

Maundy Thursday: A Special Foot Washing

by The Rev. Mary Richard

This year at noon on Maundy Thursday the people of the neighborhood in downtown Shreveport will come to Hope House, 762 Austen Place, for Holy Eucharist, foot washing—and more! Lois Maberry of St. James, Shreveport is organizing a very special day for all of us.

Clergy and members of the churches of the Shreveport Convocation will be on

St. George's Episcopal Church, Bossier City, will bring and serve lunch. Lois is collecting a new pair of socks and a pair of new shoes for each person. St. Luke's Episcopal Medical Ministry will be present with doctors and nurses for examinations and to give medicine or prescriptions when needed.

In Jesus' day washing the feet of guests was a necessary action as people walked almost everywhere wearing sandals, resulting in feet that were tired, dusty and sore. It was a task given to the servants of the house; no master who could have a servant would do this. Washing the feet of his friends after supper that last evening was perhaps Jesus' most graphic teaching of the disciples we are to be, not masters but servants.

We can imagine that the feet of our neighbors who walk miles every day need more than a ritual cleansing. Many will require special attention and care; thus the plan to bring the ministry into our time and serve the needs of our most vulnerable friends.

If you would like to contribute to the Maundy Thursday ministry this year, you can send your contribution to Holy Cross Episcopal Church, PO Box 1627, Shreveport, LA 71165-1627.

We would love for you to be present that day.



Maundy Thursday
Event
Noon on April 2
Hope House,
762 Austen Place
in downtown Shreveport

hand to celebrate the Eucharist and wash the feet of our neighbors, as is traditional on Maundy Thursday. Most of our neighbors are homeless, and others live on the edge of poverty and homelessness, so the day will be tailored to the circumstances of their lives.

Changed into Fire

The Rt. Rev. Jacob Owensby, Ph.D., D.D.

At the reception for one of my recent visitations a friendly parishioner asked me, "What are you giving up for Lent?"

For some reason the question caught me off guard. Groping for a sensible answer I mumbled something about giving up sweets and forgoing meat on Friday.

My answer clearly left him a little deflated. He said, "That's just kind of standard isn't it?" He was expecting something edified and spiritually mature from his bishop. Instead, he got a quote from *Lent for Dummies*.

My mistake was to search for something sensible to say. That's because Lent reminds us that following Jesus is not sensible. As Bishop Michael Curry likes to say, it's crazy.

And here's why.

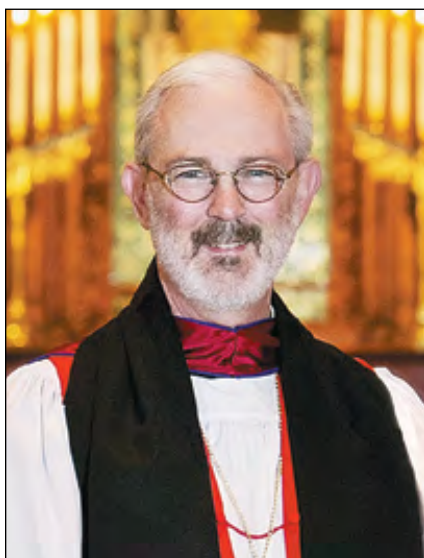
Lent reminds us that following Jesus is not about giving up this, that, or the other thing among the many things of our life. Jesus is pretty clear. There is only one answer that Jesus wants to the question, "What are you giving up for Lent?"

My life.

I'm giving up my entire life. All of it. Every ounce and inch, every breath and heartbeat, each tender affection and unflattering resentment, all my talents and excess body fat, each giddy joy and wrenching sorrow, all of my shining moments and every one of my humiliatingly bad hair days.

This Lent, I'm going to really take Jesus at his word. I'm going to lose my life, because that's the only way to save it.

I'm even going to give him all those past Lents that I set out to do precisely the same thing and ended up holding some part of myself back.



**Become a stronger,
more knowledgeable
Christian
by attending
Cursillo #148
April 9-12**

Cursillo is a short, intense course in Christianity that has been formulated to build a foundation of leaders in the lay order of the Episcopal Church. Cursillo weekends are conducted by lay men



and women with members of the clergy acting as spiritual advisors. It has been said many times that the only way one can describe the Cursillo experience is to live

it. Lay Rector Richard Fincher and Head Spiritual Director Father George Gennuso invite you to experience this life-changing weekend.

During this three-day Cursillo weekend, Episcopalians from different backgrounds from every area of the diocese gather to worship and share experiences while broadening their knowledge of the church. What's expected is to build stronger Christians by stressing the concepts of piety, study and action.

The next Cursillo weekend in the Diocese will be held April 9-12 at the Hardtner Camp and Conference Center at Pollock, Louisiana.

If you are interested in attending a Cursillo weekend, ask someone in your congregation who has attended Cursillo to be your sponsor for Cursillo #148. Applications are available online at the Cursillo of Western Louisiana Web site, www.wlacursillo.com.



**Daughters Care
Taking Care**



Receiving Care

Giving Care

DOK Spring Assembly
Saturday, March 7, 2015, 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
St. Timothy's, Alexandria

A day of reflection and learning about taking care of our hearts, being a care giver for loved ones and receiving care when our reserves are low. Focus on Walking in the Light; caring for the elderly and ill in our families, churches and communities and tending to the care givers among us.

Cost is \$25

To Register: Mail checks to Ruth Gayle at 1216 Georgia St.,
Sulphur, LA 77063

Make checks payable to DOK of Diocese of Western LA
For more information contact Debbie Fitzpatrick at 318-780-8088

or

Judy Bordelon at 318-664-7844



The season of Lent

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



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Robert Harwell Editor

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but the telephone number

remains the same:

318-868-2303

**Copy deadline, next issue:
Thursday, March 19, 2015**

Around the Diocese

Time for Joy Women's Retreat set for April 17-19 at Camp Hardtner

The Episcopal Church Women will sponsor their annual spring retreat, a Time for Joy, April 17-19, 2015 at Camp Hardtner. The Joy weekend is

Bishop Owensby is an important part of the weekend, and he allocates quality time to the women in attendance.



for women and promises to be fun, relaxing, and filled with fellowship along with opportunities that stress the importance of slowing down, enjoying life, and sharing a personal relationship with God.

Time for Joy was conceived by Bishop Hargrove several years ago as a time for young women to be away from the demands of work and family and as a time to renew or revive their relationship with Jesus



Christ. Bishop Owensby is an important part of the weekend, and he allocates quality time to the women in attendance.

The central concept of the Time for Joy (Jesus, Others, Yourself) weekend centers on providing young women with a time to get away from the pressures of an overly-busy life. Once at Camp Hardtner, the

message of taking time for themselves and making time for a relationship with God is emphasized. The weekend is joyful and carefree, with the message that life is our gift from God and that HE meant for us to enjoy it! It is a "stop and smell the roses" type of weekend.

Each woman will experience God's

love and healing in different ways. Applications are sent to each parish in the diocese, with the request that they send one or two women who will benefit from a weekend away from the stress and strain of their lives, to be

Applications are sent to each parish in the diocese, with the request that they send one or two women who will benefit from a weekend away.

nurtured and given the message that life is our gift from God and that HE meant for us to enjoy it.

For more information please don't hesitate to email: Paula McLean, Chairman, mcleanmanor@yahoo.com, or Roxanne Meyers, Co-Chair, roxannemyers6218@gmail.com

Frozen Lenten Service became opportunity to help

by Inanne Zepeda

For the first time in years, perhaps decades, St. James was unable to host the Southern Hills Ecumenical Lenten Service and Luncheon. Our ECW was ready, willing, and able to start the liturgical season off hosting the first of six weekly services and meals. However, the weather did not cooperate, and winter actually got a toehold in the Shreveport area for several

days, leaving our parking lot covered in a thick sheet of ice, followed by sleet and snowfall. Surprisingly, enough snow stayed around for neighborhood folk to create several respectable snowmen and improvise a little sledding, a few snow angels, and a lot of wonder.

So, while the beauty of the rare weather was not lost on everyone, the disappointment of missing out on hosting our annual event was felt. St. James parishioners,



though, don't stay down for long. What to do with an overabundance of food and no one to feed? Well, find someone to feed, of course!

The Caddo Council on Aging was not able to prepare and deliver Meals on Wheels to their routes during the inclement weather, so our LDI Filling in the Gaps program did just

See **Frozen Meal**, page 5

MAP GRANTS
NOW AVAILABLE

APPLICATIONS DUE MARCH 31

Ministry Application Program (MAP) details and applications available on Diocesan Website

As stated by Bishop Jake in his Convention Address, "The 2015 budget puts our money where our mouth is."

In order to encourage missional thinking and risk-taking, the budget includes a grant program entitled the Ministry Application Program or MAP. This year a total of \$150,000 has been designated for this grant program.

Details of the program and applications for grants are on the diocesan website (www.diocesewla.org).

In short, annual grants for missional initiatives for up to \$7,500 are available. Grants for capital improvements in support of mission cap at \$5,000. Both kinds of grants will be awarded to new initiatives. They will not be used to supplement operating budgets. These grants are in addition to our longstanding grant program for Formation in Small Congregations.

Diocesan News

New, simplified online registration for Diocesan events is now a reality



Great news: the Episcopal Diocese of Western Louisiana is rolling out a new, simplified online registration system! Beginning with the JEYL Middle School Retreat, sign-ups for all diocesan events except summer camp at Camp Hardtner will be available at the diocesan website: <http://www.diocesewla.org>.

All you have to do is click on a link, fill out an easy form, and submit it. Your registration information will be stored in a database that will allow us to keep track of attendees, ensure that we have an accurate headcount for the event, and maintain email contact with participants.

As part of the registration process, there is an online payment option through PayPal. When you choose to use this service, you can access your existing PayPal account, if you have one, or you can use PayPal as a guest. Mailing in a check is also possible, and for many events you will be able to pay at the door by check or credit card.

Questions? Feel free to contact Joy Owensby (jowensby@diocesewla.org) or Holly Davis (hdavis@diocesewla.org).



The Daniel Plan being offered at St. Paul's, Shreveport

St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Shreveport is offering the Daniel Plan as a Lenten discipline. The course began Wednesday, February 18 and will continue on consecutive Sundays on March 1-29 at 3:00 p.m. in the Wardens' Room. Late joiners are welcome!

Anne Vickers, facilitator, stated one may ask, "What is the Daniel Plan?" The Daniel Plan is a groundbreaking healthy lifestyle program founded on biblical principles and focused on *The Essentials: Faith, Food, Fitness, Focus and Friends*. The program offers an innovative approach to achieving a healthy lifestyle where people get better together by optimizing their health in each of these life areas. Everyone is welcome to join this wonderful journey! There are six 1-hour sessions.

Please call the Ministry Team Office at St. Paul's for more information and/or to sign up; 318-865-8469.

clergy notes

The Eastertide Clergy Retreat will be held at Camp Hardtner Tuesday, April 7, through Thursday, April 9. The retreat begins at 5:00 p.m. April 7.



ESA: The Athletics–Academics Connection

Athletics is one of the most important activities for any student. Over 80% of ESA students participate in at least one sport and most of them play more than one sport.

An illustrated trend showing increased specialization of high school athletics—playing only one sport in hopes that he/she will play in college—has been creating a buzz on Twitter recently. It appears that specialization is not what colleges are really looking for, but rather multi-sport athletes.

ESA's goal is not to funnel athletes to Division I programs, although it does happen! The reason such an emphasis is placed on athletics, in a school whose mission is about scholarship and honor, is that competition, struggle, hard work, dedication, responsibility, grit, leadership and a hundred other important character qualities are developed more directly in athletics than perhaps any other activity.

And when a student is in season, his/her grades often improve. It's a paradox, but not the only one. ESA's athletic program is participatory. If a student wants to be on a team and is willing to put in the effort, he/she can be on the team.

At ESA, students learn more by being part of a team than by sitting in the stands. The paradox comes in the fact that this small Episcopal school in Cade that is focused on academic performance holds more State Championships than any school in Louisiana (72). And it holds the national record for the most consecutive volleyball State Championships (16).

When kids are put into a culture of achievement, the most natural thing for them to do is achieve. This applies to academics, arts, athletics, etc.

To find out more about the ESA Falcon Club, ESA's new booster club for Arts and Athletics, visit www.esacadiana.com/booster.



CHRISTIAN FORMATION RESOURCE SPOTLIGHT

HOLY WEEK FOR CHILDREN

Looking for a way to deepen children's understanding of Holy Week?

Maureen-Elizabeth Hagen, a Christian Formation leader from the Diocese of Oregon, describes an activity she has developed and implemented with kids ages 4–8.



On Palm Sunday, I take kids through an experiential walk through Holy Week. We start with the congregation and do the

palm processional. I then take them to another part of the church where I talk about Palm Sunday and the first few days of Holy Week. We then enter the upper room and do foot washing and the last supper. We leave and I talk briefly about Jesus's death, and then we go into a quiet

room and I talk about waiting. We make our way to a bright room and talk about Easter (yes, I do a spoiler alert). Along the way, there are lots of props and the kids have a Remember bag which is filled with many items, such as a piece of towel to remember the foot washing. I have heard

that kids go through the bags during the week and tell the story. I have done this for a decade. It's a lot of work, but very worthwhile.

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Contact Robert Harwell, *ALIVE!* editor 318-868-2303
or Email: robertharwell39@att.net



Father Bill's "Ashes to Go III"

Father Bill McBride and Deacon Kay Hunter of St. Matthias, Shreveport distributed ashes on the corner of Spring and Texas Streets in downtown Shreveport on Ash Wednesday. They conducted services at Moffett Automotive Group, and The Glen Retirement Home later in the afternoon. This is Father Bill's third year to bring ashes to those who are unable to attend a traditional Ash Wednesday service.

Frozen meal

continued from page 3

what they are set up to do—they filled in the gaps. They used the soup we had frozen already to replace the Meals on Wheels deliveries, and used the overabundance of Lenten soup to restock for the next time we need to step up and help out.

And no payment is better than smiles and hugs from those who thought they were destined to do without, but who are surprised with nourishment they didn't expect.

—**Inanne Zepeda** is the parish administrator of St. James, Shreveport.

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Diocesan Notables

A Conference on Discernment
 Presented by the Commission on Ministry
 Saturday, April 25, 9:00am - 4:00pm
 St. James Episcopal Church
 1620 Murray Street, Alexandria, LA
 Registration Fee - \$25.00 per person
 Registration: www.diocesewa.org
 Click on Discernment Conference
 For more info, contact:
 The Rev'd Elizabeth Ratcliff at erratcliff@att.net
 Susie Drell at susiedrell@gmail.com
 or Laura Boyd, Chair, COM, at lsb4437@aol.com

Registration for the Discernment Conference will be available through the diocesan website (www.diocesewa.org) starting March 23, 2015

Famed Organist set for St. James, Alexandria March 8 Concert

The St. James Episcopal Church Concert Series continues the 2014–2015 season with a concert of masterworks for the pipe organ by James O'Donnell, Organist and Master of the Choristers of the famed Westminster Abbey in London, England. Mr. O'Donnell, who will debut new pipework recently installed in the St. James organ, will play music of J. S. Bach, César Franck, Louis Vierne and Marcel Dupré's monumental suite, *Symphonie-Passion*.

This concert will be presented in the reverberant acoustic of St. James Episcopal Church located at 1620 Murray Street and Bolton Avenue in Alexandria on Tuesday, March 8, 2015, at 7:00 p.m.

Immediately following the conclusion of the concert, there will be a reception for Mr. O'Donnell in the Church Parish Hall. Through a generous grant from The McCormick-Smith Fund, Inc., admission to this concert is free and open to the public.

For more information, please call the St. James Episcopal Church office at 318-445-9845.



Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper a 40-year tradition at Grace, Lake Providence

No one knows just how long people have been making and eating pancakes, but Grace Church, Lake Providence has celebrated Shrove Tuesday with its annual Pancake Supper for over forty years.

This noisy, stimulating, exhilarating, happy event was again an overwhelming success. Each person in the Grace community looks forward to the Pancake Supper, not only to eat delicious food, but to renew old friendships.

The supper is a fixture in the Virginia Harris Parish Hall, which was festooned in the traditional Mardi Gras colors with banners, beads, bright table cloths, and bottled candles.

Everyone in the church participates with members selling tickets, youths waiting tables, and menfolk cooking pancakes.



2nd Annual Diocesan Christian Formation Conference



Guest speaker
Dr. Lisa Kimball

*Engaging God's Mission: Forming
Disciples Lifelong and Lifewide*

March 21, 2015

St. James, Alexandria

**The cost to attend
\$20/participant,
which includes
lunch and snacks.**

**Childcare
(\$10/child)
is available for children
up through 5th grade.**

**Register online at the
diocesan website:
[http://
www.diocesewla.org](http://www.diocesewla.org).**

It's not too late to register for the diocesan Christian Formation Conference at St. James, Alexandria, from 10:00 a.m.–3:30 p.m. on Saturday, March 21. Led by Dr. Lisa Kimball from Virginia Theological Seminary, this year's gathering is designed to inspire and equip lay and clergy leaders to approach Christian formation creatively and effectively in our diverse contexts.

What can you expect from this conference?

- Learn about innovative approaches to lifelong and life-wide Christian formation that are “succeeding” despite such contemporary challenges as declining numbers and budgetary constraints.
- Engage in a hands-on exercise to identify the assets and challenges of your current ministry setting.
- Discover practical applications of the concepts presented during the day.
- Exchange ideas and build relationships with others from churches across the diocese.
- Have fun!

If you have any questions, please contact Frank Fuller (fuller.frank@gmail.com) or Joy Owensby (jowensby@diocesewla.org), 318-442-1304.



NEXT CVI PRESENTATION:

When in Our Music God is Glorified, June 6, 2015

The presenter will be Bryan T. Mitnaul, Canon for Cathedral Music, St. Mark's Cathedral in Shreveport.

This is a one-day session to be held at St. James, Alexandria from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Diocesan News

Time is running out! Summer Camp will be here in 3 months!

by Jason Ezell

Time is running out! Summer Camp will be here in 3 months! Have you registered yet? Don't wait any longer, go to www.camphardtner.org and make sure your camper has a place in camp this summer!

As always, we will require a recent (not more than 12 months prior to camping session) doctor's signed medical form prior to camp. School and athletic physicals are acceptable. This form can also be found on our website for you to print and take to your camper's primary care physician. Please ensure your camper is current on immunizations, especially measles. If you do not vaccinate, please contact us in the camp office before registering your camper.

Staff Applications

Staff applications are also available on the website. If you wish to volunteer your time and talents this summer, please apply for any and all sessions in which you'd like to help. We will accept volunteer staff applications until May 15 and begin notifying those chosen to serve on May 18. Please know that we are unable to accept every volunteer staff applicant.

Safeguarding at Camp

Safeguarding God's Children is now required in the online format for everyone working with youth in the Diocese of Western Louisiana. If you do not complete this training prior to serving at summer camp, you will not be allowed to stay. There are many components, and it is advised to complete all of them. For more information, please visit the diocesan website at www.diocesewla.org.

Camper Scholarships are needed once more!

Growing our summer camping program is an effort that requires everyone's help. After great support of our scholarship program last year, I again invite you to participate in the summer camping ministry by financially supporting our campers that lack the ability to pay in full for camp. While donations to the Fr. Joe Bordelon Scholarship fund are a great way to support sending our youth to camp, it is also encouraged to focus on getting those youth in your own congregation to summer camp. This may be in the form of a monetary donation for camp registration, helping provide items campers may need and not have, or even coordinating a carpool to help parents get the kids to and from camp. While we con-

tinue to provide limited financial assistance to our camp families based on the amount donated to our scholarship fund, often our rectors and vestries have a better insight into those families that have need for camp scholarships. We encourage you to seek assistance from your local parish before requesting scholarship dollars from Camp Hardtner.

Have Hosted... Will Soon Host!

We were glad to host Happening, Music Fest, and CVI in February and look forward to hosting JEYL and the International

Order of Rainbow Girls in March. Other event dates to look forward to in April are Cursillo, Time For Joy, and students from St. Luke's in Baton Rouge.

Camp Hardtner Work Day

Camp Hardtner Work Day is scheduled for Saturday, April 25 from 9:00am-4:00pm. This is a day where any and all willing volunteers are invited to camp to help us prepare camp for the summer. We clean, paint, build, repair, prepare, and enjoy the fellowship of a community of people that support our ministry. Lunch will be provided free of charge for those that come out to help. Please email us at help@camphardtner.org if you plan on attending so we may prepare enough food for lunch that day.

Finally, summer camp is coming! After a great response last year despite our facility problems, we are looking forward to an even better summer in 2015. Be a part of this amazing ministry and get involved any way you can. Remember, we are helping form our youth into disciples that are the presence of the Church in carrying out God's mission. Together we will continue lifting up our young people in faith, love, and service to others.

Peace,

Jason Ezell

| Camp Session | Campers Accepted | Camp Dates | Cost |
|-----------------|--|--|------------------|
| First Camp | Grades 18&2 with parent/guardian | June 4, 4:00 p.m. June 6, 11:00 a.m. | \$175 per person |
| Camp Able 1 | Grade 3+ & 9+ years old; special needs only | June 9, 2:00 p.m. June 13, 9:00 a.m. | \$450 |
| Primary Camp | Grades 3&4 | June 16, 2:00 p.m. June 20, 9:00 a.m. | \$460 |
| Jr. High Camp 1 | Grades 5&6 | June 23, 2:00 p.m. June 28, 9:00 a.m. | \$575 |
| Jr. High Camp 2 | Grades 7&8 | July 2, 2:00 p.m. July 7, 9:00 a.m. | \$575 |
| Sr. High Camp | Grades 11&12 | July 10, 2:00 p.m. July 16, 9:00 a.m. | \$690 |
| Mid High Camp | Grades 9&10 | July 19, 2:00 p.m. July 25, 9:00 a.m. | \$690 |
| Camp Able 2 | Grades 3+ & 9+ years old; special needs only | July 28, 2:00 p.m. Aug 1, 9:00 a.m. | \$460 |

HAPPENING #53 AT CAMP HARDTNER, FEB. 20-22



Do you have a special Hardtner experience?



A SPECIAL CALL

There are many of you in our diocese who have spent time at Camp Hardtner; some in your growing-up years as summer campers or at Happening or other youth events. Others of you had your first experience at Camp Hardtner as an adult; perhaps at a Vestry retreat, or A Time for Joy. Many of you attended a Cursillo there, and others were present whenever a new building was dedicated, or you helped out at Camp Able.

Those of us who have a special interest in seeing the Camp Hardtner experience perpetuated for generations to come are asking that any of you who have a story to tell about the camp, to please contact Mother Liz Ratcliff. It can be a funny anecdote, a “drawing close to God” moment, the “place where you met your spouse” story, or a life-changing experience of transformation. You can reach her by phone at: 318-445-7651 or 318-729-7200. Her e-mail address is: erratcliff@att.net.

Camp Hardtner makes a difference in the lives of so many! Share your story and be a part of the experience!

The Rev. Ally Perry becomes rector of Holy Trinity, Sulphur

During a Celebration of a New Ministry held Wednesday, February 25, the Rev. Ally Perry was instituted as the new rector of Holy Trinity Episcopal Church in Sulphur. The Rt. Rev. Jake Owensby was the officiant and led the welcome for Holy Trinity’s new priest

Right: The Rev. Perry receives the congratulations of Celine Gibson, Bishop Jake and the congregation.
Bottom: Holy Trinity senior warden, Mary Cruthirds, Mother Perry and Bishop Jake.



Phase I earthquake repairs completed at Washington National Cathedral

[ENS] On February 18, Washington National Cathedral hosted the media for a special announcement and celebration of the completion of Phase I repairs.

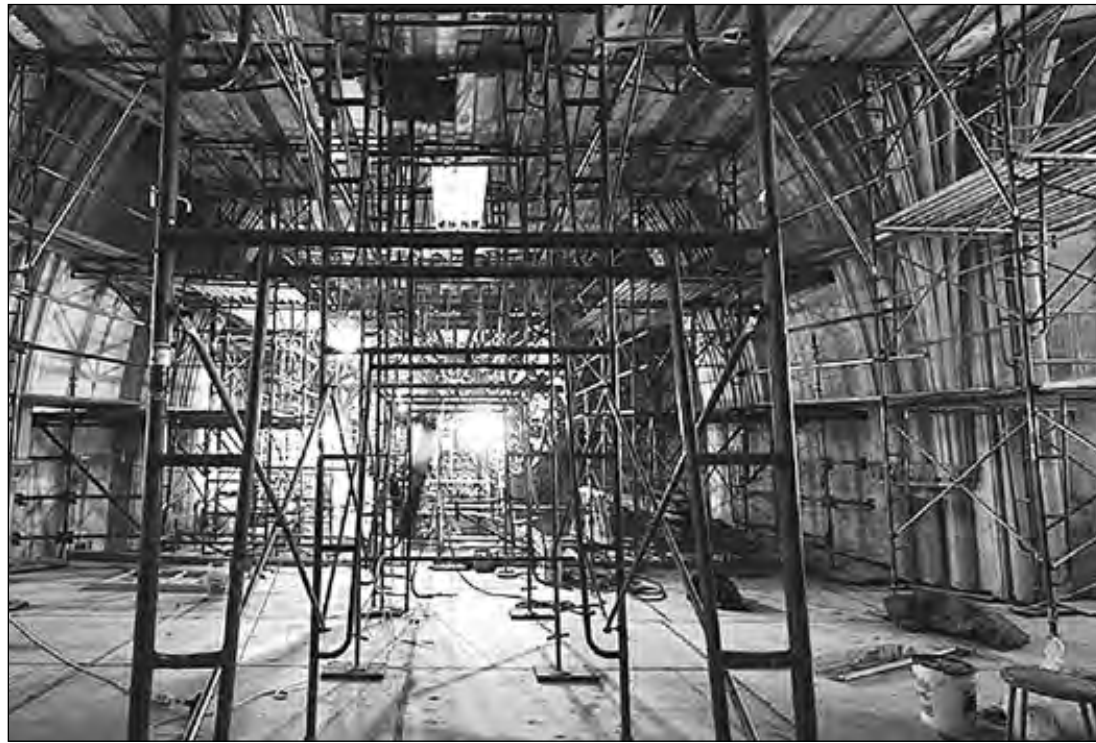
The August 2011 magnitude-5.8 earthquake shook Washington National Cathedral and caused approximately \$32 million in damage. The seismic event rotated pinnacles, cracked mortar, chipped and cracked limestone, and briefly took flying buttresses out of compression. Following an initial stabilization, the Cathedral reopened after 12 weeks.

In the months following, some damaged areas were disassembled and an extensive network of stabilization scaffolding both secured structures and provided access for examination and formulation of plans for repair and reinforcement.

Phase I repairs began in March 2014 and addressed the interior high ceiling of the nave and restoration of the six flying buttresses around the apse, or east end of the Cathedral. The nave vaulting and windows were inspected, cleaned, and repaired. Akoustolith tile were secured and sealed. Decades of dirt were carefully removed, and failed caulking was replaced.

When the six apse buttresses lost compression during the quake, a few stones slipped out of position, leaving visible gaps in the buttresses, while other stones fractured, sending chunks of stone to the ground below. Restoration work filled the voids, replaced the broken stones with Dutchmen repairs, and reinforced the flyers with stainless steel rods and grout to ensure better performance in any future seismic event.

The final interior scaffolding is coming



Phase I repairs began in March 2014 and addressed the interior high ceiling of the nave and restoration of the six flying buttresses around the apse, or east end of the Cathedral.

down; the work at the high ceiling is complete. The scaffolding on the apse buttresses will also be completely removed. The view of the fully restored nave is breathtaking, and all that the Cathedral does in this space has a feeling of openness and vitality—as well as improved acoustics and inspiration with the return of views of the clerestory windows and the boss stones, now cleaned for the first time ever.

A bit of residual work in the side aisles will be completed over the coming weeks. A public celebration of the completion of Phase I will be scheduled after Lent and Easter. The Cathedral is extremely grateful for the support that has made this work possible.

The remaining work—approximately 85% of the exterior work, in fact—awaits funding from generous individuals and

institutions. The work will likely take years, even a decade, to complete and will cost \$22 million or more. This work includes the central tower grand pinnacles, the engaged buttresses on the length of the nave, the exterior stonework on the transepts, and the pinnacles on the west towers.

Young Christians invited to spend ‘a year in God’s time’

[Lambeth Palace] Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby has opened the application process for young Christians around the world to spend “a year in God’s time” at Lambeth Palace in London.

Christians aged 20–35 have the opportunity to spend a year living together as a community inspired by the ancient monastic traditions of St. Benedict, St. Francis and St. Ignatius. They will live according to a shared Rule of Life and follow a pattern of silence, prayer, worship, study and service to the poor.

The Community of St. Anselm will initially consist of 16 people living at Lambeth Palace full-time, and up to 40 people, who live and work in London, joining part-time.

Young Anglicans from around the Communion are invited to apply to join the community—with both male and female applicants welcome.

Welby, who is the abbot of the new community, said, “I expect this venture to have

radical impact—not just for the individuals who participate but for life at Lambeth

Palace, across the Church and in the world we seek to serve. This is what we expect



in following Jesus. I urge young people to step up. Here is an open invitation to be transformed and to transform.”

The prior of the community, the Rev. Anders Litzell, said, “There will be sacrifices required. People will need to leave things behind.”

He added, “This is a question of how we can model a life of prayer and deep commitment shaped in the likeness of Christ for people who aren’t going to be monks and nuns, but who want to embody the monastic traditions, who want to draw from those deep wells and live a lifestyle influenced by that spirituality.”

To find out more and apply, visit: <http://stanselm.org.uk/>

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! Still in its infancy, this central calendar has already helped avoid overlapping events.

March 2015

- 1—Bishop's Visitation, *Christ Memorial, Mansfield*
- 3—Meeting of the Standing Committee, *Diocesan House, 10:00 a.m.*
- 6-8—JEYL Retreat at Camp Hardtner, 6:00 p.m. 3/6/15—Noon 3/8/15
- 7—Daughters of the King Spring Assembly, *St. Timothy's, Alexandria, 9:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.*
- 8—Bishop's Visitation, *St. Patrick's, West Monroe*
- 19—ALIVE! copy deadline for the April issue
- 21—Christian Formation Conference, *St. James, Alexandria,*
- 22—Bishop's Visitation, *Holy Comforter, Lecompte*
- 27-28—Kairos Outside Staff Training, *Camp Hardtner, starts at 6:00 p.m.*
- 28—Commission on Youth and Young Adults Meeting, *Online via GoToMeeting 10 a.m. to Noon*
- 29—Bishop's Visitation, *(Palm Sunday) St. James, Alexandria*
- 31—Deadline for MAP Grant applications

April 2015

- 5—Easter Sunday
- 5—Bishop's Visitation, *St. Mark's, Shreveport*
- 7—Meeting of the Standing Committee, *Diocesan House, 10:00 a.m.*
- 7-9—Eastertide Clergy Retreat, *Camp Hardtner, starts at 5:00 p.m.*
- 8-12—Cursillo #148, *Camp Hardtner, starts at 6:00 p.m.*
- 12—Bishop's Visitation, *St. Paul's, Winnfield*
- 17-19—Time for Joy Women's Retreat, *Camp Hardtner, starts at 6:00 p.m.*
- 19—Bishop's Visitation, *St. Paul's, Abbeville*
- 21—Meeting of the Diocesan Council, *St. James, Alexandria, 10:00 a.m.*
- 22—Board of Trustees, *Diocesan House, 11:00 a.m.*
- 22—Bishop's Midweek Visitation, *Polk Memorial, Leesville*
- 24-26—Kairos Outside, *Camp Hardtner, starts at 6:00 p.m.*
- 25—Discernment Conference, *St. James, Alexandria, 9:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.*
- 26—Bishop's Visitation, *St. George's, Bossier City*
- 28—Bishop's Visitation, *St. George's, Bossier City*

May 2015

- 3—Bishop's Visitation, *Good Shepherd, Lake Charles*
- 5—Meeting of the Standing Committee, *Diocesan House, 10:00 a.m.*
- 10—Bishop's Visitation, *St. Mark's, Shreveport*
- 17—Bishop's Visitation, *Ascension, Lafayette*
- 24—Bishop's Visitation, *(Pentecost & Memorial Day weekend) Calvary, Bunkie*
- 27—Summer Camp Permanent Staff assemblies, *Camp Hardtner*
- 29-31—Taste of Hardtner, *Camp Hardtner, starts at 2:00 p.m., May 29*
- 31—Bishop's Visitation, *Trinity, Cheneyville*
- 31-June 3—Summer Camp Counselor Training, *Camp Hardtner, starts at 4:00 p.m.*

June 2015

- 2—Meeting of the Standing Committee, *Diocesan House, 10:00 a.m.*
- 4-6—First Camp, *Camp Hardtner, starts at 4:00 p.m.*
- 5—Meeting of the Standing Committee, *Diocesan House, 10:00 a.m.*
- 6—Congregational Vitality Institute Presentation: *When in Our Music God is Glorified, St. James, Alexandria, 10:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.*
- 7—Bishop's Visitation, *Trinity, DeRidder*
- 9-13—Camp Able 1, *Camp Hardtner, starts at 2:00 p.m.*
- 14—Bishop's Visitation, *St. Barnabas, Lafayette*
- 16-20—Primary Camp, *Camp Hardtner, starts at 2:00 p.m.*
- 21—Bishop's Visitation, *St. James, Shreveport*
- 23-28—Junior High Camp 1, *Camp Hardtner, starts at 2:00 p.m.*

Bishop's Message

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I'm going to do this again this Lent. I acknowledge ahead of time that I am likely to arrive at Easter still clinging to some bit of myself as mine to keep. Let me be clear. I'm not talking about spending all of Lent struggling to make myself a better person through prayer, fasting, almsgiving, and the rest. In fact, I'm not talking about focusing on myself at all, and that's the heart of the Lenten journey.

We begin Lent with the imposition of ashes. Those ashes signify repentance and mortality. At one level we receive ashes simply to admit that we haven't gotten life right yet and to acknowledge that one day our lives will come to an end. The real work begins when we ask what we're going to do about that. Some choose the path of moral and spiritual self-improvement. They assume that the goal of this life is to make yourself presentable to God at the final judgment.

But there is another path. The spiritual challenge of this life is to give ourselves to God just as we are at each moment in order to be transformed in ways that we cannot imagine. That is the pattern of dying and rising. Death and resurrection. In order to be made a new creation, we must let go of the life to which we've become accustomed. To put this a different way, during Lent we focus on emptying ourselves of our self in order to make space for God to fill us with himself. Paradoxically, that is when we become our true selves.

Jesus sets us an the example of a fully God-saturated life. His presence, his words, his touch, and just the hem of his cloak calms storms, heals lepers, banishes demons, and convinces streetwalkers and tax collectors that they are God's beloved. God's presence oozes out of Christ's pores. All the time. Try as we might, we're never going to get there from here. No matter how devoted we are in prayer, how steeped we are in Scripture, how true we are to our moral principles, we will come up short.

Following Christ is not about trying harder. It's about letting go. It's about letting go of the life we can make for ourselves—even the life we can make for ourselves with our spiritual practices and moral conduct—in order to receive the life that only God can give us.

Consider the following story from the desert fathers and mothers:

Abbot Lot came to Abbot Joseph and

said: Father, according as I am able, I keep my little rule, and my little fast, my prayer, meditation and contemplative silence; and according as I am able, I strive to cleanse my heart of thoughts: now what more should I do? The elder rose up in reply and stretched out his hands to heaven, and his fingers became like ten lamps of fire. He said: Why not be totally changed into fire? (Thomas Merton, *The Wisdom of the Desert*, p. 50.)

Keeping a rule of life is a good thing. Fasting, prayer, meditation. These are all helpful, spiritually nurturing habits of mind, body, and soul. But as Abbot Lot seemed to have discovered, they take us only so far.

As Ronald Rolheiser puts it, spiritual practices and moral discipline are means by which we get our lives together. But getting



our lives together is only the first phase of spiritual growth. There is another step beyond getting our life together.

Rolheiser says that we get our life together in order to give our life away. We give our lives

away not to be judged but to be transformed. Or, to return to the imagery of the desert fathers, to be changed into fire. To be utterly filled with God's holy presence.

We do get glimpses of this from time to time. Mostly we realize it only in retrospect. In the moment we were caught up in being with a friend, listening to a piece of music, or gazing at a starry sky. And then we come back to ourselves.

We realize that we had forgotten ourselves. We cannot believe how the time has flown. How unaware of ourselves we had been. How absorbed in life we were. We had let go of ourselves for just a moment. And that is when we found ourselves.

During Lent we practice letting go precisely because God created us with a holy longing. We long to be changed into fire.

This article was originally preached as an Ash Wednesday sermon.

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Tend My Lambs Fundraiser makes it possible to “Raise the Roof”

Thanks to the generosity of so many people, a school built 23-years ago in the mountains of Haiti by the Church of the Good Shepherd, Lake Charles, will be rebuilt.

The school—the Mission St. Mathieu Eglise Episcopale d’Haiti Ecole,



an Episcopalian primary and secondary school, located in the little village of Bégin, was partially destroyed in the earthquake of 2010 and was declared unsafe to enter.

“After the earthquake, we were frantic to hear news from Bégin,” said Glenda Williams, a member of Good Shepherd and the head of the “Tend My Lambs” committee that oversees the Haiti mission.

“We finally learned that no one had been killed, but that the school had been ruined and it was unsafe to enter,” she said. But the people didn’t give up. “The teachers kept teaching and the students kept coming,” she said.

The school put up temporary tent-like structures. Dust from the

bare ground swirled around the students’ papers whenever the wind blew, and the teachers wrote their lessons with chalk on plywood walls.

When a team from Good Shepherd made the trek to the interior of Haiti to assess the damage, they learned that the overwhelming wish of the people of Bégin was for the school to be rebuilt.

A fish fry and auction fundraiser, “Frying for Haiti,” raised \$20,000 for the school. That amount was then matched one-to-one by an anonymous donor—and the resulting \$40,000 is sufficient to raise the roof once again!

The fundraiser opened and closed with prayers by Good Shepherd rector, Father Jack Myers. In between there was a fish fry, a live auction, and a silent auction, and a raffle. Tickets were \$10 and an estimated 300 people attended.

“The atmosphere that night was just alive. Everyone wanted to help,” Williams said. “Not only did people from Good Shepherd attend, but we had people from other churches and even other cities come out to support us.”

Williams said that, while the auction was fun and successful in raising money to fix the school building, the heart of the mission remains the support of the children of Haiti by providing them with an education.

To provide tuition for one child for an entire year is \$100 and another \$30 provides supplies and books. “So for only \$130, you can help a child in Haiti attend school for a year,” she said. “And that education is our long term and urgent goal.”

