



THE MISSISSIPPI EPISCOPALIAN

SPECIAL COUNCIL ISSUE

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Tupelo surroundings different for this Annual Council

By Lloyd Gray

Delegates, alternates and visitors to Annual Council in Tupelo who haven't been to the city since the last Council there in 2001 will find themselves in completely different surroundings on February 5th.

While the venue for the 183rd Council - the BancorpSouth Arena - is essentially the same facility as hosted Councils in 2001 and 1995 - an urban renewal project nearby has changed the face of downtown Tupelo over the past decade.

A Hilton Garden Inn, a new conference center for smaller gatherings, and a separate commercial development with two restaurants are now adjacent to the Arena. Across Main Street are a park, a new City Hall, office complexes and residences. Also nearby is the Tupelo Automobile Museum, which houses one of the nation's top collections of antique cars dating back more than a century.

It's all part of the Fairpark project, an ongoing redevelopment of 50 downtown acres where the old city fairgrounds - site of a famous homecoming concert by Elvis Presley in 1956 - used to be. Elvis's birthplace and museum, Mississippi's most visited tourist attraction, is a few blocks east.

The BancorpSouth Arena itself provided the spark for later development when it was converted in the early 1990s from an abandoned indoor shopping mall into a 9,000-seat facility, then known as the Tupelo Coliseum. For a while, it hosted a professional hockey team - source of the infamous ice-under-the-floor cool down at the 2001 Council. There will be no ice this time.

The facilities of All Saints' Episcopal Church, the host parish, have also been transformed since the last Council in Tupelo. The All Saints' congregation in 2007 moved into an expansive new parish hall, education space and offices, providing a more spacious and welcoming place for functions such as the Youth Lock-in and the nursery for Council's closing service on Sunday. The church is five blocks from the Arena.

All hotels are within a few minutes' drive of the Arena, and in addition to the two restaurants next door, multiple dining choices are available within a short distance.



The Bancorp South Arena is the gathering place for the 183rd Annual Council.

Registration for Council this year is at the Arena from 2 p.m. until 6 p.m. on Friday. Late registration is from 6:30 p.m. until 8 p.m. on Friday and 7:30 a.m. until 10 a.m. on Saturday. Registration forms are available online at the diocesan website, www.dioms.org

Special events include a wine and cheese reception Friday night and a catfish dinner and dance with a cash bar Saturday night. A continental breakfast will be available Saturday and Sunday mornings.

Parents who wish to use the nursery at All Saints' for the closing service Sunday must sign up at registration so that adequate preparations can be made. There is no charge for the nursery, which is for infants through kindergarten age.

All Saints' is using Annual Council as a springboard for its 140th anniversary celebration, according to its rector, the Rev. Paul Stephens. The first gathering of Episcopalians in Tupelo was in 1870, the same year the city received its charter.

Vicky Vance and David Sparks of All Saints' are serving as Council co-chairs, leading a team of communicants from All Saints' and other congregations within the Tombigbee Convocation.

Lloyd Gray is a parishioner at All Saints, Tupelo.



St. Columb's, Ridgeland consecrates new building



Bishop Gray stands with St. Columb's Senior Warden Dick Largel, the Rev. Jason Shelby, and the Rev. Brian Seage inside the newly consecrated church building.

By Scott Lenoir, Editor

Thirteen years ago the parish met in the cafeteria of St. Andrew's Upper School. After the completion of the parish hall in 1998, services were moved to St. Columb's new home on Sunnybrook Road in Ridgeland.

Today, worship services no longer take place in the parish hall, but in a newly constructed and beautiful church building that was consecrated by Bishop Gray III on Dec. 20, 2009. Joining in the December celebration were 18 people who were presented to

the Bishop for confirmation and two who were baptized.

"People are loving this new building and are finally feeling at home in our new location," said the Rev. Brian Seage, rector of St. Columb's.

St. Columb's was organized in 1941 in West Jackson. The parish took its name from the Chapel of St. Columb's which was built on the Battle Hill property on West Capital Street. It was erected under the episcopacy of the Rt. Rev. Hugh Miller Thompson. St. Columb's, Battle Hill was constructed of native stone from the old jail at Raymond and consecrated in 1894 for use as the diocesan cathedral during Thompson's tenure as bishop.

However, the little stone church deteriorated over the years and was damaged by a fire. It was demolished in 1919. A memorial brass plaque written in Latin by Bishop Thompson was preserved and placed in St. Columb's, West Jackson, which took its name in 1941 as a way to honor the Irish roots of Bishop Thompson and also to keep the name of St. Columb as a continuing piece of history in the Diocese of Mississippi.

The memorial plaque is now mounted in the narthex of St. Columb's, Ridgeland.

The new church building on Sunnybrook Road seats four hundred people and it is beautiful and nostalgic to see some exterior architectural

lines that bring to mind the church building of St. Columb's in West Jackson.

The new structure is a well planned work which, upon taking one step in, one easily is impacted by the glory and presence of God. It was a long time in coming, but to a person, everyone this reporter talked with agreed that the final result was worth the labor, the pledges and the wait.

St. Columb's service schedule is Holy Eucharist on Sundays at 8 and 10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist with Unction is celebrated on Wednesday at 10:30 a.m. and on Saturdays at 5:00 p.m.



The newly built nave of St. Columb's, Ridgeland seats 400 people.

Complete Annual Council news begins on page 3

The Bishop's Journal

November 18 - Chicago

Meeting all day with Standing Commission on Evangelism and Mission. I am trying to get clarity on how so diffused and poorly funded a group, such as this, can impact the evangelism of our church. Much creativity and success stories around the table. How is the work of the church among native peoples in Alaska (very successful over many decades) and the Dominican Republic (exciting growth in recent years) translatable to the wider church?

November 19 - Chicago

Meeting continues with the Standing Commission on Evangelism and Mission.

November 20 - Leave Chicago after our meetings conclude.

I spoke of a vision of "reinventing General Convention" and making it into a church-wide resource for evangelism and mission. The "Tent Meeting" of our not too distant past was one of the models I suggested. There was considerable energy around the ideal and, not surprisingly, I was made the point person for such a quixotic quest.

November 21 - At home for most of the day.

November 22 - Leave early to drive to Clarksdale for my annual visitation to St. George's. I preach, celebrate, confirm 3 and receive one. A very large and enthusiastic crowd witnesses to the fine work being done in this season between rectors by Mrs. Mary Thompson, Senior Warden, and the Rev. Craig Gates, interim. Reception follows as I have good opportunity to visit with various members of the congregation about their hopes for the future.

Later in the afternoon, I drive to Belzoni where I preach and celebrate at St. Thomas. In the midst of the service, I am also able to bless a new altar frontal, new cushions for pews and kneelers and wonderful repair work on the two major stained glass windows in the church. Following the service, I am feted with a sit down

dinner with a wide variety of Delta cuisine.

Return home late in the evening to greet my father-in-law, Alan Whittlesey, who has joined us for the Thanksgiving holiday.

November 23 - Day off mostly. Spent some time with Kathy in an afternoon conversation with a young Sudanese man currently enrolled at Ole Miss.

November 24 - In office all day.

Staff meetings in the morning. Annual consultation with the Rev. Charlie Deaton.

In the evening, we celebrate at our home the first birthday of our newest granddaughter, Sadie Alan Gray.

November 25 - Office closed. Spend most of the morning tying up many loose ends. Afternoon at home in Thanksgiving preparation. Gather at Gray Center with many family members.

November 26 - Thanksgiving celebration with extended Spivey/Miller family at Lake Tithelo in Madison County.

November 27 - Gray Center with family.

November 28 - Spend all day at Gray Center doing a variety of tasks - tree planting, etc. Very fulfilling day as Kathy and I have the day to ourselves in this lovely space.

Return to Jackson in the evening.

November 29 - Leave early for continuing education event with small groups of colleague bishops. We discuss the various challenges we each face using the lens of family systems theories. For over nine years these five bishops have become an indistinguishable part of my personal and professional life.

We are meeting over 48 hours at the Desmond Tutu Center in New York to accommodate 2 bishops who have overlapping responsibilities at General Seminary during our time together.

November 30 - All day with colleagues group. I am so fed by these relationships. Evening meal at neighborhood restaurant that lasts well into

the evening.

December 1 - Morning with colleague group. Lunch with seminarians Van Bankston and John Kellogg. Good to see their energy and excitement about the work they are doing.

Fly back to Jackson very late.

December 2 - Drive to Starkville in the morning for lunch with the vestry of Resurrection Starkville. Good conversation on the relationship between the parish and the campus ministry at Mississippi State. Work out of the parish office in the afternoon.

In the evening, I ordain the Rev. Carol Mead to the priesthood at Resurrection. Large crowd from all over the diocese. Wonderful occasion.

Return home to Jackson very late.

December 3 - Out to Gray Center for a daylong conversation with Bishop Ward of the United Methodist Church and members of her staff. Members of the diocesan staff join with me to deepen the conversation and commitment we have made to each other within the United Methodist/Episcopal covenant that was signed this year.

Visit with Bill Horne at Gray Center before returning home in the evening.

December 4 - In office throughout the day. Appointments with the Rev. John Jenkins and Canon McCormick to discuss current financial status of All Saints' School property. Thanks to the work of both of them, the financial future (i.e., our capacity to pay our creditors through the lease arrangement with AmeriCorps) continues to improve.

Session with Tom Welch and Nick Nichols as leadership of the Cursillo Secretariat is handed to Nick. Annual consultation with the Rev. Deacon Rosemary Foncree.

In the evening we attend the "Emancipation Program" of Catholic Charities where graduation from the foster care program is noted and celebrated by the entire community. Tabitha has a few more years with us, however, before she goes through the emancipation process.

December 5 - At Gray Center with Gray Center board meeting. Very hard-working group that has changed the way this ministry is being lived out. I am so appreciative of their time and efforts.

Receive word while at Gray Center of the election of the Very Rev. Morris Thompson as Bishop of Louisiana. Morris is an old and dear friend and a former priest of this diocese.

December 6 - Up very early to drive to Laurel where I celebrate and preach at the early service at St. John's. Enjoy reception for newly confirmed and received at St. John's. At the later service I preach, celebrate, confirm 14 and receive 4 from St. John's and confirm 3 and receive one from St. Pierre's, Gautier. The church is very full and the enthusiasm of the congregation and their leadership is contagious!

Leave Laurel and drive to Perkinson for a visit with the Rev. David Simpson, a Lutheran pastor, who is holding services for a new joint Episcopal-Lutheran congregation. This small community is known as the Lutheran-Episcopal Mission of the Annunciation. We meet in the small chapel north of Perkinson.

Continuing on south, I drive to Gulfport for the Celebration of New Ministry at St. Peter's by-

the-Sea. The new rector, the Rev. Melanie Lemburg and the congregation celebrate in a wonderful way the installation of their first rector following the rebuilding of the new church and parish home.

Head north following a reception, but fatigue overtakes me and I spend the night in Hattiesburg.

December 7 - Return to Jackson, Day off.

December 8 - In office all day. Staff meetings in the morning. Finances and 2010 budget are major focus later in the morning. Afternoon appointments with the Rev. Paul Pradat, the Rev. Susan Disharoon and Mr. Roger Clapp.

December 9 - Office appointments in the morning with an aspirant for holy orders and the Rev. David Knight. In the afternoon, I drive to Meridian for an evening service at the Church of the Mediator. I preach, celebrate, confirm 18 and receive 4 - a very large, diverse and enthusiastic group! It is a great joy to speak to folks who feel, after so many years of searching, they have found a church home. Good visiting time in a reception afterwards, then home to Jackson.

December 10 - Morning appointment with one discerning a call to ordination. Most of the day spent with the Finance Committee of the diocese as they put numbers to the 2010 budget using priorities established by the Executive Committee. It has been a difficult process in these financially challenging days.

Brief afternoon meeting with board member of the Center for Formation and Mission. Later, I host a conference call with the members of the Honduras Medical Mission Committee to discuss the current political and social climate in Honduras. A decision is made to go forward with the medical mission of Honduras in February 2010.

December 11 - Executive staff retreat and planning session at Gray Center all day. Very productive.

December 12 - At home with granddaughter, Harper Gray, all day. Harper spends the night with her grandparents.

December 13 - Up early to drive to Sumner for visitation to the Church of the Advent. We liturgically weave together a Celebration of a New Ministry with their Delta Missioner, the Rev. Robert Wetherington, and confirmation with people from several congregations. I preach, celebrate confirm 4 and receive one within the context of an overflowing congregation. Spirit here is very high as the congregation now has its first residential priest in three years. Such joy makes me very happy.

Return home to Jackson in the late afternoon.

December 14 - Day off.

December 15 - Staff meetings in the morning. Spend most of the day with the Standing Committee of the diocese. Late afternoon appointment with the Rev. Michael Nation and the Rev. George Woodliff.

December 16 - Morning appointment with Gray Center staff members Sarah Shelby and Grae Dickson and Duncan Gray IV to discuss new Camp Bratton-Green initiative to reintroduce this very special ministry to those who have not experienced it.

The Bishop's Journal,
Continued on page 21

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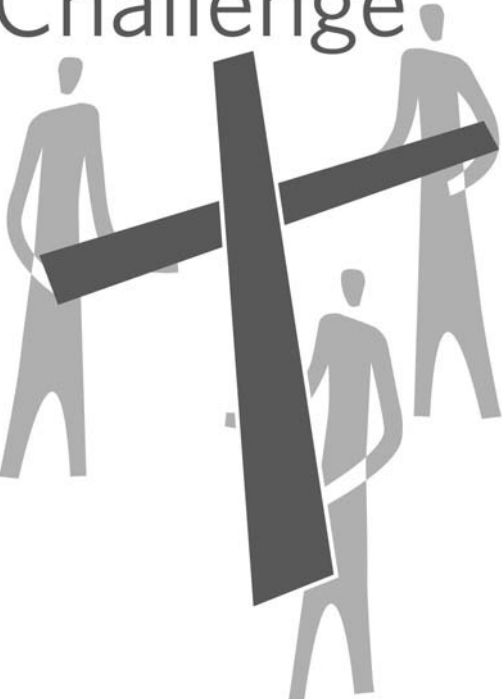
The Rt. Rev. Duncan M. Gray III
Ninth Bishop of Mississippi

The Rev. Scott Lenoir
Editor

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183RD ANNUAL COUNCIL

The Challenge of Mission



“The Challenge of Mission”

Some Reflections

By *The Rt. Rev. Duncan M. Gray III*

We have chosen the theme for this year's Annual Council in Tupelo quite intentionally. The words themselves are something of a Rorschach inkblot test for us all. Does “The Challenge of Mission” speak to the obstacles that the church faces in this time? Clearly there are many such challenges- financial stresses, internal conflicts, a culture increasingly disinterested in the institution of church, a loss of conviction that the faith of which we are stewards has external value and should be shared.

These challenges are all part of the world in which we live and in the air that every one of us breathes. But “The Challenge of Mission” is also meant to suggest that God's claim on our lives is sealed in baptism where we are “marked as Christ's own forever.” That challenge to a life of faithfulness, beginning with Jesus' words to those Galilean fishermen, “Follow me,” has challenged the church in every generation - in good times and bad. In fact, history suggests that it has been in the worst of times that the faithful witness of the church has shown most brightly.

As we prepare to gather as a church in Tupelo, I would ask that each of us continue to be honest about the obstacles that we face. However, we need to remind ourselves this is the easy part for we are far more comfortable with excuse making and blame.

But I would also ask that we be open to hearing in new ways within our soul that claim of God on our lives and the implications for mission in those ancient words to us, “Follow me.” That is where the rubber meets the road in our soul's faithfulness.

When that day comes when we must give an account of our lives, I don't think “We didn't have enough money to do the things we were called to do” will be much of an excuse.

183rd Annual Council *The Challenge of Mission*

Locations listed are at the BancorpSouth Arena in Tupelo

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 5

- 2:00 - 6:00 p.m. **REGISTRATION**
Council Committee meetings
4:00 - 5:00 p.m. Hearings on Council Resolutions, *Main Hall*
5:00 p.m. Newcomer orientation
Acolyte training
- 6:30 p.m. **OPENING SERVICE OF EVENING PRAYER**
Evening Prayers
Commissioning of newly licensed worship leaders
Bishop's Address
- FIRST BUSINESS SESSION**
Report of the Credentials Committee
Dispatch of Business Committee
Welcome by All Saints Church
Nominations and Elections Committee

DIOCESAN RECEPTION

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 6

- 7:30 - 10:00 a.m. **REGISTRATION** continues
- 7:30 - 9:30 a.m. **CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST**
- 8:30 a.m. **MORNING PRAYERS**
BUSINESS SESSIONS
- 9:00 a.m. First Ballot
Presentations and Committee reports
Budget 2010
- 10:15 a.m. Break - *approximate*
- 12:00 p.m. **NOONDAY PRAYERS**
- CLERGY SPOUSES' LUNCHEON**, Noon, Gumtree Museum of Art
COUNCIL LUNCHEON
Diocesan Choir Rehearsal, All Saints Church
- 2:00 p.m. **BUSINESS SESSION**
Ballot, *if necessary*
Presentations and Committee reports
- 3:15 p.m. Break - *approximate*
- CLOSING PRAYERS**
Commissioning of newly elected officers
- 5:00 p.m. Business Session adjourns
- 6:30 p.m. **GATHERING RECEPTION**
- 7:00 p.m. **DINNER**
- 8:00 - 11:00 p.m. **DANCING** with *Rubricx*

SUNDAY, February 7

- 7:30 - 9:30 a.m. **CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST**
- 8:30 a.m. Rehearsal for acolytes, ushers and altar party
- 9:00 a.m. Hold for business
- 10:00 a.m. **Closing Eucharist**
Reading of the Memorial Roll
Benediction and Adjournment

Nominations To The 183rd Annual Council Of The Diocese Of Mississippi

* *Nominated Incumbents eligible for Re-election*

† *Nominee whose appointment expires; nominated for an elected term.*

TREASURER

Elect one lay person for one-year term



* **THURMOND, Mr. Ed**

St. Mary's, Lexington; Delta Convocation

Retail merchant; served in positions at my local church of Jr. & Sr. Warden, Treasurer, and Mission Committee; taught acolyte training. Served as Mayor, president of the Chamber of Commerce, president of the Rotary Club, director of the Mississippi Economic Council, chairman of Salvation Army Service Unit, chairman of Red Cross board, chairman of City Democratic Election Commission. Served as

Diocesan Treasurer 1997 - present, chair of Cursillo 1989-1992, Executive Committee 1993-1995 and 1997 - present, Finance Committee and various other committees. Alternate to Episcopal General Convention 2006 & 2009; served on two Cursillo Leader Workshop staffs and chaired a Cursillo Leaders Workshop for North Alabama in 1992.

Special Gifts: Organizational skills and experience.

Expectations: Help restructure the diocese and help protect against financial challenges.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Elect two clergy for three-year terms

Elect two lay persons for three-year terms

CLERGY



TESTER, The Rev. Helen W.

Mediator, Meridian; Sowashee Convocation

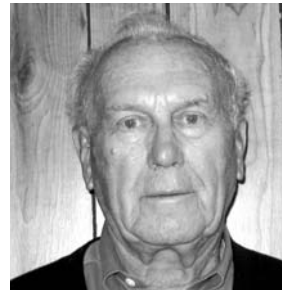
Rector, Church of the Mediator, Meridian, MS; Ecumenical working relationships with other denominations in Meridian; in partnership with Deacon Owen; started a Neighborhood Watch program hosted at the Mediator; as I am new to Meridian, I am still exploring ways to serve the community; past chair of the Diocesan Stewardship Committee; past chair of Council for Mission & Ministry; ordained deacon in 2000 and priest in

2005; former EFM trainer and mentor; priest-in-charge Holy Trinity, Crystal Springs; past Dean of the Old River Convocation; past deputy to General Convention from Western North Carolina.

Special Gifts: I enjoy looking for opportunity for mission & ministry and working with others to bring vision into reality. I bring enthusiasm, commitment and dedication to any position to which I am elected.

Expectations: I expect to continue learning about our Diocesan family and the richness of our traditions. Regular meetings & travel are also an expectation. Finally, working with a group to achieve identified goals is an expectation.

LAY



McNAIR, Mr. Steve

Trinity, Pass Christian; Coast Convocation

Registered engineer; licensed contractor in Mississippi, Louisiana and Arkansas. Past Jr. & Sr. Warden; Licensed Eucharistic Minister for over 40 years; past Commodore of Pass Christian Yacht Club; Executive Committee; member of the Gray Center Board of Managers, Finance Committee, chair of Cemetery Committee.

Special Gifts: Prior member of Executive Committee; prior member of Gray Center Board of Managers.

Expectations: I hope to be able to use my prior leadership experience to benefit the diocese.



† **PERRY, Mrs. Alice**

St. James', Jackson; Central Convocation

Environmental Projects Coordinator, Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality; former vestry member; Altar Guild; Eucharistic Minister; former board member, Stewpot Ministries; Executive Committee (Bishop's appointee); chair, Fresh Start Committee; Structure Task Force; search consultant trainee.

Special Gifts: Varied church, work, and volunteer experience give me a balanced perspective and an appreciation for the roles the lay and ordained people play in the diocese.

Expectations: Being on the Executive Committee offers a chance to be of service to the entire diocese.



SHELEY, Mr. David

Trinity, Hattiesburg; Sowashee Convocation

Architect; former Jr. & Sr. Warden; president, AIDS services Coalition; former member, Hattiesburg Planning Commission; member, Historic Conservation Commission; delegate to Annual Council many times.

Special Gifts: Willingness to serve if elected.



A date to remember:

Feb. 13-20: Honduras Medical Mission –

Keep our 2010 team in your prayers

A date to remember:

Feb. 19-21st:

Jr. High DOY at Camp Bratton Green

STANDING COMMITTEE

Elect one presbyter for four-year term

Elect one lay person for four-year term

LAY



CARMICHAEL, Dr. Benjamin M.

Trinity, Hattiesburg; Sowashee Convocation

Retired physician (Cardiologist); 11 years vestry; 9 years Sr. Warden; previous chair - parish Finance & Stewardship committees, usher, assistant organist in time of need; vice-president of AIDS Services Coalition board; previous board member and past president of USM Foundation; Greater Pinebelt Community Foundation board member; past president of AmSouth Bank board; 1986 HUB Award recipient; previous Standing and Executive Committee service; co-chair of 2009

Annual Council.

Special Gifts: Previous experience on Standing & Executive Committees, 11 years vestry, 9 years Sr. Warden. I am retired therefore time is not a problem.

Expectations: I would expect to bring some voice from South Central Mississippi, which is not currently present in the diocesan offices.



SPARKS, Mr. David R.

All Saints', Tupelo; Tombigbee Convocation

Attorney; vestry member; Warden; EfM participant and mentor; Council delegate; Verger; Lay Reader; Search Committee; Habitat for Humanity; community theatre; Standing Committee; Executive Committee; Finance Committee; Ecclesiastical Trial Court; Bishop Search Committee; Gray Center Board of Managers.

Special Gifts: Experience at parish and diocesan level; commitment to the work of the church.

Expectations: Continued diocesan service.

TRUSTEE OF THE DIOCESE

Elect ONE lay person for four-year term

LAY



* JENKINS, Mrs. Lynn B.

St. Peter's by-the-Lake, Brandon; Central Convocation

Retired investment advisor; member of choir, previous parish vestry experience, finance committee and Every Member Canvasser; serves as bishop's appointed trustee; experienced DOCC leader

ECCLESIASTICAL TRIAL COURT

Elect one clergy for three-year term

Elect one clergy for two-year unexpired term

Elect one lay person for three-year term

LAY



CURRY III, Burn W. (B. W.)

Trinity, Hattiesburg; Sowashee Convocation

Attorney; represent Trinity, Hattiesburg in legal matters; past Sr. Warden; current vestry member; verger, Acolyte Master; usher; EYC leader; Sunday School teacher; board member of Trinity Day Care Center; Eucharistic Minister; 30 years Board of Directors MS Center for Legal Service providing free legal service to indigents in 42 counties; 29 years soccer coach, boys/girls ages 5-19 and still going; past attorney and board member of Hattiesburg Youth Soccer; attorney for 2009 Annual

Council; 3 years with Honduras Medical Mission.

Special Gifts: I am a mediator by nature and profession.

Expectations: I expect to fairly apply the law and on the practical side to apply reason.

TRUSTEE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF THE SOUTH

Elect one lay person for three-year term



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	Budget 2009	Actual 2009		Budget 2010	Budget Finance	
RECEIPTS						
1	Parochial Pledges	1,580,333	1,466,091	93%	1,467,241	1,567,241
2	Prior Year Pledge Payments	40,000	171,955	430%	200,000	200,000
3	Coast Appeal	-	5,016		-	-
4						
5	Phillips Trust	211,610	211,610	100%	199,568	199,568
6	Johnson Home Trust	8,250	8,250	100%	8,250	8,250
7	Beasley Trust	6,192	6,192	100%	5,942	5,942
8	Thompson Trust	35,692	35,692	100%	32,729	32,729
9	Thompson Aging Ministries	976	976	100%	879	879
10	Kenneth Wills Trust	9,000	5,933	66%	4,500	4,500
11	Church Foundation	6,700	6,700	100%	2,158	2,158
12	Wade Moore	-	-		-	5,000
13	Small Church Moore Fund	10,000	10,000	100%	10,000	10,000
14	Thomsen Trust	1,800	1,800	100%	500	500
15	Robert Donnelly	-	-		-	-
16	Thomas Blake Fund	9,000	8,139	90%	7,500	7,500
17	Allin House Endowment	37,411	37,411	100%	33,511	33,511
18	Theological Education Trusts	5,830	5,830	100%	5,506	5,506
19						
20	Okolona Endowment for Jackson Sta	47,500	47,500	100%	47,500	47,500
21	Christ Our Savior - Okolona	19,800	19,800	100%	19,800	19,800
22	Pastoral Missioner from ERD	150,000	150,000	100%	-	-
23	CIFM Program - Gray Center	12,600	13,008	103%	13,000	-
24						
25	Battle Hill	4,000	4,809	120%	4,000	4,000
26	Latimer, Holy Land					5,500
27	Trustee Bookkeeping	6,000	6,000	100%	6,000	6,000
28						
29	Miscellaneous Donations	-	5,466		-	-
30	Budget Restoration	-	-		-	-
31						
32	Investment Interest	4,000	485	12%	400	400
33	Memorial Income		100		-	-
34	Mississippi Episcopalian Ads	10,000	5,693	57%	6,000	6,000
35						
36	Prior Year Balance	130,000	140,123	108%		118,296
37						
38	TOTAL RECEIPTS	2,346,694	2,374,579	101%	2,074,984	2,290,780
39						
40	SUPPORT OF THE BISHOP					
41	BISHOP GRAY					
42	Stipend	84,738	84,738	100%	88,128	84,738
43	Housing Equity	-	-		-	4,800
44	Pension Premium	21,233	20,459	96%	22,026	21,233
45	Travel	9,500	5,800	61%	10,500	10,500
46	Continuing Education	1,200	-	0%	1,200	1,200
47	Automobile Expense	2,727	2,187	80%	2,727	2,727
48	Medical, Life, Disability Insurance	19,718	19,718	100%	19,994	19,994
49	Sabbatical Funds	1,500	1,500	100%	-	-
50	BISHOP GRAY TOTAL	140,616	134,402	96%	144,575	145,192
51						
52	BISHOP'S HOME					
53	4735 Northampton - Utilities	6,000	6,708	112%	6,155	6,155
54	4735 Northampton - Maintenance	5,000	5,000	100%	5,000	5,000
55	BISHOP'S HOME TOTAL	11,000	11,708	106%	11,155	11,155
56						
57	SUPPORT OF THE BISHOP TOTAL	151,616	146,110	96%	155,730	156,347
58						
59	CANON TO THE ORDINARY					
60	Stipend	36,284	36,284	100%	37,735	37,735
61	Housing Allowance	40,000	40,000	100%	41,600	41,600
62	Pension Premium	13,731	13,731	100%	14,280	14,280
63	Travel	6,750	7,382	109%	6,750	6,750
64	Continuing Education	1,125	556	49%	1,125	1,125
65	Automobile Expense	3,520	3,103	88%	3,520	3,520
66	Medical, Life, Disability Insurance	19,718	19,718	100%	19,994	19,994
67	CANON TO THE ORDINARY TOTAL	121,128	120,774	100%	125,004	125,004
68						
69	CANON FOR ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE					
70	Salary	66,961	66,961	100%	69,639	69,639
71	Pension	6,026	6,026	100%	6,268	6,268
72	Travel and Continuing Education	4,000	3,815	95%	4,000	4,000
73	FICA Taxes	5,102	3,995	78%	5,327	5,327
74	Medical, Life, Disability Insurance	20,755	20,966	101%	21,031	21,031
75	CANON FOR ADMINISTRATION AND	102,844	101,763	99%	106,265	106,265
76						
77	EPISCOPAL COMMITMENTS					
78	TEC Commitment	293,327	293,327	100%	443,372	273,490
79	Coast Support	-	5,016		-	-
80	Province IV Quota	-	-		5,678	5,678
81						
82	EPISCOPAL COMMITMENTS TOTAL	293,327	298,343	102%	449,050	279,168
83						
84	SUPPORT STAFF					
85	Bookkeeper	34,814	34,814	100%	36,207	36,207
86	Assistant to the Canons	30,000	30,000	100%	31,200	31,200
87	Assistant to the Bishop	38,000	38,000	100%	39,520	39,520
88	Sexton	7,036	7,060	100%	7,317	7,317
89	FICA Taxes	8,403	8,285	99%	8,740	8,740
90	Pension Premiums	7,543	4,297	57%	9,624	9,624
91	Life, Medical Insurance, Disability	34,012	30,705	90%	52,577	52,577
92	Support Staff	-	-		-	-
93	SUPPORT STAFF TOTAL	159,808	153,162	96%	185,185	185,185
94						

	Budget 2009	Actual 2009		Budget 2010	Budget Finance	
RECEIPTS						
95	GENERAL OFFICE					
96	Sabbatical Funds - staff	2,500	2,500	100%	2,500	2,500
97	General	5,000	3,977	80%	5,000	5,000
98	Parking - staff	7,500	6,327	84%	7,400	7,400
99	Parking - meetings	800	378	47%	550	550
100	Dues and Subscriptions	1,437	645	45%	1,439	1,439
101	Postage	6,000	5,172	86%	6,000	6,000
102	Supplies	4,200	3,897	93%	4,200	4,200
103	Printer toner, etc.	1,500	1,347	90%	1,500	1,500
104	Bank Charges and Fees	700	782	112%	700	700
105	Telephone	10,200	12,424	122%	12,500	12,500
106	Telephone - Advertising	500	573	115%	-	-
107	Diocesan Hospitality	250	-	0%	-	-
108	Maintenance - Computers & Software	6,000	6,416	107%	6,000	6,000
109	Equipment Reserve	-	-		-	-
110	Automobile Reserve	8,000	8,000	100%	8,000	8,000
111	Staff Development	1,300	453	35%	500	500
112	Insurance	3,686	3,977	108%	3,977	3,977
113	Workers' Compensation	2,850	2,850	100%	3,000	3,000
114	Audit	15,000	14,000	93%	14,000	14,000
115	Miscellaneous	500	-	0%	-	-
116	Duplicating - Riso	5,200	5,462	105%	3,500	3,500
117	Duplicating - Copier	4,600	4,072	89%	4,500	4,500
118	Duplication - Supplies	400	-	0%	-	-
119	Bishop Masereka's visit	-	-		-	-
120	GENERAL OFFICE TOTAL	88,123	83,252	94%	85,266	85,266
121						
122	DEBT SERVICE FOR COAST PROPERTIES					
123	Gulfport, St. Mark's	-	-		32,000	32,000
124	Biloxi, Redeemer	-	-		61,000	61,000
125	Long Beach, St. Patrick's	-	-		71,554	71,554
126	DEBT SERVICE FOR COAST PROPE	-	-		164,554	150,000
127						
128	THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION					
129	Seminary Tuition and Fees	21,500	21,500	100%	25,500	25,500
130	Seminarian Travel Fund	2,000	537	27%	2,000	2,000
131	Seminarian Medical & Psychological	1,250	900	72%	2,600	2,600
132	Seminarian Life & Medical Insurance	68,612	52,135	76%	76,428	76,428
133	Moving to Seminary	5,500	2,329	42%	12,000	12,000
134	THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION TOTAL	98,862	77,401	78%	118,528	118,528
135						
136	CONGREGATIONS					
137	George Martin - Church Planter	5,000	-	0%	-	-
138	Delta Missioners	-	13,498		20,000	20,000
139	Jackson, All Saints	-	4,522		-	-
140	Jackson, St. Alexis	110,000	108,205	98%	104,500	104,500
141	Olive Branch, Holy Cross	34,000	34,000	100%	32,300	32,300
142	Jackson, Christ our Savior	19,800	19,800	100%	19,800	19,800
143	Hernando, New Church	-	-		-	-
144	PROPERTY MAINTENANCE					
145	Itta Bena - insurance	625	961	154%	625	625
146	124 Price Street, Oxford - Maintenance	1,500	1,500	100%	1,500	1,500
147	CONGREGATIONS TOTAL	170,925	182,485	107%	178,725	178,725
148						
149	GRAY CENTER					
150	Camping Ministry	140,000	140,000	100%	140,000	140,000
151	Conference Center	47,541	47,541	100%	47,541	47,541
152	Gray Center Board Meetings	3,500	2,071	59%	-	-
153	GRAY CENTER TOTAL	191,041	189,612	99%	187,541	187,541
154						
155	COORDINATOR FOR YOUTH MINISTRIES					
156	Stipend	12,000	12,500	104%	12,480	12,480
157	Pension Premium	2,225	540	24%	-	-
158	COORD FOR YOUTH AND COLLEGE	14,225	13,040	92%	12,480	12,480
159						
160	COMMISSION ON MINISTRY					
161	COM Expenses	7,500	7,109	95%	6,000	6,000
162	Continuing Education for Clergy	5,000	5,000	100%	3,000	3,000
163	COMMISSION ON MINISTRY TOTAL	12,500	12,109	97%	9,000	9,000
164						
165	CURACY TRAINING					
166	Curacy Support	52,500	45,871	87%	51,667	51,667
167	Moving from Seminary / Missions	14,000	7,509	54%	9,000	9,000
168	CURACY TRAINING TOTAL	66,500	53,380	80%	60,667	60,667
169						
170	RETIRED PRESBYTER SUPPORT					
171	Retired Presbyter Life & Medical Insu	58,490	61,580	105%	65,750	65,750
172	Retired Clergy Wellness	2,300	-	0%	150	150
173	Phillips Christmas	9,0				

2010 ANNUAL BUDGET

	Budget 2009	Actual 2009		Budget 2010	Budget Finance
175					
176	PLANNED GIVING AND DEVELOPMENT				
177					
178					
179	DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT				
180					
181					
182					
183					
184					
185					
186					
187	PLANNED GIVING AND DEVELOPMENT TOTAL				
188					
189					
190	YOUTH COMMISSION				
191					
192					
193					
194					
195					
196					
197					
198					
199					
200	YOUTH COMMISSION TOTAL				
201					
202	CLERGY CONFERENCES				
203					
204					
205					
206					
207	CLERGY CONFERENCE TOTAL				
208					
209	ORDAINED MISCELLANEOUS				
210					
211					
212					
213					
214					
215					
216	ORDAINED MISCELLANEOUS TOTAL				
217					
218	CONGREGATIONAL DEVELOPMENT				
219					
220					
221					
222	CONGREGATIONAL DEVELOPMENT TOTAL				
223					
224	RECONCILING				
225					
226					
227					
228					
229					
230					
231	RECONCILING TOTAL				
232					
233	OUTREACH				
234					
235					
236					
237					
238					
239	OUTREACH TOTAL				
240					
241	COMMUNICATIONS				
242					
243					
244					
245					
248	COMMUNICATIONS TOTAL				
249					
250	ALL IN HOUSE				
251					
252					
253					
254					
255	ALL IN HOUSE TOTAL				
256					
257	COLLEGE CHAPLAINS				
258					
259					
260					
261					
262					
263	COLLEGE TOTAL				
264					
265	ONE CHURCH COMMITTEES / RESOURCES				
266					
267					
268					
269					
270					
271					

	Budget 2009	Actual 2009		Budget 2010	Budget Finance
272					
273					
274					
275					
276					
277					
278					
279	ONE CHURCH COMMITTEES / RESOURCES				
280					
281	TRANSFORMING COMMITTEES / RESOURCES				
282					
283					
284					
285					
286					
287					
288					
289					
290					
291					
292					
293					
294					
295					
296	TRANSFORMING COMMITTEE / RESOURCES				
297					
298	PRISON MINISTRY				
299					
300					
301					
302	PRISON MINISTRY TOTAL				
303					
304	IN MISSION COMMITTEES / RESOURCES				
305					
306					
307					
308					
309					
310					
311					
312					
313					
314	IN MISSION COMMITTEES / RESOURCES				
315					
316	INSTITUTIONAL MINISTRIES				
317					
318	INSTITUTIONAL MINISTRIES				
319					
320	INVITING COMMITTEES / RESOURCES				
321					
322					
323					
324					
325					
326	INVITING COMMITTEES / RESOURCES				
327					
328	CENTER FOR FORMATION & MISSION				
329					
330	DIRECTOR - CFM				
331					
332					
333					
334					
335					
336					
337	CFM TOTAL				
338					
339	PRIOR YEAR EXPENSES				
340					
341					
342					
343					
344					
345					
346					
347					
348					
349					
350					
351	TOTAL RECEIPTS				
352	TOTAL EXPENSES				
353	NET				

A date to remember:

Feb. 26-27:

New Vestry Member Conference, Gray Center

Diocesan Altar Guild (DAG)

The Diocesan Altar Guild has had a productive and busy year. We continue to serve and supply the sacristies at Gray Center and Camp Bratton Green. We also provide disposable (paper) linens to the chapels at Gray Center. The linens are cut, folded, pressed, stamped, and blessed before use at both the chapel at the conference center and the chapel at the camp. Trudy Horne, Anne Bartlow and Jan Belote are now keeping the sacristies supplied and clean. We so appreciate their work in this important service.

DAG has also provided the disposable linens to churches on the gulf coast for use during the Hurricane Katrina recovery. DAG has set up a fund that will help our coast churches supply their sacristies once they have been rebuilt. DAG continues to provide the traveling communion sets used each year at annual Council. Since 1987 DAG has provided over 130 deacon stoles for the Diocese. Each deacon is presented a red stole at ordination. The DAG Church Supply Closet, housed at St. Mark's in Jackson, has very little in its inventory. Mary Jackson, chairperson for the supply closet, requests that vestments, linens, and brass and silver in good condition be donated to the closet for distribution throughout the diocese as needed.

St. Mary's church, Vicksburg, hosted the DAG annual meeting on December 5, 2009. Cassandra Price and Linda Tolliver, DAG co-presidents, and members of St. Mary's welcomed Altar Guild members from throughout the diocese. The Reverend Billie Abraham, St. Alban's, Bovina, was the speaker. She presented a wonderful program entitled "An Altar in the Church, An Altar in the World". Following the closing Eucharist, celebrated by the Reverend Denny Allman, a lovely luncheon followed in the parish hall. Linda Tolliver served as meeting coordinator.

The Diocesan Altar Guild continues to instruct, assist and promote fellowship among the Altar Guilds of our diocese and other dioceses. It is our mission to assist the Bishop, clergy, and all congregations in the care of the altars of our churches.

Linda Tolliver
Cassandra Price

DEACONS' COUNCIL

Deacons of the diocese continued working in a wide variety of ministries, primarily focused on "the poor, the weak, the sick, and the lonely." (BCP, p. 543) Several deacons focused their work on prison ministry, racial reconciliation, hospital chaplaincy, and acting as a voice for those throughout the state who have no voice.

In April, the North American Association for the Diaconate's Board, Archdeacons, and Formation Directors met at Gray Center. The Mississippi Deacons' Spring Conference was held in conjunction with this national meeting and the deacons of our diocese provided logistical support and transportation. This was the second year in a row for the Mississippi Deacons to host this conference.

Two classes of deacons continued in the School for the Diaconate during 2009. The Class of 2010 concluded classes in December and ordination is scheduled for January 9, 2010. The Rev. Dr. Bryan Owen serves as Dean of the School for the Diaconate, coordinating classes, faculty and students. Mrs. Gay Yerger continues to serve as the director of formation for the postulants. The Class of 2011 will continue classes through 2010.

During the three meetings of the Deacons' Council in 2009, the Deacons' Council began the work of revising the policies and procedures for the deacons during the year with the intention of issuing a revised manual in 2010.

We look forward to continuing our work in the diocese as we strive to serve Christ by serving the helpless.

The Rev. Bill Hanna, Chair
Deacons' Council



Camp Caritas of Mississippi

Camp Caritas of Mississippi has continued its ministry to the children of the incarcerated in Mississippi by holding its sixth annual camp session at the Duncan Grey Conference center during the week of June 21, 2009. The five day camp was attended by 28 boys and girls from ages 9 through 11. The session was staffed by 20 full time adult counselors and nine 16 - 17 year old counselors-in-training, and another dozen part-time swimming and ropes course instructors. Additionally, the staff was augmented for shorter periods by musician/teacher, Lannie McBride and her choirs, exercise specialist Sandy Slade and artist/art teachers L.C.Porter and Iris Issacs. Worship leadership and spiritual direction were provided by the Rev. Chan Osborn de Anaya.

The Camp Director this year was Charlene Eichelberger, who kept the campers and staff busy with a variety of games and activities. In addition to swimming daily in the Camp Bratton Green pool, the days were filled with fishing, canoeing, music, art projects and worship.

The staff was composed of members of a variety of denominations and religions, including members of both the Southern and the Missionary Baptist Churches, Roman Catholic, Episcopal, United Methodist, COGIC churches and the Temple Beth Israel. All joined together, to share God's love and the blessings of God's Grace with the special children who joined us as campers.

Camp Caritas is scheduled to hold its next session starting on June 20, 2010, with Mrs. Eichelberger serving as both Camp Director and Steering Committee Chairman. In contrast to previous years, in which funding for the camp has been completed before the start of the year for that session; this year, funding is not yet complete. There are also empty positions on the Camp Committee, and camp staff, so anyone interested in contributing their treasures, or time, at or before camp should contact Mrs. Eichelberger.

Respectfully submitted,

Phil Holt
2008 Steering Committee Chairman
Camp Caritas of Mississippi

Companion Diocese Committee

In October Betty Jo Dulaney, representing ECW and the Companion Diocese Committee, went with our Annual Medical Mission to Panama.

In November, The Right Reverend Julio Murray, the Bishop of Panama, was the speaker for the ECW Fall Conference. He and his wife Ana visited with Bishop Gray and Kathy on Thursday and were at Gray Center for the ECW Conference Friday and Saturday. He and Ana stayed with my husband and me when not at Gray Center. They visited St. Philip's, Jackson on Sunday, before returning to Panama on Monday.

The ECW President of Panama, Eunice Vassell, and two other ladies, Carmela Bonnick and Vilma Prescott, also came here to the ECW Fall Conference. They brought items to sell made by the native peoples of Panama. The money made was then presented to the ECW for Children At Risk. They spent a week with us learning about our culture and getting to know our Diocese better. They were the guests of Barbara Brunson. During this time they met with members of the ECW Board to fine tune some of the plans we had made in November of 2008. They made a trip to Natchez to see some of our history, and visit Trinity, Natchez. We all had a wonderful time cementing our friendships.

The first visit for 2010 will be for someone from our Diocese to attend Panama's Annual Council in February the week of our own Council. Other visits and projects are in the planning stages. We feel we are making great strides toward a common understanding of each other, and that the love and understanding we share of Christ and the Episcopal Church will help us to be friends, and companions in the truest sense.

Lollie Everett, Chair

Chancellor's Report

The Chancellor of the Diocese attended the meetings of the Trustees of the Diocese and the Executive Committee, and assisted as requested.

Conducted research, rendered legal opinions and conferred with the Bishop, the Canon to the Ordinary, and the Canon for Administration and Finance and lay leaders on a variety of issues affecting or involving the Diocese.

Studied and reviewed Roberts Rules of Order, the Council Agenda, and attended the Diocesan Council held at the Hattiesburg Convention Center in Hattiesburg, Mississippi, and assisted as requested.

Reviewed the bi-monthly issues of Church Law and Tax Report regarding court decisions involving churches, parishes, dioceses, etc., and called to the attention of the Bishop and the Canon for Administration and Finance the matters of importance to this Diocese.

Prepared an audit letter response to the public accounting firm auditing the financial statements of the Diocese, Trustees and Duncan M. Gray Camp and Conference Center.

Conferred with the Bishop, the Canon to the Ordinary and the Canon for Administration and Finance on preparations to insure the orderly administration of Diocesan affairs during the Bishop's sabbatical.

Studied, reviewed, conferred and met with the Bishop, the Canon for Administration and Finance, the Trustees and representatives of Merrill Lynch and Vector Money Management, Inc. involving the management of the Diocese's investment portfolio.

Conferred with the Bishop, Trustees and others, especially the Canon for Administration and Finance, and worked extensively with representatives of AmeriCorps/NCCC and the United States General Services Administration and their legal counsel, representatives and zoning officials for the City of Vicksburg, contractors and construction managers on numerous financial, contract, litigation and legal issues concerning the All Saints Episcopal School in Vicksburg, for which the Trustees are a creditor.

Conferred with the Bishop and Trustees on, and consummated, a property donation transaction to be held and administered by the Trustees for the Gray Center Special Maintenance Fund.

Delivered a presentation to the Vestry Conference for St. James, Jackson

Worked on real property and financing transactions for St. Patrick's Long Beach; Holy Cross, Olive Branch; St. Andrew's, Jackson; Trinity, Hattiesburg; and St. John's Ocean Springs, together with an ad valorem tax redemption transaction for Redeemer, Greenville and a financial matter for St. Alexis, Jackson.

Worked on a bequest of personal assets for All Saints, Tupelo.

Conferred with the Bishop on matters involving preparations for the Honduras Medical Mission.

Conferred with the Bishop, the Canon to the Ordinary, and the Canon for Administration and Finance, the Standing Committee, the Executive Committee, wardens and members of the clergy on ongoing issues involving property acquired by the Trustees for congregations on the Gulf Coast following Hurricane Katrina. These matters include arrangements for ongoing debt servicing on the underlying indebtedness.

Granville Tate, Jr.
Chancellor



The Center for Formation & Mission A New Path – A New Possibility

by *The Rev. Debo Dykes*

There seems to be an instinctive survival mechanism in us that often distracts us from an inevitable ending. Over the past four+ years, I have been so absorbed in the experience of The Center for Formation & Mission and the wonderful people with whom I have shared this experience, that I have avoided the approaching ending. Please be clear, I do not speak of the ending of The Center for Formation & Mission, as it will continue and thrive under the talented membership of the CffM Program Committee. I speak of my departure as Director of The Center for Formation & Mission.

In spite of the economic decline, it has been a good year for The Center for Formation & Mission, and thus The Duncan M. Gray Camp & Conference Center. CffM developed and facilitated fourteen conference events during 2009, each providing an experience that shaped, enriched, and strengthened the spiritual formation of both lay and ordained individuals. The Center for Formation & Mission generated \$90,098.00 in total revenue to Gray Center. But most importantly, the CffM programming brought comfort and spirit-depth to the individual lives that gathered in the lobby, around the lake, at the dining room tables, the conference rooms, the cottages, and the chapel at Gray Center. And, there will continue to be spiritual unfolding and deepening for those who gather at Gray Center.

For each of us, there is a new path filled with new possibilities. Life beckons us to be courageous as we step onto new ground. God knows our desires and awakens our spirit to adventure.

As I end this year and my position as Director of The Center for Formation & Mission, I am reminded of a blessing by John O'Donohue.

The particular mind of the ocean
Filling the coastline's longing
With such brief harvest
Of elegant, vanishing waves
Is like the mind of time
Opening us shapes of days.
As this year draws to its end,
We give thanks for the gifts it brought
And how they became inlaid within
Where neither time nor tide can touch them.
The days when the veil lifted
And the soul could see delight;
When a quiver caressed the heart
In the sheer exuberance of being here.
Surprises that came awake
In forgotten corners of old fields
Where expectation seemed to have quenched.
The slow, brooding times
When all was awkward
And the wave in the mind
Pierced every sore with salt.
The darkened days that stopped
The confidence of the dawn.
Days when beloved faces shone brighter
With light from beyond themselves;
And from the granite of some secret sorrow
A stream of buried tears loosened.
We bless this year for all we learned,
For all we loved and lost
And for the quiet way it brought us
Nearer to our invisible destination.
Each person is a gift to the other. I am grateful for your gifts. You have brought to me spirit that has opened itself to God's grace and blows on the wind and makes my tears of departure holy, and where God is gifting me a new path.

Shalom & Namaste,
Debo+

Congregations for Children Network Grows to 19 Congregations

By: *The Carol Borne Spencer*

Our shared ministry with the Mississippi Conference of the United Methodist Church and the Roman Catholic Diocese of Jackson, Congregations for Children, brought two new Episcopal congregations into the Network in 2009. Those two congregations are St. George's, Clarksdale and Christ Church, Bay St. Louis.

Two state wide advocacy training sessions were held, one in Jackson at St. Andrew's Cathedral on May 16, 2009 and the other at St. Patrick's, Long Beach on October 27, 2009. Learning of the severity of the issues and problems facing Mississippi's children and brainstorming about legislative and local strategies for tackling these issues filled the agendas for both days of training. 12 of our 19 congregations participated in one of these trainings, bringing knowledge and confidence to the local churches often overwhelmed with the enormous problems facing each community and often working with scarce resources within each church.

As part of the commitment of belonging to our network, congregations promise to hold an annual Children's Sabbath, either within their weekly worship service or with community partners in local geographic regions. This year Children's Sabbath services were held in at least 10 congregations from Clarksdale to Jackson and on the Coast. Those reporting were: St. Andrew's Cathedral, Jackson; St. Mark's, Jackson; St. Philip's, Jackson; St. Thomas', Diamondhead; St. Stephen's, Columbia; St. Peter's, Gulfport; St. Patrick's, Long Beach; Redeemer, Biloxi; St. George's, Clarksdale; All Saints, Jackson; and Mediator, Meridian. Thank You! to the congregations who held up the needs of Mississippi's children with a meaningful Children's Sabbath.

The severity of the problems facing Mississippi's children, 30% of who live at or below the poverty level, are not diminishing but rather growing statewide. The members of the Congregations for Children network believe our baptismal promises bring us to the realization that all children in Mississippi are "OURS" and we cannot sit idly by and hope someone else works for a bright future for "OUR" children.

Those congregations working within the CFC network are:

All Saints', Jackson
St. Alban's, Bovina
St. Andrew's, Jackson
St. Columb's, Ridgeland
Christ Church, Vicksburg
Church of the Creator, Clinton
Holy Innocents, Como
St. Paul's, Meridian
St. John's, Ocean Springs
St. Stephen's, Columbia
St. Peter's, Gulfport
Trinity, Hattiesburg
Church of the Mediator, Meridian
Church of the Redeemer, Biloxi
St. Mark's, Jackson
St. Patrick's, Long Beach
St. Thomas, Diamondhead
St. George's, Clarksdale
Christ Church, Bay St. Louis

Faithfully,
The Rev. Carol Borne Spencer,
Diocesan Coordinator,
Congregations for Children

Episcopal Canterbury Fellowship at Mississippi State University

The Rev. Carol Mead, Chaplain

The Episcopal Canterbury Fellowship at Mississippi State University experienced a year of transition in 2009; with the departure of Chaplain Brian Ponder, lay chaplain (and Resurrection/Starkville vestry member) Holly Potts stepped in to sustain the structure and vibrancy of the Canterbury ministry. On July 1st, Carol Mead began work as chaplain, working closely with Ms. Potts for a smooth transition into the new academic year.

The top priorities of the MSU Canterbury ministry are personal relationship and spiritual connection. The ministry seeks to develop and sustain pastoral relationships, not only with MSU students, but also with members of the faculty and staff. Through such relationships, we allow an individual student to develop a deeper sense of self and spirituality, largely through the Episcopal tradition. We also strive to keep the student connected to the church experience and to give them, in their college and early adult years, a continuing awareness of the traditions and resources of the Episcopal Church.

A key feature of the MSU Canterbury ministry is the Canterbury Lodge, a renovated house on the property of the Episcopal Church of the Resurrection in Starkville. The house serves as a meeting place for most Canterbury activities, both social and spiritual, as it includes a kitchen, den, dining area, and an excellent worship space. The lodge also gives MSU students a refuge from the noise and busy-ness of campus, and students frequently use the lodge as a quiet place to study.

Wednesday evenings are the primary structured meeting times for Canterbury students. Each Wednesday during the semester, students meet with the chaplain for a meal home-cooked by Resurrection parishioners. Those meals are followed by a variety of activities, including movies and documentaries, board games, discussion, walking the labyrinth, evening prayer, Eucharist, and compline. In the absence of an ordained chaplain, area clergy served in supply roles as needed.

In the 2008-09 academic year, Canterbury students also participated in "Pews, Views, and Brews," a regular book study and discussion group. In the past, books studied in PV&B included Randy Pausch's *The Last Lecture* and Peter Gomes' *The Good Book*. The group will study C.S. Lewis' *The Screwtape Letters* in the 2010 spring semester.

In addition to the weekly group gatherings, Canterbury students regularly meet with the chaplain on campus in small groups and one-on-one. Each week during the academic year, the chaplain shares breakfast with students, faculty, and staff in MSU's Colvard Union, as well as having lunch with students and faculty at the Perry Cafeteria each week. The Canterbury ministry also provides an on-campus presence through activities at the MSU Chapel of Memories, including Wednesday noon prayer services and Eucharist and a very well-attended Ash Wednesday service open to all on campus.

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DIOCESAN FINANCE COMMITTEE

With membership consisting of the Bishop, the Canon for Finance and Administration, the Treasurer, and lay and ordained members drawn from across the Diocese, the Diocesan Finance Committee has several responsibilities:

- (1) to develop the Diocesan Operating Budget for Executive Committee and Council consideration and approval;
- (2) to monitor and review transactions affecting the operating, restricted and designated accounts of the Diocese and ensure that those accounts and related financial statements are audited in accordance with the canons of the church;

(3) with respect to financial matters, to serve as the liaison between Gray Center and the Executive Committee;

(4) to develop and recommend to the Executive Committee policies and procedures affecting the financial affairs and business operations of the Diocese; and

(5) to make recommendations to the Executive Committee regarding certain insurance, compensation and related issues.

To discharge these duties and to otherwise provide guidance in meeting the considerable financial challenges created by a weak economy and other factors, during 2009 the Committee gathered in Jackson and via conference call on several occasions. Much of the work of the Committee culminated in the presentation of a balanced budget for 2010 to the Executive Committee for its consideration. I wish to thank members of the Committee for their hard work, sound judgment and dedicated service during a year in which the numerous challenges were presented.

Respectfully submitted,
The Rev. Paul Stephens, Chair

DIVISION OF YOUTH

The Division of Youth or DOY is a weekend spiritual retreat for Jr. High and Sr. High. It is held at camp Bratton-Green twice a semester. It is led by the DOY Staff which consists of fifteen youth staff members, three youth alternates, and a handful of adults. These staff members plan each theme, produce the weekend, and build relationships with youth from all over the state each semester.

The theme for the spring of 2009 was Dr. Seuss's Horton Hears a Who. It focused on the principle that all people are valuable. Youth from across the state were members of Whoville as Horton encountered the world and carried them safely through it. The fall brought youth The 12. We began with the twelve disciples by looking at how they interacted with the world around them. Based on these interactions the council produced skits and topics for discussion consisting of family, social, and acceptance issues. Youth also saw that the staff, like the disciples and themselves, struggle with real life issues regardless of who they are or how they follow God.

DOY is currently planning the spring 2010 sessions. Jr. High will be February 19th - 21st, while Sr. High will be March 19th - 21st. If you haven't come as a youth or an adult helper, I invite you to come and see for yourself what the youth of your diocese are doing, and how their lives are changing because of this ministry. If you have been before, we invite you to come back. If you are unable to come, please pray for this ministry as we constantly look for new ideas, invite new youth and experienced youth to come, and attempt to host a camp which will help youth from across the diocese.

Respectfully submitted,
Bill Cruse
DOY Diocesan Coordinator

COMMISSION ON MINISTRY

According to the canons the Commission on Ministry shall assist the bishop "in determining present and future needs for ministry in the Diocese; in recruiting and selecting persons for Holy Orders and in guiding and examining postulants, candidates, and deacons in training for priesthood; in providing for the guidance and pastoral care of clergy and lay persons who are in stipendiary and non-stipendiary positions accountable to the bishop; in promoting the continuing education of the clergy and of lay professionals employed by the church; and in supporting the development, training, utilization, and affirmation of the ministry of the laity in the world."

To these ends the Commission on Ministry works in several subcommittees to address different aspects of the canonical requirements.

At its January 5-7 meeting at Gray Center the Discernment Committee met with aspirants and families and made recommendations to the bishop following those meetings.

The full Commission met in two extended overnight sessions at Gray Center in March and August to coordinate its various activities and provide extensive consultation with the bishop.

The March 6-7 meeting included an evening with the new postulants for the diaconate Debra Hanson, Josie Williams, Lynn Phillips, and Patricia Cantrell and with new presbyter postulant John Kellogg to allow the Commission to continue to assess their progress and get to know them better. The meeting also included reports from the committees on the diaconate, the examining chaplains, continuing education, and discernment. The Commission made recommendations to the bishop for ordination to the transitional diaconate. On April 2 a conference call meeting was held as follow up to the March meeting.

The August 5-7 meeting was with seminarians (presbyter postulants) and spouses and with third year diaconal postulants. The following presbyter postulants attended: Van Bankston (General Seminary), Don Chancellor (Sewanee), Watson Lamb (Sewanee), Clelie McCandless (Sewanee), and Seth Walley (Virginia). Third year diaconal postulants included Pam Rhea (St. Paul's, Columbus), Scott Williams (St. Peter's by the Sea, Gulfport), and Dennis Williams (St. Peter's by the Lake, Brandon). Committee reports were presented, and the three third year diaconal postulants were recommended to the Bishop for candidacy.

In addition, a fourth COM meeting was held on October 3 in the diocesan office to meet with and recommend senior seminarian Chris Robinson (Virginia Seminary) for candidacy to the priesthood, as inclement weather had prevented his attending the August meeting at Gray Center. Other matters acted upon were ordination for the diaconal candidates and recommendation for ordination to the priesthood for transitional deacons.

Throughout the year, Commission members kept in touch with seminarians and spouses to help them stay connected to the diocese by email, phone calls, letters, and visits. The COM continues to hold in prayer all those in process for Holy Orders.

Respectfully submitted,
The Rev. Dr. Ruth Black

Young Adult Ministry Report for Annual Council 2010

In October of 2009 a group of young adults gathered at Camp Bratton-Green to discuss the state of the Vocare ministry and what the future of young adult ministry in the Diocese of Mississippi might look like. The reason for this meeting of the minds was to respond to the decreasing interest and/or participation in Vocare. Due to extremely low registration numbers both the spring and fall events for 2009 were canceled. However, there did seem to be a few folks with some energy around re-energizing renewal opportunities for folks between the ages of 19 and 25.

This group used Christ's experiences in Bethany and the rest and refreshment he found there as a model for creating our own renewal experience for young adults. In attendance was Rich Clark, Coordinator of Youth and Young Adult Ministry for the Diocese of Louisiana, who has witnessed a decreased interest in his own diocese. Our intention was not to do away with Vocare, a ministry that has meant so much to so many, but to re-imagine how we might minister to the several necessities of such a unique age group.

A rough draft of a retreat called "Bethany" was the result of that gathering. The Diocese of Louisiana will be hosting a Young Adult retreat Memorial Day weekend of this year using this draft as their starting point. Young adults from this diocese have been invited and encouraged to attend this retreat. In turn, we will be opening our version of this retreat to them. Please pray as we seek to discern how to best provide for these particular children of God.

If you have any questions, concerns, or ideas regarding young adult ministry in this diocese please do not hesitate to contact me!
Patrick Sanders
Patrick@saint-timothys.net

Happening In Mississippi

The past year was a good one for Happening in Mississippi. Last April in Laurel, MS St. John's was the host parish. They were very generous with their facilities and did an excellent job in providing for the weekend. Olivia Feeney from Long Beach served as the weekend's Rector and Greenville's Hayden Phillips as the Head Gopher. This fall, St. Andrew's Cathedral in Jackson opened its doors to Happening. Twenty-nine high schoolers from around the state went through the weekend and all of the staff did a fantastic job in helping everything run smoothly. Ben Evans from Oxford was the Rector and Claire Yoste from Gulfport, the Head Gopher. Happening #71 will be held in April 2010 at St. Peter's by the Sea in Gulfport. Both staff and happener applications can be found on the Diocesan website. Head Gopher, Leah Jordan Proctor of Greenville and Rector, Andrew Killeen will lead the Spring Happening.

Another exciting bit of news on the Happening front is that Happening Reunion will be back for the spring! Happening Reunion runs at a nearby church and helps Happening behind the scenes. It will be held at St. Patrick's in Long Beach, and Duncan Chalk from Meridian will be the Rector. Anyone who has attended Happening is eligible for the weekend.

Claire Yoste



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REPORT TO 183rd ANNUAL COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY WITH LGBT PERSONS

The Mission: Our mission is to continue Christ's work of reconciliation and unity among all persons by attaining full inclusion of LGBT persons in the life of the Church.

The Committee met on four occasions during the year (28 February, 13 June, 19 September and 5 December). A summary of new initiatives, ongoing projects and accomplishments follow:

(NOTE: Please note that the Committee proposed to the Bishop and he approved that the Committee name be changed. *Gay and Lesbian Persons* has been replaced with *LGBT (Lesbian Gay Bi-Sexual Transgendered) Persons*. This change reflects more accurately the persons served.)

1. In last year's report we stated the following: The Bishop said in his 4 August 2008 letter to the clergy: "I have tried to suggest that if we are truly to be a church of invitation then we must take seriously the fact that there are invisible, unconscious and unintentional barriers that are part of our church. Two recent conversations with visitors to the Episcopal Church have reminded me of the comment 'everyone knows that we are open to all people' is not true for many who seek God and yearn for a church home." The Bishop reemphasized his initial request of 24 April 2006 to clergy: "that a clear statement of welcome be published in a visible part of the church facility." The statement he suggested is: "We respect the dignity of all persons regardless of national origin, race, gender, age or sexual orientation, and welcome and encourage them to participate fully in all areas of parish/mission life." The committee continues to support the above guidance from the Bishop. To that end the following have been accomplished this year:

a. Bookmarks with the committee logo were printed. On one side is the Bishop's inclusion statement which is stated above. On the reverse side is a similar statement by Archbishop Desmond Tutu which is as follows: "We reject them (homosexuals), treat them as pariahs and push them outside our church communities, and thereby we negate the consequences of their baptism and ours. We make them doubt that they are the children of God, and this must be nearly the ultimate blasphemy. We blame them for something that is becoming increasingly clear they can do little about."

b. These bookmarks were available at the committee booth at the 2009 Council meeting and will be available at the 2010 Council.

c. The bookmarks were included in packets for the 2009 Spiritual Renewal Retreat and The Clergy Conference

The committee continues to recognize that for some this will present a challenge and for others, an opportunity to truly let "everyone know that we are open to all people." We encourage all of those who feel challenged to make this an opportunity.

2. The fourth annual Spiritual Retreat for LGBT Persons was held at Gray Center on 21-23 August. There were over 65 participants both lay and clergy from four states in attendance. This year's retreat was dedicated to the memory of Becky "Bear" Luke, lifelong partner of committee member Betty Melton. Ms Melton made a gift of altar linens and a Gospel Book to the center chapel in memory of her partner. We were very pleased to have many members of her partner's family present for the blessing of these gifts.

The leader of this year's retreat was The Rev. Dr. Ruthanna Hooke, Professor of Homiletics at Virginia Theological Seminary. She asked the participants to explore their vocation and journey as LGBT Christians in the church. She encouraged the attendees to see themselves as ministering to the church; to clarify that their task is not to justify the presence of LGBT persons there, but the presence of God in a community that vows to "strive for justice and peace among all people, and represent the dignity of every human being." She went on to indicate that LGBT persons who have experienced "wilderness times" in coming out and living as Christians can teach others God's sustaining grace. The above was presented through lecture, scripture reflection, group work and meditation. It should be noted that the Bishop was unable to attend this year's

retreat. However in his letter of welcome to the participants he said in part: "I am deeply sensitive to the unique challenges of being gay and lesbian and trying to live out one's faith in and through the Christian community in Mississippi. — Please know that I am deeply grateful for your unique gifts and ministries so freely offered to the Church, and I am so glad that you are here."

3. In last year's report we indicated that the Bishop had asked the committee to develop a counseling program for teen's who "come out" at church sponsored events (happening, winter solstice, etc.). The program will also address the concerns of their parents and other family members. I am happy to report that this project is under the direction of The Rev. Craig Gates and will be completed and ready to be presented to the Bishop for review and approval during December 2009.

4. The committee continues to look at possible involvement in a program under development by the ACLU to address school bullying, not only of LGBT children, but other children as well.

5. I am please to announce that The Rev. Dr. Sam Portaro of the Diocese of Chicago will be the leader of our fifth annual retreat. The retreat is for LGBT persons, their family members and any other persons interested in spiritual renewal. The retreat will be held at Gray Center, 27-29 August 2010. The Rev. Dr. Portaro was Episcopal Chaplain, at The University of Chicago from 1982 to 2004. He has regularly conducted Quiet Days, retreats and served as a consultant and preacher nationwide and in England. Currently he is a faculty member of CREDO, The Church Pension Fund. He has published numerous articles, and books. Among the books are: *Brightest and Best: A Companion to Lesser Feasts and Fasts*; *Crossing Jordan: Meditations on Vocation*; *Daysprings: Meditations for the Weekdays of Advent, Lent and Easter*; *Sheer Christianity: Conjectures on a Catechism*; and *Conflict and a Christian Life*. Lastly, I would like to thank the members of the Committee who have worked diligently to make the above-described projects a reality; and special thanks to The Rev. Debo Dykes for her help and for the support of the Diocesan office. All of us are looking forward to 2010 with a strong sense of enthusiasm and commitment.

Respectfully submitted,
John A. Lever, Chairman

Post Ordination Consultation Report

The Diocese of Mississippi's program for newly-ordained transitional deacons and priests continued this year as one group concluded a year in Post Ordination Consultation (POC) and another group began the two-year process. POC is a program to assist new clergy in making the transition into parochial ministry and to continue formation undertaken in seminary.

The Reverend Sylvia Czarnetzky and Canon David Johnson continued their facilitation of the group. Five recently-ordained presbyters finished the 2008-2009 term in the spring while nine began the new year in the fall.

POC meets four times a year at Gray Center. The format includes dinner and conversation with Bishop Gray on Sunday evening, followed by collegial support on Monday morning. Late Monday afternoon and Monday evening generally include group reflection on a critical incident and discussion of a Fresh Start module. Recently-covered modules have included Transitions, Becoming a Welcoming Community, Understanding Title IV, and Weddings and Funerals. Tuesday mornings are dedicated to discussion of the coming weeks' lections for preaching, with the retreat ending with a Eucharist planned and celebrated by the participants.

There is more than a 30 year history of POC for newly-ordained clergy in the Diocese of Mississippi. Bishop Gray expects that all new clergy will give priority to attendance and full participation in POC.

Submitted by the Reverend Canon David H. Johnson

Trustees Of The Diocese Of Mississippi 2009

Trustees of the Diocese of Mississippi, a Mississippi non-profit corporation, is the legal entity which holds church property and investments for the benefit of the Episcopal Church in Mississippi. The Bishop serves as President of the corporation with four elected lay trustees serving staggered terms and a fifth lay person who serves one year by appointment of the Bishop. Those serving in 2008 were Michael Strojny, Lynn Jenkins, John Davis, Holmes Adams and Filo Coats, who are members of parishes in Jackson, Gulfport, Columbus and Grenada. Meeting with the Trustees were Ed Thurmond, Treasurer of the Diocese; Granville Tate, Diocesan Chancellor; Mrs. Kathryn W. McCormick, Diocesan Secretary and Treasurer of the Trustees; and D. Carl Black, Jr., Assistant Secretary of the Trustees.

During 2009 the Trustees held four meetings and conducted other business by conference calls and email. Corporate officers for the year were Holmes Adams, Vice President; Lynn Jenkins, Secretary, and Kathryn W. McCormick, Treasurer. The Bishop appointed D. Carl Black Jr. as Assistant Secretary. During Bishop Gray's sabbatical, Holmes Adams served as acting President and presided at the June 18 meeting.

In August the Trustees accepted title to a large parcel of real property in Rankin County for the Gray Center Special Maintenance Fund previously established with a gift of securities. The new property will have minimum income initially, but when sold should provide needed funding for authorized maintenance at Gray Center. Other real properties of the diocese in missions and special ministries require periodic maintenance which has been funded by some of the smaller trusts.

As a substantial creditor of All Saints School the Trustees have continuing interest in the new lease with Americorps. Each of the four owning dioceses has provided funding to deal with the school closing and maintenance of its properties. Projections presented to the Trustees at the November meeting indicate that operating expenses can be covered and substantial reductions can be made to All Saints indebtedness if the lease is continued through the renewal terms.

During 2008 Diocesan funds suffered market losses of approximately 20%. These continued through the first quarter of 2009, but as of October 31 all funds showed growth ranging from approximately 9% to 42%. Results for the year will be available early in 2010.

At the August meeting the Trustees authorized a \$3,500 Maroon Scholarship for a Mississippi Episcopalian at Mississippi State University. This is funded by a new grant and will be administered by the regular Scholarship Committee. Criteria for qualifying will be made available to the Chaplain at Mississippi State.

The Okolona Fund provides support for the Raspberry Scholarships and Okolona Scholarships. In addition it funds scholarships at Gray Center, Sewanee, St. Andrew's Episcopal School, Jackson, and St. George's School, Clarksdale, and supports the chaplaincy at Jackson State.

D. Carl Black, Jr., Assistant Secretary



Absalom Jones Anglican Campus Ministry Report

Absalom Jones Anglican Campus ministry had another blessed year of outreach, worship, and fellowship at Jackson State University. Our campus ministry involves Anglicans (from Africa), Catholics, Lutherans, and non denominational students. The Episcopal Church continues to be visible and available to students, faculty and staff on campus. Our AJA mission is to assist students in an academic setting to discover and fulfill their vocation in Jesus Christ. While nurturing our students in their spiritual growth, we also seek to encourage students to answer Christ's call to selfless service and sharing of their talents both here and beyond.

Being a chaplain for a thriving campus ministry is awesome and often challenging. I spent much of my time at JSU walking around the campus, visiting offices, classrooms, talking with people and availing myself to those who need pastoral care. I spend many hours meeting with students and staff in different departments or in the cafeteria. I often find people just need someone who can listen to them. We all know that students live under pressure. Some of these students live far away from home, others have no adequate jobs to help pay for their tuition, and others have domestic problems. Unlike the parish work, campus ministry is seasonal. It is an ever-changing congregation. Every graduation we lose students and each fall we receive new students with different energy. For a person like me, it is a tremendous challenge to do the campus ministry and at the same time be a rector of a growing congregation. I am grateful for strong Lay leadership at both AJA and All Saints' parish. I have lots of people at the campus who are neither members of my church or my denomination who've done so much to help me carry the vision through. In many of the University's occasions I've been invited to preside over functions, pray the invocations and benedictions at the graduation ceremonies, preach on ecumenical worship services, and help in plan events for the University. For the last three and half years I've built a strong relationship with faculty, student, and staff. Our campus ministry has hosted our own diocesan Bishop and the Rt. Rev. Zebedee Masereka, Director of Bishop Masereka Christian Foundation. We have also hosted the Central Convocation monthly meeting, and the International Symposium Event, African in Diaspora an African American Historical Event.

AJA campus ministry is student- led and facilitated by the chaplain. Small group mentoring is one part of our ministry. We also provide opportunities for fellowship that bring new faces through our doors. Some of these events include: jogging, gym exercises and bible study with interfaith groups. These events help us interact with new people, create a relationship which enables them join our events or become part of our ministry. Through our weekly evening fellowships, we nurture relationships, hold discussions, and study the word of God. My volunteer group has been helpful in keeping the office open while I am away and often representing me on other campus ministry joint fellowships. AJA Campus Ministry sponsors African International Students, hosts special symposiums, and is a member of a student council. We also helped organize the University's spiritual emphasis week in the spring. Our mentoring ministry which represents mainly international and nondenominational students is very active and helpful in fulfilling Christ's Great Commission to make disciples of all nations. The disciple group meets students in their place of work

and helps each other to grow in faith by teaching each other how to reach out to others. We strive to be a ministry characterized by hospitality, diversity, and cooperation.

As our group grows, we will need your moral and financial support. We'd like to ask congregations to help us fulfill our vision. Our campus ministry is not capable to provide meals at every meeting, or sponsor trips, camping retreats, or facilitate a big event on campus. Due to our financial constraints we've not been able to link our campus ministry with other neighboring colleges such as: Tugaloo, Rust College, Delta University, and Absalom Jones at the University of Atlanta. Some of our students need help in their cultural transition, transportation, and with food. We also need a volunteer choir to join us for our spiritual emphasis week in March. For further information, we can be reached at the address here below.

The Rev. Dr. William Ndishabandi
Absalom Jones Anglican Campus Ministry
STUDENT CENTER on Floor 2, Room 2214.
JSU Box 17061, MS 39217-0103
Phone (601) 979-0480
wndisha@aol.com or revdrwindisha@yahoo.com

ECUMENICAL

The ecumenical officer is a primary resource for the Bishop seeking to carry out the ecumenical mandate given in the preface to the ordination rites: "the order of bishop carries on the apostolic work of leading, supervising, and uniting the Church." Specific responsibilities include: 1. Assist the Bishop and advise on ecumenical matters. 2. Seek out and strengthen relations with other churches within the diocese. 3. Maintain relations with councils of churches and other ecumenical agencies. 4. Insure that diocesan program and budget reflect ecumenical involvement where applicable. 5. Keep the diocese and its agencies informed on ecumenical developments through initiation of informative programs and consciousness-raising. 6. Be a resource for parishes, districts/deaneries, and other bodies within the diocese and keep in touch with ecumenical developments in congregations. 7. Initiate and plan for responsible and effective participation in ecumenical events in the diocese. 8. To insure a two-way flow of ecumenical communication between the "Local Church" and the Provincial. Toward these ends this year, I assisted in planning the covenant signing liturgy between our diocese and the United Methodist Conference; I witnessed the signing of the covenant between Bishops Gray and Hope Morgan Ward at the Cathedral on the Feast of John and Charles Wesley; I addressed the opening session of the Annual Conference of Mississippi's United Methodists in June at the Convention Center in Jackson, bringing them greetings from Bishop Gray. I supported clergy in their ecumenical endeavors, particularly as related to the covenant with the Methodists. I suggested to Bishop Gray to invite a representative from the United Methodist Conference to our Annual Council in Tupelo in 2010.

Respectfully Submitted
The Rev. Michael Christopher Nation, Ecumenical Officer

Education for Ministry (EfM)

The Education for Ministry program is holding its own across the diocese. The number of active groups stands at 19, down slightly from last year's total. This past September saw Mississippi joining the ranks of the technological program with the start of an on-line group. Although group members hail from a variety of states, two come from within the boundaries of our diocese.

Whether in a traditional face-to-face (f2f) group or the new computer-to-computer (c2c) format, participants in an EfM seminar find the study to be very important to their spiritual journey. Reading texts, vetted by the University of the South Theology Department, appears to be the prime learning experience gained from the seminar group. However, the process of discussing and sharing how the knowledge gained from reading a lesson impacts on our lives and actions is the real heart of the program. Known as theological reflection or TR for short, this process provides a sounding board for seminar members to identify the various voices, or sources that influence our actions in our day to day lives. Once identified, we can be more deliberate in the choices we make, strengthening us in our spiritual journey.

Each seminar group consists of 6-12 "students" and at least one trained mentor, or facilitator. The mentor(s) role is to guide discussion and ensure that the seminar meets the basic criteria established by Sewanee's Program Center. Seminar groups in the traditional f2f format meet once a week for 2-1/2 to 3 hours; the on-line group "meets" via Blackboard for 1-1/2 hours each week. On-line groups use a bulletin board service to post their lesson discussions during the week to comply with 'attendance' requirements. Mentors for either group attend training events to be certified in program requirements; these events are held at Sewanee or various locations around the US.

Our mentor training events, primarily held at Gray Center, continue to draw mentors from around the Southern region as well as diocesan mentors seeking re-certification. For the upcoming year, mentor training events are scheduled for the second weekend of January and the second weekend of July. Both basic/in-service training for first- and second-time mentors and a formation event for trained mentors will be offered during either event. The January 7-9 formation session will focus on Worship Experiences within the EfM seminar while the July 8-19 event will feature Experiential Learning.

For more information about the training events, see the EfM display at Annual Council in Tupelo or check out our page on the diocesan web site. Applications and other information will be available either location.

The EfM web page also contains contact info for the various groups currently meeting within our diocese. If you are interested in the EfM program but there is no seminar in your parish or mission, you might consider the on-line option. Several parishes can join forces to host a common group for congregants as well. For information, call me at 228-697-0014 or email me at DAByrd@boxfree.net. I look forward to meeting you at Council or hearing from you directly.

By Dorothy A Byrd, Diocesan EfM Coordinator

Committee Report For Panama Medical Mission

The 2009 Panama Medical Mission worked in a different area of Panama this year at the request of the Panama Health Department and the health services committee of Diocese of Panama. The clinic was in the community of Puebla Nueva an area west of the city, and we were well received by the local church and the volunteers who work with us. The Mississippi group consisted of eight people; clergy and lay medical and non-medical personnel. Due to heavy rains and the fact that this was the first year in the area, the patient load was lighter than we had hoped. Medicines which remained unused during our visit will be distributed by the diocese to local appropriate health care services. We give thanks for this new opportunity and look forward to working with our companion diocese again next year.

Dawn Flannes
Chair, Panama Medical Mission Committee



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ECOM: The Episcopal Church at Ole Miss

ECOM focuses its efforts on worship, learning and fellowship opportunities for those associated with the University. The visible presence of the Chaplain on campus and around Oxford is one way to ensure that members of the community are aware of this resource for spiritual and personal assistance.

Worship targeted to the University community is offered at St. Peter's (5:30s on Sundays when there are Monday classes), and at Paris Yates Chapel on campus (Evening Prayer on Mondays and Noonday Prayer on Tuesdays). St. Peter's has a variety of other worship services which are available to the University community including Morning Prayer (Monday through Friday) and the Wednesday evening Eucharist with Healing Service followed by a parish supper.

The Chaplain is on campus most days for at least part of the day. Location varies between an on-campus office, the Student Union, Johnson Commons and at various events, such as lectures or Tailgating in the Grove prior to selected football games. Such opportunities for interaction with students, in particular, encourage students to talk to the Chaplain in an environment that is most comfortable for the student. This is often the first step in establishing a relationship that facilitates pastoral care and counseling when needed.

Learning and fellowship opportunities include "Canterbury Crew," a group made up of predominantly graduate students. C'Crew has spent time during the Fall Semester watching films (Eddie Izzard and Traces of the Trade), learning about actions of General Convention (2009) and hearing authors talk about new books (e.g. Clark Strand's How to Believe in God Whether or Not You Believe in Religion and Gene Dattel's Race & Cotton in the Making of America). Book readings are followed by supper on the Square. C'Crew is also exploring the work of the proposed upcoming Mississippi Truth Commission, which held one of its organizing meetings in Oxford.

On Thursday afternoons, students cook and deliver meals to residents of Oxford Housing Authority apartments. The "Manna" program delivers about 125 meals per week to those who might otherwise go hungry. With the exception of the purchase of food, Manna is entirely student run and organized.

ECOM maintains a website (www.ecomoxford.org) and a Facebook group ("ECOM = Episcopal Church at Ole Miss") as two primary ways of communicating with members. In addition, "Good Morning Ole Miss" is a daily email sent to members of the University community. ECOM worship services and events are regularly part of this email. The St. Peter's monthly newsletter includes a column written by the Chaplain which provides the broader St. Peter's community with insight into college life and concerns. Twice weekly ads run on the Religion page of the Daily Mississippian with times of ECOM services.

ECOM transitioned from interim lay chaplains, C.J. Meaders III and Marty Dunbar, to The Rev. Jan Oller in June 2009. The work that CJ and Marty did was instrumental in keeping ECOM a viable and visible presence to the University community during the transition.

The Rev. Jan Oller
Chaplain, Episcopal Church at Ole Miss



Episcopal Church Women

This has been a busy year for ECW. Spring Conference in April saw us enjoying a delightful program by the Rev. John Stone Jenkins at Gray Center. June found us at Kanuga in Hendersonville, NC preparing for Triennial. Discussing some of the business that would be presented at Triennial, enjoying a workshop on the Lord's Prayer, and learning what was happening throughout Province IV.

In July we traveled to Anaheim, CA. for Triennial, probably the busiest part of the Year for the delegates Jane Wacaster, Lollie Everett, Grace Steiner, Lyn Wellons, Evelyn Gregory, and Joann Lee, our Most Honored Woman from the Diocese of MS. Presiding Bishop Katherine Jefferts Schori visited Opening Session and spoke briefly, and blessed ECW crosses, then passed them out to all attending.

The Archbishop of Canterbury was featured speaker at one session. He commended ECW for sharing "their prayers, care and experience" to strengthen the bonds that tie the Anglican Communion together.

Author Phyllis Tickle spoke on Grace "a tough topic, best described as beauty". Bishop Steven Charleston also spoke of Grace, "if you want to understand grace, you need to understand Mary, the mother of Jesus."

Bishop Michael Curry spoke to the ministry of the UTO as a "mission of witness". His advice was GO ECW, GO.

National ECW is working with ERD on the Jericho Road Episcopal Housing Initiative to raise \$110,000 to build a home in New Orleans. At last report we're \$25,000 short of that goal.

We have continued to work at our ongoing projects; Children at Risk, Global Scholarships, World Day of Prayer, UTO, and CPC.

Our Fall Conference/Annual Meeting speaker was Bishop Julio Murray of Panama. He spoke about some of the women in the Bible, and what made them memorable. Three members of the ECW of Panama were our guests. They brought some native handiwork for us to see and to purchase if we wished. They graciously presented the profits to our ECW in our projects.

We are experiencing growth in some areas of our diocese, and look forward to another busy year under the leadership of our president Grace Steiner.

Respectfully submitted,
Evelyn Gregory, Past President

Fresh Start Report

Fresh Start is a program of the Episcopal Church to guide and strengthen clergy who are in new cures. Fresh Start facilitators are trained to guide discussion and reflection by using a collection of "modules" that address the typical issues and concerns of individuals and groups going through a change of leadership. The goal to better equip clergy and lay people in their leadership roles.

In the Diocese of Mississippi, Fresh Start is used primarily with clergy in new cures and in the Post Ordination Program (POC). The Reverend Canon David Johnson and Alice Perry, Chair of the Fresh Start Committee, also led a session about church size theory at the Senior Wardens' workshop in February.

The clergy participate in two different groups, one (Fresh Start North) hosted at All Saints', Tupelo; and one (Fresh Start South) hosted at St. John's, Laurel, and Trinity Hattiesburg. The groups meet four times each and are facilitated by Canon David Johnson of the diocesan staff and the Reverend Brian Seage, rector of St. Columb's, Ridgeland. The combined groups meet with Bishop Gray in Jackson in January. Each meeting includes community building, collegial support, prayer, critical incident reflection, and discussion of a Fresh Start module.

In 2006, thirteen clergy, including a large number of clergy new to the diocese, participated in Fresh Start. Recent modules have included Profile vs. Reality and Congregational Life Cycle.

Respectfully submitted,
Alice T. Perry
Chair, Fresh Start Committee

Episcopal Relief & Development — Healing A Hurting World

Episcopal Relief & Development is the international relief and development agency of the Episcopal Church of the United States. It takes its mandate from Jesus' words found in Matthew 25. Its programs work towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals. Together with the worldwide Church and ecumenical partners, Episcopal Relief & Development rebuilds after disasters and empowers people by offering lasting solutions that fight poverty, hunger and disease, including malaria and HIV/AIDS. Our church through Episcopal Relief and Development is active in 46 countries and its work is transforming the lives of close to 3 million people.

Our Diocese, along with many others, has officially designated the First Sunday in Lent as a time to highlight Episcopal Relief & Development and to encourage all to give to support its work. Make sure that this opportunity is not missed in your local church. If your parish does not have a parish representative who will keep the work and needs of Episcopal Relief & Development before their parish, please designate someone and let the Diocesan Coordinator know so that appropriate supplies can be sent. Whether it is helping buy mosquito nets to prevent malaria or ordering from the Gifts for Life Magazine or helping your parish have a fundraiser to increase awareness of the work of this important group and to send funds, there are countless and creative ways through Episcopal Relief & Development to make a lasting difference for people living in extreme poverty.

For 7 years I have appreciated serving as your Diocesan Coordinator. Attending the Annual Network Meetings and learning first hand about the work our church is doing has made a real difference in my life and I am committed to supporting Episcopal Relief & Development as long as I am on this earth. Their work is thorough, loving, respectful and empowering to those who benefit from its help. I urge you to make certain some of your parish's giving as well as a portion of your personal giving goes to support this work all around the world. I will be moving to North Carolina at the end of November so beginning December 1st your new Diocesan Coordinator will be the Rev. Cathy Halford; 128 Park Avenue; Madison, MS 39110; chalford48@yahoo.com; cell, 601-672-7037. Cathy serves as Deacon at All Saints Church in Jackson. She will attend the Network Meeting in May and will be available to talk with your parish about ways they can get involved or continue to be involved.

The Rev. Diane Livingston, Deacon, Diocesan Coordinator

A-V Center Report 2009

The A-V Resource Center was undergoing a great renovation in 2009; not a physical renovation but an organizational one. The director weeded out programs that are outdated and that do not circulate in order to make room for new programs. Some programs on videocassette are replaced by DVD programs.

While carrying out this weeding, the director reworked the catalog, which is now available on the diocesan web site (www.dioms.org). There will be quarterly supplements added to the catalog, as needed.

The programs of the A-V Center are used for Sunday School, ECW and EYC study groups, Inquirers' Class, and personal study and enrichment.

The director continues to write a column for the Mississippi Episcopalian that highlights programs and offers suggestions for using them. The column has expanded to include book reviews that can tie together books and audio-visual programs.

The director is available for consultation via e-mail at grandmastruck1994@yahoo.com or by telephone. 662-746-3923 (there is an answering machine). Or send a postcard with your name and telephone number and your needs, and I will call you.

Janet Nail, Director
A-V Center

Gray Center Report

This year began with Gray Center hosting the Episcopal Camps and Conference Centers' Annual Conference - a wonderful event and an opportunity for our peers from all over the country to witness the good work done by the Gray Center Staff. The conference also brought to our center the new Presiding Bishop and we can't help but feel honored to have had her visit Gray Center.

Once again we proposed a deficit budget for 2009. And, once again, with blessings from above, we expect (as of 10/30/09) to have bettered our estimates and put the second positive-bottom-line year into our string of "wins!" During a year of unprecedented economic turmoil and uncertainty we have brought in greater revenues and reduced our expenditures beyond expectations. Our budgeted diocesan support, not unlike almost all within the diocese, was cut this year and it is anticipated to be cut more in 2010. As someone recently said of Gray Center, "Seldom have so few done so much, with so little!" I wish I could take credit for that statement for it certainly tells our story of 2009.

We made some good progress in our pursuit of the Board of Managers' new vision to make the Gray Center a more "Family-Friendly Destination." We adjoined some rooms, established storage for a half-dozen donated bikes, built a new pier just behind the Inn, extended WiFi accessibility to Cottage #1 at the center, and high speed internet with WiFi access to the camp as well.

At camp this summer we had to cancel the last session, Special Session II, due to the outbreak of flu-like symptoms among the campers at the prior session. On a more positive note, we have a new software system that will at long last allow full, on-line registration and payments for the 2010 season. Sarah Shelby evaluated many systems and selected this one with great hope that it will streamline her data-handling work allowing more time to devote to camp activities and increasing enrollment. Though total camp enrollment was down a bit this year - in the lower two age groups - we had a great swell in First Camp, for first and second-graders and their parents.

Gray Center endured some uninsured weather damage this year. Our property insurance does not cover "rising water" damage so we had to pay for the clean-up and repairs necessitated by flooding of the lower rooms in the Inn. During one of the many torrential downpours we've seen this year (5 inches in one very short period) the 'bowl' as we call it to the north of the Inn flooded beyond the soil's ability to absorb the water or the grade to carry it off. The solutions to this are still under consideration.

The grounds of your center - as a recent guest stated - "have never looked as good." The upside of the rain is the beautiful growth of green grass and newly planted trees. Lee Lewis continues to do wonders with his planting and his clearing of unsightly underbrush. There is no way to thank him for his efforts; they are phenomenal! Other volunteers still come regularly to our campus to work on all manner of projects; some mentioned already.

Under the heading of "Beautification" we can't overlook the newly-painted conference center chapel and cottages, a planned capital-improvements project, proposed and supported by the efforts of the board and its finance committee. The Inn still needs painting and some carpentry work, but improvements to the exterior of the Big House may have to take precedence if the funds for this huge project can be found.

All in all, our 2009 was a year many an organization in such a troubled year would have been proud to look back upon. With the greatest humility, we thank God for all that He has given us this year. No resource so provided to Gray Center can stand higher praise than the incredible people who make all that is good there come to be. Hospitality is the gift and the goal they never forget. Seldom is the guest who leaves Gray Center without singing their praises.

Bill Horne
Executive Director
Gray Center

**Honduras Medical Mission
Report to the 183rd Annual Council
of the Diocese of Mississippi
Tupelo, February 5-7, 2010**

The 28th Annual Honduras Medical Mission was held February 14-21st, 2009. St. Philip's, Jackson was the host parish, spending a year in preparation, packing medications, collecting supplies and preparing everything for shipping. This mission featured our highly anticipated return to San Joaquin. After a year's absence, the team was able to return to the village that we had served for so many years. We returned with some trepidation, wondering how our friends would receive us after having been absent for a year. We need not have feared! Joy was evident on the faces of all that greeted us upon our arrival to the village.

The mission got off to a rocky start as the majority of the team were delayed in arriving due to airline challenges. Instead of flying to San Pedro Sula, they spent the first night in Atlanta! This delayed the opening of the clinics by half a day. A small group of team members that had arrived in San Pedro Sula went on to the village as planned and had all clinics set up and ready for the arrival of the rest of the team. As the team members know, "flexibility" is our motto, and we swung into full gear as soon as everyone finally arrived in San Joaquin.

The team was made up of a total of 35 people, including physicians, dentists, nurses, veterinarians, pharmacists, clergy, translators and support staff. 636 Honduran families were cared for, comprising a total of 2,061 patients. The dentists pulled 1,067 teeth and 1,021 teeth were sealed by the sealant team. Vision was evaluated and 494 pair of glasses were given. As usual, the veterinary team was busy, caring for 420 cows, 401 horses, and 116 dogs. A total of 8,661 prescriptions were filled by our pharmacy staff. Through it all, the Clergy was visible and present, caring for our pastoral and eucharistic needs.

On the last night of our stay in San Joaquin we were treated to a very special surprise that had been arranged for us by the Deacon in Charge, Rev. Ramon Martinez. A dance troupe from Chaloma performed native Honduran dances for us. It was very colorful and lots of fun as many of the team members joined the dancers. It was a wonderful thank you and "welcome back!"

A meeting was held with the Patranado of the village and members from Aanglidesh and the Episcopal Diocese of Honduras. We discussed various micro enterprises and improvements to the village. This is just the beginning of these conversations as we seek ways of empowering the people in San Joaquin.

Chapel of the Cross is hosting the HMM in 2010 and 2011. They held a "Honduran Hoedown Draw Down" and raised \$9,600.00 towards the mission, with a grand prize of \$5,000.00 given away! Thanks to all who participated. It was a huge success.

The political scene in Honduras has caused Bishop Gray and the Diocesan Committee some concern. We have been watching this closely in order to make an informed decision about the safety of sending a team to Honduras in Feb, 2010. Our plan is to prayerfully consider what God would have us do, and to be aware of the safety of the team and members of the village. A final decision will be made Dec. 10, 2009. In the meantime, we are preparing as if we are going and making contingency plans in case we do not.

Please pray for the Honduras Medical Mission Team of 2010 and for our Honduran brothers and sisters. Dates of the mission are February 13-20.

- Amelia BarkerSupport
- Brian BullardSupport
- Frances ChristianNurse
- Debbie ColeNurse
- Richard CostleySupport/Translator
- Bruce DavisSupport
- Bev EvansPhysician
- Tell FlowersPhysician
- George JacksonSupport
- Alston JohnsonClergy
- Lance JohnsonDentist

- Nora JohnsonSupport
- Kathy KvamVeterinarian
- Scott LenoirClergy
- William MoodySupport
- Holly PeeplesPhysician
- Elizabeth RallSupport
- Catherine RickettClergy
- Bob RivesDentist
- Robert RivesDental Support
- Chris ScottTeam Leader
- Joan SenteneyEducator/Translator
- Bruce SenterPhysician
- Andy ShoresVeterinarian
- Lauren ShoresVeterinarian
- Edward SissonTranslator
- Penny SissonClergy/Translator
- Robert StewartSupport
- Glen StoneOptometrist
- William StricklandOptometrist
- Guy ViseVet Support
- Hal WinnDentist

Respectfully Submitted,
Deborah Hanson, Diocesan Chairperson

Prison and Justice Committee

In 2009 the Diocesan Prison and Justice Committee sponsored three Alternatives to Violence workshops. Two workshops took place at the Hinds County Detention Center in Raymond. The first basic workshop was attended by fifteen adolescent residents with two adults from the Jackson area also participating. Along with Jim Henderson and Cathy Halford facilitating, two experienced facilitators were brought in from outside the state for added support since this was the first workshop to take place in Mississippi. A second basic workshop took place in May and was attended by twelve adolescents who were currently residing at the Detention Center. Another experienced facilitator was brought in to assist. During the month of September, a community basic workshop was held in the Millsaps College chapel with six participants. Toward the end of May, Cathy Halford traveled to the National Alternatives to Violence Conference on Long Island. This committee looks forward to planning another Community Workshop, an Advanced Workshop, and a Training for Facilitators Workshop in 2010.

The Rev. Cathy Halford
Chair, Diocesan Prison and Justice Committee

Licensed Lay Ministry Committee

During 2009, St. Pierre's, Gautier organized and hosted there annual convocational workshop for relicensing of Licensed Diocesan Worship Leaders.

The Center for Formation and Mission of The Episcopal Diocese of Mississippi offered for us our annual conference, Yearning for Connection / a centering prayer retreat with the Rev. Thomas R. Ward Jr.

We process twenty new applications for Licensed Diocesan Worship Leader during the year. Seven persons have completed the Licensed Worship Leader Education program and have been recommended for licensing by the Bishop as of November 30, 2009 this year.

As reflected in the steady growth of Diocesan Worship Leaders, Eucharistic Ministers and Eucharistic Visitors, we comprise a vibrant and committed body of the church. We will continue to support our Diocesan mission of ONE CHURCH IN MISSION: INVITING, TRANSFORMING, RECONCILING.

Danny Ray Meadors Chair
Thomas R. Ward, Jr.

Mississippi Episcopal AIDS Committee Annual Report 2009

The Mississippi Episcopal AIDS Committee (MEAC) was formed by the Diocese of Mississippi in 1988. It addresses three primary areas related to HIV and AIDS in the diocese: 1) Spiritual support for people with AIDS, their caregivers, families, and loved ones; 2) Education and prevention; and 3) Emergency financial support for those who have no other funding source for medicines, transportation, food, and utilities.

MEAC maintains a list of Episcopal priests and pastors from other denominations throughout the state who are willing to minister to those with HIV and AIDS for spiritual support. Calls are taken 24 hours a day by trained volunteers at a telephone crisis line. While some of the calls are for information and are handled effectively by the volunteers, many callers are referred on to a priest or pastor in their area for spiritual counseling. Others are referred for emergency assistance.

The Diocese of Mississippi delegation to the Province IV Network of AIDS Ministries Kanuga HIV and AIDS Retreat in June 2009 was once again among the largest ever with 35 people living with HIV/AIDS and six MEAC volunteers and caretakers attending. This total of 41 was a record number once again and all enjoyed the trip thoroughly. The retreat is sponsored by the Province IV Network of AIDS Ministries and the National Episcopal AIDS Coalition (NEAC). Mississippi MEAC volunteers are active on the regional planning committee and plan to increase the participation in the delegation each year in the future.

Other educational activities are ongoing. MEAC volunteers correspond with all churches in the diocese to make them aware of the committee's goals, activities such as the Kanuga retreat and World AIDS Day (each December 1), and other educational opportunities. Committee members distribute literature to many clergy members and congregants at the annual church Council each year. Plans are underway to speak to groups in each region. Resource materials are maintained in a small library.

The Emergency Fund maintained by MEAC remained strong during 2009 with a grant of \$35,000 from the Mississippi HeARTS Against AIDS benefit. This was lower than previous years because the HeARTS fundraiser was affected by the economy. Donations were also received from Episcopal churches in the Diocese and individuals and organizations throughout the state. These funds are spent at a rate of up to five thousand dollars a month in order to supply essential medications for patients waiting for approval for AIDS Drug Assistance Programs (ADAP, through the Mississippi State Department of Health) and for Medicaid patients who require more than the allowed seven prescriptions each month. Medicare patients need assistance with their co-payments following the changes to Part D medication coverage. Even patients with medication coverage through private insurance need one-time assistance paying high co-payments. More patients are requesting other medical related items such as eyeglasses and emergency dental services because there are no other funds available to assist them.

Assistance through the MEAC emergency fund must be requested by a social worker, nurse, medical provider, or clergy member involved with the patient. Requests are received by means of a 24 hour answering service. The poor economy has been evident in the increasing number of requests received, especially for basic necessities such as school supplies, utilities and food. MEAC continues to be the only source for emergency assistance for HIV and AIDS patients in the state. Sponsors are also matched with families needing assistance at Christmas and other special occasions. Special efforts are made to assist young children when their parents pass away.

A special grant was received in 2008 for the second year for assisting patient placement into substance abuse programs. These funds were awarded by the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration and are being used regularly. Additional funds may be available in 2010.

Changes to the Mississippi Medicaid eligibility guidelines, the

ADAP list of medications available and the HOPWA management in the Jackson area have been of great concern to committee members during 2009. Mississippi HeARTS Against AIDS has sponsored an additional fund raiser this year to help meet the growing needs. The changes may lead to an increased need for emergency funds for medications and for rental assistance.

The Mississippi Episcopal AIDS Committee also works to organize prayer and healing services, memorial services, and to link people to churches. Committee members work closely with HIV/AIDS housing programs, service agencies, and Ryan White HIV/AIDS health programs. MEAC has worked during 2009 to increase diversity within its membership and to expand knowledge and activities of the committee members. MEAC is proud to have a member currently serving on the National Episcopal AIDS Coalition as well as officers serving on the Province IV Network of AIDS Ministries.

Presiding Bishop Katherine Jefferts Schori recently "urged all Episcopalians to join our Church's advocacy efforts" regarding the continuing problems of HIV and AIDS.

The committee looks forward to continuing to increase the number of people served each year. Emergency assistance helps more than 500 HIV and AIDS victims and their family members each year with emergency assistance, and many more with messages of prevention and spiritual support.

Respectfully submitted,

Ella Tardy, Chair, Mississippi Episcopal AIDS Committee

Safe Church Committee

"ONE CHURCH IN MISSION: INVITING, TRANSFORMING, RECONCILING"

Mission Statement: Transforming faith communities more fully into safe places for worship and spiritual growth, free of sexual exploitations, through advocacy, education, training, prevention, and response.

During 2009, the Safe Church Committee hosted several trainings using the Safeguarding God's Children curriculum. Trainings were offered by committee members for Coast Episcopal School and at the "Adults Who Work with Youth" weekend at Gray Center. Training was also provided for camp staffers at Camp Bratton Green. Additionally several hundred background checks on new clergy, aspirants, lay persons, and church employees were conducted.

The Rev. Annie Cumberland, Youth Coordinator and Canon for Youth attended training this year. Also, the Rev. Lee Winter was added to the list of certified trainers. This will make it easier for training to be more readily available. The Rev. David Johnson and Dr. Leigh Jensen-Crawford have been certified to offer the "Safeguarding God's People" curriculum which is the newest curriculum from Church Pension Fund regarding adult victimization and the church, focusing on prevention of sexual harassment in the church setting.

A complete review and revision of Diocesan policies on Sexual Exploitation was completed and will be sent to the Diocesan Executive Committee for approval. Reviewers included policy subcommittee members Mr. Les Alvis, Dr. Leigh Jensen-Crawford, and The Rev. Canon David Johnson. Upon approval, in addition to the face-to-face training we already offer, Safe Church Training will be available online. I would particularly like to thank both Mr. Les Alvis and The Rev. Canon David Johnson for their work on the policy this year.

We are currently working on a website which should be available in 2010. We have met our goals of providing continuing education for groups on topics requested, beginning the development of a website for Safe Churches in our diocese, continuing education for the Safe Church committee, development and distribution of posters for use in congregations throughout the diocese, and carrying out the work of the committee including advocacy, crisis response, prevention and education.

Leigh Jensen-Crawford
Chair, Safe Church Committee

Cursillo in Christianity

This year has been one of blessings laced with opportunities of both growth and self-examination for Cursillo. We had more exposure in the Episcopalian than ever before. Lee Davis Thames wrote a wonderful article in that publication about our relationship to Gray Center. Our thanks to Rev. Scott Lenoir for all the exposure we had throughout the year. We also have arranged with the Diocese to let them host our web site. Emily Everett of the Diocesan Office and our web master, Barbara McDonald deserve our thanks for facilitating that. We developed an Archives of Minutes on the web, a prayer request section, and updated links to other movements.

Lay Rector Robert Pooley assembled a wonderful staff for Cursillo #117 in April. The 4th Day Workshop on May 30th, directed by Foley Ranson, was well attended. It appeared that we were on a roll. As Secretariat Chairman I arranged in 2008 with Gray Center to keep the retreat weekends exclusive to our use through 2011. This was pursuant to previous Secretariat decisions. To do so we had to schedule an August retreat (#118) for 2009. Not enough candidates had registered for #118. With consent of Bishop Gray we postponed the weekend until March since we couldn't get another weekend in the fall that would work. Postponement of a weekend due to lack of enough registrants was a first in the history of this diocese. The postponement cost the Conference Center over \$11,000 in revenue. Cursillo will not expect exclusive use of Gray Center for such retreats again until we are at a sustained point of 30+ candidates each weekend. We are looking to our clergy to help provide the parish with the lay leadership these weekends can offer. We encourage our clergy to look to us for development of parish leaders. Cursillo is not about taking potential leaders and moving them outside of parish efforts. The plan is quite the opposite.

Even with the disappointment of postponing a retreat, we regrouped. A couple of other "firsts" were about to develop. We had four attend the National Episcopal Cursillo Conference October 22-25 in San Antonio. Each attendee: Rev. Mary Berry, Foley Ranson, Cindy Aucoin and myself attended the Episcopal Cursillo Leaders Workshop (ECLW) ahead of the conference itself. It helped us to set the stage to host an ECLW in Ridgeland May 14-16. This was our largest delegation in over a decade, if not ever. I was also elected to the National Committee. Nick Nichols will assume Secretariat Chairmanship in January of 2010.

Another "first" was we conducted a Secretariat Retreat at the Big House in November. Carol Mead (from #91) facilitated this function. We left the weekend with a plan for the next 24 months, committed to fulfilling the mission of Cursillo. It was a wonderful experience. More information about the year can be found on our link with the diocese web site.

Looking to 2010 and 2011, we have all weekends set. We are pleased that Asem Zeini (Redeemer/Brookhaven) and Barbara McDonald (Chapel/Madison) have agreed to lead future weekends. Please be in prayer for our efforts to help local parishes. These last three years of serving on the Secretariat have been a time of great personal satisfaction. I've worked with a great committee and treasure my time with them. Special thanks to Bishop Gray, Rev. Sam Godfrey and Rev. Mary Berry for their insight, friendship, support, prayers and vision. I am a better man having been witness to what we all can do in the name of the Lord. I thank each on the Secretariat so much for this opportunity to have "tended the vineyard" a little while.

By Tom Welch, Secretariat Chairman

A date to remember:

March 27: Warden's Treasurer's Conf.-
St. Andrew's Cathedral

The Brotherhood of Saint Andrew, Inc. Episcopal Diocese of Mississippi Annual Report, 2009

For the past several years, I have served as the Assistant Diocesan Coordinator for The Brotherhood of Saint Andrew in the Diocese of Mississippi, dividing responsibilities with Louis Nash of Oxford, the Diocesan Coordinator. This past Winter, Louis felt like his other activities were precluding him from continuing as Diocesan Coordinator, and I was appointed as his replacement as of March, 2009.

During the year I have regularly attended the meetings of the Brotherhood at St. Andrew's Cathedral, and at St. Pierre's, Gautier, and participated with the annual Barbeque put on by the Jackson County Chapter at St. John's, Pascagoula.

On Sunday, March 8, 2009, I was privileged to install the newly chartered chapter of the Brotherhood at St. Francis of Assisi, Philadelphia. The Chapter Director, Bro. Chris Baker, has been very active in organizing this new chapter and encouraging their following of the three disciplines of prayer, study, and service.

June 25-28, Bro. Chet Dobrowski, Director of the Jackson County Chapter and I attended the Triennial Convention of the Brotherhood in Atlanta, Georgia. Several changes were made to the constitution and bylaws of the Brotherhood, which will make the ministry of the Brotherhood within the Anglican Communion much clearer. Bro. Chet Dobrowski and Bro. Chris Baker were elected to the National Council of the Brotherhood at this meeting.

At some time in late 2008 Bro. David Morse, Chapter Director of the chapter at St. Andrew's Cathedral, made a visit to Chapel of the Cross, Madison, and presented the ministry of the Brotherhood to some interested men in the parish. This resulted in the installation of the new chapter at Chapel of the Cross on Sunday, August 16, 2009, with Bro. Chris Baker as presenter, and myself as inductor. This chapter has since sponsored a teaching weekend at the Gray Center and is doing well.

The chapter at St. Andrew's Cathedral had for quite a number of years functioned as a "local" chapter, with no affiliation with the national organization. However, within the last two years they have renewed their national charter, and on Sunday, December 13, 2009, the chapter has been officially revived with an induction service at the 8:45 service at the Cathedral.

Several other churches have inquired about the Brotherhood, and we are attempting to schedule information meetings with these churches, and hopefully at least some of these will result in the organization of new chapters in the diocese. There have been 28 parochial chapters and two institutional chapters at some point in the past in the Diocese of Mississippi. Hopefully the defunct chapters can be revived, and new chapters established in the coming year.

Respectfully submitted

James A. Blauvelt,
Diocesan Coordinator, The Brotherhood of Saint Andrew, Inc.

Sudanese Ministry Committee December 2009

In keeping with the wishes of the Sudanese leadership, the committee spent the majority of its funds providing book scholarships to Sudanese refugees in college: the budgeted \$7,000 in addition to roughly \$4,000 contributed by committee members. In coordination with diocesan presbyters, the committee lobbied for response to the attack on our sister diocese of Twic East, in which more than 40 people were killed, including an archdeacon and emissary of the Sudanese Episcopal Archbishop and three clergy. (Many were killed worshipping, during the office of Morning Prayer.) Saint Andrew's Cathedral parish sent petitions to the Mississippi congressional delegation, President Obama, and Secretary of State Clinton; Bishop Gray III and Canon Johnson urged clergy across the state to join in this national effort to support and sustain the fragile peace accords in Sudan. The committee has worked to place newly arrived Sudanese wives in the Education Center School, where they will complete their high school degrees, and we have worked to provide students with disabilities with the resources necessary for success. Committee members in Oxford welcomed a new arrival, a young man who after completing his education in Mississippi plans to return to Sudan and teach the Bible to young people. The committee worked with clergy and health professionals to address urgent and emergency medical situations; in some cases, we contacted Sudanese clergy in other states to address needs of Sudanese who have left Mississippi and yet still call for our help. In order to help unemployed and underemployed young people, committee members and parishioners have lobbied for jobs and helped identify mentors. We have been advocates with the Mississippi congressional delegation on behalf of the spouses of refugees seeking entry into the United States. The committee offered several loans through Hope Community Credit Union, helping young people in emergencies support themselves and establish credit. (The program maintains an excellent history of repayment.) Saint Andrew's Cathedral parish sent a representative of the committee to a recent national meeting of the Sudanese Leadership Institute; the Diocese of Mississippi continues to be active in the national network of clergy and laity supporting Sudanese refugees in the United States. We have attempted dialogue with Bishop Ezekiel Ding, in hopes of deepening our companion relationship.

Saint Andrew's Cathedral parish continues to offer evening prayer in Dinka and a ministry of meals and fellowship following services.

The committee has been active, and yet there are challenges. Our support of college students could be greater; most must work in order to support themselves, and consequently many take five years or longer to complete their degrees. Graduates face discrimination and lack the family networks that sustain most native-born Americans; moreover, the economy leaves the most vulnerable even more vulnerable. Burdened by the dire conditions of their families in Sudan, some members of the community struggle with depression and anxiety. In dioceses across the United States, many Sudanese have not felt welcomed by the Episcopal Church and are leaving for other faith traditions. We ask our brothers and sisters in Christ for help in addressing these needs.

Greg Miller, Chair
Sudanese Ministry Committee

Report of the Standing Committee of the Episcopal Diocese of Mississippi 2009

The Standing Committee met at Gray Center on March 7, 2009. The committee approved the ordination of Jody Burnett and Carol Mead to the Diaconate. The committee approved the Consent of Election of The James Scott Mayer as Bishop of Northwest Texas. The committee approved the Consent of Election of two (2) Bishop Suffragan diocese of Los Angeles. The committee then met with diaconate postulants Patricia Cantrell, Deborah Hanson, Lynn Phillips-Gaines and Josie Williams. The committee approved St. James Jackson making a \$2.5 million bridge loan for one year during construction. The committee approved St. Patrick's Long Beach making a \$350,000 loan to complete construction. The committee approved construction of Church of Redeemer, Biloxi without encumbering debt. It was reported that AmeriCorps administration was on board at All Saints and the first trainees were expected July 1.

The Standing Committee met at the Allin House on May 28, 2009. The committee approved the sale of St. John's Leland and St. Paul's Hollandale with the condition that the whole sum be retained for housing expense. The committee approved the consent to the election of a Bishop Coadjutor by the Diocese of Springfield. The committee ratified their action of April 6, 2009 to ordain Judy Morris as transitional deacon. The committee approved a \$500,000 bridge loan for three years for Nativity Greenwood.

The Standing Committee met at Gray Center on August 7, 2009. The committee ratified the action of email correspondence of July 1 and 2 to increase to \$1,100,000.00 for the building loan by St. John's Ocean Springs. The committee then met with seminarians individually Van Bankston, Don Chancellor, Clelie McCandless with her husband Bill and Seth Walley. Each seminarian brought the committee up to date on how they were doing and where they were in seminary. The committee then met with diaconate postulants Scott Williams, Pamela Rhea and Dennis Wilson as a group. They brought us up to date in where they were in the School of Deacons. The committee then approved the candidacy of Dennis Wilson, Scott Williams and Pam Rhea to Diaconate.

The Standing Committee met at the Allin House October 8, 2009. The committee then approved for ordination to the Diaconate Dennis Wilson, Scott Williams and Pam Rhea. The committee then approved Chris Robinson as a candidate for Holy Orders. The committee then approved the Rev. Jody Burnett and the Rev. Carol Mead for ordination to the priesthood. The committee approved St. James Greenville making a clergy housing loan to the Rev. Susan Crawford from their Rectory Fund. The committee approved St. Patrick's Long Beach using the balance of their vicarage fund for the 2010 budget. The committee then met with members of the Vestry of St. George's, Clarksdale and members of the board of St. George's School. The committee approved a loan of \$144,000.00 from the Development Fund. All Saint's Church in Tupelo informed the Standing Committee of the refinancing of their indebtedness for their building expansion.

Respectfully submitted,
Danny Ray Meadors, Secretary

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Executive Committee

March 4, 2009

The following one-year appointments were confirmed: Ms. Alice Perry, St. James, Jackson; Dr. Stephen Stray, St. Andrew's, Jackson; Mr. Jim Thorell, St. Timothy's, Southaven; Mr. Jim Wheeler, Redeemer, Biloxi: resigned position.

The Rev. Paul Stephens was elected vice-president of the Executive Committee.

Financial reports from 2008 and 2009 were discussed. The current financial crisis was discussed, particularly the effect the current situation will have on the 2009 budget and years to come. Since 17% of diocesan income is from diocesan trusts, there will be a greater effect in year 2010 and beyond.

Bishop Gray followed up on his announcement at Annual Council that he will be calling for a capital campaign in a couple of years. Bishop Gray hopes to name the campaign The Domestic and Foreign Mission Fund.

Materials were reviewed which will be used for the Executive Committee visits where the diocesan survey will be discussed.

There was discussion on the challenges facing deployment: 1) compensation packages; 2) employment of spouse; 3) lack of desire to serve small congregations. There is now a predicted clergy shortage and will be for a few more years. While many clergy are retiring, the average age of seminarians is dropping.

Mr. Bill Horne, executive director of Gray Center, reported to the Executive Committee. Last year was a good year and business for 2009 is strong at this point. With the current financial situation, this could change, but the board will be kept informed on the issue. Many dioceses have been forced to close their conference centers. The Board of Managers is looking at the culture of camp, particularly the permanent staff, alcohol policy and use. The Board is also studying ways to make the conference center side more family oriented which would encourage private bookings. The Personnel Committee has been established and is creating guidelines for the review of the Executive Director. The Rev. David Knight is chairing that committee comprised of board and non-board members.

Bishop Gray reported on the Covenant between the Episcopal Diocese of Mississippi and the United Methodist Conference of Mississippi.

June 11, 2009

The financials for 2009 and the Voluntary Giving Report were reviewed. The Finance Committee will be looking at the actual plate and pledge for each congregation and comparing it to the Voluntary Proportionate Giving numbers.

A motion to loan the Rev. Ann Fraser up to \$7,500 from the Clergy Housing Fund was passed. The Executive Committee visitations were reviewed.

A report from the executive director of Gray Center was received.

Resolutions which will be presented at General Convention were reviewed.

The date for the Council in 2011 to be held in Jackson needs to be changed from February 1-3 to January 28-30. A motion passed to hold the 184th Annual Council in Jackson January 28-30, 2011.

September 17, 2009

Current financial information was reviewed. The indices which are used to calculate our cost of living increase declined from August 2008 to August 2009. Upon recommendation of the Finance Committee, there will 0% increase for cost of living in 2010 for supported missions, chaplaincies and recommendation for other missions. Motion passed. Upon recommendation of the Finance Committee, the medical premium allowance for 2010 will be \$19,634 and \$8,856 for single coverage. Participants selecting a more expensive option will pay the premium personally. Motion passed. Upon recommendation of the Finance Committee, the diocese will offer five health plans with Empire Blue Cross for 2010: High Deductible Health Plan with HSA funding, PPO 75/50, EPO 80, PPO 90/70 and EPO 90. Motion passed. Upon recommendation of the Finance Committee, the minimum package for

2010 will remain the same as 2009 with a pension base of \$43,500. The total minimum package for full time, parochial priests is \$75,476 for family coverage and \$64,696 for single coverage. Motion passed.

General Convention passed the Denominational Health Plan which will be mandatory in 2013 for all employees, clergy and lay. Each diocese will set the minimum premium allowance for all employees. The Finance Committee will discuss the minimum in 2010 and make a recommendation to the Executive Committee.

The Trustees have approved a 5% distribution of the trust funds for the 2010 budget. This distribution will be based on years 2006, 2007 and 2008.

The reserve fund for Annual Council is still in the deficit and it is hoped that the next Council will have a surplus to apply to the fund. By motion, the registration fee for clergy, delegates, alternates and visitors will be \$80 with a reduced fee of \$35 for seminarians, spouses of seminarians, and spouses of retired clergy. There will be a \$15 late fee after January 12. Motion passed.

A new ministry which would increase lay training and provide an opportunity for those who have been involved in leadership positions to interact together. This could be a transforming ministry. A task force will be formed to develop the Lay Leadership Institute.

Bishop Gray stated that we are predicting a budget shortfall for 2010 due to less income from the trust funds due to a downward turn in the market and interest on the coast properties being paid from the diocesan budget. Funds should be down roughly 25%. Instead of just "cutting the budget" the Executive Committee will look at building a new diocese and what is essential or what is core to the Diocese of Mississippi.

December 17, 2009

The Voluntary Proportionate Giving report for 2009 and pledges for 2010 were reviewed. The proposed 2010 budget from the Finance Committee was passed.

2010 housing resolutions for clergy on diocesan staff were passed.

The offering at the closing Eucharist at the 183rd Annual Council will be pledged to New Initiatives in the diocesan budget. This includes work in the Diocese of Twic East and Bishop Masereka's Foundation in Uganda.

There was discussion on Jackson churches hosting Council every other year since the Jackson Convention Center is now complete. A larger church would be joined by smaller, area churches to host Council which would spread the responsibility of hosting Council. By motion, Jackson area churches will host Council in odd numbered years.

Bishop Gray asked the Executive Committee to encourage persons to attend the pre-Council convocation meetings which will be held in each convocation. Bishop Gray will be joining Canons Johnson and McCormick and will be teaching on the theme of Council: The Challenge of Mission.

Mr. Bill Horne, executive director, presented a written report to the Executive Committee. Bishop Gray reported that the cash flow is positive; however, there is concern of the deficit for 2009. There has been a deficit for several years. The Gray Center Finance Committee, under the leadership of Mr. Wallace Pope, has been working very hard to get the financial presentations into a more understandable format as requested by the Board of Managers. The Finance Committee is particularly working on the exact cost of hosting someone at Gray Center.

The Rev. Jennifer Deaton is chair of the board overseeing the Center for Formation and Mission. This board will be looking at a different model for this ministry.

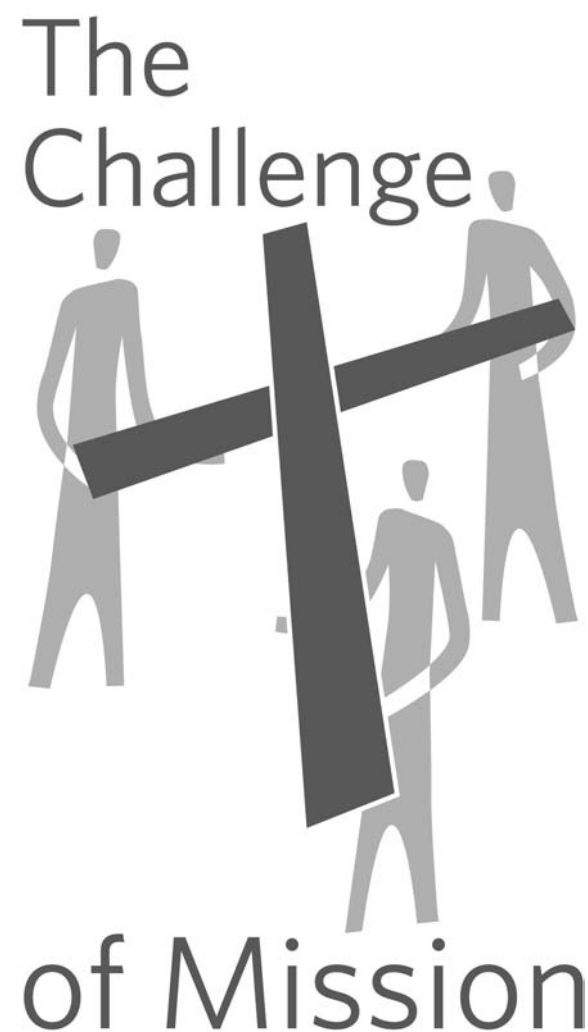
The history and growth of Lutheran Episcopal Services in Mississippi was reviewed with some of the current challenges. The annual budget is approaching \$10-15 million.

Canon Kathryn Weathersby McCormick



Bishop Gray's 2009 Official Acts

Baptisms	21
Confirmations	170
Received	29
Reaffirm	3
Ordinations to the Transitional Diaconate	0
Ordination to the Vocational Diaconate	0
Ordinations to the Priesthood	2
Sermons and Addresses	59
Diocesan Conferences and Meetings	143
Other Conferences and Meetings	118
(Univ. of South, House of Bishops, etc.)	
Office Conferences and Appointments	115
Other Calls	39
Community and State Conferences and Meetings ..	14



BISHOP'S BARBEQUE



May 29, 2010

WORSHIP LEADER RENEWALS

CANON 18 SECTION 1. The Bishop of this Diocese shall determine which of those categories of licensed lay ministers authorized by Title III, Canon 4, of the National Canons of the Episcopal Church are to be licensed in this diocese. Individuals shall not be licensed until they have completed that education and training required by Title III, Canon 4, and by such additional training as the Bishop may require.

CENTRAL CONVOCATION

Brandon, St. Luke's: Mara Jean Johnson, Hollie Archie McKay, Janice Sandefur, Robert R. Whitney.

Brandon, St. Peter's: David DeLeeuw, Ross Hartford, Robert Houston, Finley Knox, Lisa Maisel, Ralph Maisel, Harry Perdue, Howard A. Roser, Jean A. Roser.

Canton, Grace: John R. Childress, Sr., Holly G. H. Derickson, A. P. Durfey, Jr., Marian Durfey, Robert Killelea.

Clinton, Creator: Michael Milone, Jackie Tyer, Alice Read.

Forest, St. Matthew's: Mary Jo Walsh.

Jackson, All Saints': Cindy Gavette.

Jackson, St. Andrew's: John Anderson, Jr., D. Carl Black, Jr., Laura Clapp, Michael S. Flannes, Cheryl Kirchner, Margaret McLarty, Jacqueline Mohle, Edward Nicholson, Diana O'Toole, Kenneth M. Parker, Bob Thompson.

Jackson, St. Christopher's: Goldia M. Revies

Jackson, St. James': Peggy Bowles, Mary Jane Duncan, John Gibson, Hal D. Miller, Jr., Anne Mollere, Mary Crouch Rawson, Yvonne Rogers, Margaret G. Yerger.

St. Mark's: Raphiell Ashford.

Jackson, St. Philip's: Kenneth Bennett, Lucette Bennett, Glynn Bradshaw, Jill Cole Bullard, Jim Carrington, Pam David, Grace Duckworth, Jan Evers, Julie Breland Goforth, Lester Hailey, II, Deborah Hanson, Beverly Herbert, Gerald McWhorter, A. Frederick Parker, Mary Frances Ponder, Ben Preston, Patience Rall, Nancey Scott, Thomas Andrew Welch, Thomas Willard, III.

Madison, Chapel of the Cross: Annetta J. Allred, Marilyn Beach, Michael Bounds, Bill Buhner, Margaret Buhner, Ann Homer Cook, Patricia H. Evans, William Fanning, Jr., William Horne, Lyn Stabler, Ella W. Weston.

Raymond, St. Mark's: Cynthia Whittington

Ridgeland, St. Columb's: Janice Jordan, Floyd King, Bob May.

Terry, Good Shepherd: Norma Ainsworth, Edward J. Peters.

COAST CONVOCATION

Bay St. Louis: Kathryn J. Larsen

Biloxi, Redeemer: Dorothy Byrd, Virginia L. Chavez, Malcolm Jones, James Wheeler, Richard Wilder.

Gautier, St. Pierre's: Suzanne Cox, Thomas P. Langley, Adele Ledford, B. A. Thornton, Donald Waddell.

Gulfport, St. Mark's: Andrea Balius, Jerome H. Carver, John P. Faires, John M. Harral, Terry Helms, Jamie Hobbs, James Keith, Vicki Lynn Miller, Mary Nichols, Suanna Smith, Patti Sneed, Ruthie Wilder, Walter V. Williams, Peter Wilson.

Long Beach, St. Patrick's: Mildred H. Bryant, Sandra Michelle Ford, Douglas MacCullagh, Kitty MacCullagh, Danny Ray Meadors.

Ocean Springs, St. John's: Joanne P. Calhoun, Ann Mead, Lena Melton, Mary Jo Morgan.

Pascagoula, St. John's: Chester Dobrowski, Jean Guentz, Kay McBroom, Mary Warfield.

Picayune, St. Paul's: Daniel Herrington, Barbara Reid, Patrick Rutherford, Lucia Terry.

DELTA CONVOCATION

Greenville, St. James': Mike Boyd, Ashley Hines, Dotti Lowe, Dot Meeks, Walter B. Swain, Jr.,

Greenwood, Nativity: Henry Flautt, Charlot S. Ray.

Indianola, St. Stephen's: David B. Allen, William E. Baker, Woods Eastland Thomas G. Gresham, Walton Gresham III, James H. Lear, Richard G. Noble.

Lexington, St. Mary's: H. L. Nichols, III.

Rolling Fork, Chapel of the Cross: Ruth G. Baggett, Fonda Lundin, Anne W. Weissinger.

Sumner, Advent: Stephen Vaught

Yazoo City, Trinity: Priscilla Harper, Robert Harper, Janet C. Nail, Jill Woodliff.

NORTHERN CONVOCATION

Holly Springs, Christ Church: Janey Fant.

Oxford, St. Peter's: Onaye Farrish, Patricia Rogers Lewis, Holt Montgomery, Donald Newlin, Kay Paris, Ed Sisson, Maurie White.

Southaven, St. Timothy: Joe Schmitt.

Tunica, Epiphany: Del R. Coggins

OLD RIVER CONVOCATION

McComb/Magnolia, Mediator/Redeemer: Judy Johnson, Curt Lamar.

Port Gibson, St. James: Charles Marsalis, Katherine Bilbro.

Vicksburg, Christ Church: Brenda Benway, David Benway, Edwin L. Boren, Jane Calhoun, Richard T. McGee, Jim Miller, Sharon S. Miller.

Vicksburg, Holy Trinity: John Cole, Herbert Watson Jones, Mary Ruth Jones, Patricia Smith.

Vicksburg, St. Alban's: Richard Price, Elizabeth Selby, Harvey Smith, Jr., Josie Williams.

Vicksburg, St. Mary's: Linda Tolliver.

SOWASHEE CONVOCATION

Columbia, St. Stephen's: Christine Fortenberry, Michael Ginn, Ann Simmons, Mark Stevens.

Hattiesburg, Ascension: Edward Brown, Patricia Byrd, Kenneth Cantrell, Rick Fortenberry, Larry Mullican, Rosalie Zimmerman.

Hattiesburg, Trinity: Patty Bomboy, George Gunter, Sarah Wainwright, Sallamae H. Wilcox.

Laurel, St. John's: Patricia Bailey, Mike Cockrell, Eugene M. Harlow, John Jeffries, Pat Landrum Myers, Byron Myrick.

Meridian, Mediator: Lois Downs, Jean Garrison, Ann Glazer, E. Ann Milsted, Dianne C. Panek, Tim Quick, Sara Scaggs, James Robert Smith, William Stallworth, Michael A. VanVeckhoven, Katy Watkins. Nancy Ziller.

Meridian, St. Paul's: Betty Melton.

Philadelphia, St. Francis: Evelyn Perry.

TOMBIGBEE CONVOCATION

Aberdeen, St. John's: Velma Lettice Bowen, David Houston, III, Sallie A. Rowe.

Columbus, St. Paul's: Douglas N. Crowe, Robert Proffitt, Katharine E. Woods.

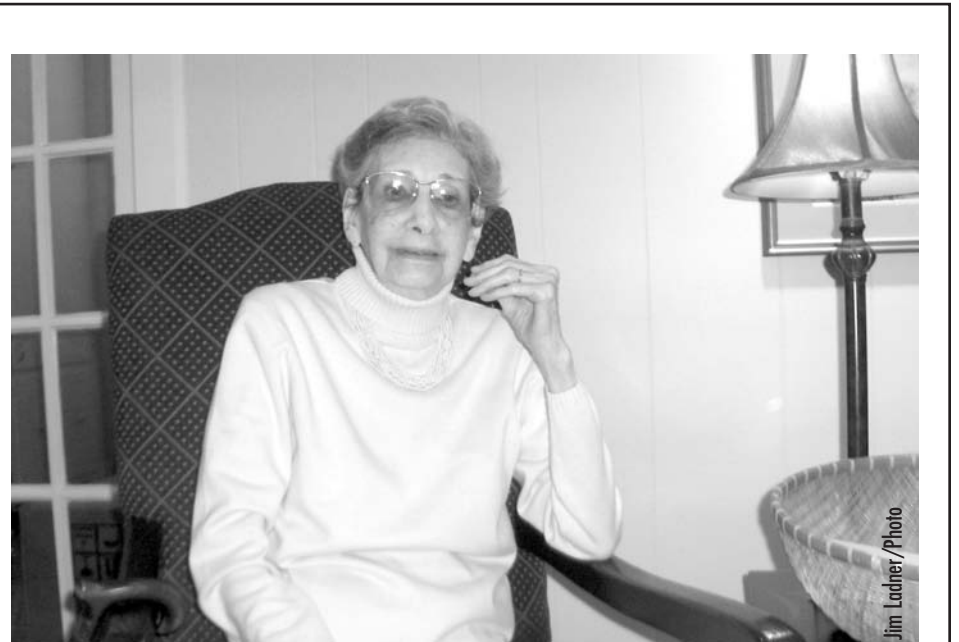
Corinth, St. Paul's: Olivia McIntyre.

Philadelphia, St. Francis of Assisi: Mary Evelyn Perry.

Starkville, Resurrection: Thomas H. Handy, Guy Arnold Hargrove, Melinda Myers, Lynn Phillips Gaines

Tupelo, All Saints': Patsy Brumfield, Nathan Duncan, David R. Sparks, Albert F. White

West Point, Incarnation: Rufus Ward, Jr.



Happy Birthday to Mary Frances Smith-Vaniz, who celebrated her 102nd birthday on January 14. Mrs. Smith-Vaniz is a long-time communicant of Grace, Canton.

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VOLUNTARY PROPORTIONATE GIVING REPORT

As of 12/31/2009

PARISH/MISSION	2009			2010	
	VPG %	\$\$\$ Estimate	\$\$\$ Actual	VPG %	\$\$\$ Estimate
ABERDEEN, St. John's		7,740	-	10.00%	5,000
BAY ST. LOUIS, Christ	11.0%	12,040	10,785	10.00%	10,660
BELZONI, St. Thomas'		-	1,100		-
BILOXI, Redeemer	10.0%	12,000	13,000	10.00%	12,000
BOVINA, St. Alban's	13.0%	12,434	12,500	10.00%	10,992
BRANDON, St. Luke's	4.0%	4,582	4,582	6.00%	6,434
BRANDON, St. Peter's	11.0%	30,546	25,186	11.00%	33,100
BROOKHAVEN, Redeemer		13,245	12,141		13,245
CANTON, Grace	12.0%	19,000	18,018	10.00%	16,978
CARROLLTON, Grace		300	300		-
CLARKSDALE, St. George's	10.0%	23,500	18,301		-
CLEVELAND, Calvary	12.0%	19,000	15,731	12.00%	22,072
CLINTON, Creator	7.0%	20,304	10,888	7.00%	13,815
COLLINS, St. Elizabeth's	10.0%	3,708	3,399	10.00%	3,700
COLUMBIA, St. Stephen's		1,000	4,540	10.00%	4,000
COLUMBUS, Good Shepherd	12.0%	1,941	2,369	12.00%	1,987
COLUMBUS, St. Paul's	16.0%	84,503	69,040	16.00%	70,800
COMO, Holy Innocents'	7.0%	5,932	7,149	8.00%	8,000
CORINTH, St. Paul's	10.0%	12,992	10,766	11.00%	12,400
CRYSTAL SPRINGS, Holy Trinity	10.0%	5,000	4,000		
DIAMONDHEAD, St. Thomas'	10.0%	17,162	15,959	10.00%	20,000
ENTERPRISE, St. Mary's	10.0%	1,884	1,792	10.00%	1,520
FOREST, St. Matthew's	10.0%	700	1,644	10.00%	
GAUTIER, St. Pierre's	10.0%	10,135	7,743		
GREENVILLE, Redeemer	15.0%	3,600	3,600	15.00%	3,400
GREENVILLE, St. James'	13.5%	57,134	45,474	12.00%	33,000
GREENWOOD, Nativity		51,830	46,316		50,000
GRENADA, All Saints'	13.0%	18,356	24,148	10.00%	11,652
GULFPORT, St. Mark's	18.0%	65,266	65,559	18.00%	69,917
GULFPORT, St. Peter's	13.0%	27,000	25,763	13.00%	26,000
HATTIESBURG, Ascension	12.5%	24,763	22,699	9.00%	11,366
HATTIESBURG, Trinity	5.0%	13,000	16,018	7.50%	30,750
HOLLANDALE, St. Paul's		1,000	500		
HOLLY SPRINGS, Christ	10.0%	10,000	9,269	10.00%	10,000
INDIANOLA, St. Stephen's	14.0%	23,463	23,240	14.00%	23,100
INVERNESS, All Saints'		3,000	2,250		
JACKSON, All Saints'	12.0%	10,200	10,756	12.00%	11,476
JACKSON, Medical Center Ministry		-	-		-
JACKSON, St. Alexis'	11.0%	5,600	1,000		4,400
JACKSON, St. Andrew's	12.1%	167,707	139,975	12.10%	161,123
JACKSON, St. Christopher	13.0%	11,124	10,344	15.00%	11,838
JACKSON, St. James'	8.0%	110,801	110,000	8.00%	110,801
JACKSON, St. Mark's	10.0%	9,000	10,500	10.00%	10,000
JACKSON, St. Philip's	13.0%	51,668	51,688	13.00%	43,000
KOSCIUSKO, St. Matthew's	12.0%	3,039	3,039	12.00%	2,686
LAUREL, St. John's	8.0%	18,940	16,285	8.00%	18,940
LELAND, St. John's	10.0%	3,000	1,000	10.00%	4,000
LEXINGTON, St. Mary's	12.0%	4,830	4,032	12.00%	4,500
LONG BEACH, St. Patrick's	16.0%	24,000	18,499	10.00%	16,200
MACON, Nativity		-	300		-
MADISON, Chapel of the Cross	12.0%	95,000	89,075	10.25%	82,000
MCCOMB, Mediator/Redeemer	12.0%	16,000	12,004	10.00%	14,000
MERIDIAN, Mediator	14.0%	42,000	45,000		

PARISH/MISSION	2009			2010	
	VPG %	\$\$\$ Estimate	\$\$\$ Actual	VPG %	\$\$\$ Estimate
MERIDIAN, St. Paul's	18.0%	85,410	85,410	15.00%	65,250
MICHIGAN CITY, Calvary		200	-		
NATCHEZ, Trinity	12.0%	38,250	35,293		
NEWTON, Trinity			-		-
OCEAN SPRINGS, St. John's	11.0%	36,575	28,998	11.00%	31,460
OKOLONA, St. Bernard's		-	-		
OLIVE BRANCH, Holy Cross	10.0%	6,601	2,576	10.00%	7,439
OXFORD, St. Peter's	18.0%	109,000	86,845	15.00%	90,000
PASCAGOULA, St. John's		37,040	33,560		35,000
PASS CHRISTIAN, Trinity	8.0%	12,448	8,472		
PHILADELPHIA, St. Francis'	10.0%	7,650	7,650	10.00%	7,033
PICAYUNE, St. Paul's		8,500	7,417		
PORT GIBSON, St. James'	4.0%	3,500	3,360	4.00%	3,500
RAYMOND, St. Mark's		-	-		-
RIDGELAND, St. Columb's	14.0%	36,400	27,300	14.00%	
ROLLING FORK, Chapel/Cross	10.0%	5,650	5,170	10.00%	5,700
ROSEDALE, Grace		-	-		-
SOUTHAVEN, St. Timothy's	2.0%	4,000	4,717	8.00%	19,299
STARKVILLE, Resurrection	16.0%	46,583	45,603	16.00%	47,450
SUMNER, Advent	8.0%	3,200	-	7.00%	2,800
TERRY, Good Shepherd	5.0%	2,000	1,833	5.00%	2,000
TUNICA, Epiphany	10.0%	3,000	3,167	10.00%	
TUPELO, All Saints'	13.0%	53,100	56,531	13.00%	56,909
VICKSBURG, Christ	13.0%	16,875	16,500	11.00%	
VICKSBURG, Holy Trinity	10.0%	24,000	19,557		
VICKSBURG, St. Mary's		1,500	1,080		
WATER VALLEY, Nativity		-	-		
WEST POINT, Incarnation	14.5%	22,081	23,682	15.00%	23,663
WOODVILLE, St. Paul's		1,500	1,125		1,500
YAZOO CITY, Trinity		5,400	3,460	10.00%	3,200
		1,761,431	1,588,573		1,433,054

Bishop Gray's 2009 Discretionary Fund		
Receipts:		
Cash on Hand 1/1/2009		\$3,613.71
Honorariums, Visitations, etc	\$10,386.41	
Total		\$14,000.12
Disbursements:		
Charities, Grants, Conferences, etc.	(\$13,564.73)	
Balance on Hand 12/31/2008		\$435.39



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Resolution 2010.1:

Referred to Resolution Committee

PASTORAL MINISTRY WITH GAYS AND LESBIANS

Resolved that the 183rd Annual Council of the Diocese of Mississippi expects that the sole, stated purpose and activity of the Committee on Ministry with Gays and Lesbians be one of pastoral care and support.

Be it further resolved that the Council expects that, in the course of their pastoral ministrations, the committee will maintain an unbiased and open minded position towards people who may have unwanted attraction to members of the same sex by providing them the resources to live the life they desire.

Be it finally resolved that this Council expects this committee to adopt a publicly neutral stance on civil and ecclesiastical political issues surrounding issues of same sex attraction.

The Rev. John Gibson
The Rev. Michael C. Nation
The Rev. George Woodliff

EXPLANATION

A committee on ministry with gays and lesbians is a worthy pastoral ministry. The intent of this resolution is to provide a clear expectation that the committee, as an official committee of the diocese, maintains a pastoral posture. There are other unofficial avenues available for people who wish to advocate and persuade a position different from the Bishop and Diocese on these matters.

Resolution 2010.2:

Referred to Constitution & Canons Committee Committee

REPORT OF THE GENERAL CONVENTION DEPUTATION

Resolved that the 183rd Annual Council of the Diocese of Mississippi amend Canon 7 with the addition of a second section as follows:

SECTION 1. Deputies to the General Convention, consisting of four Clerics and four confirmed adult Lay Communicants, shall be elected by the Annual Council next preceding a General Convention of the Church, and shall continue in office until their successors are duly elected. The Council shall also elect four Alternate Deputies of each Order, to serve as Deputies contingently.

SECTION 2. The deputation shall write, publish, and distribute to the communicants of the diocese, through the official channels of diocesan communication, within 60 days of the close of the General Convention, a report of their participation, including the record of their legislative votes. The voting record shall be published for each deputy for voice votes and for each order for votes by dioceses and orders. This report shall be received at the council following the close of the General Convention and published in the journal of the same.

The Rev. John Gibson
The Rev. Michael C. Nation
The Rev. George Woodliff

EXPLANATION

To assist members of Council in making an informed decision regarding our selection of deputies for each triennium, it is necessary for the deputation to provide to the members of Annual Council the information needed upon which to make such a decision.

Resolution 2010.3:

Referred to Resolution Committee

THANKSGIVING FOR THE WITNESS OF BISHOP GRAY AND OTHERS AT 2009 GENERAL CONVENTION

Resolved that the 183rd Annual Council of the Diocese of Mississippi is deeply thankful for the witness of Bishop Gray and our clergy and laity who supported the understanding that marriage is between men and women by voting against General Convention resolutions D025 and C056.

The Rev. John Gibson
The Rev. Michael C. Nation
The Rev. George Woodliff

Resolution 2010.4:

Referred to Resolution Committee

ECUMENICAL RELATIONSHIP WITH THE ANGLICAN CHURCH IN NORTH AMERICA

Resolved that the 183rd Annual Council of the Diocese of Mississippi requests that we reach out our hands in reconciliation to the corresponding judicatory of the Anglican Church in North America for the State of Mississippi to strengthen the bonds of understanding and charity and to explore ways where we can cooperate in mission and ministry.

The Rev. John Gibson
The Rev. Michael C. Nation
The Rev. George Woodliff

EXPLANATION

This resolution is consistent with our mission of reconciliation and as well as Jesus' prayer for unity.

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. II Corinthians 5:16-20

DEFINITION

The term judicatory refers to any regional, connectional office of a denominational structure. This office is usually responsible for the governance of and providing resources to its local congregational bodies. The responsibilities and authority of this office varies somewhat depending on the denomination or religious group. Different denominational and religious groups have many names for this middle level of organization including State Association, Conference, Diocese, District, Presbytery, Region, Synod. Likewise, the chief executive in this office may go by different names from president to pastor to Bishop. Most judicatory offices employ a number of staff in addition to the senior official. SOURCE: Hartford Institute on Religious Research.



Jud. Meaders/Photo

Direct us, O Lord, in all our doings, with thy most gracious favour, and further us with thy continual help; that in all our works begun, continued, and ended in thee, we may glorify thy holy name, and finally, by thy mercy, obtain everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

1928 BCP, pg 49

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10% over cost for weddings, fundraisers, and altar wine.

The Bishop's Journal

Continued from page 2

Annual consultation with the Rev. Patrick Skutch. Surprise visit by the Immigration and Naturalization Service is a bit disconcerting in the early afternoon.

Meet with Mike Huseth in the afternoon. Drive down the street for a visitation to St. Alexis, our newest congregation. I preach, celebrate, baptize 2 and confirm 6 in an overflow crowd. There are so many people that I am given a rocking chair from the nursery to serve as the bishop's chair. It may be an idea whose time has come.

December 17 - At home in the morning reading and writing. Spend most of the day with the Executive Committee of the diocese working on the final 2010 budget that will be presented to Diocesan Council. Late afternoon session to talk about the Diocesan Altar Guild.

December 18 - Morning conversation with Ms. Jennifer Ernst, the Episcopal Church's designated liaison with Archbishop Daniel Deng Bul of Sudan. Through her, I receive an invitation from the Archbishop to travel to the Sudan in the Spring. Morning appointment with Ben Russell, our Congregations for Children's legislative liaison, to discuss legislative priorities for 2010.

Annual consultation with the Rev. Minka Sprague in the afternoon.

December 19 - Day off. Time for much delayed Christmas Shopping.

December 20 - Up early to drive to Woodville for visitation to St. Paul's, Woodville, the oldest Episcopal church building in the diocese. A small, but friendly, congregation continues the church's witness in this historic place. I preach and celebrate at the morning eucharist, then enjoy a gumbo lunch after the service. After making plans to return next month to meet with the vestry, I drive to Jackson for my annual visitation to St. Columb's in Ridgeland.

The new nave is a glorious sight and the church is packed as we bless and consecrate this new structure. The completion of this new facility is the product of almost 20 years of visioning for this congregation. A very special "well done, good and faithful servants" should be extended to all who kept the dream alive and brought us to this day!

In addition to the blessing of the nave, I preach, celebrate, baptize 2, confirm 15 and receive 4. It is an extraordinarily full day.

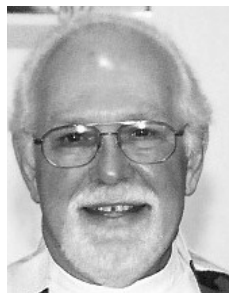
December 21 - Visit with family in morning. Finish my shopping in the morning.



This frozen fountain which stands just outside Calvary, Cleveland is a reminder of the bitterly cold Arctic blast which plagued the deep South in January. Many water pipes burst or froze as warm-natured Southerners suffered from perpetual shivers for a week.

Ring Around the Collar

By Denny Allman



It is my understanding that virtually all cultures celebrate a New Year. Their celebration may not occur on January 1st of the Julian calendar, as does ours, but they celebrate the ending of one year and the beginning of another. We human beings seem to have a need for this sort of closure on one set of measurable events and the beginning of another set. Those of us who do use the Julian calendar like to make resolutions that we will do better things with the new set than we did with the old. Generally, these resolutions are short-lived. Our intentions are good but our flesh is weak. We find that within a few days or weeks we are back to doing the same old things. It occurs to me that we may be making resolutions for the wrong reasons. Perhaps if we made these resolutions for God's sake, rather than our own, they would be longer lasting. The Rev. Margaret Ayers, Vicar of St. James, Port Gibson, has these thoughts on the subject from January, 2009.

As the offertory sentence declares "All things come from you O Lord, and of your own are we giving back to you". While this sounds like the supreme act of re-gifting items we are not overjoyed to have received, the reality is that we are to **give back** our best, the best of ourselves and our abilities, to the one who gave them to us in the first place. Indeed, "All things come from you O Lord, and of your own are we giving back to you" is an **act of submission to a beneficent Creator**. Our Creator is so generous he came among us and redeemed us from our own destructive handiwork. This was not the fallback plan; it was the original plan according to the gospels.

I was recently reading about St. Hildegard; her parents promised her to the church as a tithe, as she was their tenth child. What an interesting way to tithe! Even though she was a sickly child, her connection to God through visions and mystical experiences allowed her to become widely regarded as an advisor, Benedictine abbess, mystic, writer, healer and composer. Her parent's gift to the church was an offering beyond measure. Her submission to the will of her Creator leads her into an ever deepening experience of relationship and also aided others in their spiritual journeys.

As we turn to face a new year and put 2009 behind us, it may cause us to pause and take stock in what has happened to us in the last year or even over a longer period of time. New Year's gives us a time to look back and reflect as we make plans to move forward. Resolutions are made regarding the kind of people we want to become; the kind of people we want to strive to be in the coming year.

May part of our resolve for the New Year be our becoming more submissive to the will of our Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer. That in that submission we learn that we are not losing ourselves but discovering a deeper part of our being. By being connected we find unplumbed depths to our lives and a connectedness to the created world.

The Rev. Margaret Ayers

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Madison youth makes debut in smash Disney hit

By Scott Lenoir, Editor

There are not many fifth graders who sport a profile on the Internet Movie Database, but Elizabeth Dampier, granddaughter of the Rev. Richard and Brenda Middleton of Jackson, has one and the latest addition to it is a credit in Disney's blockbuster hit, *The Princess and the Frog*.

Dampier, who turned eleven on December 30, does the voice for the young Tianna in the film that's touted as year's best by many critics.

"My agent found out about the role which called for auditions that were open to everyone and so I went to New Orleans to try out," said Dampier.

When asked how she thought she managed to land the much sought after part, Elizabeth said that the casting director told her that she was one of the most prepared people he'd worked with and this fact gave her the edge. No doubt her poise, bright smile and engaging personality also impressed and endeared her to the Disney crew.

"I had to learn a New Orleans accent first, and then go read for the part in New Orleans. Eventually, they gave me the script for the part and I went out to Los Angeles. My parents (Dr. Reggie and Jeanna Dampier of Madison) and all my family helped me with this."

Dampier is a straight A student at St. Richard's Catholic

School in Jackson where she takes the normal course of academics as well as focusing on the performing arts, music, and foreign language.

She is a member of the Mississippi Theater Academy and takes piano and voice lessons. Elizabeth also enjoys learning Spanish, a subject she's taken throughout her elementary school years. She plays tennis, soccer, and has had training in gymnastics as well.

Her mother and father are very supportive of Elizabeth's efforts to become an actress. Dr. Reggie Dampier is an optometrist and Jeanna Middleton Dampier is a molecular biologist who live in Madison. Both parents were involved in every stage of the three year process that led to Elizabeth's landing the role of the Young Tianna.

If you live in the Jackson area, you've probably seen Elizabeth on television. She's done several commercials. As far as the future is concerned, Elizabeth says, "I am looking for more parts in movies or commercials. I want to do more acting."

Jud Meaders/Photos



Elizabeth Dampier visits with grandparents the Rev. Richard and Brenda Middleton in their Jackson home.

More than likely that's just what will happen. Following the budding career of this delightful young person, wherever it may lead, will be a joy.



Nativity, Macon in caring hands of Maury family

By Scott Lenoir, Editor

The Church of the Nativity in Macon, organized in 1867, only has one service a month today with about twelve who attend, but the small congregation's property is meticulously cared for Joe Maury.

"My oldest son retired in the fall of 2007 and came home to take care of his old Dad. In the spring of 2008, we decided to work on the church building and grounds," said Maury who is ninety years old.

First on the list was handling a drainage problem which allowed water in the front door of the church. They also cut three trees and cleaned out the brush that had collected along the property line.

The air conditioning and heating system went out and had to be replaced. A little money from the maintenance account at Ascension, Brooksville helped pay for that improvement. Parts of the roof had to be replaced which Maury said was handled by hired labor as he wasn't comfortable with heights any longer.

The second week of work involved painting the interior of the church. The team thought they could knock the job out in two weeks, but it turned into a four month project.

Ellen Newsom/Photos



Church of the Nativity, Macon



Joe Maury stands near a fire place in a vesting room at Nativity Church.



The interior of Nativity Church has been repaired and painted by the Maury family.

"We didn't know anything about plastering, but we learned," said Maury who estimated the total work on the church building alone to run around \$45,000 if the work was contracted out.

Maury and his son were working on landscaping and repairing some of the brick work on the exterior of the church, but that work stopped when Maury suffered a heart attack earlier this year.

Fortunately, Joe is doing well and he and his son are

still caring for Nativity Church. All the repairs are funded through their personal resources.

If you are ever near Macon, give Joe a call and he'll give you a tour of the beautifully restored Church of the Nativity which will include a look at the handcrafted communion rail that Joe made himself as well as a fireplace in a vesting room used by circuit riding priests of old who spent the night prior to Sunday services

Hats off to the Maury family for their love and devotion to our Lord and for their labor of love which keeps the Church of the Nativity in Macon alive and well.

DIOCESAN CALENDAR

JANUARY

- 11
● Northern Convocation Pre-Council Meeting - 6:30 p.m., St. Peter's, Oxford
- 12
● Tombigbee Convocation Pre-Council Meeting - 6:30 p.m., All Saints', Tupelo
- 13
● Fresh Start - 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m., St. Andrew's Cathedral, Jackson
- Central Convocation Pre-Council Meeting - 6:30 p.m., St. James', Jackson
- 14
● Coast Convocation Pre-Council Meeting - 6:30 p.m., St. Mark's, Gulfport
- 17
● Bishop Gray visits: Incarnation, West Point - 10:30 a.m.
- 18
● Allin House closed in observance of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
- 19
● Clergy Conference Task Force - 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m., Allin House, Jackson
- Delta Convocation Pre-Council Meeting - 6:30 p.m., St. Stephen's, Indianola
- 20
● Bishop Gray visits: St. Vincent's, Parchman - 7:00 p.m.
- 21
● Old River Convocation Pre-Council Meeting - 6:30 p.m., St. James', Port Gibson
- 23
● Gray Center Board - 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m., Gray Center, Canton
- 24
● Bishop Gray visits: Christ Church, Holly Springs - 11:00 a.m.
- The Ordination of the Rev. Jan Oller to the Priesthood - 4:30 p.m., St. Peter's, Oxford

- Bishop Gray visits: St. Peter's, Oxford - Hispanic Service - 7:00 p.m.
- 26
● Legislative Breakfast - 7:00 a.m.
- Sowashee Convocation Pre-Council Meeting - 6:30 p.m., Ascension, Hattiesburg
- 28
● Bishop Gray visits: St. Andrew's Upper School, Ridgeland - 9:30 a.m.
- 31
● Bishop Gray visits: Epiphany, Tunica - 11:00 a.m.
- Bishop Gray visits: St. Paul's, Hollandale - 5:00 p.m.

FEBRUARY

- 2
● Deadline for submittal to The Mississippi Episcopalian - 12:00 noon
- 5-7
● 183rd Annual Council of the Episcopal Diocese of Mississippi, BancorpSouth Arena, Tupelo
- 8-9
● Allin House closed
- 13-20
● Honduras Medical Mission
- 14
● Bishop Gray visits: St. Thomas', Diamondhead - 10:00 a.m.
- Bishop Gray visits: Christ Church, Bay St. Louis - 5:00 p.m.
- 17
● Bishop Gray visits: St. Andrew's Lower School, Jackson - 8:15 a.m.
- Bishop Gray visits: Trinity, Newton - 5:30 p.m.
- 19-21
● Jr. High Spring DOY, Camp Bratton Green, Canton
- 21

- Bishop Gray visits: Trinity, Natchez - 10:30 a.m.
- Bishop Gray visits: Trinity Day School, Natchez - 4:00 p.m.
- 24
● Bishop Gray visits: Holy Cross, Olive Branch - 7:00 p.m.
- 25
● Diocesan Trustees - 2:00 p.m., Allin House, Jackson
- 26-27
● New Vestry Member Conference, Gray Center, Canton
- Journey In (Not Up) with the Rt. Rev. Larry Maze, retired bishop of Arkansas, St. James', Jackson
- 28
● Bishop Gray visits: Christ Church & St. Mary's, Vicksburg - 10:30 a.m.

MARCH

- 2
● Deadline for submittal to The Mississippi Episcopalian - 12:00 noon
- 4
● Diocesan Executive Committee - 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., St. Andrew's Cathedral, Jackson
- 5-6
● Stewardship Consultant Training, Gray Center
- Happening #71 Staff Training, St. Peter's by-the-Sea, Gulfport
- Commission on Ministry, Gray Center, Canton
- 6
● Standing Committee - 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m., Gray Center, Canton
- 7
● Bishop Gray visits: St. Peter's by-the-Sea, Gulfport - 9:00 a.m.
- 9
● Fresh Start - South - 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m., Trinity, Hattiesburg

- 10 - 14
● Cursillo #118, Gray Center, Canton
- 11
● Fresh Start - North - 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m., All Saints', Tupelo
- 14
● Bishop Gray visits: Chapel of the Cross, Madison - 11:00 a.m.
- Bishop Gray at Cursillo #118 closing service - 2:00 p.m., Gray Center, Canton
- 16
● Gray Center Executive Committee - 5:00 p.m., Allin House, Jackson
- 17
● Bishop Gray visits: St. Patrick's, Long Beach - 6:30 p.m.
- 18-24
● House of Bishops, Camp Allen, TX
- 19-21
● Sr. High Spring DOY, Camp Bratton Green, Canton
- 21-23
● Presbyter Post-Ordination Consultation, Gray Center, Canton
- 27
● Warden & Treasurers' Conference - 9:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., St. Andrew's Cathedral, Jackson
- 28
● Palm Sunday



Event at St. Columb's features Sweet Potato Queen, Jill Brown

St. Columb's, Ridgeland is hosting its first dinner event, *An Affair to Remember*, Saturday, January 30, 5:00 p.m. in the parish hall. The festive dinner features tables decorated in many themes, with all proceeds going to benefit the Altar Kneeler Cushion Fund for the new nave.

The celebrity guest speaker is the well-known author and famous Sweet Potato Queen herself, Jill Connor Brown. Tickets are \$20.00 each for the dinner. For more information please call St. Columb's at 601-853-0205 to reserve your seat - they're going fast!

FAITHFUL DEPARTED

Van B. Chaney, 78, communicant of All Saints', Tupelo, died on November 27, 2009.

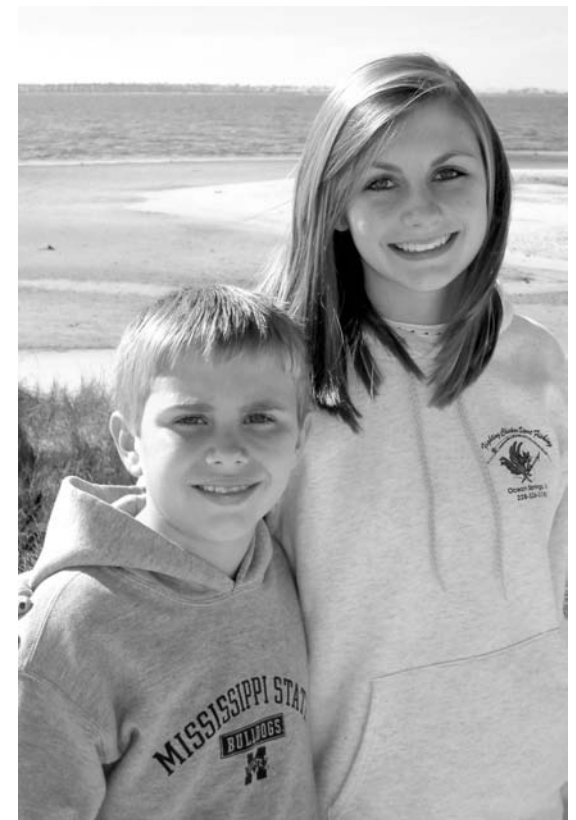
Harry Richard "Dick" Redwood, Jr., 82, communicant of All Saints', Tupelo, died on December 6, 2009.

Mrs. Jeanne Howie Montgomery, 87, communicant of St. James', Jackson, died December 10, 2009.

Mrs. Lillian Long Lewis, 71, communicant of Resurrection, Starkville, died December 10, 2009.



Aiden Schneider, 3, enjoyed a slight dusting of snow in Ridgeland over the holidays. Aiden is the son of Katbryn and Corey Schneider of St. Columb's in Ridgeland.



Nicholas Gault, 10, and sister Nathalie Gault, 16, preferred the sun and sand of the Mississippi Coast during Christmastide. They are communicants at St. John's, Ocean Springs with their parents, Nick and Nancy Gault.

Grassroots effort brings Lutherans and Episcopalians together in Stone County

By Scott Lenoir, Editor

A mission station has emerged for Episcopalians and Lutherans in Perkinson in Stone County. The Lutheran-Episcopal Mission of the Annunciation is now holding services every Sunday at 10:00 a.m.

The chapel was built in 1975 by Howell and Mary Nan Spear who later sold the property to David and Donna Richards. A unique feature of the Chapel is that it is an exact to scale replica of Redeemer, Biloxi complete with a stone facing that came from St. Kevin's Monastery in Glendalough, Ireland which was built in 550 A.D.

According to an article in the Stone County Enterprise, Richards felt the chapel should be used for public worship and arrangements for this began to be ironed out in 2008 when Dr. Judy Breeland met the Rev. John David Simpson, an Evangelical Lutheran Church of America pastor.

"I was wearing my collar at a meeting and Dr. Breeland thought I was an Episcopal priest, but I told her I was a Lutheran. She must have known about our full communion with the Episcopal Church because she asked me about celebrating Holy Eucharist in Stone County," said Simpson.

Breeland knew about the chapel and of the Richards family desire to have it used regularly.

"I ended up contacting Bishop Gray and Bishop Julian Gordy (ELCA bishop) to get permission to use the Richards' family chapel and they both were thrilled at the idea."

After permission was granted and some insurance issues were taken care of, Simpson began serving as pastor/vicar of The Mission of the Annunciation in March of this year.

The thirty year veteran pastor Simpson leads the congregation through a service that combines elements of the Lutheran Book of Worship and the Episcopal Book of Common Prayer.

"Serving at the Mission of the Annunciation is such a gift," says Simpson. "We faithfully celebrate Holy Eucharist now every Sunday at 10:00 a.m. and also on high holy days."

The Richards family allows the church to be used free of charge and, according to the report in the Stone County Enterprise, the family also keeps the structure maintained.

Simpson says the services are open to all, but there is a seating limitation. The chapel can only hold about thirty people. So far there is no need for a second service, but the numbers in the congregation are climbing.

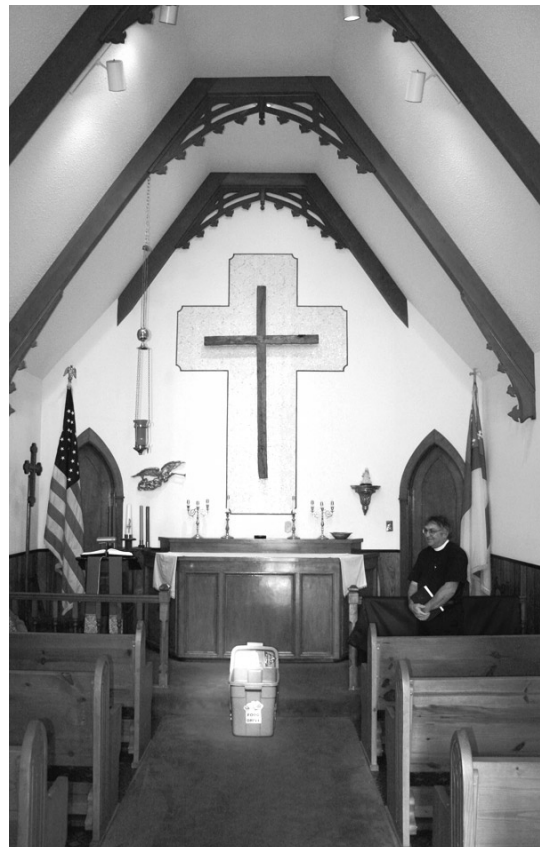
Simpson and his wife, Donna, are residents of Lumberton. Simpson is employed full time as a bereavement counselor at Hospice Compassus in Waveland. He is a native of San Francisco, California, but is quick to remind everyone that his mother was a Saucier and a native of McHenry. "Therefore, I'm related to just about everyone of French descent on the Coast. My roots are Deep South; I just don't sound like it."

Also a part of the development of this new congregation is Coast musician J.T. Anglin. J.T. will soon be making recordings for the congregation to use in its worship services.

So next time you're traveling by Perkinson take the exit of Highway 49 and go about two miles north, look for a white picket fence and there's The Mission of the Annunciation, a true grassroots effort of Episcopalians and Lutherans of Stone County.



Lutheran/Episcopal Mission of the Annunciation near Perkinson, MS



The interior of the Mission of the Annunciation is a replica of Redeemer, Biloxi.



The Rev. John David Simpson



Visitor Irene Young takes her turn at the buffet line while parishioner Doris Strange chats with the Rev. Betsy Buamgarten at Redeemer's Annual Friends and Family Day.

Annual Friends and Family Day held at Redeemer, Greenville

By Barbara T. Moton

They were all there in a standing room only crowd: Catholics, Baptists, Methodists, Presbyterians, Non-Denominational, and Episcopalians. All of them came to celebrate the 3rd Annual Friends and Family Day Program at the Church of the Redeemer in Greenville on December 6, 2009.

The Rev. Betsy Baumgarten celebrated the Holy Eucharist after introducing the congregation to the Advent Season and its call to prepare ourselves for the coming of Christ.

The Greenville-Weston Choir, directed by Dorothy Jones, inspired the congregation with songs such as Every Time I Feel the Spirit and Order My Steps. A brass ensemble featuring local musicians accompanied the choir.

The evening felt more like family than friends as people gathered together in God's house, hearing the Word through Holy Scripture and song, receiving Holy Communion and sharing a meal and fellowship following the service. We were a diverse community of believers, united in one confession of faith, and "We were glad when they said let us go into the house of the Lord."

Barbara T. Moton is a long-time parishioner at the Church of the Redeemer in Greenville.