

## Good Friday Cemetery Walk In Pineville to Focus on Compassion for Aching World

The public is invited to join in a unique Way of the Cross walk and prayer service focused on “healing an aching world” at the historic Mt. Olivet Cemetery and Chapel in Pineville on Good Friday, March 30.

The pre-Easter service, which begins at noon, is being coordinated by the Episcopal Diocese of Western Louisiana.

“The Way of the Cross is a time-honored, well-loved service that takes us through the final hours of our Lord’s Passion,” said the bishop of the Diocese, the Rt. Rev. Jake Owensby.

“By mourning our Lord’s suffering, we prepare for his resurrection and experience hope for the healing and renewal of our lives as individuals and as a community.” He and the Very Rev. Rich Snow, rector of St. Timothy’s Episcopal Church in Alexandria, will officiate at the service.

The Way of the Cross is a traditional liturgical devotion commemorating the last day of Jesus’ life. It originated with pilgrims in Jerusalem who retraced the steps Jesus is believed to have followed on Good Friday as he was led to his crucifixion. The custom evolved to congregational and individual settings, often with images or carvings on the walls of a church to commemorate each of the traditional 14 stations (or stops) on the Way of the Cross.

At the Mt. Olivet service, these stations will be positioned throughout the cemetery grounds, with clergy and participants walking and offering prayers at each stop along the way.

“We have adapted a liturgy for this service to express compassion for all who have experienced loss, loneliness, fear, want, or oppression,” explained Bishop Owensby, who leads the Diocese which includes 44 congregations and is headquartered at Mt. Olivet.

“Compassion for the least, the lost, the forgotten and the marginalized is Christ’s call to all of us. This service calls us to be a part of God’s restoration of God’s



world. Additionally, this service addresses the pastoral needs of all those who are suffering sorrow, or want.”

*See Good Friday Walk, page 11*

## Even This

My mother Trudy used to tell me about a dachshund she once had. When she was feeling low, she would sit on our front stoop. The dog would join her on the top step and lay his head in her lap. From time to time he would look up at her in brown-eyed sympathy.

She would say, “He always knew when I was sad. And he would sit with me to make me feel better.”

Trudy never sulked or moped about. She loved to laugh and to eat, to cook and to buy gifts for the ones she loved. And yet, a continuous stream of tender sadness ran through her heart.

During the Second World War, she had endured the allied bombing of her hometown Linz, Austria. Toward the end of that war, the Nazis confined her to the concentration camp Mauthausen.

She had married unwisely, eventually escaping my father’s control and abuse. Her older son Joseph died. And Marie—her only daughter and my little sister—died as well.

Sometimes Mom would drift back in her memory to earlier days and talk about “my little girl.” She was never maudlin or weepy. She seemed to be taken up into a tender nostalgia for what might have been.

This same woman who had suffered so much loss never gave in to despair. Even when we were broke and homeless, she always believed that things were going to look up soon. Her response to my own meltdowns and hissy fits was always the same. “Remember, tomorrow is another day.”



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

Paradoxically, my mother knew about hope precisely because she knew about loss and sorrow and pain. Her theology was not sophisticated. Her faith was simple but deep. It could be summed up in this phrase that I borrow from Rob Bell: even this. God can bring infinite, indescribable beauty and joy and goodness out of even this. No matter the heartache or the pain, the humiliation or the insane messiness, Jesus redeems it and restores it. He says, “I am making all things new.” Even this. (Revelation 21:5)

Heaven figured prominently in my mother’s experience of hope. And to tell the truth, heaven is a central element of my own sense of hope.

*See Bishop Jake, page 11*



## Redden Thaddeus Andress, II

Redden Thaddeus Andress II died February 20, 2018, in Minden, Louisiana. He was born in Minden on August 7, 1932, and was the first child of Harry Carter Andress and Treeby Miller Andress. Minden was his lifelong home, and the home of members of his family since the 1840's.

Thad graduated as co-valedictorian of Minden High School in 1950. Then he went on to graduate with a Bachelor of Arts in Economics from The University of the South, Sewanee, Tennessee, where he was named to Phi Beta Kappa. He served in the US Army Guided Missile Battalion at Fort Bliss, Texas, then went on to Harvard University where he received his Masters of Business Administration.

Thad returned to Minden and was vice-president and assistant manager of Andress Motor Company, Inc., from 1958 to 1965. He acquired and operated the R. H. Miller Insurance Company from 1965 through 1994. Thad served as a director of Minden Building and Loan Association from 1965 to 1980 and as a director and member of the Executive Committee of Minden Bank and Trust Company from 1980 to 1999. Since his retirement, Thad was very active in managing his family's timberlands.

Thad was one of Minden's most active participants in church and civic affairs. As a highly confident leader, accomplished in fundraising and getting things done, he was called upon often; he often said he needed things done "yesterday."

Thad was very willing to make his opinion known in public matters, with the hope that his ideas would prevail. He was named Minden's Most Outstanding Young Man and Minden's Man of the Year. He founded the Boys and Girls Club of

Minden which had a successful ten years of helping Minden youth. He was chairman of the Minden Drug Committee that was organized to combat crime during a time of over fifty murders in one year in the city. Thad loved the Minden Lion's Club, having been an active member since 1957.

Thad was a lifelong member of St. John's Episcopal Church and was an active leader; he served many years on the Vestry, several times as Warden, many years as Finance Chairman, a lector, and a deputy to the Diocesan Conventions. For thirteen years, he was chairman of the Diocesan Finance Committee of the Executive Committee of the Episcopal Diocese of Western Louisiana and served for eight years as Chairman of the Diocesan Board of Trustees. He served as Deputy to the General Convention of the Episcopal Church for eight consecutive conventions over a period of twenty-one years; among the many committees, he once served on the most prestigious Program, Budget, and Finance Committee Thad was elected as 7<sup>th</sup> Province Representative to the Committee to Nominate the Next Presiding Bishop and to the 7<sup>th</sup> Province Ecclesiastical Court for a six-year term. A number of resolutions put forth by Thad were passed by the convention.

For six years he served as a member of The Board of Trustees of the University of the South, and supported Sewanee in many ways throughout the years.

He was involved for a number of years in the creation of a museum for Minden, while serving as president of the Dorcheat Historical Association and Museum, Inc. He participated in numerous other civic organizations and in his later years was

See *Andress*, page 10



### The Season of Easter

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



March 2018 Volume XXXX Number 2

ALIVE! is published by the Episcopal Diocese of Western Louisiana, The Episcopal Church USA. The Rt. Rev. Jacob W. Owensby, Ph.D., D.D. is bishop of the diocese and publisher of ALIVE! Oversight of ALIVE! is the responsibility of the Diocesan Commission on Public Relations and Communications, chaired by the Melanie Torbett.

Robert Harwell ..... Editor

Graphic production of ALIVE! is performed by Harwell Productions, Inc. of Shreveport, Louisiana.

New manuscripts and photographs are solicited. All materials should be sent to ALIVE!, c/o Harwell Productions, Inc. 4321 Youree Drive, Suite 400, Shreveport, LA 71105.

All materials are subject to editing and become the property of the diocese unless specified. If specified, a self-addressed, stamped envelope must be included. When this is done, a reasonable effort will be made to return the original materials to their source. All inquiries should be directed to: The Editor, 4321 Youree Drive, Suite 400, Shreveport, LA 71105. You may telephone 318-868-2303, or E-mail: robertharwell39@att.net

ALIVE! (USPS 564-030)(ISSN 0273771X) is published five times yearly (January, March, June, September, and November) by the Episcopal Diocese of Western Louisiana, 335 Main Street, Pineville, LA 71360. Periodical postage paid at Dallas, Texas, and additional mailing offices.

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

Copy deadline, next issue:  
June 7, 2018

Email ALIVE! at [rharwell39@bellsouth.net](mailto:rharwell39@bellsouth.net)

### ALIVE PUBLICATION DATES

June 29, 2016  
September 28, 2018  
November 20, 2018

WLA  
on the Web:  
News and information on  
the Episcopal Diocese of  
Western Louisiana  
[www.diocesewla.org](http://www.diocesewla.org)

# On the Horizon

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



## TIME FOR JOY: Giving women time for themselves

APRIL 20-22 at CAMP HARDTNER

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



Time For Joy at Camp Hardtner, April 20 -22, 2018

Please fill out this registration blank completely.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Church \_\_\_\_\_

Contact number (s) \_\_\_\_\_

Any special needs for the weekend \_\_\_\_\_

The cost of the weekend depends on the days you will attend (please circle):

• Friday night thru Sunday (lodging, meals & activities).....\$150.00

• Saturday only (meals, snacks & activities).....\$40.00

Total amount enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to *Diocesan ECW* & mail to: Shetwan Roberison 1217 Winfield Road, Princeton, LA 71067. For more information, please contact Shetwan Roberison, 318-707-2570, [womensecw1@gmail.com](mailto:womensecw1@gmail.com) or Megan Rouzie, 337-570-9220, [pianagr18@aol.com](mailto:pianagr18@aol.com).

## ADVANCING TO GENERAL CONVENTION: Registration open for Young Adult Festival



Registration is now open for the Episcopal Church Young Adult Festival, scheduled to run concurrently with the 79th General Convention of the Episcopal Church.

The Young Adult Festival is designed for young adults 18-30 years old to meet peers from across the globe, pray and learn together, engage in the church's legislative process, and help discern God's call for the Episcopal Church.

The 79th General Convention of the Episcopal Church will be held Thursday, July 5 to Friday, July 13 at The Austin Convention Center, Austin, Texas (Diocese of Texas).

The Young Adult Festival will be July 4-9 in Austin at General Convention.

"The Young Adult Festival will include a General Convention 101 session, wor-

ship, workshops, and networking opportunities for everyone – from first-time General Convention attendees to advocates and leaders who have attended for years," noted the Rev. Shannon Kelly, Staff Officer for Campus and Young Adult Ministries. "We look forward to welcoming young adults from across the Episcopal Church to Austin."

The cost for the event ranges between \$300 and \$675 depending on the housing choices. Registration deadline for those traveling to Austin is May 1 and includes five nights of housing, a Sunday morning brunch, General Convention registration, and all Young Adult Festival programming. Registration deadline for commuters is May 31. Space is limited for each registration choice; registration will close registration when spaces are filled.

## Around the Diocese

### Monroe churches participate in Habitat for Humanity's "Brush with Kindness"

by Archdeacon Bette Kauffman

Several Episcopal churches in Monroe joined forces to participate in Habitat for Humanity's "Brush with Kindness" in early February.

Significant progress was made in rehabilitating the home of Mrs. Joy Davis, widow of a West Monroe police officer. Mrs. Davis' home was flooded in March 2016. She has been without a functioning kitchen ever since. Although dry wall had been replaced in the home, much trim work and painting remained.

The work crew, consisting of members of St. Alban's, St. Patrick's, Grace and Canterbury@ULM, trimmed dry wall edges, cut and nailed trim, painted, assisted the cabinet installer, and placed shelving in the cabinets.

The work day was organized by Wade Stewart of St. Alban's. Archdeacon Bette Kauffman assisted with recruiting participants from the other congregations. More people volunteered than could be accommodated on the team. But that's okay! A second work day is scheduled in April.



### At Camp Hardtner our focus is already on the upcoming summer

Yes, it's cold outside, but warmer temps will soon be here, and summer will be on us.

Now is one of the more exciting times of the year when the Camp Hardtner staff really begins preparing for 2018 Summer Camp! It may be cold outside, but Hardtner's professionals are focused on those hot but fun-filled summer days that will soon be here.

Our 2018 Summer Camp dates and rates are a part of this ALIVE! article so you can now get Camp on your calendar. Camper registration is now open through our online system.

There have been a few changes that have been made in an effort to increase participation and better serve our campers. You'll notice that Hardtner has re-evaluated and shifted some grade groupings. This does a couple things that should enhance our programs.

First it means that the sessions offered will draw from three grades instead of two. This equates to more campers per session. Experience has shown that there is more excitement and energy generated when sessions are larger, and we are confident everyone is going to enjoy this boost.

It is normal for session offerings and grade groupings to fluctuate in step with cycles of attendance and our demograph-

ics. This concentrates our resources into a more focused period. We expect to offer more sessions again as our numbers grow. Secondly, we are going to avoid conflicts with the beginning of school by ending our season earlier. This benefits our campers, volunteers, and counselor staff especially.

We hire young adults who exemplify extraordinary leadership. They often take on positions outside of Camp at school - as Resident Assistants, sorority/fraternity leaders, on research projects, etc. Ending earlier means more are going to be able to serve our campers for the entire summer.

We anticipate seeing the most positive effect on Camp Able as our pool of staff and volunteers will not have as many scheduling conflicts. Campers entering the 6th and 11th grade will notice that they will actually be able to attend Camp twice during the summer! Or, parents can consider which session better aligns with their camper's summer schedule or maturity.

Our 2018 counselor recruitment is already underway. You might also hear them referred to as the "permanent staff" for the summer. Twenty young adults will be employed to serve as cabin counselors, one head driver, and one head counselor. These young adults are the backbone of the camp program. They are on the "front lines" working tirelessly to provide and facilitate an exceptional experi-

ence for our campers. In return, they gain valuable job and life skills (Note to Mom & Dad: this is a "real job" with valuable transferable skills) and most have a positive experience of a lifetime.

Now that the holidays are past, go online and register your children, grandchildren, or a pal you've made at church, for the *experience* of summer camp at Hardtner.

2018 Summer Camp Dates & Rates		Grades are based off of the 2018-2019 school year
First Camp 2nd & 3rd grade w/ a parent/guardian	June 1-3	\$200
Sr. High Camp 11th, 12th, & 2018 HS grade	June 7-14	\$675
Primary Camp 4th, 5th, & 6th grade	June 18-23	\$475
Jr. High Camp 6th, 7th, & 8th grade	June 27-July 3	\$575
Mid. High Camp 9th, 10th, & 11th grade	July 6-15	\$575
Camp Able For special needs campers ages 9 and up	July 19-23	\$400

### Should the Diocese consider setting goals for use of renewable energy in our diocese?

*Renewable Energy in Louisiana: The Sun Shines, the Wind Blows and the Grass Grows... and the Rivers Flow!*



*Good news: solar, wind, and biomass renewable energy is in our diocese within our reach. Bad news: We have ignored the potential. Due to some very forward thinking and energetic leaders in the late 1980s and early 1990, the Sydney A. Murray Jr. Hydroelectric Power Station was placed in our diocese near Vidalia. Of course, hydroelectric power is not as readily available as wind, solar, and biomass renewable options.*

By W. D. Corson (Good News & Bad News Dude from Tensas Parish)

Unfortunately, since the placement of the hydroelectric power plant near Vidalia, Louisiana, has taken nearly no steps to utilize the natural energy sources to help the people of our state. The renewable energy sources of sun, wind, and biomass are at work and profitable in nearly all other states in the nation and many nations throughout the world. These states and nations learned years ago that you can produce clean, profitable energy from our abundant renewable sources.

*What guidance is given to us to utilize renewable energy sources?* Presiding Bishop Michael Curry recently reaffirmed our biblical guidance regarding our stewardship of our home planet: "And we human beings have been charged with being trustees, caretakers, stewards of God's creation (Genesis 1:26-31)". We are also guided in Prayer 41 in the BCP: "Give us wisdom and reverence so to use the resources of nature, that no one may suffer from our abuse of them..." Consider the poor. Proverbs 29:7 in the KJV quotes: "The righteous considereth the cause of the poor..." and Psalm 41:1 in KJV states: "Blessed is he that

considereth the poor..." Low income families often have a hard time meeting their monthly budget in good weather. In the recent extreme cold, electricity bills could have doubled or tripled. If community owned solar (and/or wind) farms could be developed to support low income families such as in Housing Authorities, the impact of the electricity bill to the low income family budget could be lessened.

*Should the Diocese of WLa consider setting goals for use of renewable energy in our diocese?* If the Diocese establishes what is called a Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) as has been done in other states, we could join many Episcopal and other congregations already taking advantage of renewable energy options.

*Why should the diocese include renewable energy in our future plans?* For economic and logical reasons, it's the right thing to do. Once renewable energy sources are utilized, some costs for electricity consumption will be reduced. Any funds saved on energy costs could be applied to missional or operational efforts for the diocese or parish. Additionally, scientific evidence suggests we should be moving away



#### Blessings – and Power – Flow from ECOR's Solar Panels

Why was a crowd of people standing on the lawn at Episcopal Church of the Resurrection (ECOR) in Centerville, Utah, on a sunny Saturday morning, May 14th? And why were they all looking up?

The answer is power – the power of a commitment to make their church less of a burden on the earth's resources and to gratefully welcome the energy that comes free from the sun every day.

The crowd was celebrating the blessing and dedication of the new solar power array. The Rt. Rev. Scott B. Hayashi, the 11<sup>th</sup> Episcopal Bishop of Utah, stood on a ladder in his ecclesiastical vestments to sprinkle holy water and bless the 96-panel array in the hope that parishioners will remember the source of their power and share their commitment to faith.

Centerville Mayor Paul Cutler, Craig Bruderer from Rocky Mountain Power and several others addressed the group, expressing the hope that others who see the installation will be interested in using renewable energy to power their own homes and businesses.

Looking up as they enter the church for years to come, everyone will see the solar panels reflecting the sky and perhaps be reminded of their constant prayer that God's "will be done on earth as it is in heaven."

from fossil fuel consumption as much as possible.

*Why have we not included renewable energy in our plans?* The state of Louisiana is one of the least progressive states with respect to encouraging development and use of clean, renewable energy. Without appropriate changes in our state laws, development and use of renewable energy sources in Louisiana will continue to be restricted.

*Should the diocese petition the state of La to move more aggressively toward re-*

*newable energy production and use?* To move Louisiana forward with other states already developing and utilizing renewable energy, the state must be directed to establish a progressive state-wide RPS. The diocese can serve as a leader to encourage greatly expanded development and use of renewable energy; but, our full potential can only be reached with changing laws in the state that restrict growth in the field of renewable energy. To be an example leader, the Diocese can set its own RPS and urge the state to do the same.

## News of the Diocese

### Bishop Owensby's visit to Christ Church, Mansfield

Confirmands (3) and those reaffirmed by Bishop Owensby (9) during his annual visitation to Christ Church, Mansfield, on January 28, 2018, comprise a lively and purposeful gathering after the service.



### The Ratcliffs honored by Trinity, Natchitoches

The Rev. Elizabeth and Robert Ratcliff's gift of real estate to Trinity, Natchitoches resulted in the commissioning of a wrought iron bench, emblazoned with the Ratcliff name, which has been placed in front of the churchyard.

Seated on the bench are the Ratcliffs. Standing behind them are co-chairs Marian Keator and Frances Conine and Senior Warden Rick Harrington.



### Father Sean Duncan ordained at St. Paul's

The Rev. Deacon Sean Duncan of St. Paul's, Shreveport, was ordained to the priesthood by the Rt. Rev. Gregory Brewer, bishop of Central Florida. Father Duncan, although canonically resident in Central Florida, is the assistant rector of St. Paul's. Shown at Father Duncan's March 10 ordination are, left-to-right, the Rev. Fred Menalis, Diocese of Haiti; Father Sean Duncan, Bishop Gregory O. Brewer, and Father Paul Martin, rector of St. Paul's.

# Ordinations



## Christiansen ordained to Transitional Diaconate

Andrew Christiansen was ordained a Transitional Deacon by the Rt. Rev. Jacob Owensby in a service of ordination held at St. Mark's Cathedral in Shreveport February 3.



## Deacon Bordelon is ordained to the Priesthood

The Rev. Deacon André Bordelon was ordained to the Sacred Order of the Priesthood in services held March 1 at St. Timothy's, Alexandria.



## McLain Ordained to the Priesthood

In a service of Ordination held Wednesday, March 15 at St. Paul's, Abbeville, the Rt. Rev. Jacob Owensby ordained the Rev. Deacon Madge McLain to the priesthood.

## Other voices

FROM TIME-TO-TIME BISHOP OWENSBY WILL INVITE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE CLERGY TO SUBMIT ARTICLES OR SERMONS FOR PUBLICATION.

# Loving one another is not optional

The Rev. Suzanne Wolfenbarger  
RECTOR OF TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH, NATCHITROCHES



Growing up with two sisters and a brother, we would often find ourselves having loud discussions involving strong opinions, and at times we were just plain obnoxious with one another. We would argue the correct meaning of a word, who said what, whose turn it was to sit in the front seat, or, who did not get their fair share. Being the middle child all I secretly desired was for peace to prevail and when that did not work an easy escape plan when the debating increased!

My mother after hearing endless bickering would lay down the following commandment —If you cannot say something nice don't say anything at all— sometimes this would redirect us to give up the argument but needless to say, we sometimes still found creative ways to annoy each other—living in close surroundings, we found it easy to figure out which buttons to push, and when caught in the act our innocent facial expressions would win an Oscar.

My mother's commandment to speak only kind words I am sure has some biblical connection to the wisdom writers or perhaps came from the beloved classic movie *Bambi* when Thumper the rabbit is corrected by his parents to only say nice things when he was heard saying in a loud voice that the fawn Bambi "is kinda wobbly"—we were all raised with similar adages which we remember fondly as we grow older.

But if we are honest, when the temptation arises, we will still find creative ways to express ourselves with empty words, silence, or actions which carry other messages.

In John's narrative this 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter, we are reminded of what I believe is the ultimate commandment which extends beyond my mother's sage advice—a command we cannot reconfigure and has only one message: "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." John 13: 34-35

I believe Jesus' definition of love goes beyond keeping one's mouth shut when you cannot say anything nice at all! Biblical commentaries examine the meaning of the New Testament Greek which include three definitions for the word love: "philos" which refers to friendship, "eros" which refers to erotic love and "agape" which describes a life-enhancing action that flows from God to humans and between humans with warm emotions. All three words are translated "love." However, it is "agape" that Jesus uses throughout this passage in John which is part of a farewell address to his disciples before he is arrested.

But Jesus' words stated hours before his arrest and Peter's denial—deepens and transforms this offering of love into a new commandment

which becomes a distinguishing mark of his disciples, designed to reflect the relationship of love existing between the Jesus, his Father, and echoes the law in Leviticus 19:18, "You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against any of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the Lord." In other words, 'Loving one another is not optional'.

What does this mean for us?

When we live in his love, we can, if called upon, fulfill the highest form of love, which Jesus later defined in John chapter 15—"There is no greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends" (15:13). An impossible human standard or calling which goes way beyond only saying nice things—but a love which is not easily shaken or deterred but draws from God's unlimited supply.

For Jesus, this agape love did not mean a sweet sentimental feeling. It **meant action** or stated in another way, to love God as much as the person we love the least. Yes I know, easier said than done. But to be clear as mud as my mother would often say, it is not optional. Next time we are positioned to answer the question "What would Jesus do?" remember this "new" commandment to "love one another" - as "He has loved us" and seek ways to make it happen within our homes, communities, and churches, nurturing authentic caring relationships along the way.

My friends, as we continue our journey through this Easter season, where we celebrate the glorious resurrection with joyful Alleluia's, it would be tempting to just stay put and hang out in the garden with Jesus or exchange 'cool' Resurrection stories with friends in the upper room. But our scriptural lessons this morning remind us that there is still work that needs to get done.

We are therefore rebooted this morning into a new promise and a commandment which extends our actions beyond keeping our mouths closed when we have nothing nice to say. Learning to love the person we love the least requires plugging into a vast vessel of love forever provided and promised by Jesus' Father—we just have to tap in to that endless supply. For Christ loves all his children without any distinction, poor or rich, weak or strong, lesser or greater believers; not in word only, but in action and in love! Thanks be to God!

Preached by The Rev. Suzanne Wolfenbarger

April 24, 2016 at Trinity Episcopal Church Natchitoches, LA



## Around the Diocese

### St. Patrick's, West Monroe, "goes green" hosting 5K Walk & Run



St. Patrick's Episcopal Church "went green" by hosting a 5K Race on March 17, 2018. Proceeds from the Race were donated to The DeSaird Street Shelter in support of ministries for homeless persons. This event featured two Race opportunities: 5K - Walk & Run and 1K - Walk & Run. St. Patrick medals were received by all participants, and awards were given to the winners in each category. The race was supported by sponsorships, by the community, and runners from all over Northeast Louisiana. As the old saying goes: "A good time was had by all."



## Ministry Outside the Box

### LA church greenlights overnight parking for some homeless

by Michelle Faust

April says she's been living in her car for the past year. With the city of Los Angeles steadily cracking down on where people living in their vehicles can park overnight, it can be hard to find a safe place to park and sleep. So the 36-year-old is grateful that she's one of a small group of people allowed to sleep in their cars in the parking lot of a Koreatown church that has partnered with a nonprofit group called Safe Parking L.A.

Thursday was the first night St. Mary's Episcopal Church opened its lot to five people in four vehicles to spend the night, from 6 p.m. to 6 a.m. Safe Parking L.A. is providing a portable toilet, sink and security guard. The arrangement is modeled on a program that's been in Santa Barbara since 2004.

Sleeping in her car in a church parking lot doesn't provide "a lot of comfort, but I am at the bottom and I need some help, like a lot of people in this city," said April, who declined to give her last name.

And she said having a security guard would lower her stress level, noting that when she parks on the streets overnight sometimes people approach her car while she's trying to sleep.

"I'm afraid like any woman would be out here," she said. "You know? Vulnerable. I'm afraid all the time."

People living in their vehicles "need to be

somewhere safe at night, so they can get up for work in the morning and get their kids to school," said Emily Uyeda Kantrim, who manages the Safe Parking L.A. program.

Those parked at St. Mary's included a disabled Navy veteran, who said he's been living in his truck for about a year. There was also a woman with her 8-year-old daughter; the mother didn't want to speak to a reporter.

April said she used to run a dog training business out of her home, but she got evicted and lost her company. She said she spent so much in legal fees fighting the eviction that even though she won her court case, she couldn't afford to get another apartment.

Only people vetted by Safe Parking L.A. can participate in the program. A social worker will help them find services that could get them into permanent housing.

Safe Parking L.A. co-founder Pat Cohen is eager to see more organizations follow St. Mary's lead.

"Faith-based organizations are the ones that really want to do this," she said.

Cohen said her group is in talks with about 15 churches and synagogues to use their parking lots in the same way. She doesn't want to name any of them until they have officially signed on.

"It takes a lot of time," said Cohen, adding that congregations often need to convince their supervising boards to approve



There are few places to legally park for those living in their vehicles. David McNew/Getty Images

allowing car-dwellers to use their lots overnight.

Safe Parking L.A. offers to pay the hosting organization \$500 per month to help cover the cost of lighting the parking area or other incidentals.

New regulations make it hard for the estimated 8,500 people in L.A. county living in their vehicles to find parking in the city.

At the same time, city-led plans to allow

homeless Angelenos to sleep in their cars in secured lots have been slow to get off the ground.

"We'd love to get city and county lots, but that's more complicated," said Cohen.

In any event, securing a place for homeless people to park their vehicles is only a temporary solution, she said.

"Our goal is to get them all housed," said Cohen.

## Volunteers are needed to work at General Convention; July 5–13, 2018 in Austin, Texas



To be held relatively close to Louisiana, in Austin, Texas, The General Convention of the Episcopal Church is a once-in-a-life-time-experience. Volunteers for the General Convention are the broader church who come together in faith to assist, support and serve the Convention, its officers, deputations, staff, and commissions by providing a welcoming and safe environment through hands-on, behind the scenes work as an extension of the Executive Office of the General Convention.

We welcome all who are interested and willing to share their time and talents with us.

For more information:  
<https://79genconvepiscopalchurch2018volreg.my-trs.com>

### St. Mark's Choir to make English Pilgrimage

The choir of St. Mark's Cathedral, Shreveport, will be making an international pilgrimage to the United Kingdom this summer. Traveling July 26-August 3, the choir will be singing services at Great St. Mary's Church, Cambridge; Guilford Cathedral and Salisbury Cathedral.

Space is still available for non-choir members to join the choir on the trip. Bryan Mitnau is the contact person for more information.

In the months preceding the trip, the choir will be raising funds to offset the cost of the trip for members. Their plans include hosting the sale of bake goods and cookbooks as well as sponsoring a Hymn-a-thon.

Please contact Canon Bryan at [bryan@stmarkscathedral.net](mailto:bryan@stmarkscathedral.net) or by phone at (318) 226-4034.



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

**LOOKING FOR GOD IN MESSY PLACES**  
Bishop Jake's New Blog

### Address *continued from page 2*

very generous in his financial support. Thad loved reading, travel, playing games, and parties. He treasured his family, Sewanee, the Episcopal Church, and Minden.

Thad is preceded in death by his parents and first wife, Sally Tatum Andress, the mother of his four children. He is survived by his loving and much-loved wife, Oneta Hancock Andress; his four children and their spouses: Weston and Marty Andress, Elizabeth and Ed Steedman, Laura and Scott Beaver, and Collier and Fant Smith; Oneta's two children and spouses: Kendall and

Haley Hancock, and Allyson and Jason Kinzel; and thirteen grandchildren: Leah and David Brady, Caroline Andress; Fleming and Thad Beaver; Sally, Fant, and Helen Smith; Charlie and Mary Catherine Hancock; and Charlotte, Henry, and Meredith Kinzel; and by his brother Miller and Jenny Andress and his sister Joan and Sam Williamson.

Thad was most appreciative of the kindness of Cassandra Mitchell, Willie "Pancake" Allums, and Anita Brasher. Additionally, he was grateful for the wonderful care received from Manish Dhawan, MD, and Kelly Warren, the caring staff of Highland Clinic and the Minden Medical Center.



My first theological lesson came from my mother.

My little sister Marie died when I was three. Her life was fleeting, and I have no memories of her. Instead, I remember experiencing her absence. My mother comforted me—and no doubt comforted herself—by telling me that Marie was in heaven. One day, we would see her again.

Even this. Jesus will redeem even this. The loss of a child. The shattered heart of a mother. A child's confusion and sorrow. Even this.

**Good Friday Walk**  
*continued from page 1*

The service offers the opportunity for Christians to meditate on each of the stations by contemplating the needs of suffering people in God's creation today.

"We will join together as the Body of Christ; 'seeking and serving Christ in all persons, loving our neighbors as ourselves,'" said Fr. Snow. "We will offer our hearts and prayers to our brothers and sisters in this community and around the world. Join us in prayer as one Body, as we 'strive for justice and peace among all people, respecting the dignity of every human being.'"

The pre-Civil War Mt. Olivet Chapel and its adjacent cemetery, which dates back to 1824, are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The chapel and diocesan offices, located at 335 Main St. in Pineville, are owned by the Diocese of Western Louisiana, while the cemetery is owned by St. James Episcopal Church in Alexandria.

For more information about the special Good Friday service, call the Diocese at 318-442-1304.

In their midst stands the risen Jesus, in whom and by whom and through whom they all inhabit a new heaven and a new earth.

God will not discard this creation. Neither will God destroy it. In Jesus, God is even now making all things new. Even this.

This article is a reprint from Bishop Owensby's latest book *Your Untold Story: Tales of a Child of God*. Copies are available from Amazon and from Church Publishing.

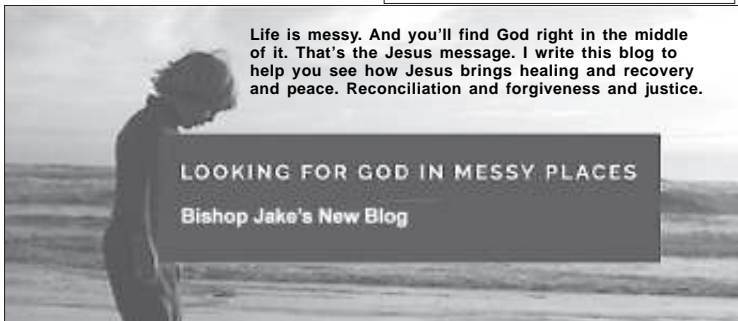
Bishop Owensby posts each week at his blog "Looking for God in Messy Places." To receive notice of each new post go to [jakeowensby.com](http://jakeowensby.com) and look for the subscription button on the menu.

*The Rt. Rev. Jacob Owensby, Ph.D., D.D., is the fourth bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Western Louisiana.*

**Lambs**  
*continued from page 12*

damaged that the students could not safely enter, forcing classes to be conducted outside using plywood for blackboards. Good Shepherd has rebuilt the lower school little by little and added secondary classrooms. With a present enrollment of 463 students and staff of 34 teachers, over 8,000 students have been educated at the school since its inception. Sustaining and developing the secondary school is the focus of Good Shepherd's current efforts.

The vision of Père Albert and Mrs. Landers continues, through the faith and goodness of everyone.



**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](mailto: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](mailto:jowensby@diocesewla.org)

*March 2018*

**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**

**20-22 — Women's Time for Joy, Camp Hardtner**

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

*May 2018*

**4-6 — Cursillo Retreat Weekend, Camp Hardtner**

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

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

**15-18 — Spring Clergy Retreat, Camp Hardtner, starts at 6:00 p.m.**

**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**

*June 2018*

**10 — Bishop's Visitation, Trinity, DeRidder**

**17 — Bishop's Visitation, St. Andrew's, Moss Bluff**

**24 — Bishop's Visitation, Calvary, Bunkie**

*August 2018*

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

*September 2018*

**21-23 — Celebration of Women's Ministries, Camp Hardtner, starts at 4:00 p.m.**

*October 2018*

**5-7 — Joy in the Journey Retreat, Camp Hardtner, starts at 5:00 p.m.**

*November 2018*

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

**24 — Ordination of seminarians Brooks Boylan and Garrett Boyle to the transitional diaconate, St. James, Alexandria, starts at 11:00 a.m.**

*December 2018*

**24 — Bishop's Visitation, St. Mark's Cathedral, Shreveport and St. James, Alexandria**

**Last Look!**



### **Holy Cross Daughters of the King get up to speed**

On Sunday, February 4, 2018, the Reverend Canon Dr. Rowena R. White of St. Mark's Cathedral, Shreveport and Shetwan Roberison of St. George's, Bossier City were admitted into the St. Mary Chapter of the Order of the Daughters of the King at Church of the Holy Cross, Shreveport. With the Rev. Mary Richard presiding, Canon White delivered the homily and Judy Bordelon, president of

the diocesan Daughters of the King, led the installation ceremony.

Meeting on Thursday evenings, chapter members went through 3 months of discernment classes with founding president of the St. Mary Chapter at Church of the Holy Cross, Shreveport, Jo Ann Horton conducting the classes.

### **Tend My Lambs mission marks quarter of a century of work in the mountains of Haiti**



Church of the Good Shepherd, Lake Charles, marked more than a quarter of a century of work with children in the mountains of Haiti on February 16 when they held their annual fish fry and silent auction in support of this educational mission.

In 1992, Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd began participating in a shared mission with the people of Begin located in the mountains of Haiti. The late Père Jean-Wilfrid Albert was the leader on this journey and Good Shepherd's guiding force in Haiti. In the States, the church joined with the late Frances Landers of the Haiti Education Foundation (HEF) which coordinates the efforts of several churches with missions in Haiti. Good Shepherd established the Tend My Lambs Haiti Mission Team to spearhead their own efforts.

In the first two years, Good Shepherd built the first five classrooms. Within five years the school was educating children from kindergarten through middle school. By the Grace of God and the generous efforts of many, the school continued to grow to include secondary students. Later a church was built and together with the school, has become a place of hope for the people of Begin.

There have been challenges along the way, most especially the earthquake in 2010. The school was so badly

*See Lambs, page 11*