



THE MISSISSIPPI EPISCOPALIAN

SPECIAL COUNCIL ISSUE

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189th Annual Council: January 29-31 in Biloxi

By Robert Wetherington

The 2016 Annual Council Committee has been hard at work on the Coast. Our hearts and minds have been working collectively to prepare for the arrival of our sisters and brothers of the Episcopal Diocese of Mississippi. So much has been done already by this group of dedicated volunteers, and there is so much still to do: floor layout, liturgical details, worship leaders, youth programming, childcare, catering decisions, restaurant connections and volunteer assignments were all on the agenda.

The committee is in the good hands of Marie Porter and Lena Melton who are holding the reins of our efforts. All signs point to a wonderful experience had by all as our excitement builds for hosting the all Mississippi Episcopalians and other guests here on the beautiful Gulf Coast.

Please remember that all are invited to enjoy the local food culture, so make your reservations early. Also, plan to join us for a Mardi Gras themed reception on Saturday night at the Maritime & Seafood Industry Museum, and, of course, get ready for the wonderful articulation of being One Church that is Council itself. We are glad to bear the blessing of preparing for your arrival, and we hope that you all will come prepared to enjoy all that the Coast has to offer.

The Very Rev. Robert Wetherington is the dean of the Coast Convocation and rector of Redeemer/Biloxi.



It takes a lot of people to host a diocesan council. Pictured above is the 189th Council Committee at a recent meeting. Not pictured are the hundred or so more volunteers ready to help make all the guests to Council welcome.

being **one** church
in mission

THE 189TH ANNUAL COUNCIL
OF THE DIOCESE OF MISSISSIPPI

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2016 Bratton-Green Permanent Staff Selected

By Jason Ezell

We are excited to announce the young adults that will serve on the 2016 permanent staff at Bratton-Green! Please keep these young people in your prayers throughout this year as they prepare for a monumental job of leading our youth in worship, fun, and reflection this summer.

This year's staff consists of:
Nathan Oakes, Arts and Crafts

- Sims Cauthen, Challenge Course
- Tiana Bridges, Challenge Course
- Allen Purvis, Music
- Kaitlin Gaskin, Nature
- Anna Katherine Peel, Waterfront
- Anne Peyton Sugg, Waterfront
- Amzie Williams, Waterfront
- Margaret Hay, Waterfront
- Robert Brown, Maintenance/Evening Program
- Jack Cottingham, Maintenance/Evening Program



Summer Camp registration is currently open online. Go to: <http://www.graycenter.dioms.org/camp/index.html>

Scholarships are available as well as the opportunity to donate to the scholarship fund. Please contact Jason Ezell, Program Director, in the Gray Center office for more information at 601-859-1556 or ezell@graycenter.org

Tornadoes hit north Mississippi, disaster relief funds disbursed to bring aid

By Scott Lenoir

A year to the day that tornadoes hit Columbia, Mississippi, in 2014, north Mississippi suffered the same fate on Dec. 23, 2015. According to Mississippi Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) reports, 241 houses were destroyed or sustained major damage. More than 400 houses were affected.

Governor Phil Bryant declared a state of emergency for the five counties affected: Benton, Coahoma, Marshall, Quitman, and Tippah. The governor applied for, and was granted, Federal Disaster assistance from President Barack Obama according to MEMA reports.

The diocese's Disaster Preparation and Response Team (DPRT) contacted three priests in the affected areas who provided assessments and identified families in need of assistance. The Rev. Don

Chancellor, Holy Innocents/Como; the Rev. Jason Shelby, St. George's/Clarksdale; and the Very Rev. Bruce McMillan, Christ Church/Holly Springs; were given a total of \$5,000 from the Mississippi Disaster Relief Fund, which is administrated by the diocese. Also, an additional \$5,000 was applied for through Episcopal Relief and Development for the Holly Springs area, which suffered the most damage.

At this writing, volunteer workdays are being organized and a disaster relief trailer is ready to be deployed to north Mississippi when the workdays are scheduled.

The Rev. Scott Lenoir is the editor of the Mississippi Episcopalian.

Annual Council details begin on page 3

Truckin'

December 1, 2015

— I can't believe it's December. Back to the office after a restful and wonderful vacation! First thing was a breakfast meeting with Bishop Kopacz and Bishop Swanson from the Roman Catholic Church and the United Methodist Church. After returning to the office, I



met with the entire staff for our weekly meeting. The word for the day was Advent. Later I met with Peggy Jones to catch up on the calendar and other issues. Before lunch, I met with the canons and canon-elect. Over lunch, we met with representatives of Trustmark Bank for a "meet and greet" with our canon-elect Brian Ponder. In the afternoon, I spent time working on several projects that needed my attention. I left the office in time to attend Betsy's basketball game at St. Andrew's. After the game, I returned several phone calls.

December 2, 2015 — After dropping the girls at school, Kyle and I went to the airport for a flight to Louisville, KY. We will be attending the Province IV Bishop and Spouse gathering.

December 3, 2015 — The gathering began with meetings at the cathedral in Louisville. Walking to the cathedral, I noticed the street corner of 4th and Burks Streets where Thomas Merton experienced his conversion. The corner is now known as Thomas Merton Square. Burks Street has also been renamed Muhammad Ali Blvd. I enjoyed catching up with other bishops and found the wisdom in the room to be very helpful! In the evening, we dined with the spouses' group at a restaurant adjacent to the

hotel.

December 4, 2015

— Meetings continued till 10:30. Kyle and I left for the airport around lunchtime. Louisville is a cool city! Many thanks to our hosts from the Diocese of Kentucky. After arriving in Jackson, I dealt with several important phone calls and made a pastoral call at UMMC.

December 5, 2015 — In the morning, I attended the meeting of the Gray Center Board of Managers. On the way home, I visited the Rev. Gene Bennett, who is being cared for at UMMC. I was pleased to see Gene's infectious smile. In the afternoon, I watched the SEC championship with some friends. There was great joy in my house as Bama raced to victory. Later that evening, I was saddened when Stanford clobbered USC.

December 6, 2015 — Traveled to Olive Branch for visitation at the Church of the Holy Cross. I enjoyed my time with the congregation and was really touched by the beautiful stained glass window created from the broken glass of Christ Church in Bay Saint Louis after Katrina. During the service, I preached, presided and confirmed one. I returned home in the early evening.

December 7, 2015 — Morning workout and Sabbath day.

December 8, 2015 — First thing in the morning, I attended an early morning breakfast with the canons. Immediately after the meeting, I set off for Parchman for a visit and lunch with the members at St. Vincent's. The Delta Clericus was also in attendance. I was assisted in the service by the Rev. David Langdon. After worship, we enjoyed fellowship and food. Before returning to



Bishop Brian Seage

Jackson, I met with the Rev. Sylvia Czarnetzky.

December 9, 2015 — Early morning workout. In the office, I kept two phone meetings and one "in-person" meeting. Over lunch and into the afternoon, I met with the convocation deans. This was the last meeting for the Very Rev. Lee Winter, who will retire at year's end. Later in the afternoon, I met with the Rev. Kathleen Potts. After leaving the office, I picked up Katie and Betsy on my way to bless the new columbarium and memorial garden at Grace Church in Canton. It's a beautiful new space at a beautiful church. The girls and I felt the Christmas spirit as we drove through the town square while leaving. On the way home, we stopped for sushi.

December 10, 2015 — After dropping the girls off at school, I met with representatives of St. Andrew's school about the building project and capital campaign. Later in the morning, I met with members of the Finance Committee and staff for a 2016 budget meeting. In the afternoon, I caught up on phone calls and kept a meeting with representatives of one of the diocesan ministries. In the evening, I attended Katie's choir concert.

December 11, 2015 — Early morning workout. During the morning hours, I worked at home and made several phone calls. After wrapping up phone calls and emails, I turned my attention to getting the house ready for the Allin House staff Christmas party. Kyle had already prepared most of the food and will create her famous eggnog closer to the arrival of our guests. The entire staff was present with the exception of the canon-elect who was ill. I am so thankful for the ministry of all our staff! Katie and Betsy helped staff the party.

December 12, 2015 — During the morning, I got out and accomplished some Christmas errands! In the evening, I attended a Christmas party for my swim team, the Catfish Masters.

December 13, 2015 — I left early for a 10:30 visitation at St. Paul's in Woodville. The Rev. Hugh Jones accompanied me on the trip. Hugh's family roots are in Woodville and at St. Paul's. At the service, I was assisted by the Rev. Mary Anne Heine, priest-in-charge. We confirmed one. Following the service, I enjoyed food, fellowship and a meeting with the vestry. After the visit, Hugh and I visited the home where the Joneses hosted many Episcopal visits. In fact, Bishop Bratton was a regular guest. This "old river" section of Mississippi is loaded with fascinating history. After returning home, I attended Lessons and Carols at St. Philips.

December 14, 2015 — Early morning workout after which I did nothing until picking up the girls from school!

December 15, 2015 — In the morning, I chaired the staff meeting. The word for the day was "Gaudete." After the meeting, I spent time in meeting with the canons and canon-elect. Peggy Jones and I met before lunch in order to continue preparation for the Commission on Ministry's January meetings. In the afternoon, I kept two in-office meetings before leaving to pick-up the girls from school.

December 16, 2015 — Early morning workout. After arriving at the office, I met with Canon Johnson. Later in the morning, I kept a conference call with Mission Mississippi regarding the 2016 State Legislators Prayer Breakfast. Late morning and through lunch, I met with Abram Jones, a junior seminarian at the Seminary of the Southwest in Austin, TX. Abram is doing well in seminary and in life! He and Lucy welcomed their first child, Maggie, into their lives in early October. In the afternoon, I had annual consultations with the Rev. Mary Berry, after which, I met with the Rev. Dcn. Carol Spencer.

December 17, 2015 — After dropping the girls at school, I went to the office for morning meetings with the Rev. Luther Ott and the Rev. Margaret Ayers. We discussed some very preliminary plans for the visit of Presiding Bishop Michael Curry in June. Later in the morning, I was busy with back to back to back phone meetings. The afternoon was taken up with the Executive Committee meeting at St. Andrews. Before heading home, I had another phone meeting.

December 18, 2015 — Early morning workout. In the office, I met with Peggy Jones regarding my calendar and schedule for December and January. Later in the morning, I met with Emad Al-Turk of the International Museum of Muslim Culture in Jackson. He and one of his associates treated me to a private tour of the museum. I recommend it to everyone. After leaving the museum, I picked up Katie and Betsy from school (last day before the break). I took the afternoon off to spend time with the girls. In the afternoon, we went to a basketball game at Millsaps. In the evening, as the spouse of the rector, I attended the St. Philip's vestry party.

December 19, 2015 — I did nothing.

December 20, 2015 — No scheduled visitation so Katie and I walked to St. James for the 7:30 service.

The Bishop's Journal
Continued on page 6

Continually published for 139 years in the Diocese of Mississippi



The Mississippi
Episcopalian

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Tenth Bishop of Mississippi

The Rev. Scott Lenoir
Editor

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being one church in mission

THE 189TH ANNUAL COUNCIL
OF THE DIOCESE OF MISSISSIPPI

189TH ANNUAL COUNCIL

of the Diocese of Mississippi

Being One Church in Mission

Tales from the Golden Road

Being One Church in Mission

It's been a unique blessing to travel around our diocese and state for the last 18 months. I can honestly say that I've worshiped in the four corners of Mississippi and beyond! There are wonderful places within our state as well as amazing and fascinating history. Whether I was in the Central, Coast, Delta, Northern, Old River, Sowashee, or Tombigbee Convocation, I found hospitality, welcome, and warmth. The relationships within our diocese and throughout the church are, to me, an indication of how we are indeed *One Church*. That's right, *One Church*, in spite of geography, college affiliation, or even theological differences and opinions.



I believe our church has much to offer the world at large. We live in a world that is increasingly removed from the Christian culture. Gone are the days when a sizable percentage of our population reached adulthood with a solid Christian or religious affiliation. Today a significant number of people walk into the world with no foundation for their spiritual journey. Our church has much to offer all people. We offer hope, hospitality, peace, acceptance, and most importantly, salvation through Jesus Christ.

Let's take *One Church* a step further and be *One Church in Mission*. We have amazing relationships and history that go way back uniting us as *One Church*. I believe we can be *One Church in Mission*. *One Church in Mission* reaching out to those around and sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ. *One Church in Mission* sharing the sacraments that feed our soul and equip us to be disciples. *One Church in Mission* telling the world that we are the Jesus movement of the Episcopal Church in Mississippi! Mission is an action we are called to by Jesus, and never forget that mission provides an opportunity to learn, thereby nurturing our own faith and enriching our own walk with Christ!

Looking forward to seeing you all at the 189th Annual Council!

Peace to you,
+Brian

FRIDAY, January 29

- 2:00 – 5:30 p.m. **Registration**
Council Committee Meetings
- 4:30 p.m. Newcomer Orientation
- 5:00 p.m. Rehearsal for Acolytes and Servers
- 6:00 p.m. **Opening Service of Evening Prayer**
Evening Prayers
Commissioning of Newly Licensed Worship Leaders
Bishop Seage's Address

First Business Session

Dinner on your own to enjoy numerous restaurants on the Coast

SATURDAY, January 30

- 7:30 - 10:30 a.m. **Registration** continues
- 8:30 a.m. **Morning Prayers**
Business Sessions
- 12:00 p.m. **Noonday Prayers**
- 12:00 p.m. **Clergy Spouses' Luncheon — Chimneys**
- 12:15 p.m. **Council Luncheon**
- 1:30 p.m. **Business Session** resumes
- 2:30 p.m. **Diocesan Choir Rehearsal — St. Mark's/Gulfport**
- (no later than)
5:00 p.m. **Closing Prayers: Commissioning of Newly Elected Officers**

SUNDAY, January 31

- 8:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal
- 8:30 a.m. Rehearsal for Acolytes, Ushers and Altar Party
- 9:00 a.m. Nursery Open (Ages 0-3), *Church of the Redeemer/Biloxi*
- 9:45 a.m. **Children's Church** (Ages 4 Year – 5th Grade)
Children will join Eucharist at The Presentation
- 10:00 a.m. **Closing Eucharist**

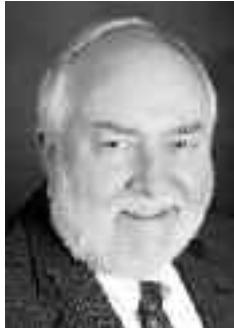
Nominations To The 189th Annual Council Of The Diocese Of Mississippi

* Nominated Incumbents eligible for Re-election

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

TREASURER

Elect one lay person for one-year term



*PAGE, Fred H.

All Saints', Tupelo; Tombigbee Convocation

Certified Public Accountant. *Local Church Involvement:* Past Senior Warden; Sunday School teacher; member of Stewardship Committee and trustee of All Saints' Endowment Fund; member of Search Committee; Parish Audit Committee chair. *Community and Civic Involvement:* Treasurer of SAFE, Inc., Catch Kids, Inc. and Cultural Alliance; former Board Member of United Way of NE Mississippi; MS Society of CPAs; Boy Scout leader for 25 years. *Diocesan Involvement:* Diocesan Treasurer; member of Gray Center Board; involved in designing and leading diocesan efforts to retain a development officer for the diocese.

Special Gifts: As a CPA in private practice, Fred has the education and work experience to continue his service as diocesan treasurer. He has faithfully served the church in this position and has gained valuable training with respect to the financial systems and needs of Gray Center, the diocese and the trustees.

Expectations: To continue to provide financial oversight and managerial expertise to the diocese and its entities.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Elect two clergy persons for four-year term; one clergy person to a one-year unexpired term

Elect two lay persons for four-year term

CLERGY



DICK, The Rev. Brandt

St. James', Greenville; Delta Convocation

Priest. *Local Church Involvement:* I am the current priest-in-charge of St. James' Episcopal Church in Greenville. I am also a member of the church's day school board, which makes policy for our pre-school/kindergarten program. *Community and Civic Involvement:* I am a member of the Greenville Rotary Club, and I have participated in several productions by Delta Center Stage, a community theater. *Diocesan Involvement:* I have been to every diocesan council since I have become an Episcopalian in 1998. Actually, I also attended one before I became an Episcopalian in 1997.

Special Gifts: I believe that I am a rational person who makes decisions based upon objective facts tempered by empathy and the movement of the Holy Spirit. I am generally considered to have good communications skills, both oral and written. I have had experience in management as both an acting headmaster of an Episcopal school and as vicar and priest-in-charge of various churches.

Expectations: I expect to be able to use the gifts that God has given me for the furtherance of God's kingdom, specifically as it relates to the management of this diocese. I expect it to be a demanding but worthwhile endeavor.



FANNING, The Rev. Tom

St. John's, Pascagoula; Coast Convocation

Priest. *Local Church Involvement:* Currently serve as the Rector of St. John's Pascagoula. *Community and Civic Involvement:* Member of the Pascagoula Kiwanis Club. *Diocesan Involvement:* Served on camp staffs as a cabin dad at Camp Bratton Green and have organized and raised money for a camp at Camp Bratton Green called Camp Funshine which is a camp for children who have suffered burns. I currently serve as the camp priest for Camp Funshine.

Special Gifts: I have been ordained for nine and a half years. During this time I have served three different congregations. Two of the congregations were family size less than 75 average Sunday attendance. I currently serve a pastoral size congregation 76-140 average Sunday attendance. Since I have served both types of congregations I understand the challenges and opportunities each type faces. Before entering seminary I was a corporate accountant for eighteen years which involved financial reporting and budgeting.

Expectations: To participate in the growth of this diocese as it deals with financial and other matters that may be presented to the Executive Committee.



MEADERS, The Rev. CJ

Trinity, Natchez; Old River Convocation

Priest. *Local Church Involvement:* As chaplain of Trinity Episcopal School, I teach Religion and Ethics and oversee the Religious Studies curriculum throughout the school, Pre-K through 12. I also lead a weekly chapel service, which looks suspiciously like worship at Camp Bratton Green. As curate of Trinity Episcopal Church, I assist the rector in planning and leading worship, I help with pastoral care, and I report to the vestry on behalf of the school. *Community and Civic Involvement:* Key Club Advisor (Trinity High School, LaMissTenn District). *Diocesan Involvement:* Camp Bratton Green Alumni Association (Sustaining Member), Chaplain for Camp Bratton Green Summer Program, Bishop's Mission Corps (Leader, Missioner). *National Church Involvement:* National Association of Episcopal Schools (Member)

Special Gifts: I'm primarily a listener and a thinker, although, admittedly, sometimes my thinking gets in the way of my listening. I believe I am suited to the work of the Executive Committee because I tend to see the big picture in terms of institutional strategic thinking. Further, I would serve to promote the interests of Episcopal schools in our diocese. My time as a chaplain has shown me the vital importance of this ministry, especially in regards to the potential for evangelism it yields for school communities which do not yet know the joys and depths of being Episcopalian.

Expectations: I expect to absorb the work done before me, to get a very clear picture of that work, and then, when called upon, to share my gifts.



ROBERTSON, The Rev. Ben

Chapel of the Cross, Madison; Central Convocation

Priest. *Local Church Involvement:* Rector, The Chapel of the Cross, Madison.

Special Gifts: For one, experience: I served as a member of similar bodies in the dioceses of Western North Carolina and Kentucky, as well as the St. Columba Episcopal Center Board (Memphis, TN), the Calvary Place Child Care Center Board (Memphis, TN), Commission on Ministry (Episcopal Diocese of Western North Carolina), the North Carolina Council of Churches Executive Board, and Kanuga Camp & Conference Center's Program Committee. Second, I bring a valuable combination of an outsider's perspective, having been ordained and served in three previous dioceses, coupled with a deep commitment to the mission and ministries of the Diocese of Mississippi, my new home. Third, a strong conviction that the Episcopal Church can be a force for healing, reconciliation, and growth, in a time of deep societal divisions and when many are searching for spiritual meaning.

Expectations: I expect to attend meetings, do my very best to fulfill the expectations of the position, and represent my parish and convocation. I expect to assist Bishop Seage, the Diocesan Staff, and all the leaders of the diocese. I expect to support the mission and ministries of our diocese. I expect to listen: listen to my colleagues, try to understand their perspective and context, and learn more about our Diocese. I expect to honor all people and recognize that all people are made in the image of God, despite our differences or disagreements. I expect to leave room for the Holy Spirit to move among us, inspire us, prod us, and dare us to dream big dreams. And, I expect to serve, in small and large ways, in menial and noble ways, and all alongside our savior Jesus Christ.



WETHERINGTON, The Very Rev. Robert

Church of the Redeemer, Biloxi; Coast Convocation

Priest. *Local Church Involvement:* Rector of The Episcopal Church of the Redeemer; Dean of the Coast Convocation. *Community and Civic Involvement:* Vice-President of Loaves and Fishes. *Diocesan Involvement:* Former member of the Standing Committee; Former Diocesan Employee; Convocational Dean. *National Church Involvement:* Member of the Gathering of Leaders

Special Gifts: Having served as a diocesan employee as a Delta Missioner, I am acutely aware of the powerful potential that this diocese has for ministry. I have served on the Standing Committee and currently serve as a rector and convocational dean here on the coast. All of these experiences provide me with a broad perspective on what ministry can look like at the diocesan level.

Expectations: We are at an important point in our diocesan timeline. The church is changing. Our communities are changing. Our ministry is changing. We are going to have to be bold and creative in the ways we envision and implement the various ministries that take place at a diocesan level in order to proclaim the Gospel we hold dear in ways that are heard and experienced in our communities. I want to offer my voice to that process. I want to wonder how we might function even more effectively at the diocesan level. The future is hungry for the ministry that we can offer together.

Nominations,
Continued on page 5

Nominations,

Continued from page 4

LAY



KROUSE, Mr. David

St. Peter's, Oxford; Northern Convocation

Independent Insurance Agent. *Local Church Involvement:* Altar Server St. Richard's, Jackson, MS 1975-1978; CYO — St John's, Columbia, SC 1980-1982; Young Life leader — Memphis, TN 1985-1986; CYO leader — St. John's, Oxford, MS 1992-1994; Received by Bishop Marble 1998; Youth Sunday school teacher 2000-2004; Usher 2004-2010; Vestry Member 2012-2015; In-Reach Committee Director 2014; LEM 2013-present. *Community and Civic Involvement:* President of the District 2 (Oxford/University) Ole Miss Alumni Association 1998; Oxford Chamber of Commerce 1998-present; Oxford Tourism Board 2004-2009; Double Decker Committee 2004-2009;

Chairman, Oxford Tourism Board 2008; Oxford Rotary 2015-present; Oxford High School Athletic Board 2008-2014; Dizzy Dean youth baseball coach 2000-2009. *Diocesan Involvement:* St. Peter's, Oxford Alternate 2014; St. Peter's, Oxford Delegate 2015.

Special Gifts: The gifts that I bring are enthusiasm for growth, ability to listen, and a desire to assist the Church community of our diocese.

Expectations: Play an active role in the Executive Committee obligations for the Mississippi Diocese. I have a true desire to get involved in our Church on the Diocesan level.



MOONEY, Mr. Keith

Incarnation, West Point; Tombigbee Convocation

Senior Vice President of Cadence Bank, Manager of Investments for Eastern US Cadence Trust. *Local Church Involvement:* 20 years as member of Incarnation West Point; 3 terms on Vestry; 3 terms as Senior Warden of Vestry; Longtime Member of Church Finance Committee; Chair of Search Committee; Lay Eucharistic Minister; Choir Member; Head of Men's Group. *Community and Civic Involvement:* Recently voted "Hometown Hero" in West Point, one of four people so honored in the Golden Triangle area; Former West Point Rotary Club President; Active in several community outreach efforts. *Diocesan Involvement:* Delegate to Annual Council on numerous occasions; Liaison with Diocese as Senior Warden and as Search Committee.

Special Gifts: I serve as Senior Vice President of Cadence Bank as Manager of Investments for the Eastern US Division of Cadence Trust. I have 34 years of banking experience primarily in the management of investments. For 20 years, my family and I have been members of Incarnation Church in West Point. I currently serve as Lay Eucharistic Minister, and I am serving my third term on the Vestry. I sing in the choir. I lead our men's group which is active in mission and outreach, having just raised \$20,000 to seed a new house for Habitat for Humanity. I recently served as head of the rector search committee during our calling of the Rev. Lynn Ronaldi. I have been elected Senior Warden for Incarnation for three separate terms, and I have served numerous times as delegate to the Annual Council of the Diocese. It is my desire to take an active leadership role within the Diocese and I would be honored to serve on the Executive Committee.

Expectations: I hope to draw on my years of corporate financial experience, church leadership, and Council participation, to offer a listening ear, spiritual discernment, and sound wisdom to the Diocese of Mississippi Executive Committee. I expect to help lead this Diocese into solid and faithful decisions for the benefit of Mississippi Episcopalians, as well as those whom we hope to reach.

A date to remember:
Friday, Saturday & Sunday,
January 29-31, 2016
189th Annual Council
Mississippi Coast Coliseum, Biloxi

STANDING COMMITTEE

Elect one presbyter for four-year term

Elect one lay person for four-year term

CLERGY



BEAR, The Very Rev. Susan

Church of the Ascension, Hattiesburg; Sowashee Convocation

Priest. *Local Church Involvement:* Rector at Church of the Ascension — 11 years. *Community and Civic Involvement:* Member of Breadbasket; Area Development Partnership; Interdenominational Pastors' Bible Study; University of Southern Mississippi; Lighthouse. *Diocesan Involvement:* Dean of Sowashee Convocation; served on Executive Committee.

Special Gifts: Experience in the diocese; the ability to work with people toward suitable resolutions of issues; a sense of humor!

Expectations: Exposure to other parts of the diocese so that we may appreciate that we are one church.



STEPHENS, The Rev. Paul

All Saints', Tupelo; Tombigbee Convocation

Priest. *Local Church Involvement:* Rector, All Saints', Tupelo since 2009; formerly Chaplain at Trinity Episcopal Day School, Natchez; Headmaster at Coast Episcopal School, Long Beach; Interim Rector at St. John's Episcopal Church, Laurel; and Interim Rector at Holy Apostles Episcopal Church, Collierville, TN. Prior to ordination active communicant at St. James Episcopal Church, Jackson and St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Oxford. *Community and Civic Involvement:* Former Board Member Atone Tannehill Good Samaritan Free Clinic; current Board Member Family Resource Center; member of Emergency Food and Shelter and Community

Based Recovery Committees; Arts to Heal Project; Executive Committee member Yocona Area Council Boy Scouts of America; Troop 85 Committee member; membership Salvation Army Homelessness Task Force; former Chair, Tupelo Homelessness Task Force. *Diocesan Involvement:* Previously, member of Executive Committee (Vice President for two terms); faculty facilitator for Cooperative College for Congregational Development (two years); former Chair of Diocesan Finance Committee; member of Disciplinary Board; stewardship consultant. *National Church Involvement:* Deputy General Convention 2015; Deputy Province IV Synod.

Special Gifts: A desire to serve the diocese and the broader church by providing counsel and advice.

Expectations: Together with other Standing Committee members, I expect to provide counsel and advice to Bishop Seage and to discharge those duties created by canon.

LAY



WHEELER, Jim

Church of the Redeemer, Biloxi; Coast Convocation

Real Estate Broker. *Local Church Involvement:* Finance Chairman & Volunteer for the 189th Annual Council; Past & Present Vestryman; Past Junior Warden; Past Senior Warden; Lay Eucharistic Minister; Verger; EfM Mentor; Web Master; Volunteer. *Community and Civic Involvement:* Past Board Member, Vice President & President of the North Bay Chamber of Commerce; Past Board Member and Treasurer of the Biloxi/Ocean Springs Board of Realtors; Past Committee Chairman for various committees within the Mississippi Association of Realtors; Past Volunteer Fireman; Volunteer, committee chairman and participant at numerous community events and functions. *Diocesan Involvement:* Past

appointment to, and elected at Council to serve on the Executive Committee; Served on the Finance Committee and Scholarship Committee while a member of the Executive Committee; Served one term as a member of the Disciplinary Board.

Special Gifts: Prior experience serving on the Executive Committee. Business and professional experiences that should prove to be useful to the execution of the required duties of this committee.

Expectations: I expect to serve to my fullest.

Nominations,

Continued from page 5

TRUSTEE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF THE SOUTH

Elect one lay person for three-year term

LAY

***DAVIS, Scott**

St. Peter's, Oxford; Northern Convocation



Attorney. Local Church Involvement: Former Senior Warden and Vestry member, St. Patrick's, Long Beach. *Community and Civic Involvement:* Co-founder of Harvest Gulf Coast, a network of community gardens along the Mississippi Gulf Coast. *Diocesan Involvement:* Longtime volunteer and participant in youth and young adult programs, including Summer Camp, DOY, Happening, and Vocare. Former Permanent Staff member at Camp Bratton-Green.

Special Gifts: As a graduate of the University of the South (C'04), Sewanee is very special to me, as a university and place. During my time on the Board of Trustees, I have had the privilege of working with many great people, all of whom are dedicated to the betterment of the university. I have served on the University's Constitution and Ordinances Committee, and have made efforts to increase my involvement in recruiting students from Mississippi. If elected, I will bring my experience and leadership abilities to the position and continue to work for a healthy and thriving university of which we, as Mississippi Episcopalians, can be very proud.

Expectations: I expect to continue to be an active member of the Board of Trustees, focusing always on the university's mission to embolden students through academic excellence to "search for truth, seek justice, preserve liberty under law, and serve God and humanity." I am very proud of Sewanee for living so fully into its mission, and I hope that we, as an owning diocese, can take pride and ownership in the university's success. Recent steps taken to increase affordability, as well as an increased emphasis on student body diversity, will remain priorities.

DISCIPLINARY BOARD

Elect two clergy persons for three-year term

Elect two lay persons for three-year term

CLERGY

***LENOIR, The Rev. Scott**

St. Pierre's, Gautier; Coast Convocation



Priest. Local Church Involvement: I retired from parish ministry in January 2015. My last cure was as priest associate at St. John's/Ocean Springs. I live in Gautier and I was recently named the honorary priest associate at St. Pierre's Episcopal Church, and I also do supply work in the Coast Convocation. *Community and Civic Involvement:* I am an assistant scoutmaster of Boy Scout Troop 271 in Ocean Springs, MS. *Diocesan Involvement:* I am the chairperson of the Disaster Preparation and Response Team for the diocese. I am also editor of the Mississippi Episcopalian.

Special Gifts: I have served on this board before and have been through the initial training. Fortunately, we have never met except to organize the board for the last few years. I have been a priest in this diocese for 28 years and have experience, as many clergy do, in processing and resolving difficult issues that surface in parochial ministry.

Expectations: My expectations of this position is an expectation of the board — that it will be, as it has been, fair and follow the canons of the church in helping to resolve issues of clergy misconduct.

The Bishop's Journal

Continued from page 2

December 21, 2015 — Early morning workout. Sabbath day.

December 22, 2015 — In the morning, we had our final staff meeting for 2015. After meetings, I worked on email and articles. After lunch, I had a conference call with Bishop Stephen Lane, of Maine, regarding the process for Mutual Ministry reviews for a bishop.

December 23, 2015 — Early morning workout. After workout, I went straight to Broad Street for a breakfast meeting. I spent the rest of the day working from home. In the evening, we saw the new Star Wars movie. Awesome.

December 24, 2015 — Early morning workout. During the morning hours, I spent time getting caught up on the relief efforts after yesterday tornadoes. Many thanks to the Disaster Relief Ministry of our diocese and special thanks to the rectors affected by this storm. In the afternoon, I presided at the 5pm service at the Cathedral. Following the service, I picked up the girls for supper with Kyle. After supper we went to St. Philips for the later service.

December 25, 2015 — Christmas day with family.

December 26, 2015 — Another quiet day with family.

December 27, 2015 — I spent the morning helping Katie get things together for Winter Solstice. In the afternoon, Betsy and I drove to Memphis for part of my Christmas gift — a Memphis Grizzly's game against the Los Angeles Lakers. It was awesome seeing Kobe Bryant play in person during the final season of his great career.

December 28, 2015 — I drove to Long Beach for the funeral of the Rev. Deacon Lynne Hough. She will be missed by many people. Her ministry and leadership through the years has been a blessing to the clergy and people at St. Patrick's and beyond.

December 29, 2015 — The morning was taken up with staff meetings. In the afternoon, I met with the Rev. David Knight.

December 30, 2015 — Early morning workout. In the office, I met with Canons Johnson and McCormick. Later in the day I met with Rapiell Ashford, a middler Seminarian at Virginia. I left at lunchtime in order to grab a bite with Betsy and Kyle. I stayed up late watching the USC lose to Wisconsin in the Holiday Bowl. Wait till next year!

December 31, 2015 — New Year's Eve at home! Roll Tide!

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COMPLETE TRADITIONAL FUNERAL <small>Includes Professional and Funeral Services of Our Staffed Staff, Visitation and Careless Home Services, The Chapel in Home Care and Cremation Service, Casket, Urn, Flowers and Cakes, and a variety of other funeral services. Second services at home. (Non-availability of the clergyman)</small>	\$4,640.00
COMPLETE PRAYER SERVICE <small>Includes Professional and Funeral Services of Our Staffed Staff, Visitation and Careless Home Services, The Chapel in Home Care and Cremation Service, Casket, Urn, Flowers and Cakes, and a variety of other funeral services. (Non-availability of the clergyman)</small>	\$3,940.00
COMPLETE GRAVESIDE SERVICE <small>Includes Professional and Funeral Services of Our Staffed Staff, Visitation and Careless Home Services, The Chapel in Home Care and Cremation Service, Casket, Urn, Flowers and Cakes, and a variety of other funeral services. (Non-availability of the clergyman)</small>	\$3,195.00
COMPLETE TRADITIONAL CREMATION SERVICE <small>Includes Professional and Funeral Services of Our Staffed Staff, Visitation and Careless Home Services, The Chapel in Home Care and Cremation Service, Casket, Urn, Flowers and Cakes, and a variety of other funeral services. (Non-availability of the clergyman)</small>	\$2,795.00
SIMPLE CREMATION SERVICE <small>Includes Professional and Funeral Services of Our Staffed Staff, Visitation and Careless Home Services, The Chapel in Home Care and Cremation Service, Casket, Urn, Flowers and Cakes, and a variety of other funeral services. (Non-availability of the clergyman)</small>	\$1,425.00



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VOLUNTARY PROPORTIONATE GIVING REPORT

As of 12/31/2015

PARISH/MISSION	As of December 31, 2015			2016 Estimates	
	VPG %	\$\$\$ Pledge	\$\$\$ Actual	VPG %	\$\$\$ Pledge
ABERDEEN, St. John's		3,000	-		3,000
BAY ST. LOUIS, Christ	8.00%	10,400	5,470	5.00%	7,320
BELZONI, St. Thomas'		1,000	-		1,000
BILOXI, Redeemer	10.00%	19,253	17,224	10.00%	19,300
BOLTON, St. Mary's		1,000	-		1,000
BOVINA, St. Alban's	12.00%	20,280	19,588	12.00%	20,000
BRANDON, St. Luke's		3,000	1,200		3,000
BRANDON, St. Peter's	11.50%	30,079	27,910	11.50%	33,399
BROOKHAVEN, Redeemer	15.00%	20,520	20,520	15.00%	20,821
CANTON, Grace	10.00%	17,250	16,409	10.00%	20,000
CARROLLTON, Grace		-	-		-
CLARKSDALE, St. George's	10.00%	28,000	24,292	11.00%	34,100
CLEVELAND, Calvary	12.00%	23,040	21,215	12.00%	22,600
CLINTON, Creator	4.00%	5,760	5,788	5.00%	6,000
COLLINS, St. Elizabeth's		3,300	3,300	10.00%	3,000
COLUMBIA, St. Stephen's	12.00%	8,000	5,667	10.00%	7,056
COLUMBUS, Good Shepherd	12.00%	2,507	3,736	12.00%	3,300
COLUMBUS, St. Paul's	14.00%	63,000	58,190	14.00%	63,000
COMO, Holy Innocents'	10.00%	7,200	3,419	10.00%	5,480
CORINTH, St. Paul's	7.00%	9,967	9,136	7.50%	9,900
CRYSTAL SPRINGS, Holy Trinity		1,000	782	5.00%	1,000
DIAMONDHEAD, St. Thomas'	8.00%	12,000	8,874	8.00%	12,000
ENTERPRISE, St. Mary's		1,400	1,757	11.00%	1,800
FOREST, St. Matthew's	10.00%	685	-	10.00%	772
GAUTIER, St. Pierre's		7,000	5,836	10.00%	7,000
GREENVILLE, Redeemer		2,400	2,100	12.00%	2,400
GREENVILLE, St. James'	10.00%	30,000	26,877	11.00%	37,472
GREENWOOD, Nativity	10.50%	47,970	42,171	10.50%	48,000
GRENADA, All Saints	11.50%	26,090	24,680	11.50%	25,610
GULFPORT, St. Mark's	15.00%	56,400	57,900	15.00%	56,500
GULFPORT, St. Peter's	10.00%	29,556	21,517	10.00%	30,000
HATTIESBURG, Ascension	10.00%	20,640	20,640	10.25%	22,112
HATTIESBURG, Trinity	11.00%	49,081	36,987	11.50%	53,000
HOLLANDALE, St. Paul's		1,000	500		1,000
HOLLY SPRINGS, Christ	10.00%	11,000	10,797	11.00%	11,500
INDIANOLA, St. Stephen's	14.00%	28,165	28,165	14.00%	30,745
INVERNESS, All Saints'		3,432	2,250		3,000
JACKSON, All Saints'	5.0%	3,432	3,290	6.00%	2,944
JACKSON, St. Alexis'		1,000	-		1,500
JACKSON, St. Andrew's	11.10%	179,900	126,375	10.00%	160,000
JACKSON, St. Christopher	19.00%	18,156	15,130	19.00%	19,728
JACKSON, St. James'	10.00%	154,740	129,428	10.00%	166,603
JACKSON, St. Mark's	11.00%	11,000	11,600	11.00%	11,000
JACKSON, St. Philip's	14.50%	64,030	51,751	14.50%	61,690
KOSCIUSKO, St. Matthew's	8.00%	2,160	2,118	8.00%	2,544
LAUREL, St. John's		26,000	20,167	8.00%	22,000
LELAND, St. John's	5.00%	2,400	2,400	5.00%	2,400
LEXINGTON, St. Mary's		3,800	3,091		3,800
LONG BEACH, St. Patrick's	10.00%	14,730.0	13,965	11.00%	16,000
MADISON, Chapel of the Cross	9.50%	73,910	56,957		73,387

PARISH/MISSION	As of December 31, 2015			2016 Estimates	
	VPG %	\$\$\$ Pledge	\$\$\$ Actual	VPG %	\$\$\$ Pledge
MCCOMB, Mediator/Redeemer	12.00%	22,000	19,978	12.00%	15,320
MERIDIAN, Mediator	14.00%	50,400	46,200	14.00%	45,600
MERIDIAN, St. Paul's	11.00%	48,800	49,841	10.00%	48,000
MICHIGAN CITY, Calvary		-	-		-
NATCHEZ, Trinity	13.00%	44,089	46,735	13.00%	44,089
NEWTON, Trinity		750	-		-
OCEAN SPRINGS, St. John's	7.50%	24,000	20,964	8.00%	26,000
OKOLONA, St. Bernard's		-	-		-
OLIVE BRANCH, Holy Cross		3,600	3,840	13.00%	3,400
OXFORD, St. Peter's	15.00%	97,400	85,272	15.00%	97,400
PASCAGOULA, St. John's	12.00%	34,168	27,530	11.00%	31,790
PASS CHRISTIAN, Trinity	10.00%	10,000	14,000	9.00%	14,220
PERKINSTON, Annunciation		300	455	10.00%	920
PHILADELPHIA, St. Francis'	12.00%	7,982	6,640	12.00%	9,000
PICAYUNE, St. Paul's		4,000	4,000	10.00%	4,800
PORT GIBSON, St. James'	8.00%	6,417	5,973	8.00%	6,833
RAYMOND, St. Mark's		4,000	5,000		4,000
RIDGELAND, St. Columb's	0.06	24,000	29,381	7.00%	40,000
ROLLING FORK, Chapel/Cross	10.00%	4,140	3,450	10.00%	4,140
ROSEDALE, Grace		-	1,000		-
SOUTHAVEN, St. Timothy's		10,000	8,331	1.00%	3,200
STARKVILLE, Resurrection	16.00%	45,000	41,891	16.00%	47,000
SLIMNER, Advent	8.00%	6,000	4,229	8.00%	6,000
TERRY, Good Shepherd	1.00%	300	-	1.00%	500
TUNICA, Epiphany		3,000	-	10.00%	4,500
TUPELO, All Saints'	14.50%	61,045	72,968	14.50%	65,000
VICKSBURG, Christ	10.00%	14,400	9,600	10.00%	14,400
VICKSBURG, Holy Trinity	10.00%	28,000	23,894	10.50%	23,042
VICKSBURG, St. Mary's		1,200	1,750	10.00%	1,200
WEST POINT, Incarnation	10.00%	17,030	14,165	12.00%	19,400
WOODVILLE, St. Paul's		1,500	1,125		1,500
YAZOO CITY, Trinity	10.00%	1,500	1,288	10.00%	1,800
		1,734,652	1,522,776		1,745,837

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THE 189TH ANNUAL COUNCIL
OF THE DIOCESE OF MISSISSIPPI

2		2015 Final	2015 FINAL	2016 BUDGET
3	RECEIPTS			
4	Parochial Pledges	1,590,098	1,522,776	\$ 1,600,351
5	Prior Year Pledge Payments	213,854	213,854	250,000
6	Coast Appeal	-	451	
7				
8	Phillips Trust	194,445	194,445	202,618
9	Johnson Home Trust	8,250	8,250	8,250
10	Beasley Trust	6,061	6,061	12,678
11	Thompson Trust	28,406	28,404	29,652
12	Thompson Aging Ministries	773	773	807
13	Kenneth Willis Trust	15,000	13,438	15,000
14	Wade Moore	2,804	2,804	2,921
15	Robert Donnelly	4,006	4,006	4,180
16	George Hewes Fund	1,563	1,563	1,356
17	Virginia Smith Fund	7,680	7,680	6,978
18	Thomas Blake Fund	9,000	10,182	10,000
19	Epis Outreach Foundation	5,090	5,090	5,324
20	Allin House Endowment	40,584	40,584	43,258
21	Theological Education Trusts	4,887	4,887	5,298
22				
23	Trustees - .5% addition	29,674	25,866	25,866
24	Transition Exp - Trustees	43,291	43,291	-
25				
26	Hewes for Outreach Coord	-	-	-
27	Consultants			28,000
28	Okolona Storybook	10,000		8,500
29	Okolona Endow for JSU	85,467	85,467	81,753
30	Virginia Smith - Designated	10,000	10,000	-
31	George Hewes - Designated	10,000	10,000	-
32	Small Church Fund - Venture	10,000	10,000	19,494
33	Leslie Casaday Fund			-
34	A C Marble School			-
35	Gibbons for Marble School			-
36	Marble School - Robertson			-
37	Virginia Smith for ACM School	10,000	10,000	10,000
38	Development Off - Gibbons	84,479	84,479	150,000
39	Virginia Smith for Trip to Sudan			-
40				
41	Designated Funds			
42	Small Church - Moore	5,585	5,585	-
43	Transition Committee	16,422	16,422	-
44	Compensation Reserve			25,000
45	Diocesan Lay Scholarship			-
46	Emergency Relief Funds			-
47	Katrina General Relief			-
48	Celtic Pilgrimage 2010			-
49	Pilgrimage / Tours		6,986	15,204
50	CCCD Reserves			-
51	Past Workers' Comp Ref	39,539	39,539	-
52	Compensation Reserve	14,581	14,581	-
53	Making Ex Dis Reserve			11,000
54	CFM Speaker Fund			-
55	Hispanic Ministry	20,000	4,000	17,000
56				
57	Battle Hill	2,600	2,699	2,600
58	Trustee Bookkeeping	6,000	6,000	6,000
59	Miscellaneous Donations	-	2,984	-
60	Seage Discretionary Fund	-		-
61				
62	Investment Interest	30	4	-
63	Memorial Income	-		-
64	Mississippi Episcopalian Ads	7,844	8,348	9,000
65				
66	Prior Year Balance	(8,712)	(8,712)	(47,699)
67				
68	TOTAL RECEIPTS	2,529,301	2,442,786	2,560,389
69				
70	SUPPORT OF THE BISHOP			
71	BISHOP GRAY			
72	Stipend	16,242	16,242	-
73	Housing Allowance	2,000	2,000	-

		2015 Final	2015 FINAL	2016 BUDGET
74	Housing Equity	400	400	-
75	Pension Premium	6,173	8,291	-
76	Travel	3,500	6,050	-
77	Continuing Education	-	335	-
78	Automobile Expense	1,000	904	-
79	Medical, Life, Disability Insurance	10,976	10,930	-
80	BISHOP GRAY TOTAL	40,291	45,152	-
81				
82	BISHOP'S HOME			
83	4735 Northampton - Utilities	3,000	3,552	-
84	4735 Northampton - Maintenance	-	-	-
85	BISHOP'S HOME TOTAL	3,000	3,552	-
86				
87	SUPPORT OF THE BISHOP TOTAL	43,291	48,704	-
88				
89	BISHOP SEAGE			
90	Stipend	118,000	118,000	118,000
91	Housing Allowance	24,000	24,000	24,000
92	Pension Premium	25,560	25,560	25,560
93	Travel	12,000	23,665	15,000
94	Continuing Education	3,000	750	3,000
95	Moving Expense		7,107	
96	College for Bishops	3,000	-	3,000
97	Automobile Expense	4,020	3,235	4,020
98	Medical, Life, Disability Insurance	24,124	24,484	24,484
99	BISHOP SEAGE TOTAL	213,704	226,802	217,064
100				
101	CANON TO THE ORDINARY			
102	Stipend	56,262	56,085	56,262
103	Housing Allowance	40,000	40,000	40,000
104	Pension Premium	17,327	18,168	17,327
105	Travel	10,000	7,922	10,000
106	Continuing Education	1,200	378	1,200
107	Automobile Expense	4,020	4,046	4,020
108	Medical, Life, Disability Insurance	17,896	17,896	17,896
109	CANON TO THE ORDINARY TOTAL	146,705	144,495	146,705
110				
111	CANON FOR ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE			
112	Salary	86,000	86,730	7,228
113	Pension	7,740	7,806	651
114	Travel and Continuing Education	4,200	4,404	350
115	FICA Taxes	6,354	6,635	553
116	Medical, Life, Disability Insurance	18,764	18,763	1,564
117	CANON McCORMICK TOTAL	123,058	124,338	10,346
118				
119	CANON-ELECT FOR ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE			
120	Stipend		8,694	86,730
121	Housing Allowance		9,375	-
122	Pension Premium		3,590	15,611
123	Moving		5,166	
124	Travel & Continuing Education		1,606	6,000
125	Medical, Life, Disability Insurance		1,517	9,108
126	CANON PONDER TOTAL		29,948	117,449
127				
128	EPISCOPAL COMMITMENTS			
129	TEC Commitment	304,162	304,162	305,668
130	Coast Support	-	451	-
131	Province IV Quota	7,123	7,123	7,333
132				
133	EPISCOPAL COMMITMENTS TOTAL	311,285	311,736	313,001
134				
135	SUPPORT STAFF			
136	Bookkeeper	46,231	46,565	46,231
137	Assistant to the Canons	40,673	40,594	40,673
138	Assistant to the Bishop	47,150	47,504	47,150
139	Sexton	8,100	8,100	8,100
140	Cont Ed / Development		1,962	3,500
141	FICA Taxes	10,073	12,278	10,255
142	Pension Premiums	11,850	12,120	12,066

Continued on page 9

Special Council Edition 2016

2016 ANNUAL BUDGET

		2015 Final	2015 FINAL	2016 BUDGET
143	Life, Medical Insurance, Disability	68,252	55,069	60,344
144	SUPPORT STAFF TOTAL	232,329	224,191	228,319
145				
146	GENERAL OFFICE			
147	Transition Expenses	-	-	-
148	Merit Increases	-	-	7,000
149	General	3,500	5,325	3,500
150	Parking - staff	6,800	6,287	6,800
151	Parking - meetings	700	742	700
152	Dues and Subscriptions	1,200	565	1,200
153	Postage	6,000	5,001	6,000
154	Supplies	4,000	3,764	4,000
155	Printer toner, etc.	2,000	696	2,000
156	Bank Charges and Fees	900	2,053	2,500
157	Telephone	10,000	11,807	10,000
158	Maintenance - Computers & Softw	6,000	6,536	6,000
159	Equipment Reserve	-	-	-
160	Annual Council Reserve	5,000	5,000	5,000
161	Automobile Reserve	15,000	15,000	15,000
162	Staff Development	5,000	3,862	5,000
163	Insurance	4,350	4,372	4,350
164	Workers' Compensation	2,200	2,200	2,200
165	Audit	16,500	22,000	16,500
166	Miscellaneous	-	-	-
167	Duplicating - Riso	-	-	-
168	Duplicating - Copier	4,990	4,667	5,000
169	Duplication - Supplies	-	-	-
170	GENERAL OFFICE TOTAL	94,140	100,278	102,750
171				
172	DEBT SERVICE FOR COAST PROPERTIES			
173	Gulfport, St. Mark's	15,582	14,545	15,590
174	Biloxi, Redeemer	4,000	3,735	4,007
175	Long Beach, St. Patrick's	40,135	37,461	40,143
176	DEBT SERVICE FOR COAST PROI	59,716	55,741	59,740
177				
178	THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION			
179	Seminary Tuition and Fees	41,700	42,276	38,000
180	Seminarian Travel Fund	-	-	-
181	Seminarian Medical & Psychologic	3,200	1,200	5,600
182	Seminarian Life & Medical Insuran	42,670	31,161	54,124
183	Moving to Seminary	11,000	9,343	12,000
184	THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION TOTA	98,570	83,980	109,724
185				
186	CONGREGATIONS/COMMUNITIES			
187	Sumner, Advent	25,000	16,489	-
188	Coast Episcopal School	-	-	-
189	Trinity School, Natchez	5,000	-	-
190	Jackson, All Saints	20,271	9,055	28,622
191	Jackson, St. Alexis	80,000	80,000	70,000
192	Olive Branch, Holy Cross	24,000	24,000	26,000
193	Picayune, St. Paul's	-	-	-
194	Aberdeen, St. John's	-	-	-
195	Columbus, Good Shepherd	23,364	23,364	13,364
196	Diamondhead, St. Thomas	-	-	-
197	Collins, St. Elizabeth	3,770	3,769	3,770
198	Congregation Support	5,000	11,227	5,000
199	PROPERTY MAINTENANCE			
200	Ilta Bena - insurance	1,200	1,485	1,200
201	124 Price Street, Oxford - Mainten	1,500	1,500	1,500
202	CONGREGATIONS TOTAL	189,105	170,888	150,456
203				
204	GRAY CENTER			
205	Gray Center Support	187,540	187,450	187,540
206	Education Fund	3,000	3,000	3,000
207	Conference Center	-	-	-
208	GRAY CENTER TOTAL	190,540	190,450	190,540
209				
210	COORDINATOR FOR YOUTH MINISTRIES			
211	Stipend	13,419	12,301	13,419
212	COORD FOR YOUTH MIN TOTAL	13,419	12,301	13,419
213				

		2015 Final	2015 FINAL	2016 BUDGET
214	COMMISSION ON MINISTRY			
215	COM Expenses	11,000	10,105	11,000
216	Making Excellent Disciples	-	-	-
217	Continuing Education for Clergy	5,000	2,500	5,000
218	COMMISSION ON MINISTRY TOTA	16,000	12,605	16,000
219				
220	CURACY TRAINING			
221	Curacy Support	40,000	51,071	60,000
222	Moving from Seminary / Missions	13,500	14,228	3,500
223	CURACY TRAINING TOTAL	53,500	65,299	63,500
224				
225	RETIRED PRESBYTER SUPPORT			
226	Retired Presbyter Life & Medical In	9,511	9,125	9,511
227	Retired Clergy Wellness	-	-	-
228	Retired Bishop Travel & Honor	-	-	2,500
229	Phillips Christmas	8,000	-	8,000
230	RETIRED PRESBYTER TOTAL	17,511	9,125	20,011
231				
232	PLANNED GIVING AND DEVELOPMENT			
233	Planned Giving Committee	5,000	1,169	17,175
234	DO - Stipend	50,167	39,393	86,730
235	DO - Housing	-	11,200	-
236	DO - Pension	9,030	10,752	15,611
237	DO - Travel	5,000	2,874	5,000
238	DO - Continuing Ed	1,000	-	1,000
239	DO - Life / Medical	14,282	11,739	24,484
240	PLANNED GIVING AND DEVELOPMENT TOTAL	84,479	77,127	150,000
241				
242				
243	YOUTH COMMISSION			
244	Division of Youth (net)	8,000	10,279	10,000
245	Happening (Net)	2,500	3,194	3,000
246	New Initiatives	4,000	-	4,500
247	Continuing Education	3,000	-	-
248	Parish Development	5,000	-	-
249	Event Coordinator Stipends	-	-	-
250	Adults Working with Youth	4,000	-	4,500
251	Youth Commission Expenses	3,000	404	-
252	Office Supplies & Printing	-	-	1,500
253	YOUTH COMMISSION TOTAL	20,000	13,877	23,500
254				
255	CLERGY CONFERENCES			
256	Clergy Conference	30,000	26,923	31,000
257	Spiritual Direction & Wellness	500	2,777	3,000
258	Clergy Workshops	-	-	-
259	Presbyter Spouse Weekend	-	-	-
260	Post Ordination Consultation	7,000	7,881	7,000
261	CLERGY CONFERENCE TOTAL	37,500	37,581	41,000
262				
263	ORDAINED MISCELLANEOUS			
264	Clergy Consultation	250	559	500
265	Ordinations	500	119	500
266	ORDAINED MISCELLANEOUS TO	750	678	1,000
267				
268	CONGREGATIONAL DEVELOPMENT			
269	Venture Grants	10,000	10,000	10,000
270	Percept	2,000	2,000	2,000
271	Coop College for Cong Developme	-	-	-
272	CONGREGATIONAL DEVELOPME	12,000	12,000	12,000
273				
274	RECONCILING			
275	Racial Reconciliation Task Force	3,800	-	1,500
276	Ministry & Form - Diaconate	9,339	5,466	7,900
277	Ministry with Gay & Lesbian Perso	5,000	6,739	5,000
278	Disaster Preparedness	1,500	190	2,530
279	Outreach Coordinator	-	-	-
280	Episcopal Relief and Development	550	491	650
281	RECONCILING TOTAL	20,189	12,886	17,580
282				

Continued on page 10

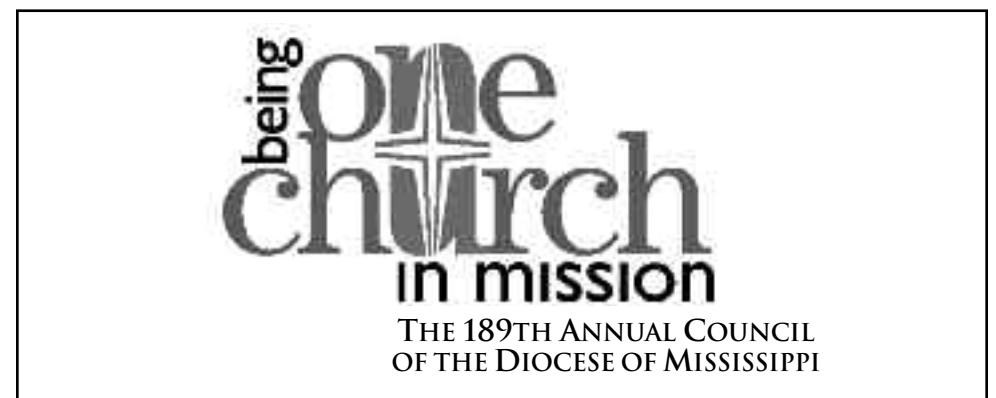
	2015 Final	2015 FINAL	2016 BUDGET
283 OUTREACH			
284 Congregations for Children	-	(200)	-
285 MS Religious Leadership Conferer	1,000	1,000	1,000
286 Panama: Overseas Mission Clergy	5,000	5,000	5,000
287 University of the South	500	500	500
288 Whispering Pines Hospice	2,500	2,500	2,500
289 OUTREACH TOTAL	9,000	8,800	9,000
290			
291 COMMUNICATIONS			
292 Communications Coordinator	14,314	14,328	16,218
293 <i>The Mississippi Episcopalian</i>	65,000	58,422	55,470
294 Communications & Training	250	453	250
295 Website support	7,500	8,207	7,500
298 COMMUNICATIONS TOTAL	87,064	81,409	79,438
299			
300 ALLIN HOUSE			
301 Utilities	5,800	5,353	5,800
302 Maintenance Contracts	2,400	4,809	2,400
303 Renovation Repayment	34,000	36,706	34,000
304 Repairs and Maintenance Reserve	5,000	5,000	5,000
305 ALLIN HOUSE TOTAL	47,200	51,869	47,200
306			
307 COLLEGE CHAPLAINS			
308 Delta State University	7,510	7,510	10,280
309 USM Chaplaincy	9,600	9,600	10,000
310 Oxford, UM	77,661	77,661	75,977
311 Starkville, MSU	66,493	79,242	79,236
312 Millsaps Canterbury		100	2,500
313 Jackson State University -	85,467	85,467	81,753
314 Young Adult Ministry	500	1,053	-
315 Campus Works and Ministries		-	5,000
316 COLLEGE TOTAL	247,231	260,633	264,746
317			
318 ONE CHURCH COMMITTEES / RESOURCES			
319 Archives and History	1,525	1,381	2,400
320 Safe Church Committee	2,500	1,344	2,500
321 Safe Church Reserve Fund	-	-	-
322 Blanket Surety Bond	2,370	2,370	-
323 Hispanic Ministry	20,000	3,000	17,000
324 Bishop's Mission Fund	5,000		5,000
325 Companion Diocese	3,500	901	3,500
326 Mission Trip to Uganda	4,000		10,000
327 Diocese of Twic East	-	-	-
328 Sudanese Ministry	7,000	7,373	8,000
329 Sudan Mission Trip	-	-	-
330 Presiding Bishop Webcast		189	-
331 General Convention Deputies	15,000	15,108	15,000
332 Province IV Synod Deputies	4,000	4,000	4,000
333 Lambeth Reserve	-	-	-
334 Diocesan Consultants		19,529	18,000
335 Administrative Consultant			10,000
336 ONE CHURCH COMMITTEES / RES	64,895	55,196	95,400
337			
338 TRANSFORMING COMMITTEES /RESOURCES			
339 Fresh Start - Transition Clergy	-	520	-
340 Small Church Conference	-	320	-
341 Evangelism	-	-	-
342 Lay Leadership Training Institute	3,000		-
343 Journey Partners	5,000	5,000	5,000
344 Mutual Ministry Review			1,500
345 Southeastern Deployment Network	500		1,000
346 Search Process Reserve			
347 Stewardship Consultant Training	4,000		-
348 General Convention Day	500	(448)	-
349 Wellness Initiatives	500		500
350 Iona Partnership	7,500	7,500	10,850
351 Marble School	25,300	9,681	12,000
352 Marble School 1%		(1,823)	
353 Cursillo	8,000	7,903	8,000
354 Outreach Foundation	5,090		5,090

	2015 Final	2015 FINAL	2016 BUDGET
355 EFM	2,500	2,500	2,500
356 Stewardship	-		-
357 Theological Convocation		3,381	5,000
358 TRANSFORMING COMMITTEE / R	61,890	34,535	51,440
359			
360 PRISON MINISTRY			
361 Parchman, Chaplain	3,600	3,715	3,600
362 Storybook project	17,000	220	8,500
363 Camp Caritas	-	-	-
364 Prison Ministry Committee	-	(700)	-
365 PRISON MINISTRY TOTAL	20,600	3,235	12,100
366			
367 IN MISSION COMMITTEES / RESOURCES			
368 AIDS	5,475	6,167	5,250
369 Lay Leadership Conference	1,500	214	1,500
370 Newcomers' Conference	-		-
371 Committee Meetings	5,000	5,556	5,000
372 Standing Committee Meetings			1,360
373 Diocesan Journal	1,500	1,339	1,500
374 Bishops' and Chancellors' Confere	1,500	1,500	1,500
375 Background Checks	-	5,280	-
376 Bishop's Summit			5,500
377 IN MISSION COMMITTEES / RESO	14,975	20,055	21,610
378			
379 INVITING COMMITTEES / RESOURCES			
380 Ecumenical Relations	1,000	-	1,000
381 Music and Liturgy	-	-	-
382 Licensed Lay Ministries (net)	-	-	-
383 Mississippi Music Conference	5,000	5,000	5,000
384 INVITING COMMITTEES / RESOUR	6,000	5,000	6,000
385			
386 CENTER FOR FORMATION & MISSION			
387 Center for Formation and Mission	20,000	4,723	2,500
388 CFM TOTAL	20,000	4,723	2,500
389			
390 PRIOR YEAR EXPENSES			
391			
392 TOTAL EXPENSES	2,556,646	2,490,485	2,593,538
393			
394			
395			
396 TOTAL RECEIPTS	2,529,301	2,442,786	2,560,389
397 TOTAL EXPENSES	2,556,646	2,490,485	2,593,538
398 NET	(27,344)	(47,699)	(33,149)

Episcopal Church at University of Southern Mississippi

The Episcopal Church at USM has enjoyed another great year. While our group is rooted in USM's campus life and supported by Hattiesburg's two Episcopal churches (Trinity and Ascension), this year we welcomed several members from nearby William Carey University. Our group now is filled with undergraduate and graduate students, life-long Episcopalians and newcomers to the denomination, singers (and non-singers!), educators, thinkers, engineers, and a soon-to-be coroner. Our main activity continues to be a Tuesday night Eucharist and dinners, with the Revs. Marian Fortner and Susan Bear celebrating with us. Once a month we meet off-campus for a Theology on Tap discussion at a local restaurant. We are excited about the re-energizing of all of the campus ministries that have been happening in Fall 2015, and look forward to more faith, fellowship, and outreach in 2016.

Submitted by Elizabeth Lentz-Hill



Absalom Jones Anglican Campus Ministry Jackson State University

I compare the work of campus ministry with that of an architectural engineer tasked to build a bridge. Architectural engineers provide a means of crossing natural barriers, ensuring a smooth transition from one side of the road to the other. In similar observation, one would say that campus ministry in itself is a bridge that provides a smooth transition of students intending to become professionals. AJA Campus Ministry strives to become a bridge for young adults in their transition to myriads of life's opportunities.

As campus chaplain, my task is about building soul relationships rooted in Christ that last a lifetime.

At AJA Campus Ministry we've been blessed with a diverse group of students from various nationalities, ethnic, and denominational backgrounds. We are very grateful for the Okolona Scholarship, which continues to make a difference for our student body. We also serve many international students in our membership from the Anglicans, Catholics, Baptists, and Lutherans to name but a few. Our confidential life experience sharing and provoking testimonies continue to touch many of those who attend our fellowship meetings.

In the spring 2015, we offered an ecumenical dialogue to International students on "Faith and Culture." Drop-in activities, such as the bi-weekly Subways Sandwich and Prayer, keep students' spirituality in focus within a community setting. We continue to rotate our international student meetings between JSU, Millsaps College, and Belhaven monthly. Our weekly programs are informal, non-traditional, student-led, and sometimes we invite speakers. Following our meetings, we are served with homemade dinner.

Early in the summer of 2015, we sponsored an International Cuisine Contest, which drew international students from Belhaven University, Millsaps College, and Jackson State University. We anticipate doing the same this year.

In September 2015, AJA Campus Ministry, in collaboration with the Vice President of the International Department at JSU, hosted a panel discussion on "Separation of Church and State" with diplomatic guests from: Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Oman, United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Syria, Egypt, Pakistan, Libya, and Turkey. Our campus ministry was the only club on the panel that handled a two hour discussion on behalf of JSU.

Finally, we are thinking of ways we can reach out into the surrounding neighborhood and invite partners in mission and ministry to enrich the JSU community. We want to be an outward and visible sign of God's kingdom in our community. We appreciate your advice, prayers, and support.

The Rev. Dr. William Ndishabandi, Absalom Jones Campus Ministry
Jackson State University

All Saints Episcopal School

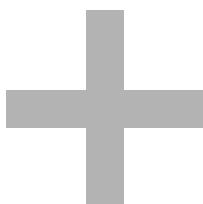
In 2015, All Saints continued to serve as the AmeriCorps Southern Region Campus as they carry out their mission to "strengthen communities and develop leaders through team-based national and community service". In March this past year, AmeriCorps inducted 104 members into traditional NCCC teams and 60 into FEMA Corps in the joint class 21. This group performed a number of projects before graduation in November, including trash and debris removal, assistance with home refurbishing, tutoring students, assistance to senior citizens, conducting prescribed burns to prevent forest fires, assistance to new home construction and constructed miles of trails in national parks. In May, FEMA class 21 graduated 115 members who provided over 224,000 hours of service including assistance to disaster shelters, performing administrative support to FEMA, transporting and delivering supplies and training support for disaster centers. In August, FEMA class 22 was inducted with 160 new members, assigned to 18 teams. This class will graduate in April, 2016. Each class that completes the 10 month program has similar accomplishments which are greatly appreciated by their sponsors.

As part of the training for AmeriCorps team leaders, during their first few weeks on campus we provide a 2 hour overview of All Saints, the history of the school and the importance of the campus to the alumni and the church. This training has helped Corps members appreciate the campus and its history as well as a chance for us to get to know some of them while they are here. We also hosted 4 receptions this for AmeriCorps staff, visitors and volunteer organizations that attend the inductions and graduations for each class. We also assisted with the class reunion for the All Saints class of 1975, a joyous homecoming for all. Several parishes used the alumni center for vestry retreats throughout the year.

The pool house was refurbished in 2015 and the exterior of Johnson and Green Halls were painted. Work is ongoing to remodel bathrooms in the gym and improve WiFi campus-wide.

AmeriCorps staff and members continue to say this is the best of all the AmeriCorps campuses and they appreciate the diocese for its support and for making it available to them. Susan and I feel blessed to be a part of this activity and this holy place.

Richard and Susan Price



A. C. Marble School for Theological Formation

The A. C. Marble School, a member of the Iona Initiative of the Seminary of the Southwest in Austin, Texas, is in its third year. The School's rigorous course of study prepares diaconal postulants and candidates for ministry. Students and faculty meet once a month at Gray Center during the academic year. Students complete a thorough survey of scripture during their first year of study. The second year of study is devoted to a survey of church history. Year three focuses on theology and ethics.

The academic courses are taught by seminary faculty with discussion facilitated by the Reverend Beth Foose. The Reverend Deacon Bill Hanna instructs students in the practice of diaconal ministry. The postulants and candidates participate in four spiritual retreats during the academic year, directed by Gay Yerger, Director of Formation. Last year, the Reverend Lynn Ronaldi led a Clinical Pastoral Education unit at Baptist Hospital in Jackson.

The rigorous academic instruction provided by the Iona Initiative, the mentoring of the staff, and the spiritual formation of being in community, enhance theological education within the Diocese of Mississippi. The postulants from Mississippi beginning year one are Mary Howard King, Courtney Taylor, and Jan Moore. John Boyd and Joey Clavijo are year one postulants from the Diocese of Louisiana. Candidates Linda Healy, Sandy Kimmelman, and Betty Melton, our first graduating class, hope to be ordained this spring.

In October of this year, the Reverend Beth Foose stepped down as Dean of the A. C. Marble School. Subsequently, the Reverend Charles Hawkins was appointed as Dean.

Respectfully submitted,
The Reverend Charles Hawkins

Archives

The project started last year to inventory the archives is progressing. Existing archival files for individual Diocese of Mississippi churches have been organized and recorded in an inventory maintained in an Excel file. Additions are recorded as received and filed. Organizing and inventorying the archival files of our Mississippi bishops is in process and completed through Bishop Gray, Jr. I have compiled a list of histories of individual church parishes we have in the Archive. If your parish has compiled or published a history recently, please let us know about it and we would appreciate your making a copy available for the Archives. These histories are so important for the Archives to have to assist researchers.

Inquiries to which I have responded this year include: members of Redeemer, Biloxi, 1870-1922; Bishops Thompson and Green and the Sewanee Conference and Canon of 1883; St. Philip's, Kirkwood; Vocare; Chapel of the Cross, Rolling Fork; St. John's, Glen Allan; Protestant Episcopal Church in the Confederate States; Confirmation records, Redeemer, Biloxi, 1956; Wednesdays at St. Andrew's speaker, 1990; St. Peter's By-the-Sea, Gulfport; Mississippi Episcopalians in the Civil War; Episcopal Church in Ripley; Holy Huts, a project of St. John's, Pascagoula; St. James, Jackson; The Rev. Thos. L. Hastings, Nativity, Water Valley; All Saints School, Vicksburg; Rectors of the Chapel of the Cross, Madison; The Rev. Bradner J. Moore; Confirmation records, Grace Church, Okolona. We made available to The Archives of the Episcopal Church scrapbooks and selected documents relating to Bishop John Maury Allin while he was Bishop of Mississippi for them to digitize to add to their collection of his papers.

In April, I met with members responsible for the archival records at St. Columb's, Ridgeland, to advise them on how to organize and care for the materials in their archives. It is so important for us to preserve our early church records. If you would like me to come meet with you to discuss the archives of your church, please contact me.

I attended the Annual Conference of the National Episcopal Historians & Archivists (NEHA) in Louisville, Kentucky, August 11-13. This was the second year I have represented the diocese at this conference. It is a great opportunity for me to network with other church and diocesan historians and archivists from around the country.

Next year's meeting will be the Tri-History Conference, a triennial cooperative conference on the history of the Episcopal Church, which brings together archivists and historians from three major Episcopal church organizations: The Historical Society of the Episcopal Church, the National Episcopal Historians and Archivists, and the Episcopal Women's History Project. It will be held in Oneida, Wisconsin. The theme: "Wondering, Witness/Worship, and War: Historical Encounters between the Episcopal and Anglican Church and Indigenous Peoples in North America."

V. A. Patterson, Archives

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 188th Diocesan Council held at the Jackson Convention Complex in Jackson, Mississippi, assisted as requested and served on the Constitution and Canons Committee.

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.

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, Board of Directors and others, especially the Canon for Administration and Finance, and worked with representatives of AmeriCorps/NCCC and their legal counsel and other representatives, on contract, leasehold, corporate governance matters and related legal issues concerning the All Saints Episcopal School in Vicksburg, for which the Trustees are a creditor, including the payoff and lien release of a long term liability that had been owed to a food vendor creditor.

Conferred with the Bishop, Canon for Administration and Finance and legal counsel for an independent trustee concerning an ongoing trust matter involving All Saints Episcopal School.

Conferred with the Bishop, Trustees and the Canon for Administration and Finance on financing matters involving the existing financing relationship between the Trustees and Trustmark National Bank involving the indebtedness incurred by the Trustees for congregations on the Gulf Coast following Hurricane Katrina.

Conferred with the Bishop and members of Standing Committee of the Diocese on governance and procedural matters.

Conferred and met with the Bishop, the Canon to the Ordinary and Cannon for Administration and Finance on a variety of transition and planning matters for The Rev. Brian Ponder to become Canon for Administration and Finance upon the retirement of Canon McCormick.

Conferred with the Bishop on a variety of clergy, pastoral and post-General Convention matters.

Conferred with the Bishop and the Trustees of the Diocese on matters involving the Gray Center Special Maintenance Fund and consummated the sale of approximately 245 acres in Rankin County, Mississippi, the proceeds of which will be invested for the Gray Center Special Maintenance Fund.

Worked on post-settlement matters involving the 2013 multi-state litigation in Arkansas and Mississippi concerning the construction and interpretation of an Arkansas trust instrument and the construction of a separate general power of appointment exercised in the Last Will and Testament of a deceased Mississippi Episcopalian that establishes a new endowment for Gray Center composed of title standing in the name of the Trustees to a tract of desirable farm land located in Arkansas.

Worked with Bishop Gray and the Canon for Administration and Finance on the preparation and execution of a First Amendment to Loan Collateralization Agreement with Hope Community Credit Union for the Hallelujah Housing Project.

Advised the Bishop, Canon to the Order, Canon for Finance and Administration and Wardens of a parish on the resolution of an Equal Employment Opportunity Commission proceeding involving a former parish employee.

Advised the Bishop and Canon to the Ordinary, with the assistance of Vice Chancellor Drinkwater, on a subpoena issued to the Diocese involving misconduct allegations in another jurisdiction against a former member of the clergy for conduct that did not occur in this Diocese.

Attended the 2015 Bishops and Chancellors Conference in New Orleans, Louisiana with Bishop Seage and delivered a presentation on Diocesan Disaster Preparedness.

Assisted the Rector, Wardens and Vestry of St. James, Jackson on parish governance matters.

Advised the Bishop and Chip Glaze, the Committee Chairman of the Episcopal Recovery Program of Mississippi ("ERP"), on the development of policies and procedures for education and assistance to individuals in the Diocese struggling with addiction.

Worked with the Canon for Administration and Finance on banking account matters with Trustmark National Bank involving Diocesan accounts and other accounts maintained for Gray Center.

Granville Tate, Jr.
Chancellor

Commission on Ministry

The Commission on Ministry is a commission that is made up of lay persons, deacons, and priests, and it established by canon law for the purpose of assisting and advising the bishop “in the implementation of Title III (Ministry) canons; in the determination of present and future opportunities and needs for the ministry of all baptized persons; in the design and oversight of the ongoing process for recruitment, discernment, formation for ministry, and assessment of readiness therfor.” The Commission on Ministry meets regularly throughout the year in sub-committees as well as in plenary meetings to accomplish those purposes.

The subcommittees who make reports to the COM to help inform our work include the presbyters and the deacons discernment committee, the young adult discernment committee, the Diocese of Mississippi Board of Examining Chaplains, and the A.C. Marble School committee.

The Presbyter’s Discernment Committee met at Gray Center on January 5-7th and interviewed the aspirants that the bishop had sent them. They made recommendations to the bishop on each aspirant, and the bishop proceeded as he deemed appropriate.

The full COM met at Gray Center on March 27th and 28th. In addition to our regular and ongoing work of maintaining regular contact with the seminarians of the diocese, the COM met with the three new presbyter postulants. Reports were presented from the examining chaplains, the Clergy Continuing Education Grant overseer, and the Deacon’s Council. The bishop commended the work of Peter Gray, the chair of the examining chaplains, and the diocesan examining chaplains for their work in assessing the General Ordination Exams of our senior seminarians and for their work in preparing our seminarians to take the GOEs. The bishop and the COM discussed the diocesan discernment processes and continued a conversation about a more comprehensive diocesan-wide discernment process (which a sub-committee will work on); the bishop also informed the COM that the deacon’s discernment process time-line will be brought into the same schedule as the presbyter’s discernment process. All canonical recommendations were conveyed to the Standing Committee, which was meeting in another part of the conference center.

The Full COM met at Gray Center on August 18-19. The COM heard reports on the progress of all presbyter and deacon postulants. The COM met with the middler seminarians and spouses and the deacon postulants. The COM heard a report from the Deacon’s Council. They also spent time outside of meetings reading the reports from the examining chaplains and the files on all the postulants. The COM and the bishop continued the discussion on discernment processes in the diocese. The COM recommended three vocational deacon postulants for candidacy. The canonical recommendations were conveyed to the Standing Committee, which was meeting in another section of the conference center.

The full COM met on October 10th at St. Columb’s, Ridgeland. The COM heard a report from the Deacon’s Council and spent time reading all the curacy evaluations for the transitional deacons. The COM recommended six candidates for ordination to the priesthood. The canonical recommendations were placed in the files and returned to the Allin House (as well as conveyed to the bishop) in preparation for the Standing Committee’s October meeting.

The COM had two retirements of long-time members in 2015. Dr. John Allin and the Rev. Canon David Johnson both retired from the COM and the Presbyter’s Discernment Committee. The bishop appointed Dr. Leigh Jensen Crawford and the Rev. Deacon Scott Williams to serve on COM.

Respectfully submitted,
The Rev. Melanie Dickson Lemburg, Chair

Daughters of the King

The Order of the Daughters of the King is an international religious order which seeks to spread

Christ’s Kingdom throughout the world. Daughters take a vow to pray daily for others. Daughters can be recognized by the cross that they wear and the service that they do with in the parish and community.

It only take three women in a parish to start a chapter. The Diocese of Mississippi has 18 chapters. The Trinity Chapter, Natchez, was reassembled this year. In January of 2015, the DOK Diocese of Mississippi hosted the Province IV board meeting in Ocean Springs. Our spring retreat was held at Gray Center. In June, Judy Glothlin, Doris Bradley, and Eleanor Baran traveled to Utah for the DOK Triennial. Doris Bradley, Province IV Advisor, and Pamela Napier, Diocesan Vice President, traveled to Kanuga in the fall for the province assembly.

It is of great sadness that our beloved diocesan president, Judy McGlothlin, left earth for a fuller life in December. Her great smile and enthusiasm will be missed. Pamela Napier, Trinity-Hattiesburg is now president.

If any individual or parish is interested in Daughters of the King, the national website is www.doknational.com. Brochures will be available at council or you may contact Eleanor Baran, .

Respectfully submitted,
Eleanor Baran
DOK Diocesan President 2012-2015

Committee on Ministry with LGBT Persons

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

The Inclusion Statement: We are a congregation of the Episcopal Diocese of Mississippi: One church in mission, transforming and reconciling. We seek to serve Christ in all persons and to respect the dignity of every human being.

Observation: This committee has been in existence for many years, but only came into its own (so to speak) during the Episcopate of Bishop Gray III. Through his guidance, and in some cases forbearance, it flourished and saw positive results in defining the diocesan mission to the LGBT community. Examples of this are: first diocesan openly gay person to seek Holy Orders and eventually be ordained priest; clergy sensitivity training on LGBT issues; parish/mission survey concerning LGBT issues; Spiritual Renewal Retreat, which began in 2006 and observed its 10th anniversary this year; a path to same-gender marriage; many LGBT persons now holding positions in their congregations (i.e. Senior Warden, vestry person, delegate to Annual Council, etc.); the inclusion statement (see above); LGBT Newsletter; and many more.

All of the above have now made it possible for a transition to be experienced. That is, from the diocese ministering to LGBT persons (although this continues) to LGBT persons ministering and sharing their talents and gifts in their congregations and the diocese, as well. In order to accomplish this, four initiatives are being submitted to the Bishop for review and approval (please see paragraph 7 below). It is hoped that these will continue to support our current mission, but will also point the way to expand and make more meaningful our mission within the Diocese and the wider Church.

Meetings: The Committee met on four occasions during the year: 25 April, 11 July, 23 August and 14 November. A summary of the Committee’s accomplishments follow.

1. Retreat 2015: The 10th Anniversary Retreat was held at Gray Center on the weekend of 21-23 August. There were over 90 participants attending from many parishes/ missions of the Diocese and states from as far away as California. The presenters were the Rev. Canon Susan Russell, Senior Associate at All Saints Church, Pasadena, CA and her wife, Lori Galloway Kizza. Their subject was “Are we running with you Jesus? Claiming the legacy of Malcolm Boyd.” In 1965, Episcopal priest Malcolm Boyd published *Are You Running With Me Jesus?* a book of prayers which fed the hunger of a generation of people who had given up on the church or anyone connected with it having anything relevant to say.

2. Retreat 2016: Please mark your calendar for the 11th Annual Spiritual Renewal Retreat which will be held at Gray Center the weekend of 19-21 August 2016. The process has been initiated to find a presenter. Once that person has been found, an announcement will be made in *The Mississippi Episcopalian*.

3. LGBT Newsletter: The newsletter continues to be published and is sent out electronically to a list of persons who have attended the retreat and other interested persons. Current copies are also posted on the committee’s page on the Diocesan website: www.dioms.org/Ministries/gay.html

4. Booth at Council: The Committee continues to sponsor a booth at Council. There are displays of the Committee’s activities, giveaway of excess T-shirts left over from the retreat and this year, leftover fans as well. Please take the opportunity to check out our booth and learn more about our mission and activities.

5. New Members: The Committee is pleased to welcome Mr. Webb Morgan, St. Andrew’s Cathedral, Jackson and Ms Suzanne Pepper, St. Philip’s, Jackson. They replace Mr. Tim Adams, St. Columb’s, Ridgeland and Mr. Jody Bailey, St. Peter-by-the-Sea, Gulfport. Thank you both for your service with the Committee.

6. Committee Web Page: The Committee maintains a web page on the Diocesan website. To access the page go to www.dioms.org/Ministries/gay.html. You will find minutes of the Committee meetings, the LGBT Newsletter, registration for the annual retreat, the list of Committee members, mission and inclusion statements, etc. You are encouraged to review the page and become acquainted with the work of the Committee.

7. Proposed Future Goals for the Committee: As mentioned in the “Observation” paragraph above, the Committee has developed four proposed goals to work toward as it looks to the future and a new proposed Inclusion Statement. By the time you read this report they will have been submitted to the bishop for review, discussion and approval. The four goals and representative actions under each are:

Communication and Service: Maintain a visible presence at parish level by encouraging LGBT persons to participate fully in the life of their parish/mission; designate a Committee member to be a “communications director” to oversee and coordinate the Committee’s social media efforts, LGBT Newsletter, *The Mississippi Episcopalian*, etc.; identify clergy and qualified therapists to assist LGBT persons and their families in times of crisis; etc.

Annual Spiritual Renewal Retreat: Some of the suggestions were: Outreach to the non-Episcopal LGBT community in surrounding states; attempt to line up presenters several years in advance; etc.

Alignment and Advocacy: Align the Committee with other Diocesan committees and outside organizations to further our mission; become a more vocal resource to the Bishop and clergy on matters pertaining to LGBT persons; etc.

Clergy and Parish/Mission Relations: Our goal is for all parishes/missions to be truly welcoming and supportive of LGBT persons (see proposed revised Inclusion Statement below); hold regular clergy and parish/ mission workshops to assist them with LGBT matters; etc. Revised Inclusion Statement: “The Episcopal Church is one church in mission, inviting, transforming and reconciling. Episcopalians seek to serve Christ in all persons and to respect the dignity of every human being. Our congregation welcomes you.”

8. Personal Note: This will be my last report as I am retiring from the Committee. I wish to thank all previous and current members who have worked so hard to bring about our many accomplishments. In particular I recognize the Rev. Janet Ott, who has been our guiding light and has encouraged and supported us in so many ways. I know she will continue to do so in the future. Lastly, I have the pleasure to announce that the Bishop has appointed Ms. Suzanne Pepper of St. Philip’s Church, Jackson to succeed me. She is infinitely gifted, full of spirit and initiative, and has the potential to serve the Committee and the Diocese and most of all the LGBT community well.

Respectfully Submitted: John A. Lever, Chairman

Companion Diocese Committee

August Trip to Panama

Brenda Hawkins and I flew to Panama for the ECW’s Celebration of 85 years at Christ Church in Colon. We stayed with Marva Kester, who was kind enough to get us where we needed to be and also show us around some. The first night we went to the Locks for dinner as we watched the ships go through the Canal. The next afternoon we were given the pleasure of watching a celebration and contest at St. Christopher Episcopal School. Bishop Murray’s daughter Jewel and his son Sean were both in the production.

We traveled from Panama City to Colon for an all day Celebration of ECW on Sunday. The welcome and hospitality was outstanding. The church service was a treat; with honors, and blessings for safe travel bestowed on us. After the service we had a party under a tent by the ocean. This was over about 4:30 at which time it was back to Panama City.

On Monday we had a tour and luncheon at the diocesan office of Panama. I invited the ECW ladies to send someone to our ECW Fall Conference in November. The Bishop’s wife, Ana, and I discussed the possibility of her coming to Spring Conference in 2016. Bishop Murray issued Bishop Seage an invite to surf. When this was over we did some shopping and returned to pack. We left Panama on Tuesday morning to return home.

Report on Ladies Trip to ECW Meeting in November

On November 12th two ECW ladies arrived to attend the Annual ECW Conference of Mississippi. They were Angelica Hammond-Diaz, secretary of the ECW of Panama, and Elva Barrett, Pacific Coordinator. These ladies stayed with me Thursday night and attended an Efm meeting with me. Friday morning we toured Jackson, the Diocesan Office, and St. Andrews. That afternoon we went to Gray Center where they met the board of managers and presented our ECW Board with a beautiful letter from their President about how much Barbara Brunson meant to them. We were all deeply moved. We then enjoyed hearing our speaker, The Rt. Rev. Key Sloan. The ladies returned to my home on Saturday and flew home on Sunday morning.

Plans for 2016:

For 2016 the plans include: Anna Murray coming to Spring ECW Conference; a trip to Panama for myself and Evelyn Gregory to attend an ECW Meeting in October; and bringing Shawn Murray here to attend Winter Solstice in December.

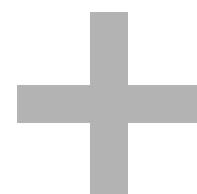
Lollie Everett, Chair

Deacons’ Council

Our first meeting of the year was led by our new bishop, Bishop Brian Seage. Here are some of the highlights of 2015. (1) Bishop Seage would like the transitional and vocational deacons to be on the same discernment timelines in order to be ordained together. (2) The A.C. Marble School may begin classes for bi-vocational priests in fall, 2016. (3) Bishop Seage said that a deacon’s mass will be allowed on a cases-by-case basis. (4) Five new postulants, Courtney Taylor, Natchez; Mary Howard King, Tupelo; Jan Moore, Hattiesburg; and two gentlemen from Louisiana began diaconate classes in September. (5) Day on the Diaconate took place at Grace Church, Canton. (6) During the fall, there was a deacon present during part of the monthly

diaconate classes to support the postulants. (7) Betty Melton, Meridian; Sandy Kimmelman, Southaven; and Linda Healey, Ocean Springs were approved for Candidacy for Ordination to the vocational diaconate which will take place in June, 2016, at the Gray Center Chapel per their request. (8) Bishop Seage also would like for discernment committees to be open to discerning all areas of ministry (priests, deacons, and lay).

Submitted by the Rev. Deacon Cathy Halford
Chair, Deacons’ Council



Diocesan Altar Guild

The Diocesan Altar Guild continues to be an advisory and assistance group to all altar guilds in the Diocese. Annual dues are \$30.00 for a parish, \$20.00 for a mission, and \$5.00 for a mission station.

The Altar Guild continues to maintain a supply closet to recycle linens, vestments, or vessels no longer used by a local parish. These can be sent to parishes in need. Mary Jackson of St. Marks, Jackson, is chairman of this program.

New priests and deacons ordained in this Diocese receive a stole from the Diocesan Altar Guild. This year the stoles were presented to Alex Allain, Hailey Allin, Kate Bradshaw, William Compton, Jennifer Southall, and Morris Thompson.

We are now on Facebook. "Like" us on Facebook to get updates and news. We have pledged a donation to the columbarium at the Church of the Nativity in Greenwood in memory of beloved DAG board member, Rebecca Lamb. The DAG also purchased a new fair linen for the Diocesan altar to be used at council and other functions of the Diocese.

The 2015 Annual Meeting was held on Saturday, May 2, at the Episcopal Church of the Nativity in Greenwood. The Rev. Giulianna Gray was the keynote speaker. Her inspiring address was about making connections with God and people. Workshops were led by Rev. Jennifer Deaton and Rev. Peter Gray. A special guest was Bishop Brian Seage, who spoke at the business meeting as well as serving Holy Eucharist. The offering for the day will be donated to Andre's Fund to assist those in the diocese suffering from addictions. It was a most inspiring and enjoyable day!

The 2016 Annual Meeting will be held on Saturday, April 30, at St. Alban's in Bovina. Mark your calendars and plan to attend. More information will be made available in early spring.

Anne Heidelberg, DAG President
St. Patrick's, Long Beach

Disaster Preparedness and Response Team

It was so quiet all year, only one disbursement in Ocean Springs to help a family whose house burned, until December 23, 2015 rolled around: Tornadoes hit north Mississippi, one year to the day that a similar event plagued Columbia, Mississippi.

The Rev. Don Chancellor (Holy Innocents/Como), the Rev. Jason Shelby (St. George's/Clarksdale) and the Very Rev. Bruce McMillan (Christ/Holly Springs) helped lead our efforts to respond by making assessments and being in communication with the team about needs. A total of five thousand dollars from the Mississippi Disaster Relief Fund was sent to help families in need through the work of the three priests mentioned above. Additionally, an ERD grant was applied for the Holly Springs area, as it was the hardest hit with over 80 homes completely destroyed. Volunteer efforts to help with debris removal are being organized.

The team encourages all parishes and missions to fill out the Preparedness Planning Guide which may be found on the diocese's website. Click on the Ministries tab and find Emergency Preparedness and Response. A fill-in PDF file is there for your convenience. Please share the file with the team after it's completed.

The members of the Disaster Preparedness and Response Team are: the Rev. Scott Lenoir, chairman, the Rev. Carol Spencer, Pete Poland, Jes Herrington, the Rev. Molly MacWade, the Rev. Cathy Halford, the Rev. Will Lowry, and newly appointed to the team is the Rev. Ben Robertson.

Pray for the best and prepare for the worst,
The Rev. Scott Lenoir, chairman

Episcopal Church at Ole Miss (ECOM)

The Episcopal Church at Ole Miss serves as the Episcopal chaplaincy and presence on campus at the University of Mississippi. At ECOM we work to share the love and witness of Jesus Christ to all members of the campus community through the particular lens of our Episcopal Church.

We gather weekly for worship at 5:30 p.m. at St. Peter's right off the square. Our service follows the familiar patterns of the Rite II Eucharist in our prayer book. Student and young adult musicians from the community lead us in songs of worship and praise, using some from our hymnal, some from our Bratton-Green camp community and some from the bluegrass and spirituals traditions. After our service we gather together to share a meal prepared by members of St. Peter's Church.

On Thursday this past semester we have gathered together for *Bible Study or Cookout and Compline* celebrations. Our Bible Study has focused on the Gospel of Matthew and has been a wonderful opportunity to dive into scripture together. *Cookout and Compline* has served as a time to unwind and to get to know one another better. Our shared pre-Thanksgiving meal, a pot-luck prepared by students the week before Thanksgiving, was a truly great example of the developing connections of our community.

Over the past year we have begun to develop a leadership committee to help lead the campus ministry. A group of students and St. Peter's parishioners have gathered to discuss new ideas and opportunities. The various campus ministry offerings of the Diocese have come together under the umbrella of Canterbury, sharing branding and marketing opportunities.

I have been humbled since my arrival in April at the deep connection and love people feel for our ECOM ministry. As we move forward my hope is that we continue to deepen our relationships with each other and striving to understand more deeply what it means to be called to the Christian life in our modern world. Thank you all for the love and support you have shown me and this wonderful ministry.

The Rev. Chris Robinson

Canterbury: Episcopal Campus Ministry at Delta State

As I reflect on 2015, I cannot help but reflect on our formation and growth as a ministry since 2011. Canterbury has grown from maybe one student a week to a solid, faithful group of students, adding a couple more each year. Whether you poll our transfer students who have found a place to plug in, our student from Kenya who has found a home away from home in the Canterbury group and at Calvary, our non-traditional students, or our other faithful students, you will find that Canterbury has provided a stable life-giving ministry in their lives.

We meet and eat weekly. We have some sort of wisdom to take back to our lives for the week after whether it's discussion on that day's Forward Day By Day, a TED talk, or some current event seen through the lens of being the hands and feet of Christ.

We've added a once a month lunch on campus with all Delta State Episcopalians. This has been a great extension of the ministry. It fosters relationships between students, faculty, and staff.

This year, we started something that has been really awesome Crossroads (crossroads of "young at heart" and college folks). One night a month everyone roughly under 50 or "young at heart" gathers for a pot luck/social event. We have so many new young families, and they don't necessarily get involved in men of the church or ECW. I wanted to find a way to plug them in and feel more of a part of the church. It gets the college kids more involved, and the younger families have taken on a more active role in getting to know our students. It fosters community. We provide childcare with an overflowing nursery. It's been awesome! We started in March with a trial of three months, and we've met every month since.

Canterbury has grown and our ministry at Delta State has widened. We have a sustainable ministry. Since we started in 2011, we have had a lot of skeptics. Thanks be to God that a ministry can outgrow our expectations.

I look forward to another year of Canterbury!

Jondelyn Catlette

The Episcopal Church Women

The Episcopal Church Women are diverse, multi-talented Christian women serving Christ in our families, parishes, and larger communities. Through prayer, worship, communication, and nurturing, we respond to God's call to serve.

Activities during our year:

- We started the year with the Winter Board Meeting in January at Gray Center.
- The ECW had a strong presence at Annual Council.
- ECW Spring Retreat: Bishop Brian Seage led the group, which was open to both women and men, in "Telling Our Sacred Stories" during the April retreat at Gray Center.
- In June, we had 3 board members attend the Province IV ECW Conference at Kanuga. One of our members, Mary Beth Welch, was elected to the National Board.
- Four delegates from Mississippi traveled to Salt Lake City for the Triennial Meeting (June 25-July 2) that ran concurrently with General Convention. Three hundred Episcopal Church Women found the church business important enough to travel far and wide to attend.
- On November 1, two ECW members attended the Holy Eucharist with the Installation of the Most Reverend Michael Bruce Curry.
- ECW Fall Conference and Meeting: In mid-November, we welcomed Bishop Kee Sloan of the Diocese of Alabama, formerly from the Diocese of Mississippi, to Gray Center for the fall conference.

Projects for the year:

- CPC is an independent organization of the Episcopal Church Women. Each year we give our seminarians a check to be applied toward the purchase of their books. Thank you to Sunday School Children of St John, Laurel for collecting \$271.00 in pennies in their Miles of Pennies for CPC.
- Global Scholarships were given for 3 children in Uganda and 3 in Panama.
- Children at Risk provides support in many different ways. This year, ECW grants were given to Wilmer Hall, Little Light House, Stewpot Camp, Special Session at Camp Bratton Green and Natchez Children's Home.
- The United Thank Offering celebrated its 125th birthday at Triennial during General Convention in Salt Lake City, Utah this year. Four ECW delegates participated in the celebration. Also two ECW delegates traveled to Panama to observe the completion of the UTO grant at the Bishop Gooden Center. Since the year 2000, the Episcopal Diocese of Mississippi has been awarded \$178,020.09 in UTO grants. UTO through ECW is encouraging 100% participation in all parishes to collect UTO coins in their blue boxes. UTO is a daily discipline of prayer and thanksgiving with ingathering of monies in the spring and the fall. It's a fact that 100% of all funds collected are returned in the form of grants. Each diocese can apply for one grant for the diocese and one grant for a companion diocese. New grant forms will be available in January, 2016 due back to the diocesan office in early March. To learn more about UTO and to get its history, slide shows, grant data, blue boxes and more - go to www.episcopalchurch.org/page/united-thank-offering. All funds should be sent to Brenda Hawkins, ECW Diocesan UTO Coordinator, 330 Lakewood Rd., Vicksburg, MS 39180. Email: brendadavishawkins@gmail.com.

Mary Beth Welch, President

Canterbury: Episcopal Campus Ministry at Mississippi State

Canterbury at Mississippi State encompasses all who study and serve the campus of Mississippi State University. We strive to build relationships with each other and with those we encounter, to jointly listen to God's calling, and to deepen our faith in God through a variety of shared experiences. We invite all students, faculty, and staff to worship with us and be a part of the gathered Body of Christ here in Starkville.

"For everything there is a season"... The year 2015 has been such a big and interesting year for our group at Mississippi State. During the season of Lent we studied a variety of ways in which Christians and other faiths encounter the divine through an assortment of prayerful practices. We invited one of the local yoga instructors to come and lead us in stretches and meditation, we made prayer flags and discussed the meanings behind their symbols and colors, we experienced centering prayer, and also ended our Lenten series with having students from both CUFI (Christians United For Israel) and Hillel lead us in a Passover Supper. Then on April 22nd, just before the end of the semester, the students joined with Bishop Seage, the congregants and me at the Episcopal Church of the Resurrection to celebrate the beginning of my ministry as presbyter in the Episcopal Diocese of Mississippi. Lastly, we said good-bye to our seniors at the end of the year as they graduated and moved away from Starkville.

Over the summer, the few students who were still around wanted to continue meeting. So Canterbury continued meeting once a week, usually over a shared meal and discussions. Throughout the summer several students and I met with incoming freshmen to discuss our program and invite them to be a part of what we are doing. This semester Mississippi State received its highest, record breaking class of freshman some of which have been a part of our regular Sunday morning services and some have been very active in our weekly Canterbury gatherings or activities. This year we have continued to be an active part of Casseroles Kitchen, a feeding ministry in Starkville that seeks to provide a warm meal to low income persons and families. We have invited those from outside the Episcopal tradition to come and speak about their faith, such as two female missionaries from the Church of Latter Day Saints who came and shared with us their spiritual journey. We also had members from the Canterbury program from the University of Alabama join us for tailgating and watched some of the game back at the Canterbury Lodge. Our worship services have taken place either on campus at the Chapel of Memories, at the Canterbury Lodge, or in the Sanctuary of Resurrection. We have continued to have themed parties and provide our students with great conversations, food, fellowship, and lots of fun activities.

As the year comes to its close we will once again convert the Canterbury Lodge into a quiet space for study and reflection and provide our students with snacks and quick meals that they can make for themselves. I look forward to a new year with a new group of students and also our newly elected Student Vestry. As we continue to listen for what the Spirit is saying to God's Church I am eager to see what new ideas and vision this group has for Canterbury: Episcopal Campus Ministry at Mississippi State in 2016.

The Rev. Laurence Wainwright-Maks, Chaplain

Education for Ministry

EfM in Mississippi continues to be a source of education, theology, and spiritual growth throughout the diocese. There are currently 15 groups, 121 members, and 22 mentors or co-mentors engaged in the program in the Diocese of Mississippi. In addition to the face-to-face groups, there are online groups for those who cannot attend a face-to-face group. Education for Ministry (EfM) is a program of theological education from the School of Theology at the University of the South, Sewanee. EfM is designed for lay people who would like to increase their knowledge of Holy Scripture, Church History, and Contemporary Theology as well as grow in their faith and ability to carry out the ministries to which they are called. Participants in EfM meet weekly to discuss their readings, worship together and share in theological reflection. A trained mentor leads the group but students are responsible for their own learning. The seminar group is the nucleus of the Education for Ministry program. A group meets weekly over the course of 36 weeks and members have an opportunity to share their insights and discoveries as well as to discuss questions which the study materials raise for them. Through discussion and guided reflection, the seminars furnish an opportunity to deepen one's understanding of the reading materials and develop skills in theological reflection. The goal is for members to learn to think theologically by examining their own beliefs and their relationship to our culture and the tradition of our Christian faith. The seminar is supported by a life of prayer and regular worship.

For further information about joining an existing EfM group or about starting an EfM group in your parish, please contact:

Deacon Pam Rhea
MS Diocesan EfM Coordinator
deaconrhea@gmail.com

Episcopal Relief and Development

North Mississippi was hit by tornadoes on December 23rd and ERD has sent grant money to the diocese. Prior to December, Mississippi has had no major disasters this year. However, other parts of our country and the world have not been so lucky. Fires in California, flooding in Texas, winter storms in the Midwest, and major flooding along the Eastern Coast especially in the Carolinas and Southern Virginia took a major toll on all who lived in those areas. Our U.S. disaster team stepped up the challenges.

After the earthquake in Nepal on April 25, Episcopal Relief & Development began responding to the immediate needs for food, shelter, and clean water. December 4 brought severe flooding in India. Also, Episcopal Relief & Development continues to engage in support of the Syrian refugees through agencies in Syria, to the Diocese of Jerusalem's Holy Land Institute for the Deaf, and in support of large numbers of people traveling out of crisis into Europe.

On a positive note, this is the 75th anniversary of Episcopal Relief & Development. Our diocese welcomed the traveling exhibit of photographs at our annual 2015 Council which celebrated the work of last 75 years of our church's international humanitarian agency. Regardless of where disasters and other needs occur, our donations continue to make a difference in "helping to heal a hurting world."

Submitted by the Rev. Deacon Cathy Halford
Episcopal Relief & Development Diocesan Representative

Evangelism Committee

With the support of Bishop Seage, the evangelism effort in our diocese took on new life and a new direction in 2015. After brainstorming meetings with Bishop Seage, Edward O'Connor, and Ken Ruckstuhl, we decided to put together a presentation on "frequently asked questions." The idea is to equip Episcopalians, in advance, to respond to questions about Christianity in general and about the Episcopal tradition in particular. Bishop Seage agreed to let the group do a presentation as one of the break-out sessions at the 2015 Annual Council.

As we moved forward with that plan, we enlisted the help of Lisa Maisel of St. Peter's by-the-Lake. She put together the PowerPoint presentation and presented the material at the Council session. The program, which can be made available to individual churches, anticipates questions faced in conversations about faith and then offers possible ways to respond to those questions. Among the issues considered in the program are:

- Have you been saved?
- Why don't Episcopalians use the Bible?
- Why do you go to the Episcopal Church?
- I can't be a Christian because I believe in evolution.
- I have too many doubts to believe in God or the Bible.

The other component of the question/answer effort is a column for the Mississippi Episcopalian. In that column, "Speaking in Faith," I reflect on questions faced in conversations about spirituality and religion. I encourage readers to submit questions or issues, and to offer their own responses to upcoming questions.

For the coming year, we will continue in the direction described, but we invite all Episcopalians in the diocese to offer thoughts and suggestions about how we can faithfully, joyfully, and creatively share our Christian faith and our Episcopal tradition with others.

Carol Mead
Evangelism Committee

Fresh Start for Transitional Ministries

Begun as a multi-diocese collaboration in the late 1990's and a regular program in the Diocese of Mississippi since 2003, Fresh Start for Transitional Ministries is geared toward supporting experienced clergy through transitions in the first two years of service in each new cure. Like Post-Ordination Consultation, it is expected that each clergy serving in a new cure will participate in Fresh Start and their respective congregations pay a nominal fee in support of this vital program.

Over the past year, leadership of Fresh Start has transitioned from long-time facilitator the Rev. Canon David H. Johnson to two new facilitators. The Rev. Betsy Baumgarten, rector of St. Patrick's, Long Beach, facilitates Fresh Start South at Trinity, Hattiesburg and the Rev. Elizabeth Wheatley-Jones, rector of All Saints, Grenada, facilitates Fresh Start North at All Saints, Grenada.

Fresh Start groups gather four times each year at their respective host parishes and meet together with the bishop in Jackson each January. The format each gathering has shifted its primary focus to collegial support with the addition of discussion about and sharing "best practices" of specific areas of ministry and a leadership or ministry related book study. Fresh Start South, consisting of four clergy and facilitator, has embarked on a study of Leading Change by John Kotter. Fresh Start North, consisting of seven clergy and facilitator, is engaging in a study of The Gift of Imperfection by Brené Brown. Books are self-selected based on the area of study preferred by the groups at any given time.

The Rev. Elizabeth Wheatley-Jones
The Rev. Betsy Baumgarten

Executive Committee

March 26, 2015

The newly elected members of the Executive Committee were introduced: the Rev. Jody Burnett, St. Andrew's, Jackson; the Rev. Seth Walley, St. James, Jackson; Mr. Mike Chew, St. Peter's by the Lake, Brandon; and Ms. Chellie Revord, St. Columb's, Ridgeland. The Executive Committee approved Bishop Seage's one-year appointments: The Rev. Mary Berry, St. Matthew's, Kosciusko; Mr. Tom Shellnut, Trinity, Pass Christian; Mr. Reggie Sims, Chapel of the Cross, Madison

Bishop Seage talked of his new initiatives

- Capital Campaign which will include funding for:
 - Gray Center and Camp Bratton Green
 - Development Officer which currently will be funded by a three year commitment from the Trustees.
 - Small Church Ministry which would help fund future ministries; creation of a Mission Strategy Committee.
 - Addiction / Recovery Committee which will work with and support clergy and their congregations. The committee will explore ways to interact with the AA communities.
 - Wellness: Spiritual, emotional and physical well and educating clergy on how to take care of themselves and their congregations.

Financials for the year and the Voluntary Proportionate Giving report ending 2014 were reviewed. By motion, the Executive Committee gave All Saints, Jackson a six month grace period for their contribution to the Rev. William Ndishabandi's compensation package. The work of the Giving Task Force was discussed.

By motion, the Rev. David Knight was appointed clerical alternate-4 due to the resignation of the Very Rev. Edward O'Connor. By motion, the 2015 General Convention deputies are appointed as delegates to 2015 Provincial Synod.

May 27, 2015

The sub-committees of the Executive Committee (Wellness, Campus Ministries, Finance, Diocesan Giving Task Force and Addiction / Recovery) reported.

Financials for the year and the Voluntary Proportionate Giving report ending 2014 were reviewed. By motion, two \$600 scholarships will be awarded to students from the Hispanic outreach ministry at St. Peter's, Oxford.

With an initial gift of \$10,000 a fund in memory of Andre Conway was created to help those struggling with addictions

The Campus Ministry Task Force has created a logo for all campus ministries and will be hosting retreats for college students.

The Recovery Network has organized and will be seeking contacts in each convocation.

The Wellness Committee is making plans for Clergy Conference which will focus on wellness and stewardship.

A financial forecast for 2016 from the supported missions was presented.

Financials for the year and the Voluntary Proportionate Giving report were reviewed.

By motion, the Executive Committee approved the medical insurance allowance which will be the cost of the premium for the High Deductible Health Plan offered by Anthem and a contribution to the Health Savings Account of 80% of the deductible.

By motion, all parishes, missions and institutional ministries with employees are required to have Employee Practice Liability Insurance.

By motion, the pension base for the Minimum Full-time Parochial Presbyter Support at the 2015 level. The pension base will remain at \$49,456.

By motion, the Executive Committee did not recommend an increase in COLA for 2016.

The operations of Gray Center should be close to budget for 2015. The staff believes in the mission of Gray Center and this helps with the new attitude of the staff. There will be a concentration on building community relations. Gray Center is working on a master plan with the anticipation of launching a capital campaign in 2016. Surveys will be distributed so that input from as many as possible will be gathered.

The appointments of the Rev. Patrick Sanders and Mr. Jo G Prichard to the Gray Center Board of Managers were approved. By canon, this is an action of Annual Council and since the Executive Committee acts between Councils, the appointments were approved by the Executive Committee.

By motion, support of \$1,000 for five months from the Hispanic Ministry Reserve fund for the Hispanic Ministry in Ocean Springs was approved.

Registrations for the 189TH Annual Council were approved as follows: \$115 prior to November 1, \$125 prior to December 31, \$135 after January 1.

Seminarians, young adult (non-delegate), retired clergy spouse: \$65 prior to November 1, \$75 prior to December 31, \$85 after January 1.

December 17, 2015

Chaplaincies And Young Adult Ministries Task Force reported that all campuses will have a presence at the Annual Council booth and are investigating ways to connect with the community colleges.

The Episcopal Recovery Network (ERP) made a presentation at Clergy Conference and has created a website and Facebook account.

The 2016 Budget and Voluntary Proportionate Giving were reviewed and a recommendation will be made to Council. The Executive Committee will offer a canonical change at Council which will tie the net operating revenues from the prior year's parochial report to the voluntary percentage of giving to the diocese.

Housing resolutions for Seage, Johnson, Elliott and Ndishabandi were passed.

The Council offering will be pledged to the Andre Memorial Fund.

Gray Center

As 2015 comes to an end, we are filled with excitement for our future. We are constantly reminded that Gray Center is a spiritual home for our diocese. We observed frequent examples of lives being changed each day. We realize that Holy Hospitality is possible and achievable. We know that our future is bright, and as we plan for the coming year, we know the diocese will lift us up with love and support.

This support is needed now, more than ever. We have begun the master planning process to move towards a possible capital campaign in 2016. The Board of Managers agreed to hire Kaleidoscope, Inc. out of Ohio to help us complete a full site analysis and help us prioritize our future direction. I applaud the board for having the vision to move us forward as a center and spiritual resource for our diocese. As part of this process, we are gathering feedback from the diocese and will be presenting preliminary results this spring around the state.

We have seen staffing transitions in 2015. We will no longer follow a model of one person programming for the camp alone. In August, Jason Ezell joined our staff as the Gray Center Program Director. We feel the programming throughout the property needed more attention. Jason has taken the task of creating new programs for Gray Center and rediscovering passion in our existing ministry. The Gray Center staff, new and old, has worked tirelessly to increase the guest experience at Gray Center and have handled all changes with enthusiasm and professionalism. Without their support, we would not have been able to make the proper changes needed to launch our facility forward.

New programming brings new opportunities at Gray Center. We are currently working on the beginning stages of an agriculture and leadership program at Gray Center. This new initiative will be called the LEAD (Learn, Explore, Achieve, Discover) program. We will be launching the program in 2016 with examples of composting, small planting, small livestock areas, and other manageable agricultural components. LEAD will focus on understanding the natural environment and will include many of our Challenge Course and leadership groups. We will be promoting the LEAD program to local schools, youth groups and other community groups. This program is the starting point for larger agricultural endeavors in the future.

In addition to the LEAD Program, Gray Center is hosting other exciting new programming in 2016. We will be hosting a Crawfish Boil Fundraiser in April, an Adult Camp in May and an Episcopal Churchmen's Conference this summer. We are also hosting two Day Camps off site this summer. Our plan is to host one camp in Jackson and one camp on the Coast in the first year, partnering with local parishes to create a "Bratton-Green" style day camp in our communities. The Day Camps will be our first attempt to bring Gray Center outside our walls and into the parishes.

Camp Bratton-Green has once again been blessed by a fun-filled and spiritually rejuvenating season. We had over 800 campers play and celebrate in community, while strengthening their relationship with Christ. In 2015, our summer camping program was voted Family Favorite by Parents and Kids magazine. We are proud of our summer camp and will continue to provide a loving and safe environment for our children into the future. Thank you to the many volunteers and supporters that work so hard to make our camp successful! To make it easier for our families to plan their summer, Camp Bratton-Green will open registration on January 1, 2016.

Gray Center will continue to keep a vision of providing a home for mission and spiritual wellness for our diocese. We will continue to be a place where hospitality opens our eyes to ministry, a place where it is okay to dream, to learn and to be one family under God. We are excited to move forward with a new idea of what Gray Center can become, taking the journey hand in hand with our diocese. We again ask you to remember Gray Center this year through financial support and participation. Thank you to everyone that makes Gray Center a place of which our diocese can be proud!

Blessings Always,
Grae Dickson
Executive Director, Gray Center

Happening

2015 was another great year for the Happening Movement in Mississippi. We had two Happening weekends. Happening #81 was held in the spring at St. Columb's, Ridgeland. Aston Ates was the Rector, and Sarah Page Sikes was the Head Gofer. Happening #82 was held this fall at St. John's, Pascagoula. Meredith Rand was the Rector, and Jacob Commer was the Head Gofer. In the spring of 2016, Happening #83 will be held at St. Andrew's Cathedral in Jackson under the leadership of Martha Langford as Rector and Clare Bumhauer as Head Gofer.

Happening is a powerful weekend retreat led by high school students for high school students and a few lucky adults. The weekend provides the participants with an experience of the love of God as experienced in Christian community. If you would like to participate in the weekend or have your parish host a Happening weekend, please contact the Rev. Chuck Culpepper, Diocesan Coordinator for Happening.

Honduras Medical Mission

In February, 2015, the Honduras Medical Mission team took one of the largest teams in recent history to the village of San Joaquin, Honduras. Thirty-six team members made the trip, and partnered with four translators and another volunteer from Honduras. Once again, the team was led by George Jackson and hosted by St. John's church in Laurel, MS.

Under normal circumstances, the preparations and logistics of the mission are not a part of the annual report. However, 2015 was a unique year, and circumstances were such that some background is required.

Each year, supplies that are collected or purchased are shipped to Honduras in the month preceding the mission. In 2015, George and the team implemented a new process in which many team members carried a trunk of supplies with them (with each trunk large enough to carry medicines for 10-15 families.) These trunks were transported along with the team's luggage, and in hindsight, this was a tremendous blessing.

Due to uncontrollable circumstances, the remaining supplies that were shipped (over 4,900 lbs. of medicines and supplies) were held in customs until after the mission was completed and the team returned home. Thanks to the 20+ trunks that were carried with the team, all clinics were able to open and be functional from day one. The team purchased additional supplies mid-week, and the medical professionals found creative ways to provide care and medicines for as many people as possible. As a result, the trip was still an amazing success, and 2015 still – despite the circumstances – had the second largest number of patients seen in the last five years.

Team Numbers

Medical Clinic: 954 families and 2,253 patients, including 8 house calls and 58 procedures

Dental Clinic: 439 surgery patients, 260 sealant patients, 1125 extractions, 1,946 sealants, 3,085 dental instruments sterilized

Eye Clinic: 608 patients, 412 glasses dispensed

Pharmacy: 8,829 medications/prescriptions

Veterinary Clinic: 6 surgeries, 676 cows, 411 horses, and 248 dogs seen, with a total of 1,335 animals

Clergy: 5 Morning Prayer, 3 Compline, 3 Holy Eucharist, 1 laying on of hands, and 1 last rights

General Support: Electrical and plumbing improvements and several repairs

Every individual who was a part of the mission showed tremendous strength, flexibility and optimism. The unofficial motto of the mission for the past two years has been "God will provide," and provide he did. He provided an outstanding team of both professionals and support who overcame a difficult situation to care for our brothers and sisters in Honduras.

The 2016 trip is scheduled for February 13-20 and will be hosted by St. Andrew's, Jackson. Tim Magandy is the team leader.

The Iona Initiative

The Iona Initiative is a collaborative effort of the Diocese of Mississippi, the Diocese of Texas, and a growing number of other southern, western, southwestern and midwestern dioceses for the local formation of vocational deacons and bi-vocational, non-stipendiary priests. The Iona School, based in the Diocese of Texas, is the forerunner of this concept and is being offered as a template for a wider effort for local formation of clergy.

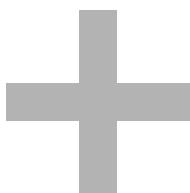
The Very Rev. Charles Hawkins, rector of St. John's Church, Ocean Springs, is dean of the local school, known as the A. C. Marble School for Spiritual Formation. Local facilitators include the Reverend Beth Foote, rector of Grace Church, Canton, and the Rev. Deacon Bill Hanna, of Church of the Creator, Clinton. They are being assisted by Ms. Gay Yerger and the Rev. Lynn Ronaldi, rector of Church of the Incarnation, West Point. Another report on that school's progress is found in this paper.

The Diocese of Mississippi supports the work of the larger program with annual financial support and a member of the overall task force. Canon to the Ordinary David Johnson has been a member of the task force since the program's inception and serves as chair of the Curriculum Committee.

The larger Iona Task Force, which oversees the entire program, is comprised of a representative from each of the participating dioceses. It has been meeting quarterly during the past six years. The invitation to participate in the project came from the Rt. Rev. Dena Harrison, bishop suffragan of Texas, chair of the board of trustees of Seminary of the Southwest, and overseer of the Iona School. Other participating dioceses include West Texas, Northwest Texas, Arkansas, Nebraska, Wyoming, Oklahoma, Hawaii, Rio Grande, Alabama, Louisiana and Olympia. The Diocese of Louisiana's students are joining classes in Mississippi.

The program would be a partial solution for providing clergy to small congregations. Bishop Seage sees the Iona Initiative as one of the routes the diocese will consider in planning for formation for the ordained ministry.

The Reverend Canon David H. Johnson



Journey Partners

In 2015 Journey Partners completed its sixth two-year course of Spiritual Direction Training at Gray Episcopal Conference Center. The Center for Ministry, in Partnership with the Episcopal Diocese, offers this ecumenical Spiritual Direction training for laity and clergy.

Journey Partners, under the direction of the Rev. Richard Robbins of the Center for Ministry, offers training in the art of walking beside others as they listen for the voice of God in their lives. It employs both God-given gifts and carefully cultivated skills.

The Rev. Wendy Miller and the Reverend Dwight Judy are the instructors of Journey Partners. The Rev. Miller is a noted teacher, practitioner and author on staff at Perkins Seminary in Dallas, Texas. A graduate of General Seminary and Shalem Spiritual Direction Institute she served as Director of Spiritual Formation and Direction at the Mennonite Seminary in Harrisburg, Virginia. She guides several spiritual direction training programs throughout the United States and Canada.

The Rev. Dwight Judy, Professor at Garrett Theological Seminary, assisted in the developing Certification in Spiritual Formation. Dwight is an author and teacher of Spiritual Direction and Formation.

In 2016 Journey Partners begins a new two-year class in Spiritual Direction Training.

Application and information is available on-line, www.centerforministry.com, or by contacting the Rev. Richard Robbins, Center for Ministry — 601-974-1488.

Submitted by: Gay Yerger

Bishop Allin Lay Scholarships

A fund was begun in 1985 honoring the Most Rev. John M. Allin who served as VI Bishop of Mississippi and XXIII Presiding Bishop of The Episcopal Church. Donations were received from individuals, churches, Christian education committees, and others with the income to be used for scholarships for continuing Christian education of the laity of the Diocese of Mississippi. In 2015 seven scholarships were awarded, totaling \$1,850.

Scholarship applications are available year round for printing from the diocesan website. Visit www.dioms.org/scholarship/index.html. Those endeavoring to further their Christian education are encouraged to make application.

Mr. Chuck Rea of St. Paul's, Meridian retired this year as chair and administrator of the lay scholarship program. The gratitude of the Diocese is extended to Chuck for his many years of faithful service in this capacity.

The Rev. J. Brian Ponder

Licensed Lay Ministry

During 2015, it is my pleasure to report we had one (1) convocation workshop hosted by Episcopal Church of the Redeemer, Biloxi. We appreciate all those who organized and led this workshop. We currently have over fifty persons in the process to be licensed as Diocesan Worship Leaders. We have received ten (10) new applications for Licensed Diocesan Worship Leader during the year. Three (3) persons have completed the Licensed Worship Leader Education program and have been recommended for licensing by the Bishop as of December 14, 2014.

A separate listing of those being relicensing is part of this report. 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.

Danny Ray Meadors, Chair
Thomas R. Ward, Jr.

The Mississippi Episcopalian Advisory Board

The MSE advisory board offers a grateful thank you to all the paper's contributors in 2015.

The Mississippi Episcopalian can be found on the diocesan web site under the Mississippi Episcopalian link from the home page: log on to www.dioms.org. It is also mailed out to every household in the diocese.

The deadline is the first Tuesday of each month at 12 noon for publication in that month. The deadline is firm. If a submission is late, it may not be printed in that month. Please send all articles and photographs to slenoir1@gmail.com, the editor's email address. After a sending an article or photo by email, the editor will reply that he received it. If no reply is received, more than likely, Scott did not get the email.

Please send only high quality or high resolution photos for printing. High resolution for the MSE means the photo needs to be at least 300 dpi, or about 600kb. This is the minimum standard for printing photos. Cell phones take excellent high resolution photos these days. Make sure to attach the highest quality option when sending a photo to the paper.

Thank you to all who advertise in the paper. We appreciate the confidence you place in the paper to carry your message.

The Mississippi Episcopalian Advisory Board is composed of the editor, the Rev. Scott Lenoir, Duke Cain, Jim Carrington and Canon Kathryn McCormick.

Mississippi Episcopal AIDS Commission

The Mississippi Episcopal AIDS Commission has been in existence for over 20 years and has provided critical support to those persons living with HIV/AIDS in our state. Throughout these years, the outreach provided has mirrored the epidemic. Direct assistance, spiritual direction and education have always been a part of this ministry. In the early days, direct assistance for burials was an expense that was a necessity. Today, assistance is more about living with HIV/AIDS – medical copays, medicine, and emergency living expenses.

Bishop Gray challenged the Commission to revitalize and engage the Diocese in meeting the new faces of HIV/AIDS in our state. Bishop Seage has provided a continuation of this opportunity to discuss HIV and MEAC. MEAC members determined that the following would be the continuing objectives of this ministry:

1. To provide direct assistance to people living with HIV/AIDS

Through a hotline, Jim Ed Henderson and his team have been doing a great job of continuing the financial assistance component of this ministry – helping persons living with HIV/AIDS throughout the State with rent, utilities and medicines. A critical component, I think, of Jim Ed's work has been to strengthen the administrative structure of this ministry and to increase awareness of users and resources.

2. To meet the spiritual needs of people living with HIV/AIDS.

The primary component of this objective has been the Diocesan participation in the annual Province IV HIV/AIDS Kanuga Committee in the planning process for the June retreat in North Carolina each year. This group has been putting this retreat together for 24 years now and it is truly amazing to watch it function. Last year, this Diocese sent a record 54 persons to this retreat.

MEAC members have committed to prison work and to individual direction in parishes, working with local clergy.

3. To increase HIV/AIDS education, prevention and awareness.

In the early days of the HIV pandemic, the Episcopal Diocese of Mississippi was one of the few sources of correct information about HIV and AIDS outside of the Mississippi State Department of Health walls. Priests and parishioners educated their congregations and beyond concerning the facts about HIV/AIDS, stigma and the Church's response.

MEAC has worked with the health department to schedule trainings throughout the state for the HIV/STD Instructor course to increase the knowledge and those available to transmit that knowledge.

What you can do to support the Diocesan HIV/AIDS Ministry in Mississippi?

1. Become educated about HIV and the resources in your local community that support persons living with HIV.
2. Refer persons to their HIV case manager if they are in need of direct assistance to MEAC 601-713-1540 (ask for a return call from Jim Ed Henderson) and provide funding for the EAF. We must be able to document HIV status.
3. Provide space for a HIV/STD training for your community.
4. Budget for one (or more!) scholarship for a client to attend the Kanuga Retreat each year.
5. Participate in your local homeless coalition. (Homeless persons are nine times more likely to become infected with HIV than those who have adequate housing).
6. Be available to minister to those living with HIV/AIDS.
7. Whenever given the opportunity, fight HIV stigma.

Trustees

The Trustees of the Diocese of Mississippi, a Mississippi non-profit corporation is the legal entity which both holds church property and investments for the benefit of the Episcopal Church in Mississippi. The Bishop serves as the President of the corporation with the four elected lay trustees serving staggered terms and a fifth lay person who serves one year by appointment of the Bishop. Those serving in 2015 were Michael Strojny, Lynn Jenkins, John Davis, Holmes Adams, and Van Duncan, who are members of parishes in Jackson, Gulfport, Columbus, and Brandon.

For the year 2015, the Trustees held seven regular, telephonic, or electronic meetings. Corporate Officers for the year were Holmes Adams, Vice President; Van Duncan, Secretary; Kathryn W. McCormick, Treasurer. Filo Coats, served as assistant Secretary by appointment of the Bishop.

During the year, the Trustees dealt with several properties owned by the Dioceses, various Parishes and Missions and property donated to the Dioceses.

The Trustees approved funds for several projects and income distributions requested by the Executive Committee. Also funds were approved from the Okolona Fund for scholarships and other approved uses.

Several Financial Managers were interviewed in addition to Merrill Lynch and Vector Money Management, Inc. with no changes being made. Financial Reports were reviewed at meetings and have shown little change over the year, and the managers have followed investment guidelines set by the Trustees.

Filo Coats
Assistant Secretary

Music and Liturgy Committee

The Music and Liturgy Committee was active by email correspondence and through meeting, and is chaired by Dr. Mark Butler, St. James', Greenville.

The committee selected the music and was responsible for logistical arrangements concerning music for the 2015 Annual Council in Jackson. Music for the Friday, Saturday, and Sunday services was led by parish musicians and choristers from around the Diocese. Jessica Nelson, All Saints', Tupelo, was organist for the Friday evening and Saturday services. The Closing Eucharist included a large service choir, led by Dr. Mark Butler and accompanied by organist David O'Steen, St. Philip's-Jackson, and the Capitol Brass from Jackson.

The committee continued to give support and leadership to the Mississippi Conference on Church Music and Liturgy in 2015. Jessica Nelson, director, is assisted by a Board of Directors comprised of members from the Diocese and conference staff. David O'Steen was a conference organist and Dr. Mark Butler serves as registrar and treasurer.

The 2015 conference was again held at Gray Center. Faculty were the Rev. Dr. William (Bill) Bradley Roberts, Professor of Music at VA Theological Seminary; Dent Davidson, Missioner for Liturgy and the Arts, Diocese of Chicago; and the Rev. Susan Anderson-Smith, Chaplain, Imago Dei middle school in Tucson, AZ. Musicians and clergy from around the U.S. studied and discussed the conference theme, "Vital Worship: Food for the Journey," and rehearsed in preparation for presenting an Evensong at St. Philip's/Jackson and leading the Closing Eucharist on Sunday at St. Andrew's Cathedral. Scholarships were given to several diocesan musicians and choristers through the generous financial support of the Diocese of Mississippi. All musicians (and clergy) in the Diocese are invited to make plans to attend this annual conference.

The committee met at St. Philip's, Jackson in December 2015 with the Rev. Jody Burnett, Canon for Parish Ministry at St. Andrew's Cathedral, to finalize the music selections for the 2016 Annual Council and discuss other needs for the services. Diocesan musicians and committee members will again serve as the choir and will play for and direct the various services on the Gulf Coast.

Submitted by Dr. Mark Butler, chair

Sudanese Ministry Committee

This year the committee spent its funds on book scholarships, medical bills, and personal emergencies, with the majority being spent on book scholarships to Sudanese who are attending college and the Education Center School. This includes the budgeted \$7,000 in addition to contributions by donors. This year the Sudanese Community celebrated the graduation of three young men. Thuom Aluong graduated from Belhaven University with a master's degree in sport administration, James Lueth graduated with a master's degree in public health from JSU, and Bul Garang graduated from University of Bradford in England with a master's degree in conflict resolution. Several Sudanese women are currently enrolled in college and the Education Center School. Akech Deng is taking classes at Hinds Community College, Akor Mathiang and Mary Amam Mabior are pursuing their diplomas at the Education Center School. St. Andrew's Parish members and Millsaps College students continue to volunteer as tutors for those who need tutoring.

The committee works with clergy and health professionals to address life-threatening medical situations. The committee partnered with clergy at St. Andrew's and supported one young man who has been abusing alcohol. The committee filed and paid an affidavit fee to get him committed for alcohol. He eventually requested that the committee get him a visa and a plane ticket back to South Sudan. The committee bought him a plane ticket and he is currently doing well with his relatives in South Sudan. The committee also partnered with St. Andrew's Cathedral and bought plane tickets the young man's wife and son who traveled from Kenya. Moreover, the committee assisted several other Sudanese who couldn't afford paying for their medical bills or buying their medications. Lastly, the committee contributed to the funeral services of one young Sudanese man who died in a car accident in Jackson.

The committee offered loans through Hope Community Credit Union helping Sudanese in emergencies support themselves and establish credit. The committee observes that some who ask for our help no longer need it, since they are now able to borrow on the credit history the church's fund helped them establish.

The committee works with volunteer lawyers from Episcopal churches in the Jackson area to facilitate the process of reuniting families by bringing wives and young children to Mississippi. The Sudanese graduates still face challenges in finding jobs related to the careers for which they have trained. Many of them are unemployed or underemployed. This sometimes makes them reluctant to expedite the process of bringing their wives to the U.S. because they fear that their current jobs would not be able to support a newly established family in Jackson. The committee members have lobbied for jobs in different areas (i.e. business, accounting, IT), but these efforts have not been successful. The members of the Sudanese Ministry decided that preparing good resumes and connecting folks with the right mentors would be a good start in the job-finding process. Alec Valentine helped Sudanese graduates with the preparation of resumes. The committee welcomes anyone who feels called to help Sudanese graduates find jobs.

Saint Andrew's continues to be the church home for the Dinka community in Jackson, offering evening prayer in Dinka and a ministry of meals and fellowship following services.

Peter Malual

Safe Church Committee

At Annual Council in 2015, the Rev. Annie Elliott was appointed the new chair of the Safe Church Committee. Following her appointment, new members were appointed to the Safe Church Committee. Those new members are the Rev. Ben Robertson, Mrs. Sissie Wile, Mrs. Kim Sewell, Mrs. Becca Meaders, Mrs. Whitney Robinson, the Rev. Deacon Josie Williams, Mr. Les Alvis, and the Rev. Canon David Johnson. The committee will next meet as a group in January of 2016.

During 2015, many online trainings were completed in the Safeguarding God's Children program, in addition to in-person trainings. We can now offer Safeguarding God's Children to any person in the diocese, free of charge. Gray Center is exploring the use of online training for Camp Bratton-Green staff members next year.

In September of 2015, the clergy of the diocese gathered at St. James' in Jackson for a Safeguarding God's People training led by the Rev. Canon David Johnson. The vast majority of the priests and many of the deacons in the diocese were trained in this prevention program regarding sexual harassment and sexual exploitation in the church.

In December of 2015, a Train-the-Trainer day for Safeguarding God's Children was held at St. Philip's in Jackson to prepare new trainers and serve as a refresher for those trained in the past. The Rev. Canon David Johnson facilitated the training. Those trained included the Rev. Deacon Hailey Allin, Mrs. Beth Arthur, the Rev. Ben Robertson, the Rev. Deacon Katie Bradshaw, Ms. Lauren Powell, Mrs. Helen Green, the Rev. Charles Hawkins, Mrs. Mary Nell Prichard, Mrs. Sarah Iwanski, Mr. Fielding Ables, the Rev. Laurence Wainwright-Maks, Mr. Jason Ezell, and Mr. Les Hegwood. Following this training, all of the convocations have at least one trainer available for Safeguarding God's Children.

Southeast Deployment Network (SEDN)

The Southeast Deployment Network is a cooperative effort supported by several Province IV dioceses. During the past four years, we have developed a new clergy deployment and parish search resource for those dioceses and others which may choose to become involved. During 2015, the website went through a significant upgrade to facilitate clergy and parish searches.

Currently, the Dioceses of Alabama, East Tennessee, Kentucky, Lexington, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Southwest Florida, Tennessee, Upper South Carolina, and West Tennessee are participating in the planning of the resource. Canon David Johnson is the principal overseer of the system, with a Diocese of Louisiana lay person handling the technical responsibilities.

The primary manifestation of SEDN is an interactive website for clergy seeking calls to the Southeast and for diocesan deployment officers. The website allows clergy interested in serving the participating dioceses to post biographical and vocational information about themselves. The deployment officers of the participating dioceses are able to post information about search processes and clergy vacancies within their dioceses. The website facilitates the matching of clergy seeking placement in the Southeast with congregations from participating dioceses seeking a new cleric. This new website is an example of cooperative efforts between individual dioceses making additional resources available. During 2015, many clergy from outside of the participating dioceses have posted their profiles on the site, indicating an interest in moving to Province IV.

SEDN is a much simpler and more useable system than the national OTM Portfolio system. In coming months, congregational posting to the website will be enhanced. The website – is hosted and managed by the Diocese of Louisiana, and is administered and assisted by funding from the participating dioceses.

The primary purpose of the budget request is to continue support of the SEDN website and the structure for the essential data base for gathering clergy and congregational information.

The Rev. Canon David H. Johnson

Post Ordination Consultation

Post Ordination Consultation is a program of more than 40-years' duration in the Diocese of Mississippi. Its purpose is the ongoing formation and support of newly-ordained transitional deacons and priests during their first two years out of seminary.

The full participation of all new ordinands in POC is required by Bishop Seage, as it has been with previous bishops. Financial support for participation is partially provided by the new ordinands' continuing education funds, with the balance from diocesan funding. Currently, there are seven POC participants – two in their second year, and five in their first year.

The program was supervised through June by Canon David Johnson and the Reverend Marian Dulaney Fortner, Rector of Trinity Church, Hattiesburg. The Rev. Charles Hawkins, Rector of St. John's, Ocean Springs, was appointed to take the place of Canon Johnson, who stepped down in July. POC meets as a group four times each year – from Sunday evening through Tuesday morning – at Gray Center. Bishop Seage has joined the group for breakfast and worship on Monday mornings offering the newly ordained quality time with the Bishop.

The remainder of each POC retreat is spent in collegial support, critical incident reflection, Sabbath rest, reflection and discussion of identified ministry topics, sermon discussions, and worship. Each retreat includes a Eucharist prepared by the two mentors, so that the participants have an opportunity to worship without expectations.

Respectfully submitted,

The Rev. Marian Dulaney Fortner and The Rev. Charles Hawkins

Standing Committee

2015 has been an exciting and productive year for the Diocese of Mississippi's Standing Committee. Beginning in early January, 2015, the Standing Committee continued work begun in 2014 to explore ways in which we can better discharge our canonical duties and maintain our close working relationship with Bishop Seage. In the course of that work we learned that, although the canons require us to have rules of procedure, none existed. After study, discussion and prayer, we concluded that one of the best ways for us to improve our organization and our ability to serve the Diocese and its individual congregations was to develop and publish Rules of Procedure.

Rules of Procedure

Pursuant to Canon 11, Section 4 (b), of our Diocesan Canons, on 3 December 2015 the Standing Committee adopted its Rules of Procedure. The document contains a brief history of Standing Committees in The Episcopal Church since the Revolutionary War because we think it is important for everyone to understand the unique and important role of the Standing Committee both in areas of governance and as Council of Advice to the Bishop. These rules now control our organization, the conduct of meetings, and provide a list of duties with explanations for those most frequently encountered.

We hope the Rules of Procedure can serve as a handbook for all clergy and wardens and vestries to have a better understanding of the importance of the Standing Committee to the life of this diocese and will enable them to contact the Standing Committee directly, thereby helping the Bishop's Staff have time for their other important tasks in the life of the diocese. Copies will be distributed to clergy in early 2016 and it will be posted on the diocesan webpage.

We want to thank Bishop Seage for his support, assistance and encouragement during the development of the Rules of Procedure. We also want to thank Canon Kathryn McCormick for her many years of service to this Committee and especially for her assistance in providing us with essential information and historical context as we developed our Rules of Procedure.

Consent to the ordination of bishops

Canons of The Episcopal Church require the consent of more than half of the other dioceses in The Episcopal Church before a bishop-elect can be ordained bishop. During the past year we consented to the election of bishops for the dioceses of Southeast Florida, Central Gulf Coast, Central Pennsylvania, Dallas, and Dominican Republic.

Consent for persons seeking Holy Orders

The Standing Committee also has an important role in the pathway to ordination for those seeking ordination into the diaconate and for those seeking ordination into the transitional diaconate and then to the priesthood. It includes certification that all canonical requirements have been met and the approval of those persons for ordination. During this year the Standing Committee met with twelve individuals at different stages on the path to the diaconate or to priesthood. It also approved six persons for ordination to the priesthood.

Requests for consent for various real estate matters

Providing Bishop Seage with recommendations and also with advice relative to various real estate matters occupied a good bit of our time in 2015. In our Rules of Procedure, we have provided information to be used by congregations seeking approval by Bishop Seage for various real estate matters. We also identify information the Standing Committee needs to receive in order to discharge its responsibilities.

During 2015 the Standing Committee has worked with eight congregations on a wide range of real estate matters including, but not limited to, the sale of real property, borrowing funds, and releasing funds being held by the diocese for the congregation.

Council of Advice for Bishop Seage

This is one of the more important of the Standing Committee's many tasks. Bishop Seage met with the Standing Committee on several occasions during which he provided information to the Standing Committee about matters of interest to him relating to the activities going on in the diocese. The Standing Committees, provided both input on specific questions posed by Bishop Seage and information about events or issues known to Standing Committee members but not mentioned by Bishop Seage. This dialogue seems to the members of the Standing Committee and, we believe, to Bishop Seage, not only an important part of the work of the Standing Committee in support of Bishop Seage but also an important part of the training of the Standing Committee to assume the role of Ecclesiastical Authority if that becomes necessary – and we all pray it will not become necessary.

At the time of this report, and for most of the year 2015, the members and officers of the Standing Committee were: The Rev. Ann Benton Fraser, President (St. Paul's, Corinth), Lee Davis Thames, Secretary (Holy Trinity, Vicksburg), The Rev. Luther Ott (St. Mark's, Jackson), The Rev. Walton Jones (Trinity, Natchez), Danny Ray Meadors (St. Patrick's, Long Beach), Edward B. Sisson (St. Peter's, Oxford), Alice T. Perry (St. James, Jackson).

Respectfully submitted,
Lee Davis Thames, Secretary

Proposed Amendments to Constitution and Canons

The goal of these proposed amendments is to grant those who participate in the worship life of the Episcopal Diocese of Mississippi through the avenue of the chaplaincies of this diocese a voice and vote at Annual Council.

Constitution

Article VII

Section 3

New (c)

Every Organized Chaplaincy in union with Council shall be entitled to send to the Council one Lay Delegate, who shall remain in office until his or her successor has been elected or appointed, the Chaplaincy to have the power of filling any vacancy which may occur.

Edit current (c)

Change to (d)

Strike "at least eighteen years of age"

To read:

(d) No person shall be competent to serve as a Delegate unless such person be a confirmed Communicant, actually residing in the Parish, Mission or Chaplaincy and entitled to suffrage at the last regular annual meeting of said Parish or canonically resident in said Mission or Chaplaincy.

Canons

Edit Canon 2

Add Section 3.

At every meeting of the Council each organized Chaplaincy in union with the Council may be represented therein by one Lay Delegate, or an Alternate (see Article VII, Section 3. b & c). It shall be the duty of each Committee of the Chaplaincy to elect during September preceding its Delegate and Alternate; or if there be no Committee, the delegate and alternate shall be appointed by the Chaplain; or, if there be no Chaplain, either, by the Bishop.

Add Canon 21

Organized Chaplaincies

Section 1.

- a. When five or more confirmed Lay Communicants of this Church, residing in this Diocese, shall desire to organize a Chaplaincy at a College or University in the state of Mississippi, they shall make application to the Bishop.
- b. If the Bishop approves the organization of the Chaplaincy he will call a Chaplain to be in charge and call them to form a Committee of the Chaplaincy (to include at least one (1) Warden and a Clerk).

c. An organized Chaplaincy shall come into union with the Council, and be entitled to representation therein as a Chaplaincy of this Diocese as provided in these canons, with the acceptance by the Council of the aforesaid Application as approved by the Bishop.
Section 2.

a. The Committee of the Chaplaincy shall consist of the Vicar, one or two Wardens, and not more than nine (9) additional members. The Wardens and lay members of the Mission Committee shall be active members of the Chaplaincy, at least 17 years of age, and shall be appointed annually by the Bishop, upon nomination by the congregation. The Committee of the Chaplaincy shall nominate for the Bishop's appointment a Clerk for the Chaplaincy, who may or may not be a member of the Committee of the Chaplaincy. A majority of the members of the Committee of the Chaplaincy shall constitute a quorum. It should be noted that the principal of rotation shall be followed in all instances and in no cases shall a Warden or member of the Committee of the Chaplaincy serve more than six consecutive years as a Warden or member of the Committee of the Chaplaincy; provided the Bishop may waive this rule if the chaplaincy is so small as not to have sufficient members to rotate.

b. If more than one Warden is nominated by the congregation and approved by the Bishop, they shall be distinguished as Senior and Junior, although all duties of the office belong to each. It shall be their duty, under the direction of the Chaplain, to see that the Chaplaincy provides for the well-ordered worship of Almighty God.

c. It shall be the duty of the Clerk to keep a record of all meetings of the Chaplaincy congregation and the Committee of the Chaplaincy. It shall also be his/her duty to keep a full, accurate and faithful statement of the number of meetings held by the Committee of the Chaplaincy during the year, and the number of such meetings attended by each Warden and lay members of the Committee of the Chaplaincy, and said statement shall be presented to the Bishop at the end of each academic year.

Section 3.

Not later than February 1 of each year, the Chaplain, or if there be none, the Clerk of the Chaplaincy, shall make the Canonical Report to the Ecclesiastical Authority as required in Canon 27.

Section 4.

The title of any property owned or acquired by the Chaplaincy for Church purposes shall be vested in the Trustees of the Diocese, to be held in trust by them; and proper evidence of this (for any such property held by the Chaplaincy at that time) and of adequate insurance coverage thereon, must be given in the application for organization.

Proposal for Canonical Change Canon 28 – Voluntary Proportional Giving

From Canon 28 Section 4

Strike "as plate offerings, pledges to the operating budget, and any other undesignated receipts from whatever source."

Replace with "total operating revenues from the prior calendar year's parochial report."

Canon 28 Section 4 will then read:

"For the purpose of this Canon, income shall be defined as total operating revenues from the prior calendar year's parochial report."

Explanation:

Whereas, the Episcopal Church has historically, by intention, featured the diocese as its foundational component;

And, whereas, the Diocese is intended to work in fields of mission and outreach that no parish can work in alone;

And, whereas, the Diocese offers aid and assistance to parishes and missions of the church for the furtherance of the Gospel;

And, whereas, the Diocesan budget emerges, in large part, from the giving of the parishes and missions of the Diocese, known as Voluntary Proportional Giving;

And, whereas, the use of current fiscal year numbers leads to a lack of foreknowledge in Diocesan fiscal planning and budgeting;

And, whereas, all congregations of the Episcopal Church are required to complete an annual Parochial Report, making a final accounting of each fiscal year to the Diocese and the national Church, including revenue, both operating and non-operational, and an accounting of all expenses;

Therefore, let it be resolved that the canon defining what income shall be considered in vestry and mission committee discussions on VPG be changed from considering current fiscal year incomes to the year immediately prior.



REPORT OF THE REGISTRAR — 2015

REPORT OF THE REGISTRAR
2015

Ordained to the Vocational Diaconate
None

Ordained to Transitional Diaconate:

Hailey Allin, 6/13, 2015 by Brian R. Seage at St. Andrew's Cathedral, Jackson
Alex Allain, 6/13, 2015 by Brian R. Seage at St. Andrew's Cathedral, Jackson
Katie Bradshaw, 6/13, 2015 by Brian R. Seage at St. Andrew's Cathedral, Jackson
Will Compton, 6/13, 2015 by Brian R. Seage at St. Andrew's Cathedral, Jackson
Jennifer Southall, 6/13, 2015 by Brian R. Seage at St. Andrew's Cathedral, Jackson
Morris Thompson, III, 6/13, 2015 by Brian R. Seage at St. Andrew's Cathedral, Jackson

Ordained to Priesthood

Josh Messick, 1/24/2015 by Brian R. Seage for Henry Parsley, Jr. (Diocese of Easton), at the Church of the Mediator, Meridian
Laurence Wainwright-Maks, 4/22/2015 by Brian R. Seage at the Church of the Resurrection, Starkville
Sarah Marie Moses, 5/2/2015, by Brian R. Seage at Christ Church, Holly Springs

Dimissory Received:

Josh Messick, 2/2/2015 from the Diocese of Easton
David Faulkner, 3/3/2015 from the Diocese of Dallas

Dimissory Issued:

Patrick Skutch, 5/15/2015 to the Diocese of Chicago

Changes in the Diocese:

Liz Jones, 1/1/2015 to C.E.S (Chaplain), Long Beach
Luther Ott, 1/15/2015 to St. Mark's, Jackson
Greg Proctor, 1/16/2015 to Chapel of the Cross, Rolling Fork
Melanie Lemburg, 1/28/2015 to St. Columb's, Ridgeland
Harold Roberts, 2/1/2015 to St. Peter's BTS, Gulfport
James DeDeaux, 3/1/2015 to St. Mark's, Gulfport
Cathy Halford, 3/14/2015 to St. Columb's, Ridgeland
David Lemburg, 3/15/2015 to Mediator/Redeemer, Magnolia/McComb
David Faulkner, 4/1/2015 to Trinity, Pass Christian
Scott Lenoir, 4/1/2015 to St. Pierre, Gautier
Bo Roberts, 4/1/2015 to St. Pierre, Gautier
Patrick Skutch, 4/12/2015 resigned Christ Church, Bay St. Louis
Ted Dawson (NC), 4/12/15 to Christ Church, Bay St. Louis
Helen Tester, 5/1/2015 resigned Mediator, Meridian
Lynn Ronaldi, 5/4/2015 to Incarnation, West Point and St. Bernard's, Okolona
David Elliott, 6/1/2015 to St. Peter's, Oxford
Julia Moore, 6/1/2015 to Advent, Sumner

Gates Elliott, 6/8/2015 to Diocesan Office
Sandra DePriest, 8/9/2015 to also serve St. John's, Aberdeen
Pam Rhea, 8/9/2015 to Good Shepherd, Columbus and St. John's, Aberdeen
Patrick Sanders, 9/1/2015 to St. Peter's by the Sea, Gulfport
Chuck Culpepper, 10/1/2015 to St. Luke's, Brandon (and continuing at St. Alexis, Jackson)
Harold Roberts, 10/1/2015 to St. Pierre's, Gautier
Brian Ponder, 10/14/2015 to Diocesan Office
Liz Jones, 10/1/2015 to C.E.S (Headmaster), Long Beach
Arnold Bush, 11/29/2015 to St. Paul's. Meridian

Died:

Bill White, 1/20/2015
Ben Bell, 6/23/2015
Bob France, 8/20/2015
Kate Knapp, 9/16/2015
Gene Asbury, 11/16/2015
Lynne Hough, 12/22/2015

Retired:

Scott Lenoir, 1/1/2015 to reside in Gautier, MS
Duncan M. Gray, III, 2/8/2015 to reside in New Orleans, LA
Taylor Moore, 6/1/2015 to reside in Oxford, MS
Lee Winter, 12/31/2015 to reside in Starkville, MS

Release and Removal from Ordained Ministry:

Chris Colby, 9/2/2015

Licensed:

Jane Alexander (Western Louisiana)
Paul J. Andersen (Virginia)
Arnold Bush (Central Gulf Coast)
Ted Dawson, (Louisiana)
Terrell Griffis, (Louisiana)
Eugene Hall (Springfield)
Mary Ann Heine (Louisiana)
John Stone Jenkins, (Louisiana)
Daniel D. McKee (Arkansas)
Ede Marie Plovanich (Central Gulf Coast)
Winston Rice, (Louisiana)
Margarita Swetman, (Newark)

Peggy Jones
Registrar

**Bishop Seage's 2015
Discretionary Fund**

(1/1/15-12/31/15)

Receipts:

Cash on Hand 1/1/2015	\$8,881.000	
Honorariums, Visitations, etc		\$12,010.56
	Total	\$20,891.56

Disbursements:

Charities, Grants, Conferences, etc.	\$18,853.24	
	Balance on Hand 12/31/2015	\$2,038.32

**Bishop Gray's 2015
Discretionary Fund**

(1/1/15-3/1/2015)

Receipts:

Cash on Hand 1/1/2015	\$1,619.87
Honorariums, Visitations, etc	\$ 224.00
	Total
	\$1,843.87

Disbursements:

Charities, Grants, Conferences, etc.	\$1,843.87	
	Balance on Hand 3/1/2015	\$ 0

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, Robert R. Whitney.

Brandon, St. Peter's: Jean Garrison, Ross Hartford, Robert Houston, Finley Knox, Lisa Maisel, Ralph Maisel, Kathleen G. Oglesby, Harry Perdue, Susan Siddall.

Canton, Grace: John R. Childress, Sr., A. P. Durfey, Jr., Marian Durfey, Holly D. Wallace.

Clinton, Creator: Michael Milone.

Forest, St. Matthew's: Chris Allen Baker, Mary Jo Walsh.

Jackson, All Saints': Jolinda Charbonnet, Cindy Gavette.

Jackson, St. Andrew's: Marilyn Beach, Ann Homer Cook, Cheryl Kirchner, James Lueth, Margaret McLarty, Jacqueline Mohle, Kenneth Parker, Bob Thompson.

Jackson, St. Christopher's: Goldia M. Revies, Dessie B. White.

Jackson, St. James': Ellen Ford, Yvonne Rogers, Margaret G. Yerger.

St. Mark's: LaWanda Washington.

Jackson, St. Philip's: Kenneth Bennett, Lucette Bennett, Glynn Bradshaw, Jill Cole Bullard, Jim Carrington, Pam David, Fonda Devrow, Grace Duckworth, Chad R. Espeland, Robert Lee Everett III, Jan M. Evers, Julie Breland Goforth, Lester Hailey, II, Anne Mollere, A. Frederick Parker, Patience Rall, Nancey Scott, Ralph E. Sebrell, Pat S. Sebrell, Thomas Andrew Welch.

Madison, Chapel of the Cross: Charles C. Barlow, Jr., Lena Barlow, Bill Buhner, Margaret Buhner, Patricia H Evans.

Raymond, St. Mark's: Cynthia Whittington

Ridgeland, St. Columb's: Tim Adams, George W. Baker, William Girod, Greg Grant, Janice Jordan, Betty Jo Mahaffey, Robert Mahaffey, Bob May, Janis Quinn, Marion Gordon Stewart, III, Floyd Sulser, Jr., Ernest G. Vanlandingham, Arrington Widemire, Andrew C. Young.

Terry, Good Shepherd: Gregory M. Hardy, Edward J. Peters, Wava Peters.

COAST CONVOCATION

Bay St. Louis: Kathryn J. Larsen.

Biloxi, Redeemer: Virginia L. Chavez, Malcolm Jones, Robert E. Thunelius, Jim Wheeler, Richard Wilder.

Diamondhead, St. Thomas: Lowell K. Giffin, Jr., Darlene Park.

Gautier, St. Pierre's: Suzanne Cox, Adele Ledford, Myron W. Lockey, Jr., Ben Thornton.

Gulfport, St. Mark's: Jerome H. Carver, John M. Harral, Terry Helms, James Keith, Vicki Lynn Miller, Mary Nichols, Ruthie Wilder, Walter V. Williams, Peter Wilson.

Gulfport, St. Peter: Joy Jennings, Maria Watson.

Long Beach, St. Patrick's: Michelle Ford, Dove Green, Laureli Latimer, Douglas MacCullagh, Kitty MacCullagh, Danny Ray Meadors.

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

Pass Christian, Trinity: Frank Cuervo, David Goff, Evelyn Gregory, Steve McNair, Bill Myers, Thomas Shellnut.

Perkinston, Annunciation: William John Thomas.

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

DELTA CONVOCATION

Cleveland, Calvary: Lee Aylward, Evelyn Lyon, Keith Pettway, Hilda Povall, Robert T. Ragan.

Greenville, St. James': Richard Byler, Ashley Hines, Dotti Lowe, Ann Hogan Macvaugh, Dot Meeks, Walter B. Swain.

Greenwood, Nativity: James A. Barrett, Jr., Mary Rose Carter, Hank Lamb, Pam Powers, Charlot Ray.

Indianola, St. Stephen's: David B. Allen, William E. Baker, Frederick W. Barrier, Woods Eastland, Thomas G. Gresham, Walton Gresham III, Richard G. Noble, Marilyn B. Trahan, Joseph Seldon Van Cleve.

Sumner, Advent: Stephen Vaught.

Yazoo City, Trinity: Priscilla Harper, Robert Harper.

NORTHERN CONVOCATION

Olive Branch, Holy Cross: Linda W. Miller, Meda Darlene Stanley.

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

Southaven, St. Timothy: Edward Brown, John Clayton Karcher, Sandra S. Kimmelman, Linda W. Miller, Joe Schmitt.

OLD RIVER CONVOCATION

McComb/Magnolia, Mediator/Redeemer: Ronnie L. DeHabermann, Curt Lamar, Jack M. Seale.

Vicksburg, Christ Church: Sara Baker, Brenda Benway, David Benway, Edwin L. Boren, Jane Calhoun, Michael J. Chaney, Frank Holifield, Jim Miller, Sharon S. Miller, Alice Read, Corrine H. Stockton.

Vicksburg, Holy Trinity: Patricia Smith, Lee Davis Thames.

Vicksburg, St. Alban's: Richard Price, David Pruett, Elizabeth Selby, Thomas L. Skinner, Harvey, Smith, Jr., Sarah S. Tompkins, Theo Williams.

Vicksburg, St. Mary's: Linda Tolliver.

SOWASHEE CONVOCATION

Collins, St. Elizabeth's: Alfred D. Corban, JoAnn M. Corban, Brenda McClendon, Rebecca A. Tough

Columbia, St. Stephen's: Christine A. Fortenberry-Eaton, John E. Hales, Ann Simmons.

Hattiesburg, Ascension: Patricia Byrd, Pamela M. Cameron, Kenneth Cantrell, Rick Fortenberry, Rosalie Zimmerman.

Laurel, St. John's: Patricia Bailey, Eugene M. Harlow, Elizabeth K. Moore, Karl A. Moore, Pat Landrum Myers, Byron Myrick, Ollis Keith Rushing.

Meridian, Mediator: Ann Glazar, E. Ann Milsted, Dianne C. Panek, James R. Smith.

Meridian, St. Paul's: Betty Melton.

TOMBIGBEE CONVOCATION

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

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

Corinth, St. Paul's: Dana Miller Bullard

Philadelphia, St. Francis: Evelyn Perry.

Starkville, Resurrection: Mary Lee Beal, Robert K. Collins.

Tupelo, All Saints': Nathan Duncan, Albert F. White.

West Point, Incarnation: Rufus Ward, Jr.

Bishop Seage's 2015 Official Acts

3	Sermons and Addresses
16	Baptisms
228	Confirmations
36	Received
18	Reaffirmed
6	Ordinations to the Transitional Diaconate
3	Ordinations to the Priesthood
0	Ordinations to the Vocational Diaconate
277	Office Conferences and Appointments
134	Diocesan Conferences and Meetings
50	Other Conferences and Meetings (Univ. of South, All Saints' School, House of Bishops, etc.)
17	Other Calls
23	Community and State Conferences and Meetings

Bishop Gray's 2015 Official Acts

10	Sermons and Addresses
4	Baptisms
35	Confirmations
4	Received
2	Reaffirmed
0	Ordinations to the Transitional Diaconate
0	Ordinations to the Priesthood
0	Ordinations to the Vocational Diaconate
7	Office Conferences and Appointments
8	Diocesan Conferences and Meetings
9	Other Conferences and Meetings (Univ. of South, All Saints' School, House of Bishops, etc.)
0	Other Calls
2	Community and State Conferences and Meetings

Wisdom from the Benedictine tradition

By Janet C. Nail

“Where is the wisdom we have lost in knowledge?”

When T.S. Eliot wrote these words in his poem, *Choruses from the Rock*, there was no internet not constant access to every moment around the globe. How much more this means now! The information explosion has led to a generation in this country that seems to have smart phones or tablets surgically attached lest one miss a word from a politician or an entertainer or a sports star. Where indeed is the wisdom lost in this vast sea of knowledge/information?

Why do we need this wisdom? Wisdom gives us light on the way, the quality of deep understanding. I am many years past youth (I have a cell phone, but it is a basic pay-as-you-go and I usually don't know where it is. I also think the Psalms are more up-to-date than the news networks) and I appreciate wisdom more than knowledge!

Mark W. McGinnis felt a deep yearning for the wisdom that has been lost in knowledge. As a Benedictine oblate, he admired the less hectic, deeper lives of the monks and nuns he met in the monasteries, and he decided to search for the source. In *Wisdom of the Benedictine Elders* (Blue Bridge, 2005), he met with thirty of the oldest monks and nuns to learn their lives' greatest lessons.

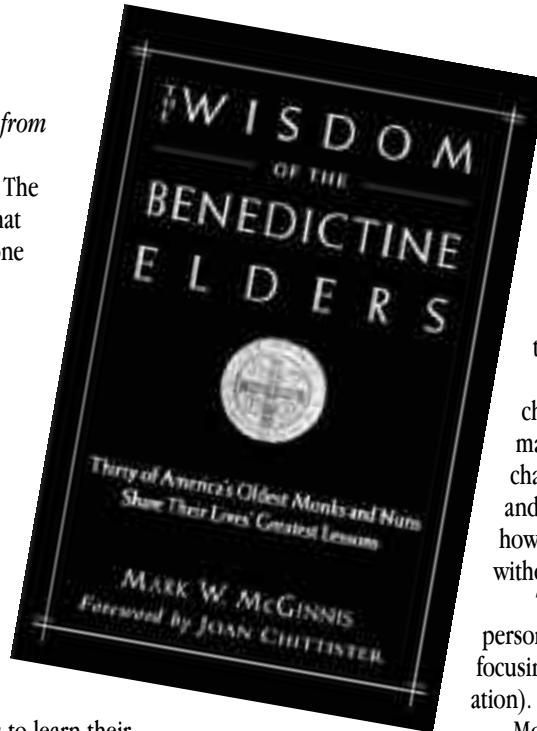
In the first interview, Father Stanislaus Maudlin told him of listening to a boring sermon by a Franciscan priest in his junior high school. Most of what he said was lost to the students, but he said one thing that remained, “I want to guarantee you two things if you do one. When you come to church, you go up to God and say ‘Here I am, God. I am strong, healthy, brave, and ready. Any time you are in trouble and need something done, let me know and I will do it.’ If you do this one thing, I guarantee that you will always have a job and love every minute of it.”

Despite neglecting this as a constant prayer, Fr. Stanislaus remembered it often enough that he felt it had guided his life. At every point, he prayed, listened, and said “yes”—and he always had work and he always loved every minute of it.

This is the theme of these elders. Each, of course, has his or her own story, but the basic theme is saying “Yes” to God.

Of course, before one can say “yes”, one must hear God. And these monks and nuns were blessed to be born in families for whom faith was important, in times of quiet, in communities in which prayer and listening were part of life.

We may judge them cynically because they entered formation at an early age. It was not uncommon for them to go to a Benedictine school and become postulants as teenagers, sometimes as a way of becoming educated. But the benefits of being able to finish school and go to college can't explain why they stayed. Only a response to God could have kept them in the monastery for the rest of their lives!



At the time that they were professed, the accepted path was that “you do what is needed.” If the school needed a music teacher, one became a music teacher—or a science teacher or a basketball coach. Brothers and sisters who had no interest in administration spent many years as priors or prioresses. At the decision of a superior, they went abroad to study or interrupted a doctorate program to serve in another capacity. They were obedient.

Another thread that winds through the narratives is the Rule of Saint Benedict. Most of these elders attribute the joy and beauty of their lives to following the rule, to ordering their lives in service to God and to others. Most of them mention studying the Rule regularly and learning more each time. A few remarked (perhaps a bit acerbically) that everyone could benefit from reading and learning from the Rule!

Another common observation is the effect of Vatican II. Most of them appreciate the changes of Vatican II, but they all felt that things may have moved too fast. All regret the mass exodus of fellow Benedictines from the monasteries as many could not adjust to the changes. So many of them, however, feel that the future of the monasteries is in God's hands and that, since there is a need for monastics, He will show the way to maintain them. They all, however, mourned the passing of obedience as a virtue; they feel that we all worship freedom without understanding what freedom is.

There are cautionary observations as well. Many subjects of the interviews mentioned that personal achievement has become too important in the monasteries, that some Benedictines are focusing on work and neglecting prayer and recreation (which, you must remember, is re-creation). This is definitely a signal to stop and assess where you are going!

Most of us are not drawn to the monastic life as a full profession (although many of us are oblates or tertiaries), but we can all benefit from the wisdom of lives spent in service to God. This is a book to be treasured, to be read and re-read, to be absorbed. I return to it often and I always come away refreshed and thoughtful.

Editor's note: There are several Episcopal monastic orders and communities that lay and clergy may join as oblates or associates. In Mississippi, the Community of St. Joseph (www.csjms.org) is a Benedictine religious community, and it is relatively unique in its structure. To discover other Episcopal religious orders and faith communities, log on to <http://www.episcopalchurch.org/page/religious-orders-and-faith-communities>.

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OF THE DIOCESE OF MISSISSIPPI

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Friday, Saturday & Sunday, January 29-31, 2016

189th Annual Council — Mississippi Coast Coliseum, Biloxi



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Speaking in Faith

By Carol Mead

Among all of the liturgical and theological challenges that come to us Episcopalians, the practice of infant baptism ranks way up the list of contentious topics. Adherents of traditions which practice only “believer’s baptism” cannot understand why the Episcopal Church chooses to baptize infants. So how do we defend ourselves against such questions, ones which often come across in very hostile terms?

Writers of the *Book of Common Prayer* certainly anticipated the question of infant baptism, addressing it within the Outline of the Faith (p. 858). The prayer book asks, “Why then are infants baptized?” and tells us, “Infants are baptized so that they can share citizenship in the Covenant, membership in Christ, and redemption by God.”

I think of infant baptism as an expression of the unmerited grace of God. To be baptized in the “believer’s baptism” traditions, a person has to make choices before being baptized, expressing outwardly and publicly a commitment to follow Jesus. While I understand the value of choosing to be a part of the body of Christ, the requirement of verbal commitment before baptism means we have to earn the privilege of baptism. (The scripture that leaps to mind is, “You foolish Galatians!” where Paul declared



that requiring persons to satisfy conditions before joining the body of Christ in effect devalued what Jesus did for us on the cross.)

Sometimes, when meeting with parents before their child’s baptism, I ask them, “What do you think we’re doing when we baptize your baby?” Very often, the parent will say something like, “I just want my baby to be baptized in case anything happens.” I explain, in those tender moments, that the baby is fine, embraced by God and protected by God. Baptism doesn’t magically erase some dark fate for the child; instead, baptism celebrates God’s grace and officially reminds the community that the body of Christ on earth includes a new member.

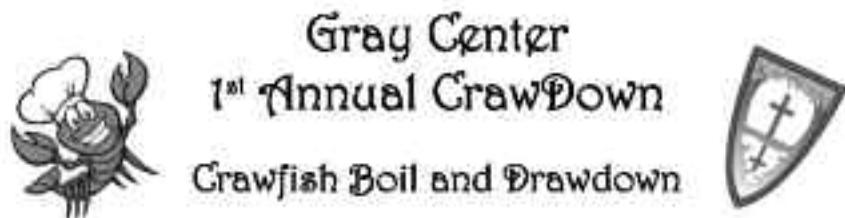
As a way of acknowledging personally and formally our reliance on God, the Episcopal Church offers the sacramental rite of confirmation. As the prayer book describes it, “Confirmation is the rite in which we express a mature commitment to Christ.” So while our ways may differ from those traditions which practice “believer’s baptism,” the Episcopal Church honors the same spiritual principles—the grace of God and choosing to follow God—through the sacrament of baptism and the sacramental rite of confirmation.

We believe in grace, freely given to those who approach God. And we think it proper to begin celebrating that gift of grace as early as possible in the Christian life.

Please let me know if you have ideas you’d like for me to explore in future columns. You can contact me as follows: The Rev. Carol Mead, St. Peter’s by-the-Lake, 1954 Spillway Road, Brandon, MS 39047. I’m also available

by email at stpetepriest@bellsouth.net.

The Rev. Carol Mead is rector of St. Peter’s by-the-Lake Episcopal Church in Brandon.



Gray Center 1st Annual CrawDown Crawfish Boil and Drawdown

A day of fun and celebration of the ministries of Gray Center.
Will be held at Camp Bratton-Green

CRAWFISH BOIL – GRAND PRIZE DRAWING – LIVE MUSIC
SATURDAY, APRIL 2nd, 2016 @11:00 AM

Grand Prize is **\$5,000.00** cash / Other prizes available!
~ 1st Ticket Drawn - \$100 ~ 100th ticket - \$100
~ 200th ticket - \$200 ~ 300th ticket - \$300

Tickets are \$100 each and only 325 will be sold.

Each ticket will include crawfish for 2 people!

Additional Door Prizes will be awarded!

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For more information, contact Jason Ezell at ezell@graycenter.org

Deployment Report For The Diocese of Mississippi

January, 2016

New Calls/Appointments

The Reverend David Knight, to be *Interim Rector*, Christ Church, Pensacola, Florida

The Reverend Carol Mead, to be *Rector*, St. Peter’s-by-the-Lake, Brandon

Ordinations

The Reverend Alex Allain, to be *ordained to the Priesthood*, January 16, 2016, at *St. Andrew’s Cathedral*, to continue at UAM Medical Center, Birmingham, Alabama

The Reverend Haley Wile Allin, to be *ordained to the Priesthood*, January 16, 2016, at *St. Andrew’s Cathedral*, to continue at St. Andrew’s Cathedral

The Reverend Katie Bradshaw, to be *ordained to the Priesthood*, January 16, 2016, at *St. Andrew’s Cathedral*, to continue at St. Columb’s, Ridgeland

The Reverend Will Compton, to be *ordained to the Priesthood*, January 16, 2016, at *St. Andrew’s Cathedral*, to continue at Chapel of the Cross, Madison

The Reverend Jennifer Southall, to be *ordained to the Priesthood*, January 16, 2016, at *St. Andrew’s Cathedral*, to continue at St. James’, Jackson

The Reverend Morris Thompson, III, to be *ordained to the Priesthood*, January 16, 2016, at *St. Andrew’s Cathedral*, to continue at St. Paul’s, Columbus

Resignations

The Reverend Will Lowry, *resigned as Rector*, Church of the Epiphany, Tunica

In Transition

Christ Church, Bay St. Louis

St. Thomas’, Diamondhead

Redeemer, Greenville

St. Paul’s, Hollandale

St. John’s, Leland

St. Mary’s, Lexington

St. Paul’s, Meridian

Mediator, Meridian

Holy Cross, Olive Branch

St. Peter’s, Oxford

St. Francis’, Philadelphia

St. Timothy’s, Southaven

Epiphany, Tunica

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DIOCESAN CALENDAR

JANUARY 2016

- 15-17: A. C. Marble School
- 16: Ordination to the Priesthood — St. Andrew's — 10:30 a.m.
- 18: Allin House closed for Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday
- 20: Fresh Start — St. Andrew's Cathedral — 10:00 a.m. — 2:00 p.m.
- 24: Bishop Seage visits Trinity, Pass Christian — 10:30 a.m.
- 29-31: 189th Annual Council — Mississippi Coast Coliseum, Biloxi

FEBRUARY 2016

- 1-2: Allin House closed following Annual Council
- 2: Deadline for *The Mississippi Episcopalian*
- 7: Bishop Seage visits St. Paul's, Columbus
- 7-9: Presbyter POC — Gray Center
- 12-14: Senior High DOY — Gray Center
- 18: Convocational Deans' Meeting — Allin House — 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
- 19-21: A. C. Marble School
- 26-27: Leadership Summit

MARCH 2016

- 2: Deadline for *The Mississippi Episcopalian*
- 2: Bishop Seage attends Wesley Service, Holly Springs
- 4: Bishop Seage attends FEMA Induction at All Saints', Vicksburg
- 4-5: Commission on Ministry Meeting — St. Columb's, Ridgeland
- 4-6: A. C. Marble School
- 8: Fresh Start — Trinity, Hattiesburg — 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
- 10: Fresh Start — All Saints', Grenada — 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
- 11-13: Jr. High DOY — Camp Bratton Green
- 17: Bishop Seage visits St. Patricks, Long Beach
- 25: Allin House closed for Good Friday
- 28: Allin House closed for Easter



The St. Monica Guild in Pass Christian hosts the 89th Annual Valentine's Silver Tea at the home of Carol and Burt Keenan, 701 East Scenic Drive in Pass Christian. The event is free to the public and any gifts offered will be used to support community outreach programs.

Bonnie St. Paul/Photo

St. Monica Guild announces 86th Annual Valentine Silver Tea to benefit outreach programs

By Joanna Diboll

Imagine enjoying delicious tea, coffee, chilled wine and homemade tea delicacies in a lovely setting with interesting conversation all around you.

You will have just that at the 86th annual Valentine Silver Tea hosted by the St. Monica Guild of Trinity Episcopal Church in Pass Christian. This special event will be held on Friday, February 12, at the beautiful beachfront home of Carol and Burt Keenan located at 701 East Scenic Drive. The hours for this festive tea are 3 to 5 p.m. Young tea girls in their red dresses will be circulating, and a youth chamber group will provide background music.

There is no charge to attend the tea, which is open to all; however, donations are appreciated. These proceeds will support Trinity outreach ministries such as: The Boys and Girls Club of Pass Christian, the Food Pantry, missionary work in Chile, Mercy Flights Southeast providing free flights for patients and their families for medical treatment throughout the USA, Wilmer Hall Children's Home in Mobile, and Trinity's Benevolent and Discretionary Fund.

The guild is ecumenical as it is open to all women of the community. The roots of St. Monica Guild extend back to the early 20th century when it was named the Ladies Aid Society and Woman's Auxiliary. The name of the guild was later changed to St. Monica Guild in honor of the mother of St. Augustine of Hippo. The guild is still going strong.

Trinity Episcopal Church was completely devastated two times, by Hurricanes Camille in 1969 and Katrina in 2005. After each hurricane, the members and friends of Trinity gathered together and had a new church rebuilt. This historic home is now a gathering place for long-time church members as well as new families to the community.

Joanna Diboll is the publicity chair of the St. Monica Guild and a member of Trinity/Pass Christian. For more information call 228-586-9762.

17. For Church Musicians and Artists

O God, whom saints and angels delight to worship in heaven: Be ever present with your servants who seek through art and music to perfect the praises offered by your people on earth; and grant them even now glimpses of your beauty, and make them worthy at length to behold it unveiled for evermore; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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

FAITHFUL DEPARTED

Please submit Faithful Departed notices to your church for submission

- Diana Hemphill O'Toole, 65, communicant of St. Andrew's, Jackson, died October 9, 2015.
- Mary McWhorter Smith, 90, communicant of St. Andrew's, Jackson, died November 23, 2015.
- Ella Jeanne Colbert Oglesby, 89, communicant of St. Andrew's, Jackson, died November 26, 2015.
- Peggy Clay Newton, 71, communicant of St. Andrew's, Jackson, died November 30, 2015.
- Howard Spencer Jones, 79, communicant of St. Andrew's, Jackson, died December 9, 2015.
- The Rev. J. Lynne Hough, 77, longtime deacon at St. Patrick's Church, Long Beach, died December 22, 2015.
- Robert (Buddy) Garland Steadman, 91, communicant of Trinity, Hattiesburg, died December 27, 2015.

Sci Fi film shot on Mississippi Episcopal properties

By Scott Lenoir

While taking in the beauty of the Lenoir Christmas tree a few days before the big event, I got a text message from a friend in Lexington, Mississippi:

"Hollywood is in Lexington filming a horror movie! St. Mary's @ this very moment looks like a Hollywood set all lit up as bright as can be with huge lights everywhere focused on the church."

It sounded interesting, and so this intrepid reporter checked in with a St. Mary's parishioner



Mendez, cleaver in hand, again, shows a young actress what he's looking for in a scene.



Director Mike Mendez on the final day of shooting a science fiction movie, *Don't Kill It*, lets the crew know, "For the last time, do the scene my way, or else!"

who confirmed there was indeed a film crew in Lexington that had been shooting a science fiction movie. "Dolph Lundgren is the star," said my friend, "and I'm in it too!" I asked what role she had and she said, "I'm a killer!" Oh my!

There isn't much information about the film, entitled *Don't Kill It*, only a brief statement on the Internet Movie Database that says an ancient demon is accidentally unleashed in a sparsely populated Alaskan town. A "grizzled old demon hunter" (Lundgren) is the town's only hope of survival. He's helped by a reluctant FBI agent played by Kristina Klebe.

So Mississippi is made to look like Alaska—the wonders of Hollywood continue. Besides Lexington, shooting also took place in Canton and at the Gray Center. Many local actors were used in the film. Thank you to Father Photographer, Jud Meaders, who caught up with the crew on its final day of shooting.

The production is directed by Mike Mendez, and, besides Lundgren and Klebe, also stars Courtney Gains. Watch for film's release sometime in 2016, and look for familiar Mississippi Episcopal sites and some friends who are killers. Lord, have mercy!

The Rev. Scott Lenoir is the editor of the *Mississippi Episcopalian*.



The crew takes a break in the Big House living room.



If the Big House wasn't haunted before, it probably is now: The clean up crew is washing all the horror stuff off the walls and ceilings in the Big House. Yuck.



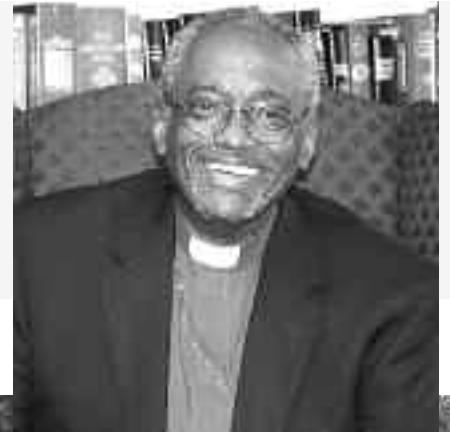
A lot of equipment is needed to shoot a movie.

Jud Meaders, Academy Street Studio/Photos

Presiding bishop to visit Mississippi

The Episcopal Diocese of Mississippi encourages all Episcopalians to reserve the dates of June 10-12 for the celebration of the visitation of Presiding Bishop and Primate Michael B. Curry to the diocese. Activities surrounding this event will be released at a later date, after approval by the presiding bishop's office, however we will announce the events to include preaching, various services and music by Theodicy. Please mark these dates on your calendar and plan on joining multiple festive opportunities to see and hear our new presiding bishop in person.

The Most Rev. Michael B. Curry



Dear Presiding Bishop Curry,

We, at St. Paul's Columbus, MS, watched the video you released the day after your installation. The one that called us to take to the streets, leave the walls that so often enclose us, and seek our congregation in the world. When we first viewed it, we conversed with excitement as to how the Episcopal Church was going to become evangelical under your leadership as primate of our church. However, a few weeks passed and we found ourselves still worshipping in our pews, carrying on within our church walls. Nothing changed. Apparently evangelism wasn't really coming to Columbus. The realization that YOU weren't coming to St. Paul's to lead us outside the church was a jolt. We concluded that if we truly believed in your message, WE would have to become the agents of evangelism within our community.

So, together, we organized an event called "Southside Evangelism." Our church is located in "Southside Columbus." It is a historic, diverse neighborhood bordered by downtown, the Mississippi University for Women, and the Tombigbee Waterway. This neighborhood, our neighborhood, became our aim. Our goal was to simply remind them that we are neighbors, and we would like to get to know them.

In the days leading up to the event we gathered, candied, and packaged pecans. We designed flyers advertising our Lessons & Carols and Christmas services. We strategized our route so that we could visit as many houses as possible, and we began talking about what it means to evangelize. Fear was the predominant word, primarily the fear of the unknown. What do I say to these people? What if they are mean to me? Can I profess my faith in a way that others will understand? We talked about these feelings.

On the day of the event, many of us undoubtedly regretted our decision. Our fears had returned, but we showed up anyway. We separated into groups of four to six, a few more than the disciples' pair, and hesitantly began to knock. With each knock we gained a bit of confidence. Quite early on, we realized there were some in each group with a natural ability for evangelism. Imagine that, we Episcopalians have it in us! Those people quickly assumed a leadership role, teaching others how to fearlessly invite our neighbors to join us for worship.

Eventually we settled into a groove. With more confidence our focus moved away from ourselves and toward our neighbors. We noticed hesitancy in people opening the door. Giving the pecans was often difficult; most people wanted to know how much they cost. When we told them the pecans were simply a gift from the church, their demeanor changed. First it was confusion, then shock, and finally the most basic Mississippi virtue, hospitality. Once people recognized our evangelism as hospitality, they, in turn, opened their doors. Many invited us in, wanting us to stay for coffee or tea. We offered hospitality and our neighbors reciprocated.

We want to thank you, Presiding Bishop Curry, for this opportunity of evangelism. Your words of encouragement and leadership drew our church out of our comfort zone into a whole new experience, where by extending hospitality through evangelism, we received hospitality and so much more. We gained friends, neighbors, brothers and sisters in Christ, and we experienced the joy of invitation. Since that afternoon we have seen those friendly faces around town and yes, even in church. This is our beginning. We now know we can do it; St. Paul's has and will continue to evangelize.

Grace and Peace,
The People of St. Paul's Columbus, Mississippi



St. Paul's/Columbus parishioners were inspired by the PB to hit the streets around the church to invite neighbors to their Christmas service.

Emily Thompson/Photo



The Coast Episcopal School Chorus sang at St. Peter's-by-the-Sea/Gulfport during the offertory on the third Sunday of Advent. The chorus performed a French piece, 'Il Est Ne', and Beautiful Christmas.

Melissa Brown/Photo

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