOCESAN YOUTH COMMISSION

The Diocesan Youth Commission (DYC), is gathering steam. There is some momentum beginning to build and I can feel we are starting to make some positive steps in empowering our youth in Western Louisiana. Just a recap of our year. All of our weekend retreats were a great success, JEYL for middle school and CLEY for high school. Both of these weekends are meant to feel like summer camp compacted into one weekend. Our other major weekend retreat was Happening #55 which, in my opinion is one of the most powerful weekends a high-schooler can attend. All three of these weekends are so important for getting our youth involved and networked on the diocesan level. If you need any information about these weekend opportunities, please contact me or your local DYC member.

Other than our weekend retreats 2017 saw several other major events. The largest was EYE '17. EYE stands for Episcopal Youth Event and is a national gathering of Episcopal Youth from all over the Episcopal Church. Our Diocese sent 8 youth

and 2 adults to represent us on the national level. EYE is meant to foster leadership among our youth and is a place where ideas are exchanged and bonds are made.

Also in 2017, the DYC partnered with CVI as we hosted Jamie Martin-Currie and discussed youth ministry in our churches. It was a great venue where we all got to ask those hard questions about youth ministry. That weekend showed me that we have a desire to reach out to our youth, but that we are all a little uncertain on how to do that.

So, on behalf of the DYC, I want to extend an invitation to all congregations to partner with us if you need help with your youth ministry.

See Youth Commission, page 18



SAFEGUARDING GOD'S CHILDREN

The Diocese of Western Louisiana takes matters of safety seriously, especially keeping our children, youth, and adults safe from all forms of sexual misconduct while they are at church or participating in church activities. Abuse prevention training is mandatory for those working with children and youth. In many circumstances, adults are also required to receive instruction in the prevention of adult sexual exploitation and harassment.

For a number of years, our diocese offered this training through *Safeguarding God's Children* workshops held periodically throughout Western Louisiana. We made the transition from classroom instruction in *Safeguarding God's Children* to digital training using *Safeguarding Online* during the summer of 2013.

As of August 1, 2017, there are 2,111 registered users throughout our diocese (see attached report). Course requirements for employees and volunteers are specified in

See Safeguarding, page 16



UNIVERSITY OF THE SOUTH

2016-2017 REPORT TO THE DIOCESE OF WESTERN LOUISIANA

College of Arts & Sciences
Enrollment from the Diocese of Western Louisiana: 6 students total (2 report Episcopal heritage)
Financial aid awarded to all college students from the Diocese of Western Louisiana: \$117,504.00

The School of Theology

See University of the South, page 15



DEPARTMENT OF MISSION and DEPARTMENT OF OUTREACH



CONGREGATIONAL VITALITY INSTITUTE

The Congregational Vitality Commission is about the ministry of assisting the Episcopal congregations of the Diocese in strengthening their VITALITY through providing resources in many forms—educational and training information published on websites and in book form, training seminars, presentations through the Congregational Vitality Institute and special visits with congregations.

This year, seminars by the Congregational Vitality Institute (CVI) featured INVITE WELCOME CONNECT by Mary Parmer and APPRECIATIVE INQUIRY with Rob Voyle—both very well presented and received.

The Congregational Vitality Leader program began this year with each congregation having a designated vitality leader who is in on-going communication with the Commission and conveys vitality information to their own congregation.

The work of the Congregational Vitality Commission continues into 2018 under the enthusiastic leadership of Fr. Jamie Flowers.

Respectfully submitted,

The Rev'd Canon William Reid Bryant



DISASTER RELIEF COORDINATOR

Procrastination calls for more work than immediate response. As I look back to 2017 and if I had written this response when asked I would have little to write. After two significant flooding situations in the Diocese of Western Louisiana in 2015 and 2016, there was little to report for 2017. We were asked to assist with the post flooding problems of unmet needs from the initial funding sources and able to provide rental support and replace furniture in these situations. That would be the end of the report until Hurricane Harvey hit in August 2017 and then quickly Hurricane Irma is going to damage areas possible close also. The worries of these would not have been mentioned if I had written my report in a timely manner. Because of the devastation from both storms, we will have lots of post damage to anticipate and direct our efforts in the coming years.

I do have a plan for meeting these needs and would like you who read this report to consider helping. I would like to improve the disaster preparedness and participation in disaster relief by forming a team of representatives from each of the convocations.

By identifying a contact person in each convocation, when a disaster is anticipated, that person can contact clergy and leaders in the churches close to them and report the needs and efforts in their area. This will make response time quicker and more thorough.

We also need to better utilize the Episcopal Relief and Development Asset Mapping program. This program works with churches to identify what assets they have that could be utilized in a disaster to better reach people. It is a simple task, it just needs someone designated to put the information on the site.

Please pray fully consider participating in this group effort. We will not be bogged down with numerous meetings, I hope to do most of the communication by phone, email and possible a few electronic meetings.

If you are interested, contact me or come by the Disaster Relief table to convention and sign up. I look forward to meeting with you or talking about your ideas.

Respectfully submitted

Deacon Lois Maberry
318-286-5414
Lrhma@bellsouth.net
Lois@stmarkscathedral.net



EPISCOPAL SCHOOL OF ACADIANA

The Episcopal School of Acadiana has entered its 38th year as the Diocesan School for the Episcopal Diocese of Western Louisiana. The school stands on solid footing, opening the 2017-18 school year with 621 students, its largest enrollment to date. The Lafayette campus has 265 students in PreK-3 to grade 5 and the Cade campus has 356 students in grades 6 to 12. Fifty-two seniors will graduate in May 2018. The school's mission of academic excellence, honor education, and spiritual growth is attracting more students than ever, while the engaging program and a strong sense of community help retain both students and faculty. For three consecutive years now ESA has been named the Number 1 private school in the state of Louisiana by Niche.com.

On Saturday, May 27, we closed the 2016-2017 academic year, with the celebration of ESA's thirty-fifth commencement as forty-seven seniors received their diplomas under the oaks on the Cade campus. ESA seniors continue to attract the attention of colleges and universities across the nation. The seniors in the Class of 2017 submitted 369 applications for admission and were admitted to 85 different colleges and universities. Forty-four members of the class (94%) were offered merit aid totaling just over \$8.5 million. The graduates are attending 21 different schools this fall includ-

ing Auburn, Berklee College of Music, Denison University, Duke University, Hanover College, Harvard College, Louisiana State University, Loyola University – New Orleans, Northwestern State University, Rice University, Savannah College of Art & Design, Southern Methodist University, Stanford University, Tulane University, University of Alabama, University of Chicago, University of Louisiana – Lafayette, University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill, University of Oklahoma, University of Westminster (London), and Washington & Lee University.

Eleven members of the Class of '17 were recognized by the National Merit Scholarship program for exceptional performance on the PSAT administered in October 2015. Two were National Merit Commended Students, one was a National Merit Scholar Semi-Finalist, and eight were named National Merit Finalists. Clarke Patrone, president of the Class of 2017, was also named a United States Presidential Scholar – one of the nation's highest honors for high school students.

ESA students continue to lead in Acadiana and are among the top in the state on standardized test performance. With a class median ACT composite score of 29 and the mid 50% scoring between 26 and 32, ESA ranks well above local, state, and national averages. This past May, 99 upper school students took 221 Advanced Placement Exams in 14 different subjects with 81% of the students scoring 3 or higher on at least one AP exam. The College Board recognized 11 of these students as AP Scholars, 7 as AP Scholars with Honors, 23 as AP Scholars with Distinction, and 9 as National AP Scholars.

ESA students excelled in athletics as well. The Falcons captured four state championships in the 2016-2017 school year (boys and girls Cross Country, boys Golf and girls Track and Field), bringing our total to 80 State Championships! ESA was State Runner-up in Boys' Soccer. The Boys Basketball and Baseball Teams were both State semi-finalists. Two ESA graduating seniors will participate in their sports at the college level this year.

Last year, the Performing and Visual Art Departments had an exciting year. The Performing Arts Department produced The Wedding Singer as its spring musical. Fifty-five middle and upper school students, from actors to crew to band members, entertained the community. Students in both divisions performed in The Iliad, The Odyssey, and all of Greek Mythology in 99 Minutes or Less as their fall drama show, and musicians in both divisions played a variety of genres from jazz to rock in music chapels and Coffee House as well as providing music for our monthly Eucharist services. The newly formed Musical Theatre classes showcased Broadway hits to the school. Musicians spent a day at

Dockside Studios recording music that they had worked on during the year. The Lower school choir performed with Chorale Acadienne at their Christmas concert and produced Annie, Jr. in the spring to much acclaim as well. The Visual Art Department held exhibitions on both campuses in 2016-2017, as well as participated in District Rally and Louisiana State

See ESA, page 17



UNITED THANK OFFERING

The mission of the United Thank Offering is to expand the circle of thankful people. To achieve this mission, we encourage daily prayers, offerings and the awareness of the abundance of God's blessings we all enjoy. Our values are: Thanksgiving, Generosity, Mission, and Ministry. The United Thank Offering is a spiritual and financial partner in mission work of The Episcopal Church.

The people of our diocese have been very generous with their time, talent and treasure when it comes to the United Thank Offering, especially this year with all the hurricanes and earthquakes happening in our country. Each year there is a Spring Ingathering and a Fall Ingathering wherein the "blue boxes" are collected and monies sent in to the diocese to be forwarded to the National UTO Fund.

See United Thank Offering, page 17



EPISCOPAL RELIEF and DEVELOPMENT

With each new week seeming to usher in a new, record-breaking disaster, the heroic work of emergency first responders and recovery volunteers has never seemed more urgent, or the need more immediate.

The Episcopal Church has, at all levels, reached out to ease the suffering caused by recent hurricanes and natural disasters, both at home and abroad. As the primary humanitarian outreach of the national church, Episcopal Relief and Development (ERD) has worked with local partners to respond to Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria, as well as two earthquakes in Mexico and a typhoon in the Philippines.

See Episcopal Relief, page 17



INTERNATIONAL MISSION

No report submitted



DEPARTMENT OF PROGRAM



ADDICTION AND RECOVERY

Joy in the Journey, a three-day retreat, was held at Camp Hardtner on September 30 – October 2, 2016. The retreat, entitled *Soul Food for the Soul – the 11th Step*, was led by Joe Pack Arnold, a spiritual director, addiction counselor, and ordained Presbyterian minister.

These retreats welcome anyone with 12-Step affiliations, such as AA, Alanon, GA, NA, or people interested in learning more about addiction and recovery. The 2017 retreat will be held the last weekend of September.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Shaw
Chair, Addiction Recovery Commission



COMMUNICATIONS & PUBLIC RELATIONS

The Communications and Public Relations Commission of the Episcopal Diocese of Western Louisiana is tasked by the Bishop with reflecting on and providing strategies, guidelines and guidance for those working in these areas.

While the Commission has made little progress since the last convention, our churches, members, and Diocesan staff have not! With Bishop Jake leading the charge, most all our churches are active on the web, and various forms of Social Media. Individual members share with friends, family and world what the Western Louisiana branch of the Jesus Movement is up to. *This is how the church and its members do and share our ministry and mission now!*

This summer, Camp Hardtner provided week by week updates, photos and video of our camping program. The youth and adults who travelled to the Episcopal Youth Event – EYE – shared in real time all that they experienced. And Bishop Jake spoke not only to our diocese, but to the Church and world about the Church's mission, work, and message. We as God's people are embracing this new way of sharing with our neighbors and one another what we are up to.

Work has continued and rapidly expanded also on a diocesan level via web, social media, and print publications. Communication via the diocesan website, multiple social media formats, calendaring, event and Camp Hardtner registration and regular communication via Constant Contact have improved and are expanding dramatically. These efforts are due to the example and work of our Bishop, his wife Joy and

individual members of this commission – especially Holly Davis and Bob Harwell.

More work remains. The Communications and Public Relations Commission needs strategic thinkers and leadership willing and able to shape an overall vision for this very active and organic grassroots movement. If you are interested, join us. And to all you who are doing your part now – *Keep at it!*

Respectfully submitted,

The Rev'd T. Whitfield Stodghill, III, Chair



DAUGHTERS OF THE KING

Blessings from the Diocese of Western Louisiana. Currently, we have eighteen active Chapters representing 237 Daughters, covering all five of our convocations. We recently installed two new chapters, one in Monroe at Grace Church with fourteen Daughters and one in Shreveport at The Church of the Holy Cross with four Daughters. Welcome Daughters!

This year the Daughters lost five faithful women, may they rest in peace.

Marge Leggett, St. Timothy, Alexandria
Linda Palombo Holy Trinity, Sulphur
JoAnn Estabrook St. John, Minden
Cathie Fincher St. Thomas, West Monroe
Melinda Zolzer, Trinity, Natchitoches

Our Spring Assemble was moved from spring to summer this year hoping to attract more ladies in the slower summer months. The Assembly was held in Lake Charles and hosted by the Lake Charles Convocation. The theme was "Tools to Enhance Your Prayer Life". We had 45 in attendance. Everyone brought purses filled with personnel care items to be donated to "The Open Door-Women Prison and Re-Entry Ministry" along with the loose offering for the day.

The new incoming board was elected during our Assembly and they will take office in September 2018. The following Daughters were elected:
Debbie Langlois - President
Mary Beth Edwards - Vice President
Debbie Fitzpatrick - Treasurer
Dara Antee - Secretary

The Daughters continue to have a booth at the Diocese Convocation. This is a great opportunity to meet Daughters from around the Diocese and increase our visibility to the Churches. The Daughters plan to have a booth at the upcoming convention in Alexandria in November. Anyone interested in manning the booth, give Judy a call.

Communication continued to be a con-

See *Daughters of the King*, page 19



DISMANTLING RACISM

The mission of the Commission on Dismantling Racism has been to support the Bishop, parishes, affiliated institutions, and all other related ministries of our Diocese in eliminating racism through encouragement of cultural diversity and recognition of the enriching gifts brought into our world by all people of all races and cultures. We view our mission as being firmly rooted in the Gospel, wherein our Lord commands us to "go...and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you" (Matthew 28.19-20) and Saint Paul declares there being "neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus." (Galatians 3.28)

The Commission's major achievement this past year was hosting with the Province VII Multi-Cultural Relations Network the canonically mandated anti-racism training conference "Seeing the Face of God in Each Other" July 11-12, 2017. Many thanks go to the Rev. Dawnell Stodghill and the great people of St. Thomas Church, Monroe, who were our conference hosts, and to the Rev. Deacon Bette Kaufmann and Mrs. Ayesha Mutope-Johnson of the Diocese of Texas, Chairwoman of the Province VII Multi-Cultural Relations Network, who both aided yours truly in planning and facilitating the conference. It was a wonderful success, with not only members from our own Diocese's Commission attending, but members from similar committees and commissions, as well as clergy and nominees for ordained ministry throughout all Province VII dioceses present. The Commission is currently discussing ideas and plans on how to best reincorporate this canonically required training conference within our Diocese.

In recognition of the heightened levels of racial injustice that have become evident throughout our country as of late, the Commission recently drafted several program objectives that will define its efforts during this next year. With the Commission's new objectives being 1) to take on a more prophetic role within the life and witness of the Diocese, 2) increase opportunities for education, and 3) proclaim the Gospel message through confronting racial and ethnic diversity, we will endeavor to actively solicit advice from Western Louisiana Episcopalians on how these objectives can best be achieved in our Diocese. As mentioned earlier, this will be inclusive of the reincorporation of The Episcopal Church's canonically mandated anti-racism training conference throughout our

Diocese. Furthermore, in recognition of our Commission's strengthened resolve, with the Bishop's counsel, we will henceforth be known as the "Beloved Community Commission."

I humbly offer this report to you, my brother and sister Episcopalians in Western Louisiana, asking for your prayers as we endeavor to carry out our goals and welcoming any comments you have to offer. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, may there be unity of mind and spirit.

In Christ,

The Rev. Brandt L. Montgomery
Chairman



ECUMENICAL OFFICER

The Reverend Annie Etheredge and the Reverend Dr. Wayne Carter have represented the Bishop and Diocese of Western Louisiana as the Ecumenical Officers at various ecumenical venues over the past ten years. These include the National Workshop on Christian Unity (NWCU), the Annual Meeting of the churchwide Episcopal Diocesan and Ecumenical Officers (EDEIO), the Annual Assembly and the meetings of the Louisiana Interchurch Conference (LIC), including Executive Council and Faith and Order Meetings. Madre Etheredge has served as a member of the LIC, and as co-Ecumenical Officer of the Diocese with Fr. Carter for the past four.

Since our last Diocesan Convention, both Madre Etheredge and Fr. Carter attended the annual NWCU and EDEIO meetings in Minneapolis, Minnesota, in May, the Louisiana Interchurch Conference's Annual Assembly in Monroe in March, and the LIC Board of Directors' Meeting in Alexandria in September. Madre Etheredge serves as

See *Ecumenical Officer*, page 19



EDUCATION FOR MINISTRY

The Education for Ministry is active and growing again! Thanks be to God. What is Education for Ministry (EfM)?

The Education for Ministry program is a four-year course in theological education offered through Sewanee – The University of the South in the United States and around the world! The EfM website (<http://efm.sewanee.edu/>) describes it this way:

"In 1975 the Reverend Charles Winters published the first version of the curriculum we know now as Education for Ministry. His modest title was "Theological

See *Education for Ministry*, page 18



DEPARTMENT OF PROGRAM



The Diocesan Episcopal Church Women (ECW) is an inter-generational community of women seeking spiritual wholeness and personal development. Together we strive to help each other become the women that God has called us to be and to carry out God's mission in our parishes, our diocese and throughout the world.

The Diocesan of Western Louisiana ECW Board carries out its mission statement by seeking to serve the women of the diocese with two spiritual retreats each year, providing summer camp scholarships for our youth to attend Camp Hardtner and offering assistance and support to special projects that are within the scope of our community and mission.

In January, we had an instillation service at St. Michael's in Pineville. Bishop Jake was in attendance for an encouraging talk, Eucharist and lunch.

The diocesan ECW officers and convocation representatives for 2017 are as follows:

President — Shetwan Roberison, *St. George's - Bossier City*
 Past President — Suzanne Corley, *St. Michael's - Pineville*
 Vice President of Programs — Shetwan Roberison, *St. George's - Bossier City*
 Secretary — Cindy Verret, *Holy Trinity - Sulphur*
 Treasurer — Ione Dean, *St. Mark's - Shreveport*
 Prayer & Worship Chairperson — Rev'd Dr. Rowena White, *St. Mark's - Shreveport*
 Praise & Music Chairman — Roxanne Meyers, *Holy Trinity - Sulphur*
 Communication Chairperson — Barbara Moore, *St. George's - Bossier City*
 Daughters or the King — Judy Bordelon, *St. Timothy's - Alexandria*
 United Thank Offering — Jeanette Leger, *Epiphany - Opelousas*
 Diocesan Liaison — Joy Owensby
 Time for Joy Liaison — Ione Dean, *St. Mark's - Shreveport*
 Diocesan Altar Guild — Ginger Norvell, *Ascension - Lafayette*
 Acadiana Convocation Rep — Barbara Alexander, *Ascension - Lafayette*
 Acadiana Convocation Rep — Sherl Picchioni, *Epiphany - Opelousas*
 Alexandria Convocation Rep — Soni Sers, *Trinity - Natchitoches*
 Alexandria Convocation Rep — Gail Wilking, *St. Michael's - Pineville*
 Lake Charles Convocation Rep — Yvonne Leasure, *Holy Trinity - Sulphur*
 Lake Charles Convocation Rep — Megan Rowzie, *St. Andrews - Moss Bluff*

Monroe Convocation Rep — Open
 Monroe Convocation Rep — Open
 Shreveport Convocation Rep — Stacy Taylor, *St. George's - Bossier City*
 Shreveport Convocation Rep — Sarah Tully, *St. Paul's - Shreveport*

The ECW Board met in April prior to the beginning of the Time For Joy weekend to continue plans for the Celebration weekend in September 2017 and to fund the scholarship program for summer camp. The scholarship program is made available through the Virginia Hodge Paul Fund, which was established in 1982 to honor the first diocesan ECW president and to provide scholarships for youths wishing to attend summer camp at Camp Hardtner. The funds are given to Camp Hardtner to distribute where the need is the greatest and to ensure that no child is turned away from camp due to lack of funds.

Time for Joy retreat was held in April 21-23 and led by Shetwan Roberison and Megan Rowzie as chair and co-chair. We were back in Henton Hall after a much-needed renovation to the building. The

See *Episcopal Churchwomen*, page 18



EPISCOPAL SCHOOLS

The Episcopal Schools in our diocese are listed below. The Episcopal School of Acadiana is the only diocesan school and they have a separate report.

Ascension Day School, Lafayette
 Enrollment at the end of last year 750
 Current year enrollment 818
 Current Faculty
 Full time 108
 Part time 3
 Total Faculty and Staff 147
 Total Budget for this year \$11,790,000
 Grades Served PK3 – 12th
 Head of School: Paul Quick
 Head of School Email: Pquick@ascensionbluegators.org
 Web address: www.ascensionbluegators.org

Bishop Noland Episcopal Day School, Lake Charles
 Enrollment at the end of last year 347
 Current year enrollment 360
 Current Faculty
 Full time 34
 Part time 5
 Total Faculty and Staff 63
 Total Budget for this year \$3,394,914
 Grades Served PK2 – 8th
 Head of School: The Rev. rances "Boo" Kay
 Head of School Email: bkay@episcopaldayschool.org
 Web Address: www.episcopaldayschool.org

Epiphany Day School, New Iberia
 Enrollment at the end of last year 68
 Current year enrollment 89
 Current Faculty
 Full time 9
 Part time 10
 Total Faculty and Staff 26
 Total Budget for this year \$832,000
 Grades Served PK3 – 5th
 Head of School: Dr. Cheryl Boutte
 Head of School Email: Cboutte@eds-ni.com
 Web Address: www.eds-ni.com

Episcopal School of Acadiana, Cade and Lafayette
 Enrollment at the end of last year 566
 Current year enrollment 621
 Current Faculty
 Full-time 82
 Part-time 4
 Total Faculty and Staff 121
 Total Budget for 2012/13 \$9,000,000
 Grades Served PreK3-12
 Head of School: Paul Baker, PhD
 Head of School Email: pbaker@esacadiana.com
 Web Address: www.esacadiana.com

Grace Episcopal School, Monroe
 Enrollment at the end of last year 286
 Current year enrollment 247
 Current Faculty
 Full time teachers 27
 Part time teachers 6
 Total Faculty and Staff 44
 Total Budget for this year \$1,750,951
 Grades Served PK3 – 8th
 Head of School: Dr. Beth Ricks
 Head of School Email: bricks@graceepiscopal.org
 Web Address: www.graceepiscopal.org

St. James Day School, Alexandria
 Enrollment at the end of last year 105
 Current year enrollment 94
 Current Faculty
 Full time 19
 Part time 9
 Total Faculty and Staff 31
 Total Budget for this year \$488,500
 Grades Served 6 weeks – 4 yrs.
 Head of School: Annelise Eaglin
 Head of School Email: sjedsdirector@saintjamesonline.org
 Web Address: www.saintjamesonline.org

St. Mark's Cathedral School, Shreveport
 Enrollment at the end of last year 339
 Current year enrollment 338
 Current Faculty
 Full time 59
 Part time 7
 Total Faculty and Staff 66
 Total Budget for 2012/13 \$3,737,603
 Grades Served PK3 – 8th
 Head of School: Dr. Christopher

R. Carter, D.Min.
 Head of School Email: ccarter@stmarksschool.com
 Web Address: www.stmarksschool.com

St. Paul's Day School, Shreveport
 Enrollment at the end of last year 180
 Current year enrollment 175
 Current Faculty
 Full time 0
 Part time 19
 Total Faculty and Staff 19
 Total Budget for 2012/13 \$475,000
 Grades Served PK3 – PK4+
 Head of School: Ms. Jo Ann Rose
 Head of School Email: joann@stpauls-shreveport.org
 Web Address: www.stpaulsepis.org

Trinity Episcopal Preschool, Natchitoches
 Enrollment at the end of last year 50
 Current year enrollment 49
 Current Faculty
 Full time 8
 Part time 8
 Total Faculty and Staff 8
 Total Budget for 2012/13 \$196,000
 Grades Served PK3 – PK4
 Head of School: The Rev. Suzanne Wolfenbarger
 Head of School Email: wolfems0@sewannee.edu
 Web Address: trinityparish.info

Respectfully submitted,
 The Rev. Frances "Boo" Kay+



LITURGY and MUSIC

The Commission on Liturgy and Music continues to assist the Bishop with various services throughout the diocese as needed. For our Convention 2016 worship it was a real joy to work with the good people of St. Mark's Episcopal Cathedral.

The Commission assisted with the ordination of the Rev'd Frank Fuller to the Sacred Order of Priests on 19th November 2016, and the recent 24th August 2017 ordination of the Rev'd Madge McLain and the Rev'd André Bordelon as transitional Deacons.

Respectfully submitted,
 The Rev'd Richard Norman, Chair



DISCIPLINARY BOARD

No report submitted



CANDIDATES FOR STANDING COMMITTEE

SHREVEPORT



The Rev. Paul D. Martin

Shreveport, LA
How long have you been an
Episcopalian?67+ years
Parish/Mission: St. Paul's Episcopal
Church, Shreveport since 1997

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]

Father Paul Martin's dedication to the ministry and to the Diocese shows his heart for service and willingness to be present for any and all diocesan and parish needs. He will bring a lot to the table.

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]

He is a diligent worker and always working for the greater good of the church. He is just and a good listener. He is good at perceiving what is good and right. He will always look out for the best for the church.

Corey L. Harrington

Completed by the Nominee

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

A. Parish/Mission: St. Paul's, Shreveport - Assistant Rector/Youth Minister; Rector 1997-present

B. Diocese: Commission on Theology, 1990-1992; Spiritual Director for Cursillo (14 years); Trustee, University of the South (14 years); Diocesan Council (6 years); Evangelism Commission (6 years)

C. Province or National: National Cursillo Committee on Revision of the Handbook

D. Community: Started "Matthew 25" taskforce

E. Please provide a brief description of occupational responsibilities in or outside the home. [25 words or less]

As listed above, I have been an active part of this diocese for 27 years.

2. Please give us a brief explanation as to why you would like to serve in this office. [40 words or less]



The Rev. Mary B. Richard

Shreveport, LA
How long have you been an
Episcopalian?lifelong
Parish/Mission: The Church of the Holy
Cross, Shreveport since 2007

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]

The Rev. Mary B. Richard would be a true asset to this position. The Rev. Richard is a life-long Episcopalian and very familiar with our Diocese. She is a passionate and compassionate advocate for the mission of Christ and his church.

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]

The Rev. Mary Richard's work throughout the Diocese on behalf of the most vulnerable of our communities shows her compassion for those Christ clearly calls us to serve. She possesses the ability to listen to each unique voice on various issues and acknowledge the humanity of each voice.

Laura Wilkerson

Completed by the Nominee

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

A. Parish/Mission: St. Mark's Cathedral School: Religion Teacher 1980-85; Librarian 1985-90; St. Mark's Cathedral; Sunday School Teacher, Director of Religious Education 1972-1995, Chair of Community Ministries Committee 1995-2001; Holy Cross Episcopal Church; Lay volunteer at Bishop's request 2007-08; Deacon 2008-09, Priest-in-Charge 2009-2110, Rector 2010-present; Dean of Shreveport Convocation 2013-16

B. Diocese: Environmental Stewardship Commission 1980-1990?; Standing Committee 2012-14; Diocesan Council 2013-16

C. Province or National:

MONROE



Jeffrey Thompson

Ruston, LA
How long have you been an
Episcopalian?since 1990
Parish/Mission: Redeemer, Ruston from
1990-1994; 2014-present

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]

Jeff is a very spiritual and dedicated person who strives for excellence in everything he does. Very active in all facets of our church and wants to help in every way possible.

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]

Jeff is organized, experienced in leading and planning. Extremely able to serve our diocese in any capacity. An asset to Redeemer and every committee he serves on. A real "Go To" person.

The Very Rev. Wm. R. Easterling

Completed by the Nominee

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

A. Parish/Mission: Redeemer/Ruston Vestry member and Clerk, 2017-present; Redeemer/Ruston Chairman, Long-term Planning Committee, 2017-present; Redeemer/Ruston Delegate Diocesan Convention - 2017

B. Diocese:

C. Province or National:

D. Community: Montessori School of Ruston Board, 2014-16; Board of Directors, Louisiana Tech Alumni Association, 2014-17; North Central Louisiana Arts Council; Board of Trustees LA. Tech Chapter of Delta Chi

E. Please provide a brief description of occupational responsibilities in or outside the home. [25 words or less] *Responsible for a 150+ employee financial services center; 23+ years experience as management/executive.*

The Rev. Paul D. Martin

continued from first column, this page

I will bring to the Standing Committee the longevity of over 41 years of ordained ministry and 27 years in this Diocese. Knowing this Diocese will give me the helpful perspective to offer to the Bishop and the Committee.

The Rev. Mary B. Richard

continued from second column, this page

D. Community: Active with The Fuller Center for Housing, Community Renewal International

E. Please provide a brief description of occupational responsibilities in or outside the home. [25 words or less]

At present, most of my activities are those of Holy Cross, diocesan meetings, my family (husband, children, grandchildren) and the St. Luke's Medical Mission board meetings.

2. Please give us a brief explanation as to why you would like to serve in this office. [40 words or less] *My experience in the church has been varied and has given me some understanding of our diocese. I enjoy listening to and discussing with other, and I want very much to be a part of moving our diocese into the future.*

Jeffrey Thompson

continued from third column, this page

2. Please give us a brief explanation as to why you would like to serve in this office. [40 words or less] *To serve my Diocese as best meets my abilities.*

University of the South

continued from page 7

Seminary

Enrollment from the Diocese of Western Louisiana: 2 students total (1 in the summer Advanced Degrees Program)

The Beecken Center
Education for Ministry (EfM) Groups: 2
EfM Diocesan Coordinator: Thomas Whitfield Stodghill III

Support Received from the Diocese of Western Louisiana: \$11,000

Support Received from the Diocese of Western Louisiana churches: \$15,000

2016-2017 Statistics for the University of the South
College of Arts and Sciences total students: 1,734

See The Rev. Paul D. Martin,
fourth column, this page

See The Rev. Mary B. Richard,
fourth column, this page

See Jeffrey Thompson,
fourth column, this page

See University of the South, page 16



CANDIDATES FOR DISCIPLINARY BOARD



Fred King

West Monroe, LA
How long have you been an
Episcopalian? 65+ years
Parish/Mission: Redeemer, Ruston since
1989

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]
Fred has many years experience at the local and diocesan level.
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]
Fred is currently on the Louisiana Bar Assoc. Disciplinary Committee.

J. D. Thompson

Completed by the Nominee

1. History and present positions of Christian service through the Diocese of Western Louisiana. [Give approximate dates]
A. Parish/Mission: Redeemer, Ruston - current Vestry; past served twice as Junior Warden
B. Diocese: Diocesan Council three times; Standing Committee one time
C. Province or National:
D. Community: Rotary Club/Chennault Aviation & Military Museum; Northeast Louisiana Soccer Association
E. Please provide a brief description of occupational responsibilities - in or outside the home. [25 words or less] *Currently operate a law office; past operated an engineering office; currently on the Louisiana Bar Association Disciplinary Committee.*
2. Please give us a brief explanation as to why you would like to serve in this office. [40 words or less] *Asked to serve; my experience in this Diocese and with national events would help me in this position.*



Jennifer Milligan

Abbeville, LA
How long have you been an
Episcopalian? 27 years
Parish/Mission: St. Paul's, Abbeville since 1990

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]
Very involved in church life; professional life gave skills in the workplace that instilled knowledge of people and ability to discern behavior.
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]
Discerning; available to devote the time needed to a given task with committed loyalty.

Roger Boynton

Completed by the Nominee

1. History and present positions of Christian service through the Diocese of Western Louisiana. [Give approximate dates]
A. Parish/Mission: St. Paul's, Abbeville 1990-present
B. Diocese: Cursillo staff and Lay Rector 2004; Secretariat, Spirituality Committee 2003; Transition team for Bishop Jake
C. Province or National:
D. Community: Cooking at Christian Service Center; Hurricane recovery with Vermilion Parish Community of Care; Help with public school supplies; Cure for Cancer
E. Please provide a brief description of occupational responsibilities - in or outside the home. [25 words or less]
Vice President for Gulf Coast Bank responsible for most legal matters. Commercial loan officer (now retired)
2. Please give us a brief explanation as to why you would like to serve in this office. [40 words or less] *I want to serve on diocesan level and I enjoy interaction. My time spend in court for my job gave me experience in listening to testimony and discernment.*

University of the South *continued from page 15*

Class of 2020: 514
SAT combined: 1760-1983 ACT: 27-31
High School GPA: 3.69
College tuition and fees: \$42,400
College faculty: Full-Time: 151
Part-Time: 70
Student/faculty ratio: 9:9.1

School of Theology students: 151 (includes summer and non-degree students)
School of Theology full-time tuition and fees: \$17,058
School of Theology faculty: Full-Time: 10
Part-Time: 5
Student/faculty ratio: 6:1

University Fiscal Year July 1, 2016-June 30, 2017 (unaudited)
Endowment: \$394.9 million

About the University of the South

The University of the South is home to an outstanding liberal arts College of Arts and Sciences, a School of Letters, and a School of Theology. Located atop the Cumberland Plateau between Nashville and Chattanooga, Tennessee, Sewanee's 13,000-acre campus, the second largest campus in the United States, provides students with vast opportunities for research, recreation, and reflection. Within the traditionally strong curriculum of humanities, sciences, and graduate theological studies, Sewanee faculty members promote intellectual growth, critical thinking, and hands-on research.

The University's Board of Trustees is composed of the bishops of the 28 owning dioceses, together with clergy and lay representatives elected by each diocese and representatives of other University constituencies. The Board of Regents, to which the Board of Trustees delegates some of its responsibilities for governance, is composed of Episcopal bishops, priests, and lay people, and may include a limited number of members of other Christian bodies. The chancellor of the University, elected by the Board of Trustees, is a bishop from one of the 28 owning dioceses.

An Episcopal Center of Learning

The University of the South is an institution of The Episcopal Church dedicated to the pursuit of knowledge, understanding, and wisdom in close community and in full freedom of inquiry, and enlightened by Christian faith in the Anglican tradition, welcoming individuals from all backgrounds, to the end that students be prepared to search for truth, seek justice, preserve liberty under law, and serve God and humanity.

The University was founded by church leaders from the southeastern United States

in 1857 and is the only university in the nation that is owned and governed by dioceses of The Episcopal Church, specifically the 28 dioceses that are successors to the original founding dioceses. The historic ownership and governance of the University by these Episcopal dioceses has produced a living synergy of leadership, resource, and mutual support, enriching the Church and advancing the University's role in American higher education.

2016-2017 Highlights from the University of the South

Details may be found by visiting the College's website: sewanee.edu/newstoday/

And the School of Theology's website: theology.sewanee.edu/seminary/media/news/

Safeguarding *continued from page 11*

a document entitled *Sexual Abuse Prevention Training Requirements* that can be found on the diocesan website, along with detailed instructions about how to access and use *Safeguarding Online*.

Since the implementation of online training three years ago, additional online training modules have become available to our diocese. Currently, we are in the process of revising our diocesan policies and course requirements to be in alignment with those of the Diocese of Louisiana. Once all of these documents have been completed, the new information will be distributed to all diocesan organizations and published on the diocesan website.

Respect submitted,

Joy Owensby
Diocesan coordinator

Tupelo *continued from page 3*

significant obstacles remain.

Lack of housing resources, bad credit, no credit and the meager support of a minimum-wage job or disability check can continue to keep even the highly motivated held back from a better life.

"They've got initiative, but there are roadblocks," Daniel said.

Understanding these roadblocks is key to empathy, the Major believes, but also key to a strategy for effective solutions.

"They're not that different from you and me," Daniel said of the homeless. "It's just their circumstances are different."



Episcopal School of Acadiana *continued from page 8*

University's 3rd Annual Statewide High School Juried Exhibition. The Lower School's Arts Showcase was held for the first time in the new Enrichment Center where families could also visit the new art studio. ESA's Annual Senior Art Exhibition was held in Bishop Henton Chapel; works on view included drawing, painting, photography, glass bead and metal-worked jewelry, hand-built ceramics, pottery, 3D mixed media, handmade clothing and an installation. At LSU's statewide exhibition, eight ESA students represented the school and two of them brought home the overall second and third place awards. ESA's Art Department and Upper school art faculty members were honored at the exhibition with an award of Special Recognition for school and department whose submissions showed exceptional depth and expertise in the teaching of young artists. Music, theatre, and visual arts upper school students traveled to Oklahoma City to attend the ISAS Arts Festival for the second year. The students received excellent feedback and accolades on their work, and the teachers learned about other independent schools' Art Departments. The departments are also delighted to announce that the class of 2017 graduated three students who have declared art majors, and one student will pursue music. These students will attend Savannah College of Art and Design in Georgia, University of Louisiana Lafayette, and Berklee College of Music in Boston, MA.

ESA's Chapel program and religious studies courses are led by our lay Chaplain, Dr. Andrew Armond. Dr. Armond teaches several religion courses at ESA, including a required, academically rigorous Introduction to Religion class for 8th graders. The course approaches religious education from a comparative religions standpoint, focusing not only on "who believes what," but on the complexities of the historical, social, and geographical interactions that fuel religious ideas and practices. This course has been extended from a quarter to a semester this academic year, giving Dr. Armond the opportunity to present longer units on Judaism and Christianity that focus on how to read the sacred stories of the Bible.

Dr. Armond also teaches an upper-school course in World Religions that uses film, literature, and other media to help students understand contemporary geopolitical and social issues through a religious lens. Last year, he taught an elective on Dante's *The Divine Comedy* for the upper school. This year, he is teaching an elective in Philosophy that will also help students to think through religious and theological questions.

In addition, Dr. Armond is stressing ESA's motto, "Excellence from within," (*Arête*) in ensuring that Chapels are educational, meaningful, and professional programs that

bring students, faculty, and administrators together to celebrate the life of the school. He remains active as a scholar and layperson in the Episcopal tradition and is now a Postulant for Holy Orders in the Episcopal Church. Spiritual life is emphasized through more intentional times of prayer and reflection during Chapel; and last year, an average of 30 students attended Noon-day Prayer during Lent.

Finally, the Lower School has added a full-time Chaplain this year as well. Dr. John Campbell is serving our Lafayette campus and finding many ways to be integrated into all areas of school life. He is leading Chapel services and ministering to students and faculty alike with his pastoral presence while looking for opportunities to build the service learning program at the Lower School.

Eucharist services at ESA's Cade campus are being celebrated by Fr. Matt Woollett of the Episcopal Church of the Epiphany in New Iberia and at the Lafayette campus by Fr. John Bedingfield of St. Barnabas in Lafayette.

After one full year with our new website, ESA parents can now go online to re-enroll for the new school year, fill out school forms, register for classes and events, and make donations and more. ESA families have embraced the new site and are active participants in getting the word out about ESA via social media. Despite a downturn in the local economy and severe flooding at the start of the 2016-2017 school year, we reached 72% in parent participation in Annual Giving and came within \$8,000 of our goal of \$300,000. The ESA Parent Group and the Falcon Club, ESA's Booster Club for Athletics and the Arts, hosted fundraising events and campaigns that have provided water bottle filling stations, Hokki stools for active ergonomic sitting, digital camera equipment, a scoreboard for the soccer field, a new volleyball system for the Lafayette campus, a glass kiln and much more for ESA arts, athletics and enrichment. We continue to appeal to our alumni for support of the Tate/Tutwiler Endowment Fund for financial aid. In 2017-2018, 24% of ESA families will receive financial assistance that is supported by this nearly \$1 million endowment.

And finally, we opened the doors of the ESA Lower School Enrichment Center, which includes MacPherson Chapel, in January 2017. The state-of-the-art building also houses art, music, drama, science, French, technology, the Learning Center, administrative offices and the library.

I am constantly reminded of how blessed I am to work in a school that lives out its mission of scholarship, honor and service to others.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Baker, PhD
Headmaster, Episcopal School of Acadiana

United Thank Offering *continued from page 8*

Every three years at General Convention, there is a very large ingathering service. Representatives from each diocese come forward to place a card representing their contributions into a basket. It is a very inspiring service. In 2015, the total ingathering was \$4,378,328.16. In order for our total to equal that amount in 2018, we need to increase the ingathering for 2017 by about \$700,000 from 2016. This can be done. We need to contribute about \$1.8 million to achieve our goal.

The work of UTO is never ending. UTO is both outreach and inreach. It was established 165 years ago by Julia Chester Emery to support the ministry and mission work of the church. In addition to many community projects, UTO has helped establish a number of new churches all around the world as well as helped existing congregations to grow. Every grant not only helps members of a community, it also gives men and women the opportunity and privilege to serve.

Finally, UTO encourages the spiritual practice of gratitude. The work of the United Thank Offering makes a difference. It makes a difference around the world, it makes a difference in the United States and it makes a difference in our own diocese.

There will be blue boxes and additional materials available in the exhibit area at our diocesan convention in November.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeanette Leger
UTO Chairperson

Episcopal Relief *continued page 8*

Hurricane Irma heavily damaged the islands of Culebra and Vieques in Puerto Rico. Episcopal Relief & Development, in partnership with the Episcopal Diocese of Puerto Rico, provided approximately 600 people on these two islands with temporary housing, medical care, food and meal delivery, clothing, home repairs, water and first aid supplies. Following Hurricanes Irma and Maria, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands were declared disaster areas. Extensive damage from both hurricanes left most of the Virgin Islands devastated, with electricity and cell phone service knocked out, homes destroyed, radio stations down and many roads rendered impassable. Episcopal Relief & Development is supporting relief efforts with the Episcopal Diocese of the Virgin Islands and the Convoy of Hope to deliver critical water and other necessities to the islands of Tortola and Virgin Gorda following Hurricane Irma.

On September 19, a 7.1 magnitude earthquake rocked the central part of Mexico,

causing major damage and destruction in Mexico City, Oaxaca, Guerrero, Morelos and Puebla. Dozens of buildings collapsed, including two schools, with over 200 deaths reported and leaving thousands trapped under the rubble. Rescue efforts were hampered by 23 aftershocks throughout the region as rescue efforts by police, firefighters, the military and volunteers work desperately to search for survivors. Over 4.6 million people are left without power and shelters have opened in several common spaces in affected areas. This was the second major earthquake to hit Mexico this month. On September 7, an 8.2 magnitude quake caused approximately 100 deaths and damaged and destroyed hundreds of homes and buildings in Oaxaca and Chiapas.

Episcopal Relief & Development is coordinating with church partners to provide emergency assistance. The organization has been in contact with Bishop Benito Juarez-Martinez of the Anglican Diocese of South-eastern Mexico since the first earthquake struck. At that time, the diocese requested food, water and reconstruction materials to help 300 families in Oaxaca and Chiapas. As a result of the second quake, critical needs of the impacted communities are being reassessed and new areas of response added.

In addition to providing relief following successive natural disasters in 2017, Episcopal Relief and Development has worked with international partners to address challenges in some of the most remote areas of the world, as well as in urban environments where extreme poverty persists. In many of these places, the Church is often one of the few institutions people trust and turn to for help in the absence of government systems and services. In Liberia, ERD has worked with local partners to promote awareness of gender-based violence and its impact on the well-being of women and children.

And elsewhere, through its award-winning *NetsforLife* program, ERD has collaborated with corporations, foundations, NGOs, and other faith-based organizations to train local volunteers in the use of long-lasting insecticidal nets to reduce the incidence of malaria - the leading cause of preventable deaths in sub-Saharan Africa.

Last but not least, ERD's efforts during the year have been generously supported by the donations and volunteerism of individuals and parishes throughout the Western Diocese of Louisiana. It is hoped that every church family will make Episcopal Relief and Development a part of their formal outreach program, during Lent, Advent, or on any other appropriate occasion in the coming year.

Respectfully submitted,

Bruce Beach
Episcopal Relief & Development
Coordinator



Education for Ministry *continued from page 9*

Education by Extension.” Winters hoped that eventually a few hundred lay people among Sewanee’s 28 owning dioceses across the southeast would be interested enough to complete the four-year course.

By 1980, nearly 4,000 participants were enrolled. In 1985 the program had contracts with 56 dioceses across the Episcopal Church. And by 1995 EfM had become an international program with affiliates in Canada, the Bahamas, Great Britain, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Australia (which includes Hong Kong), and New Zealand. Since then a group in Botswana has started, and four new groups in the Virgin Islands will launch soon. EfM now has contracts with 93 of the 100 Episcopal dioceses in the United States.”

“Every baptized person is called to ministry. The Education for Ministry (EfM) program provides people with the education to carry out that ministry. During the Service of Confirmation, we ask God to ‘Renew in these your servants the covenant you made with them at Baptism. Send them forth in the power of the Spirit to perform the service you set before them.’ EfM offers an opportunity to discover how to respond to the call to Christian service. Participants in the EfM program study the entire sweep of the Christian tradition from the earliest period to the present. Participants learn the disciplines of biblical exegesis and interpretation, systematic theology, church history, ethics, liturgics, and ascetical theology.

The traditional content is not studied in a vacuum. Participants belong to small “communities of learning” in which the events of each person’s life may be examined in the light of the materials being studied. While the course materials provide substantial academic content, the focus of the program is on life as ministry and understanding that ministry. EfM provides Christians with that basic skill which is the foundation of all Christian ministry—theological reflection. In doing this, participants sharpen their skills of personal and cultural assessment and enhance abilities to be effective in a variety of ministries.”

Education for Ministry is a marvelous program for serious adult study, reflection and Christian formation and is open to all. Participants include those looking for a more in-depth study, lay leaders in the church and those training locally for ordained ministry. Participants enroll for one year at a time, which usually runs concurrent with the school year, though this can vary. Every EfM group has a trained mentor, who facilitates the group’s work and handles communication with the EfM office at Sewanee. Mentors are recertified every 18 months.

EfM in Western Louisiana

An active and growing group continues in the Monroe convocation and meets at St. Alban’s. Last year, Deanna Ford of St. Patrick’s Episcopal Church completed her fourth year and graduated. Deanna began the program in 1984! She will return this year to read the new year-two materials! This year’s group is comprised of five second-year participants with one of them new to the group - returning to the program, five third-year participants, and a mentor. The Monroe group includes folks from Grace Episcopal, St. Patrick’s and St. Alban’s – so an EfM can work well in on a convocation level.

This year a new group of six EfMers is beginning in Natchitoches with the Rev. Suzanne Wolfenbarger serving as mentor. Others from around the diocese are organizing to reactivate the program in their convocation or church or to start a new program.

My goal is help EfM become more active and available to all in the Diocese of Western Louisiana. As the diocesan coordinator for EfM, I want to encourage you to find out more. We need to train mentors in each of our convocations. Past EfM participants or former mentors can help. If you are interested in participating in or mentoring an EfM group in your area, please contact me.

To find out more about EfM visit their website at efm.sewanee.edu, contact me, or speak to anyone who has participated in Education for Ministry or any current participant.

Respectfully submitted,

The Rev’d T. Whitfield Stodghill, III
St. Alban’s, Monroe

Youth Commission *continued from page 11*

We cannot promise that your numbers will grow or even that our ideas will work. However, we can promise that you will not have to do this ministry alone. The DYC is passionate about serving the youth in our diocese and especially equipping you to serve the youth in your community.

Some examples of the ways the DYC can work with your congregation:

- Serve as a sounding board for what you have done and what you want to do.
- Network you with other congregations that might be in the same place as you.
- Share ideas that other youth groups have used successfully.
- Give you the tools to talk to your congregation members and encourage them to get involved.
- Offer information about youth events going on in other parts of the diocese that your youth could participate in.

- Provide a safe and open relationship that allows you to talk about your fears and dreams in leading this ministry.

In addition, remember that the DYC is made up of members from across the diocese. You may have a DYC rep right in your own backyard, and we would love to put you in contact with him or her.

The DYC wants to help! Whether you are the rector, youth director, a vestry member, concerned parent—anyone interested in youth ministry—we would love to talk with you. Email me and let us know how we can partner in this ministry with you.

Respectfully submitted,

Father Michael Bordelon
Chair, Diocesan Youth Commission

Episcopal Churchwomen *continued from page 14*

board got a chance to sleep in the renovated bedrooms in the Holy Day Inn and they, along with our guests enjoyed to beautiful rooms and comfortable beds. Our own ECW Chaplin, the Rev. Dr. Rowena White gave a history of Time For Joy, gave a couple of meditations, led spiritual reflections, shared her spiritual presence as she offered prayer for the weekend and provided spiritual direction for the guests. The guest enjoyed hand and foot massages, learned how to make Anglican prayer beads and made colorful dish gardens to take home with them.

There were sixteen women plus the ECW staff that attended the retreat from around the diocese. They had a chance to get away from the demands of work family and daily life activities. The retreat gives the guests, as well as the board members, a chance to have fun, meet other women in the diocese and just simply renew or revive their relationship with Jesus Christ. It’s a time for *Jesus Others and Yourself (JOY)* and offers encouragement for women and their involvement at the mission and ministries of the diocese. The weekend will be a very special gift and blessing to all who attend, including the staff.

The annual Celebration of Women’s Ministries was held at Camp Hardtner on September 15–16, 2017. This was a time for numerous of diverse ministries to come together and celebrate in the name our Lord and Savior. The ministries of the Diocesan Daughters of the King, the Diocesan Episcopal Church Women, and Altar Guild women, along with our guest speaker, Madre Annie Etheredge, rector Episcopal Church of the Epiphany, Opelousas) gave us an awesome treat. Spiritual Direction was offered by Maureen Locke (St. Matthias Episcopal, Shreveport).

Madré Annie Etheredge’s theme was, “*How to Leave the Rush and Live into the Hush: Finding enough stillness to hear*

the small, still voice of God in your busy life.” As Madré Annie puts it, “We all need a little down time, but the pace of today’s American life is enough to drive any rat crazy, let alone the average woman. It’s not only okay to leave the rodents to their own race, it will improve your health, your outlook and your relationships.” She encouraged all women in the diocese to come and spend time with their friends from around the diocese as they explored using mindful meditation, prayer and journaling to anchor a spiritual life amid the busyness of the 21st century woman’s life.

The weekend was the celebration of spiritual awakening and a jubilant occasion, as we celebrated the activities and work that we do for our Lord. There was also a share fair at which the ECW’s from across the diocese shared their ministries and activities with each other. Throughout the weekend, we continued to share the love of Christ, share our love for great food, experience much needed leisure time and an overabundance of love for our sisterhood.

We, the Diocesan ECW board members, are blessed in our work, ministries and are privileged to serve the diocese and each other. We would like to give special thanks to the Rev. Dr. Rowena White for the spiritual direction and gifts she so freely gives to our retreats, our guests and the diocesan board as their spiritual advisor and chaplain.

We would also like to thank Bishop Jake and his wife Joy for their counsel, friendship and their continued support of our functions and ministries across the diocese. We extend a special thank you to all the women throughout the Diocese of Western Louisiana who give so freely of themselves to serve and to provide support for our mission and ministries. Lastly, on a personal note I would like to thank each of the members of the ECW board past and present for all the work and support they offer and wonderful honor and blessing to share our ministries as sisters in Christ.

Respectfully Submitted,

Shetwan Roberison
ECW President





38TH ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF WESTERN LOUISIANA

Hardtner Trustees

continued from page 6

necessary.

- Our new registration software, adopted in September 2016, proved to be a marvelous investment and course of action—registration has been streamlined and much more user-friendly (I speak from experience, having registered our two children online).

- In April we approved deferred/required repairs to both the Camp Office and Hargrove House. (This involved flooring and HVAC replacement costing just over \$41,000.)

- In April we authorized the removal of timber from the property—some being timber damaged from the tornado, other removal of timber to satisfy the Army Corps of Engineers requirements with regard to the Lake Bordelon dam.

- Substantial repairs to the fire alarms in the Camp Office and Henton Hall were made in June.

- In June it was brought to our attention that we needed an integrated fire alarm system for the cabins—until that work was completed we had to create a system for an hourly fire watch procedure—our Permanent Staff and some of the on-site staff were very helpful in creating and making the hourly fire watch work.

- We passed a more comprehensive drug testing policy in June.

- In July we accepted and contracted for the required integrated cabin fire alarm system for approximately \$34,000. By the time you read this report that work should be completed.

- Our new website went “live” in August—it is a wonderful site. Please do take time to visit your Camp’s new website.

Hardtner is poised to enter a new chapter. Your Board has done a great deal to prepare the Camp to be well positioned for the arrival of our new Director who will lead us into the future. Thank you to all for the love, support, and prayers you have shown Camp Hardtner.

Yours in Christ,
The Rev’d Richard Norman, Chair

Daughters of the King

continued from page 9

cern, trying to keep all the Daughters current with local and national news. The president continues to use monthly emails and daily Facebook entry as a means of communication. The Diocese also holds a yearly presidents meeting and conference calls with the executive board throughout the year.

Dates to Remember for 2017-2018
Sept. 5, *Alpha Fund Ingathering*

September 15-16, Celebration, Camp Hardtner

Nov. 1, *Endowment Fund Ingathering*

Nov, 3-4, Diocesan Convention, Alexandria

Feb, 2, *Self Denial Fund Ingathering*

Feb, 14, Ash Wednesday

Feb, 24, DOK Dio, Assembly, Shreveport

April 1, Easter

Pentecost, *Master’s fund Ingathering*

June 20-24, DOK Triennial, Renaissance at the Arboretum, Austin, Texas

Respectively submitted

Judy Bordelon,
President of the Diocesan Assembly of WLA

Ecumenical Officer

continued from page 9

Region V Coordinator if the LIC and as a member of the Bread or Stones Task Force. Fr. Carter serves as Region I Coordinator. Both are members of the LIC’s Faith and Order Commission, which addresses the matters of church polity which connect and divide our Christian denominations, working toward reconciliation of the whole Christian community.

As Ecumenical Officers for the Diocese, Fr. Carter and Madre Etheredge also are members of the EDEIO, a network of Ecumenical Officers of the Episcopal Church. Fr. Carter was elected as the Coordinator for Province 7 and represents our Province as a member of the Executive Committee of the EDEIO.

The National Workshop on Christian Unity is a national group made up of Roman Catholics, Orthodox, Episcopalians, Lutherans, Methodists, and other mainline Protestants. Both Fr. Carter and Madre Etheredge attended the EDEIO and NWCU meetings.

The Louisiana Interchurch Conference is a cooperative fellowship of Christian judicatories in the State of Louisiana. Directed by the Rev. Dana Krutz, an Episcopal priest of the Diocese of Louisiana, the LIC’s purpose is to work for the betterment of the people of Louisiana and to explore and respond to ecumenical concerns that involve the larger Church.

Respectfully Submitted,

The Rev. Wayne E. Carter, Ph.D.
The Rev. Annie Etheredge



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

October 2017

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*

November 2017

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*

10 — Bishop’s Visitation, *Redeemer, Ruston*

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

16 — Ordination of Deacon Christie Fleming to the priesthood, *Christ Church, Bastrop, starts at 11:00 a.m.*

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, *St. James, Alexandria (noonday)*

18 — Bishop’s Visitation, *Trinity, Natchitoches*

25 — Bishop’s Visitation, *St. Paul’s, Shreveport*

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

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*

22 — Bishop’s Visitation, *Good Shepherd, Lake Charles*

May 2018

6 — Bishop’s Visitation, *Holy Spirit, Big Lake*

13 — Bishop’s Visitation, *Ascension, Lafayette*

15-17 — Spring Clergy Retreat, *Camp Hardtner*

20 — Bishop’s Visitation, *St. Mark’s Cathedral, Shreveport*

22 — Commission on Ministry, *Diocesan House, starts at 10:00 a.m.*

27 — Bishop’s Visitation, *Polk Memorial, Leesville*

Last Look!

Whether we realize it or not, how we respond to life's opportunities and challenges, to other people, and to ourselves depends upon the stories we tell about ourselves. Too often, we tell distorted stories drawn from painful experiences or internalized from others' critical voices. These fake stories diminish our dreams, damage our relationships, and fill us with fear and self-blame.

Research shows that people yearn for personal experiences of the holy, and Jake Owensby begins by inviting readers to re-imagine Jesus as friend and lover. He then turns to encouraging readers to hear and tell how Jesus would express their story and the stories of others. Jesus' story about us is our true story: the gospel, the story of the beloved. It helps us experience the richness of life, see the stranger as friend, and make a difference in the world.

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Child of God*

Jake Owensby

AVAILABLE JANUARY 2018



Two join the fold at Christ Church, St. Joseph

At Bishop Owensby's visit to Christ Church, St. Joseph on Sunday, August 6, The Feast of the Transfiguration, Jon Godfrey and Sonia Hartner were confirmed.