



ECS Grant Applications Now Available

By LaVondra Dobbs

The annual grant cycle for Episcopal Community Services is October 1 through November 1. These grants are designed to promote and enhance the educational needs of African American children. These grants are open to all non-profits that provide an educational service and where the majority of the clients are African American children, although priority is given to Episcopal organizations applying for grant funds.

If your parish or a group within your parish is interested in applying, a grant application may be downloaded from www.edola.org. Click on "Resources" found in the left column. Next, click on "Diocesan Ministries," then "Episcopal Community Services." The 2009 grant application link is near the bottom of that page.

To assist you in your grant application process, the Grants Committee will be offering two workshops. One will be at The Brown Foundation Center, 320 Hammond Highway, Suite 400, in Metairie on October 2 at 10 a.m. The other will be held October 2 at 3 p.m. in Baton Rouge at St. James Place, 205 North Fourth Street, Diocesan Office Conference Room. If you are interested in attending either workshop, please reserve your spot by contacting LaVondra Dobbs at 985.892.3177.



To have your news included in ChurchWork or E-DoLA, please contact Heather Parker at news@edola.org or (225) 706-6634, ext. 114

ODR's Dr. Cowart and Bishop Jenkins Host "An American Awakening" Reading, Luncheon

By Carrie Crockett

On Tuesday, September 30, the Rt. Rev'd Charles Jenkins and Dr. Courtney Cowart, Strategic Director of the Office of Disaster Response, hosted a reading and discussion of Cowart's new book, "An American Awakening: From Ground Zero to Katrina: The People We Are Free to Be," at Christ Church Cathedral in New Orleans. Cowart read passages from the book that evoked discussion between the audience and the bishop on what it means to be a church, urging the audience to view the past three years since Katrina, as well as the aftermath of 9/11, not as an aberration but as part of the baptismal covenant. Discussion followed with a lunch and book signing in the Urban Ministry Center.



[photo by Carrie Crockett]

Dr. Courtney Cowart signs books following her reading at the Cathedral.

To view additional photos from this event, visit www.edola.org or [CLICK HERE](#).

Website Staff Page Improved

The staff directory located at www.edola.org has been improved. Please visit to new photos of each staff member and a brief description of the roles and responsibilities of each employee.

The new staff site is meant to serve as a resource to clergy, parishes and parishioners. [CLICK HERE](#) to visit the new page or visit www.edola.org.

AROUND THE DIOCESE

Trinity Treasures to Host the Rev'd Peter Marty

By Dee McElroy

On Sunday, October 5th, Trinity Treasures will host a book-signing with The Rev'd Peter W. Marty at the Stewardship Luncheon following the 10:30 a.m. service. Join us to meet this thought-provoking speaker, and explore his new work, *The Anatomy of Grace*, organized around themes of grace--serendipitous, unobtrusive, ordinary, surprising, mysterious and weightless--and considered a treatise on living the Christian life well.

15th Annual Joy Conference

By Sharon Manuel

"In all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loves us." Romans 8:37

All women are invited to be a part of the 15th annual Joy Conference to be held October 24-26 at the Solomon Episcopal Conference Center.

The Joy Conference calls us as women of God's Kingdom to sit before His throne, walk before the world and stand before the foe. We are daughters of the King of Kings and He is calling us. The conference will explore questions such as, "How do we stand strong day to day on this holy ground and defend our hearts against an enemy who wants to steal the joy our Savior gives us? In the fellowship of the King, you will find the opportunity to unite with your sisters in Christ and together delve into the answers only God can provide."

Guest speaker, Mary Graver, a newcomer to Louisiana, is an evangelist, one of a new breed of web-based Christian writers. She is the publisher of www.goodnewsfor.us, a website devoted to finding the sacred in the ordinary and living as children of the King. Together we will explore what it means to stand God's ground against the enemy and receive His victorious joy.

For more information go to: www.joyconference.us. You may register online at: www.thesolomoncenter.org or call Tanja Wadsworth at 985.748.6634. A deposit is required to reserve your space.

Mothers and Daughters Coming Together in God

By LaVondra Dobbs

The 12th annual weekend gathering of Mothers and Daughters will be held Friday, November 7 beginning at 5 p.m. through Sunday, November 9 at 11 a.m. This diocesan event is designed for mothers and their daughters in grades 2-8, and will be held at the Solomon Episcopal Conference Center in Loranger.

Please note that a "mother" may be a grandmother, close family friend, aunt, etc.

Our theme this year will be "Saints from Ages Past and Among Us Now." Together we will experience Godly play, yoga, music, the building of a castle, a Eucharist, a bonfire and much more. Individually, we will have time for meditation and reflection, facilitated by the labyrinth and a separate session for mothers only and daughters only. Of course there will be plenty of time for mothers and daughters to play together.

The cost of the retreat for a mother and one daughter is \$280, with \$65 added for each additional daughter. The cost covers materials, lodging, all meals, activities and snacks. You may register online at www.thesolomoncenter.org. The deadline to register is November 1. If you have questions or need additional information, please call LaVondra Dobbs (Christ Church Covington) at 985.892.3177.

Rebuild Coordinator Katie Mears Will Be Missed

By Carrie Crockett & Heather Parker

Three years ago in December 2005, Katie Mears joined the Office of Disaster Response and quickly became a driving force in the creation of the diocesan rebuild program.

Mears, an Iowa native, originally considered law school, but once she witnessed the devastation of post-Katrina New Orleans, she decided to volunteer for a few months and ended up staying years. Since then, Mears became the beloved coordinator of the gutting and rebuild program, and a well-recognized, welcome face to those she had helped to get back on their feet in many corners of the city.

The Diocese and Office of Disaster Response threw Katie a send-off party on her last day, September 30, at the Urban Ministry Center to honor her service. Bishop Jenkins started off the long string of personal farewell speeches. Mears plans to travel and see where life takes her next. "The flexibility this team has shown has taught me how to accept change in my life," Katie said. "I think I'll find it easier to accept not knowing where life is taking me and to trust."



[photo by Carrie Crockett]

Katie Mears visits with co-workers and opens farewell gifts during a luncheon on September 30.