

ACTS: Honduras team sees 726 patients during its 2017 Mission

by Scott Hamilton, MD

ACTS: HONDURAS had another great trip this year. For those of you who don't know us, we are a group representing the Episcopal Diocese of Western Louisiana, who travel to the coffee-growing mountains of Honduras every January since 1998. We bring a medical clinic with pharmaceuticals and an eyeglass clinic. For three-and-a-half days we hold clinics in remote villages that rarely see medical care. We were 17 this year: doctors, nurses, nurse practitioners, and lots of folks who just get things done. We came from Lafayette, Pineville, Cincinnati, Idaho, New Orleans, Houston,



Hot Springs, and Dalton (Georgia).

We are invited and hosted by the Iglesias Episcopal Trinidad. Our hosts pick out our clinic sites, feed and eat with us, work with us, pray with us. We have all become fast friends over the years: Roy the senior warden, Father Pena, Waldo the doctor who works with us, the three Fernandez sisters who cook for us and whose teenage boys work as translators and drivers, and many others. The mission effort is their mission, and we come to help, using our skills and the support of those who support us.

See ACTS: Honduras, page 8

Does Your Congregation Have an Evangelism Plan?

On most Sundays of each year I join one of our congregations in worship. We celebrate the Eucharist. Frequently people come forward for Confirmation, Reception, and Reaffirmation. Since the Bishop's visitation is one of the principal Baptismal days, I sometimes baptize babies or toddlers, youth or adults.



Bishop Jake

In these services we all renew our Baptismal Covenant. You know, the one in which we promise to share the Good News of the risen Christ in word and deed.

This Spring I will institute a policy of discussing the congregation's evangelism plan at each of my visits with the congregational leadership. At this point, some of you have just asked the crucial question: What's an evangelism plan? That question may be quickly followed by: Do

we have an evangelism plan?

The point of an evangelism plan is to connect people to Jesus. The content of each congregation's plan may vary, but this is always the plan's purpose.

You can find an excellent resource for formulating a plan or for improving an already existing plan by going to Mary Parmer's website Invite-Welcome-Connect (<http://www.invitewelcomeconnect.com>). We were fortunate to have Mary with us for CVI. But even those who attended will find her toolkit and other information invaluable. Contact Canon Bill Bryant to come for a visit to help you build or improve your plan.

Any evangelism plan should center on the unchurched. Sheep stealing

from other denominations isn't evangelism. It's denominational competition. That doesn't sound especially Jesus-y to me. We are all one in Christ. Encouraging people to swap worship locations from one address to another is not our goal.

Get to know the unchurched. This includes those who have never been part of a church. It also includes those who have intentionally rejected religion and those who have drifted away for a variety of reasons. Much of the literature on evangelism seems to agree that we can reasonably define a person as unchurched if they have stayed away from a worship community for six months.

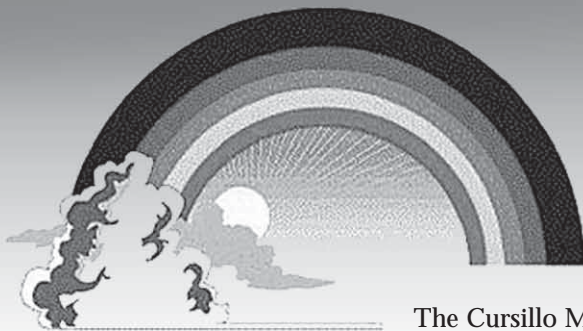
Nothing replaces personal connection and bonds of affection in sharing the story of Jesus. However, knowing your surrounding community is very helpful. The Episcopal Church provides a tool for getting to know your neighbors demographically.

Start at the Congregational Vitality page of our denomination's website (http://archive.episcopalchurch.org/congregationalVitality/109389_121110_ENG_HTM.htm). You'll find a ton of material there. In the left margin, you'll see the link "Studying Your Congregation and Community." Once you click that link and scroll to the bottom of the page, you'll see the widget that helps you get information about your congregation and your community.

Holly Davis will be revising my visitation customary to reflect this new process. So please keep your eyes peeled and be ready for an interesting discussion.

Oh, and did I mention that we will also be discussing your stewardship plan? Well, you'll have to wait until next month to hear more about that.

Approaching ...



Cursillo #151 is set for March 30–April 2 at Camp Hardtner

Cursillo is an encounter with Jesus Christ. It is an apostolic movement of Christians who view as their primary vocation in life the leavening of their environments.

The Cursillo Movement seeks to do this by selecting men and women who are natural leaders in their communities and spiritually developing and sustaining them in the work of Christian evangelization.

The Cursillo weekend is not a retreat, but an opportunity to meet clergy and laity seeking to strengthen our faith. It provides an environment to experience the reality of the gift of God's love through shared prayer, individual meditation, worship, study, fellowship, laughter, tears, and unconditional love.

*Cursillo will take place at Camp Hardtner, March 30–April 2
Contact your rector or priest-in-charge for information on attending Cursillo*



Epiphany

Epiphany means "revealing" or "showing forth" and begins January 6. The season begins with the showing forth of Jesus to the Gentiles, specifically the wise men of Matthew's Gospel, who are the first to know his divinity. Epiphany proclaims Jesus as Savior of the whole world and that God's promise of salvation now applies to all the people of earth.



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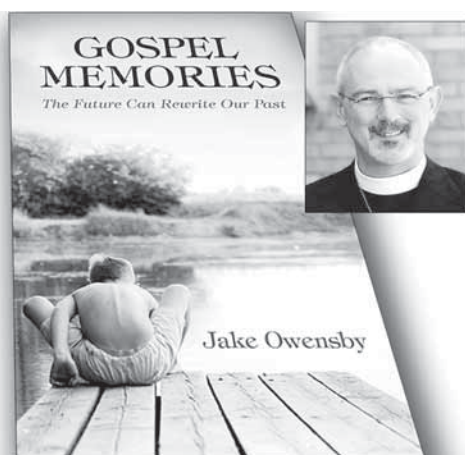
**Copy deadline, next issue:
February 21, 2017**

Save the date, June 10, 2017

FIRST ANNUAL SPORTING CLAYS St. Lukes Mobile Ministry

Give a gift of Summer Camp at Hardtner

Contribute to the Joe Bordelon Scholarship Fund



Gospel Memories

The Future Can Rewrite Our Past

by the Rt. Rev. Jake Owensby

Gospel Memories *The Future Can Rewrite Our Past*, is available at Amazon.com, in Paperback or in the Kindle format.

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Growing Congregations!

If your passion is Church Growth, this conference will be important to you!

THE WORKSHOP ON YOUTH MINISTRY!

**Saturday, March 18—10:00 a.m.–3:30 p.m.
Camp Hardtner**

The Diocesan Youth Commission (DYC), in partnership with the Congregational Vitality Institute (CVI), is making plans for a day-long workshop to help congregations develop and sustain youth ministry. Because nurturing adolescent faith formation is the work of the Church as a whole—not just youth ministers—all clergy and laity are encouraged to attend. The conference will take place on Saturday, March 18, 10:00 a.m.–3:30 p.m. at Camp Hardtner.

Featured speaker and facilitator will be Ms. Jamie Martin Currie, Missioner for Christian Formation for the Diocese of Texas. In this role, she oversees the diocesan youth ministries, assesses children's ministries, and develops new children, youth, and family ministers. She also serves as a curricula consultant and presents workshops at parishes throughout the Diocese. In addition, she assists the Episcopal Church at the provincial and national levels and is currently president of Forma (the national network of Christian Formation leaders in the Episcopal Church and other denominations).

More details and registration information are forthcoming.

If you have questions about this event, please contact Joy Owensby (jowensby@diocesewla.org) or Canon Bill Bryant (rectory@shreve.net).



Jamie Martin Currie

Sprinting to the head of the line?

You have every intention of registering for Hardtner summer camp, but there's still plenty of time, Right? **WRONG!** Don't delay that registration. Summer Camping Program Registration is now underway.

See the camping schedule and information on this page, then go online to: www.camphardtner.org, and encourage others who are considering our program to follow your lead and register. For those who need financial assistance, we do have funds, which will be distributed by need.

If you have questions, or comments, or would like to support our summer camps financially, contact office@camphardtner.org.

2017 Summer Camp Dates

First Camp, Grades 2 & 3, with parent*	\$200 each	June 2–4
Primary, Grades 4 & 5*	\$460	June 8–13
Senior High, Grades 11, 12, & recent grads*	\$690	June 17–24
Junior High 1, Grades 6 & 7*	\$575	June 28–July 4
Junior High 2, Grades 7 & 8*	\$575	July 11–17
Middle High, Grades 9 & 10*	\$575	July 21–27
Camp Able, Age 9 & up with special needs	\$400	August 2–6

**Grade based on 2017/18 school year.*

February Gallery



Backed stopped by the Bishop

As is its tradition, the Board of Directors of the Diocesan Episcopal Church Women met in late January for its installation of officers and its first board meeting of the year. In attendance were the following 2017 Episcopal Church Women Board members: left-to- right (front row) Ginger Norvell, Ione Dean, Cindy Verret, and Sherl Picchioni. (second row) Soni Sers, Yvonne Leasure, and Judy Bordelon. (third row) Megan Rowzie, Shetwan Roberison, and the Rev. Rowena White. (forth row) Stacy Taylor, Bishop Jake Owensby, abd Gail Wilking.

Those not in attendance: Suzanne Corley, Roxanne Myers, Barbara Moore, Jeanette Leger, Martha Herren, Joy Owensby, Barbara Alexander, and Sara Tully.

Prothro is Minden's "Man of the Year"

A record crowd attended the annual Minden-South Webster Chamber of Commerce banquet held in the Minden Civic Center at which Governor, John Bel Edwards delivered the keynote address.

Later in the program was the announcement of Minden's Man of the year which was Carleton Prothro, a member of the congregation of St. John's, Minden.

Prothro, who is a tireless worker for St. John's, as well as his community is shown right, with his delighted spouse and Dr. Richard Campbell, who made the presentation. Dr. Campbell is also a member of St. John's, Minden.



The details are in the numbers

The Province VII Episcopal Church Women's Audit committee met in Dallas January 13-14. Western Louisiana ECW president, Shetwan Roberison (far right) is a member of that group and of the Finance committee, tasked with the formulation of the 2018-2020 budget.





Hardtner's Trustees: Casually attired, but intensely involved

Hardtner's Board of Trustees is an honorable appointment, not an honorary position. Hardtner's trustees are charged with the operation, welfare and future of the Pollock camp, a position that requires long hours and frequent attention. Standing, left to right, The Rev. Richard Norman, chair, Robert Ratcliff, Mike Endicott, Tom Welch, André Bordelon, Bill Shearman, Terry Clason, The Rev. Michael Bordelon, The Rev. Bill Bryant. Seated, from left: The Rev. Ally Perry and Wesley Johnson. Not present: Richard Crowell

ADDING TO THE FLOCK

The flock's numbers increase at St. Timothy's, Alexandria

During his visit to St. Timothy's, Alexandria on January 22, Bishop Jake confirmed and received. Pictured left to right: Vickie Burke sponsor, Margie Poole, received (Vickie is her sponsor); Elwood Marcott, confirmed, Kevin & Judy Bordelon sponsors. Standing in front of Kevin & Judy are Angie Meylian and Meredith Hayes both were confirmed (Judy Bordelon sponsored both of them); Brenda Milam reaffirmed (not pictured is Jude Geiger Knight, her sponsor); Christian VanderHouwen, (Fr. Rich Snow was his sponsor). Ed Poole last on the front was also sponsored by Fr. Snow. On the back row standing by Bishop Owensby is Michael Snow, bishop's chaplain.



St. John's, Minden is visited by Bishop Jake

Bishop Jake made his official visit to St. John's, Minden on Sunday, February 5. Confirmations and Receptions are always a pleasure to a bishop who thrives on spreading the faith. Left to right: Noreen Burgess (received), David Nettles (confirmed), Bishop Jake, Lois McConnell (confirmed), St. John's rector, Father Frank Hughes, Teresa Frazier and Jacob Donaldson (received).

Upcoming in the Diocese

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



TIME FOR JOY: *Giving women time for themselves*

APRIL 21–23 at CAMP HARDTNER

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



Time For Joy at Camp Hardtner

Please fill out this registration blank completely.

Name _____

Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Home Church _____

Contact number(s) _____

Any special needs for the weekend _____

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

Friday night thru Sunday (lodging, meals & activities).....\$125.00

Saturday only (meals, snacks & activities).....\$35.00

Total amount enclosed \$ _____

Please make checks payable to **Diocesan ECW** & mail to: Shetwan Roberison
1217 Winfield Road, Princeton, LA 71067

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



CLEY is a fun-filled spiritual retreat at Camp Hardtner for youth in grades 9-12. Led by Brandi Doucet, Lisa Hightower, and Fr. Brandt Montgomery along with a staff of college-aged adults, this year's theme is "The Gospel According to the Simpsons." Cost to participate is \$95.

Register by March 12 on the Diocesan Website (www.diocesewla.org) to order a T-shirt.
Registration closes March 19.

Northern California Episcopal churches turn out for Oroville Dam evacuees



by Paula Schaap

[Diocese of Northern California] More than 180,000 Northern California residents were ordered to evacuate on the afternoon of Feb. 12, after officials said the emergency spillway from the Oroville Dam might fail.

The first tweet from the California Department of Water Resources came in at 4:24 p.m. and sketched the situation in the darkest of tones: “EMERGENCY EVACUATION: Auxiliary spillway at Oroville Dam predicted to fail within the next hour. Oroville residents evacuate northward.” The evacuation orders spread to several other townships and counties, snarling traffic on the highways as people fled.

Although officials backed off their most dire predictions later that night, many residents were still stuck in shelters, not sure when they could return home.

Episcopal Church members who didn’t have to heed evacuation notices rallied to be present for those fleeing a potential disaster, with waiting and anxiety being some of the worst aspects of the situation.

And for some, it wasn’t the first time they were fleeing from disaster.

The Oroville Dam, which is the tallest in the United States, is one of the main features of California’s water system. It stores 3.5 million acre-feet of water, which is used for irrigation and drinking water from northern to southern California. Water crested over the emergency spillway on Feb. 11 for the first time since the dam was opened 48 years ago, according to the *Sacramento Bee*.

For a while, officials thought they had it under control. But then they found that the emergency spillway had eroded, raising concerns that it could fail and trigger an uncontrolled release of water. The dam is about two hours north of Sacramento, though officials said so far there was no “imminent threat” to the California’s city.

On Tuesday afternoon, residents were allowed back to their homes after officials deemed the risks “have been significantly reduced.”

Northern California Bishop Barry Beisner, who had been in touch with clergy and

lay leaders in the affected region throughout the evacuation, wrote to his diocese asking for prayers: “As I write this Monday morning, at least one of the towns evacuated last night has had the order lifted, and some of the nearly 200,000 displaced last night will soon be home.

“But major disruption is still an issue in many lives right now, and uncertainty still looms, as assessing/repairing damage to the dam continues,” Beisner wrote.

The Rev. Gary Brown, deacon at Emmanuel Episcopal Church in Grass Valley, reached by phone, said that he was manning a coffee and tea station at the Nevada County Fairgrounds. About 500 people were at the center, Brown said.

“It’s the little things,” Brown said, recalling one man who left so fast he didn’t have time to retrieve a leash for his dog. So a parishioner from Emmanuel fetched rope from his car for an improvised leash.

The Rev. Terri Hobart, rector of St. Luke’s Episcopal Church in Woodland said she had checked in with the Red Cross shelter at the Yolo County Fairgrounds and they were set with everything they needed, for the time being.

“People at the fairgrounds are tired, they’re shocked,” she said. “If they slept, they slept on cots in a huge room. Everybody is just waiting to see what’s going to happen.”

The disaster coordinator for the diocese, Margaret Dunning, said “We need to hang on, pray and wait to see what goes on,” Dunning said.

By Feb. 13, water releases from the dam had lowered the level of the lake and the erosion appeared to be contained.

There’s still concern, not only about the erosion, but also about another storm system that’s due to move into the area later in the week.

Hobart said she was hopeful that the evacuees would get to go home soon.

“And if not, we’ll figure out what they need and get it to them,” she said.

Paula Schaap is the Diocese of Northern California’s communications director.

Email ALIVE! at robertharwell39@att.net

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

March 2017

- 1—Bishop’s Visitation, Ash Wednesday, St. James, Alexandria (noontime)**
- 2–5—dailyoffice.org retreat, Camp Hardtner**
- 5—Bishop’s Visitation, Christ Church, Bastrop**
- 10—Clergy Spouse Retreat, Camp Hardtner, starts at 5:00 p.m.**
- 18—CVI/DYC Joint Conference on Youth Ministry, Camp Hardtner**
- 19—Bishop’s Visitation, St. Paul’s, Shreveport**
- 24—CLEY Retreat for High School Youth, Camp Hardtner, starts at 7:00 p.m.**
- 30–April 2—Cursillo #151, Camp Hardtner, starts at 5:00 p.m.**

April 2017

- 2—Bishop’s Visitation, Trinity, Cheneyville; Holy Comforter, Lecompte**
- 7—Episcopal Camp and Conference Board Meeting, Camp Hardtner**
- 9—Bishop’s Visitation, Palm Sunday, St. James, Alexandria**
- 11—Chrim Mass and Renewal of Vows, St. James, Alexandria, starts at 10:00 a.m.**
- 16—Bishop’s Visitation, Easter, St. Mark’s Cathedral, Shreveport**
- 18—Meeting of the Diocese Council, St. James, Alexandria, starts at 10:00 a.m.**
- 21–23—Women’s Time for Joy, Camp Hardtner, starts at 6:00 p.m.**
- 29—Cursillo Music Fest, Camp Hardtner, 9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.**
- 30—Bishop’s Visitation, St. Patrick’s, West Monroe**
- 30—Bishop’s Visitation, St. Luke’s, Grambling, starts at 2:00 p.m.**

May 2017

- 7—Bishop’s Visitation, St. George’s, Bossier City**
- 9—Spring Clergy Retreat, Camp Hardtner, starts at 2:00 p.m.**
- 14—Bishop’s Visitation, St. James, Shreveport**
- 21—Bishop’s Visitation, Good Shepherd, Lake Charles**
- 23—Commission on Ministry, Diocesan House, starts at 10:00 a.m.**
- 28—Bishop’s Visitation, Ascension, Lafayette**

June 2017

- 2–4—First Camp, Camp Hardtner**
- 4—Bishop’s Visitation, St. Barnabas, Lafayette**
- 8–13—Primary Camp, Camp Hardtner**
- 11—Bishop’s Visitation, Trinity, Natchitoches**
- 17–24—Senior High Camp, Camp Hardtner**
- 18—Bishop’s Visitation, St. Alban’s, Monroe**
- 25—Bishop’s Visitation, St. Paul’s, Abbeville**
- 28–July 4—Junior High I Camp, Camp Hardtner**

July 2017

- 11–17—Junior High II Camp, Camp Hardtner**

August 2017

- 2–6—Camp Able, Camp Hardtner**
- 6—Bishop’s Visitation, Christ Church, St. Joseph**
- 13—Bishop’s Visitation, St. Luke’s, Jennings**
- 20—Bishop’s Visitation, St. Andrew’s, Mer Rouge**
- 21–27—Middle High Camp, Camp Hardtner**
- 22—Commission on Ministry, Diocesan House, starts at 10:00 a.m.**
- 27—Bishop’s Visitation, St. Columba’s, Winnsboro; St. David’s, Rayville**



The ACTS team funds a feeding program for the mountain village El Retiro

This year in medical clinic we saw a total of 726 patients and gave out 3112 medications. We see people with coughs from cooking over indoor fires, headaches and dizziness from working in the sun without enough clean water to drink, stomach pain from inadequate diets, and body aches from working in fields and washing clothes on washboards. We gave out 307 glasses in eye clinic, mostly readers, some prescriptions, and sunglasses. We also gave out lots of eyewash, which is nice for itchy red eyes exposed to copious sunlight, dust, and allergens.

We also cared for two special patients, Patricia Nicole Fernandez and Maria Paz. Patricia is a 4-year-old girl who visited us when she was 3 months old and has congenital glaucoma. This condition would have doomed her to life-long

blindness, except we found her an eye surgeon, Dr. Douglas Perry, who could help. After two surgeries and eye drop medication, she sees perfectly. This year we were visited by Maria, who is eight years old, and her parents told us that she is always falling down. They thought she was having seizures, but Angie Brown, one of our nurse practitioners, discovered that she had congenital cataracts. She had been falling down all this time because with her diminished sight, walking around was like stumbling down a dark hall at night for her whole life. With surgery, she should have normal sight. Another patient for Dr. Perry!

This year we had a new station: my daughter Quinn and her college friend Ashley Goin ran the toothbrush station. They handed out about 570 donated toothbrushes, did dental hygiene instruction, and had paper and crayons for the kids to color. It was a bigger hit than we could have imagined, and fortunately we had some toothpaste to hand out as well.

Besides the unanticipated desire for toothbrushes, standing in line for clinics can be boring, and the chance for kids to have some fun really made the day for many families.

We have pursued several other projects. We continue to fund a feeding program for one of the mountain-top villages we visit, El Retiro. In 2003 we noted that several children showed signs of starvation. Now we see none of that. We also have helped out the Trinidad church with some construction, particularly for a room for the Padre to stay when he is in town. We have also helped Father Pena repair his truck, so he can continue his work in Trinidad and El Retiro. We have paid for some tables, chairs, and steamer-tables too, so that we can accommodate all of our friends and families at meals. Finally, we kicked in a little for a scholarship for one of the cook's boys, Fernando, who we all have fallen in love with. He attends a bilingual school, since speaking English is an important skill in the job

market for his future.

For the coming year, besides continuing with the above, we also hope to start some water projects in the area.

We have identified a vendor for simple and inexpensive water purification systems in San Pedro Sula (the big city of Honduras). In talking with the Honduran church we might be able to bring clean water to El Retiro and several communities in the Trinidad area.

Our budget is sound. We are assisted by the Diocese, St. Barnabas Episcopal church of Lafayette, and several individual donors. Team members pay their own way. For the past two years we have come in "on time and under budget." Budget surpluses ensure the feeding program at El Retiro, the Trinidad church assistance, the coming water program, and Maria Paz's eye surgery.



Bishop Wright greets Louisiana friends, left-to-right, Canon William Bryant, Joy and Bishop Owensby, Lynn and Steve Yancey.

Carl Wright is consecrated bishop suffragan for the armed forces, and federal ministries

Carl Wright, a rector and former Air Force chaplain, became the Episcopal Church's bishop suffragan for the armed forces and federal ministries February 11 during a service filled with bishops, clergy, lay people and military officers.

The Rev. Harold Lewis, rector emeritus of Calvary Church, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and Wright's longtime mentor, punctuated the service's pomp and precision with strong words during his sermon from the Canterbury Pulpit of Washington National Cathedral. Lewis told Wright he was "about enter a ministry whose challenges may well be unique among those of your sister and brother bishops."

"You will be at times finding yourself in one modern-day Babylon or another,

singing the Lord's song in a strange land," Lewis said.

Wright was the rector of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Pasadena, Maryland, in the Diocese of Maryland, when the House of Bishops elected him. In his military career, he has served as deputy command chaplain for the Air Force Global Strike Command at Barksdale Air Force Base in Louisiana. Many in Western Louisiana will remember that a few years back while he was a chaplain at Barksdale, the Rev. Wright assisted at St. Mark's during Bishop Jake's tenure as Dean.