

THE MISSISSIPPI EPISCOPALIAN

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Bishop Gray reflects on 2008 Lambeth Conference

By Scott Lenoir

The 18-day Lambeth Conference, a decennial world-wide Anglican meeting, ended August 3rd with a final Eucharist attended by 670 bishops at Canterbury Cathedral.

Near the end of his final presidential address, Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams lamented the absence of many bishops who chose not to attend the conference and promised "to invite those absent from Lambeth to be involved in these next stages" of efforts to maintain the Anglican Communion.

Archbishop Williams noted that issues which were discussed at the Global Anglican Future Conference (GAFCON) attended by many conservative bishops in Jerusalem last June was "consonant with much of what we have sought to say and do, and we need to look for the best ways of building bridges here."

Bishop Gray III echoed the sentiment of the Archbishop regarding the absence of many bishops who were invited to attend. "The absence of a sizable number of African bishops, including three primates, was discouraging. There is still a long road that must be traveled into a deeper communion," said Gray.

The decline of many bishops invited to attend was due in large part to the election and consecration of the Rt. Rev. Gene Robinson as Bishop of the Diocese of New Hampshire in 2003. Robinson is gay and recently entered into a civil union with his partner of 20 years.

Those who attended the Lambeth Conference expressed a resolve to preserve the Anglican Communion. "The most encouraging aspect was the deep desire among all who attended to stay together. That was where we began. As the weeks went on there developed a willingness to listen deeply into the contexts of where people were trying to be faithful to the gospel," Gray said.

Indaba

Communication between the bishops and primates was facilitated by Indaba groups, a Zulu term describing a purposeful discussion of equals. Gray said that the conversation was often open-ended with phrases like "Help me to understand..." as opposed to making points in formal debate.



Bishops Duncan Gray III of Mississippi and Dorsey Henderson of Upper South Carolina brief the press on August 1st for the Daily Account at the 2008 Lambeth Conference.

According to Gray the Indaba process was key to whatever success Lambeth 2008 had in strengthening the Anglican Communion. The major written work of Lambeth 2008 will be the publication of Lambeth Indaba- Capturing Conversations and Reflections from the Lambeth Conference 2008.

Rowan William's leadership

Noting that the Archbishop of Canterbury has always been admired for his depth of spirit and intellect, but criticized for his lack of political and leadership skills, Gray said that Williams' leadership at the conference was as a spiritual guide and gentle shepherd coupled with a "an added dimension of ...clarity of vision and ...a desire to be the one who sets the

agenda for the communion in the coming months and years."

In Williams' final address Gray was encouraged by the clarity the Archbishop used in articulating his expectations of the various members of the Communion. "I also saw a side of the Archbishop that I had not seen before... his sense of humor and playfulness reduced the anxiety of the Conference immeasurably, especially in the early days." Another encouraging revelation of the conference for Bishop Gray was the personal risk that many bishops took by simply attending the conference.

"Many [bishops] will face considerable pressure and will be ostracized from their provinces when they return home. But they took these risks for the sake of the Communion."

Eye Opener

One of the most discouraging realities that Gray faced was how little communication from the Episcopal Church reached bishops in the Anglican Communion since 2003. "I was astounded at how little information had reached most of the bishops... Very little was known about the various statements made by our General Convention and House of Bishops in response to the requests from the wider Communion.

2008 Lambeth Conference,
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United Thank Offering grant awarded to Trinity Pass Christian

Trinity Church, Pass Christian, has received a United Thank Offering grant for 2008. The \$20,000 granted will help build a community building for the Live Oak Cemetery, established 158 years ago to serve all people of Pass Christian. Trinity Church has administered the cemetery from the beginning. Hurricane Katrina left Trinity Church and the cemetery committee with no office space or meeting space for other community groups who had met at Trinity. The new building will provide space to the church and to the community and will be a model of LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) for the entire coast.

UTO ingatherings are held twice a year, usually in May and October. The coins and prayers of thanksgiving combine to address compelling human need and help spread God's kingdom around the world. For more information about UTO, contact Jane Wacaster in Meridian: (601)483-0375.

Pathways to Participation Conference Honors "Champions for Change" At St. Andrew's Cathedral

By Rev. Carol B. Stewart

Four persons were honored at the Champions for Change reception held July 24th at St. Andrew's Cathedral. More than a hundred people gathered from all over the state to honor these persons who are seen as positive agents for hope, transformation and change.

The reception preceded the daylong conference "Pathways to Participation" at Galloway United Methodist Church in Jackson on Friday, July 25th. This

event concluded with a barbecue held on the grounds of the Episcopal Church of the Redeemer, Biloxi on Sunday, July 27th.



Mr. Stan Flint (center), member of St. Andrew's Cathedral, received the Champion for Change Award during the Pathways to Participation conference held July 24, 2008 at St. Andrew's Episcopal Cathedral. With Stan Flint is (L-R) the Rev. Carol Stewart and the Rev. Annie Cumberland of St. Andrew's Cathedral.

The three day conference was sponsored by the Coalition for Citizens with Disabilities, St. Andrew's Cathedral, Congregations for Children, Oxfam, America and several other organizations working in a non-partisan way for change.

One of the four honorees, Stan Flint, of the Southern Strategy Group is a member of St. Andrews Cathedral and works tirelessly for policy changes on behalf of those who are powerless and without a voice in the public process.

Pathways to Participation,
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SALUS CRUCE
salvation by
the cross

Notes & Quotes

by Maria Watson



It's good to be back. The last time I wrote here, my talk was of waiting, something I continue to do, but in a different place, in a different way. Last month, the column deadline collided with my temporary move to a new apartment where we will wait in much better

conditions (and good humor) as we build the house upon what is either sand or rock or both. While I have faith that it will happen, the move into that new home has become somewhat mythical to me. At times, I'm almost superstitious about it.

But I've come to believe that the wait has not been without merit. Although I've "lived" in that house for almost three years and have vowed that I would make no changes to the plans once the process was under way, I have done exactly that. Fortunately, they have been changes that I think will run the cost down and make the house more functional and attractive. As I write this now, I am, for the first time since Hurricane Katrina, looking forward to "creating" Christmas once again according to family tradition, if in a smaller space. You will read this at about the time we observe the third anniversary of that terrible day in August when I sat in the attic of the "Big House" (our affectionate name for my parents' house) and wondered: "What are we going to do for Christmas?"

"A minor point at a time like that," to paraphrase Rbett Butler. By this time next year, I truly believe we will be in the "New House," and I hope I don't have to eat those words! Meanwhile, I continue to marvel at the restoration of St. Peter's by-the-Sea, and to feel enfolded in its warmth and beauty.

On the Fourth of July, St. Peter's renewed its tradition of gathering on the parish lawn to watch the

fireworks. Redeemer, Biloxi, also restarted its custom of having a table decorating party in DeMiller Hall before watching the fireworks display from the former church grounds on the beach, and the parish is already planning for its October Pumpkin Patch. St. James, Jackson, celebrated Independence Day with a luncheon and concert July 3, inviting the J.O.Y. (Just Older Youth) Group to feast on a summer menu of sliced tomatoes and cucumbers, beef tenderloin, sliced seasoned potatoes, roasted vegetables, French bread and a "patriotic" dessert. The event also recognized "America's Music" of all types: ballads, Broadway, '40s jazz and a sing-along with patriotic associations.

Ascension, Hattiesburg, has a recently completed labyrinth that follows the stones and turf design of Gray Center's labyrinth. It was the passion of late parishioners, Sid and Char Graves and donations received in their memories funded its creation. St. Mark's, Gulfport, worshipped in its new church for the first time on Fathers' Day, June 15. Its library is also now open with 125 books available, thanks to the selection, processing and arranging by a group of churchwomen. Categories are Christian/youth; Christian living; devotional/prayer; reference; and marriage/single. St. Mark's held a Fine Art Camp for kids July 7-11.

St. James, Greenville, reports that its lobsterfest was a huge success, attended by 200 people with almost 100 assisting in the setup. All Saints, Tupelo, a parish in transition, has been working on a history project during the summer. It will culminate in a video that will be shown in September when parishioners gather to review ages past and look forward to the future. All Saints is one of several parishes gearing up for EFM (Education for Ministry) to begin in the fall. Among others: St. Paul's, Columbus, and Holy Cross, Olive Branch.

Holy Cross has joined with the Soles 4 Souls charity, featured on CNN and MSNBC, to collect "gently used" shoes for people of all ages throughout the United States, in Third World countries, women's

shelters, Native American reservations, Appalachia and other locations, including Iowa and California where flooding and wildfires have put shoes in short supply. St. Paul's participated in Columbus' newest ministry by joining with a group of 15 churches and agencies in the area to host a lunch for the steering committee for a soup kitchen to feed the hungry. St. John's, Ocean Springs, also has been active in aiding flood victims in the Midwest with its EYC holding fundraisers during July. St. Peter's by-the-Sea, Gulfport, with Gulfport's First United Methodist Church and the Downtown Kiwanis Club, co-sponsored a blood drive July 16 at the new parish hall. St. James, Jackson's junior and senior high youth participated in a mission trip to Birmingham Soup Kitchens in late July-early August. The goal was to provide a nurturing and caring environment for others while empowering each participating individual with an understanding of the importance of volunteer work. They made a day trip to Atlanta to visit the CNN Center, Coca Cola Center and much more-just for some fun.

Holy Trinity, Vicksburg, offered a parish Benedictine experience for children and adults August 1-2, led by Bro. Vincent Ignatius, OSB, and Bro. Nicolas Cuthbert, OSB, St. Joseph's Monastery, Natchez. The parish also had its second annual Blessing of the Backpacks August 3 as a new school year opens. A harpsichord concert by John Paul and Shawn Leopard, followed by a dessert reception, raised \$1,200 for St. Mark's, Gulfport's, building fund.

Both St. John's, Ocean Springs, and All Saints, Tupelo, have an "Adopt a Flower Bed" on the church grounds program. Parishioners can participate by weeding and caring for the beds.

Notes & Quotes,
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Faithful Departed

by Catherine Johns

Charles "Buddy" Geffs, 86, died October 12, 2007. He was a communicant of Mediator-Redeemer, McComb-Magnolia.

Betty Thames Moak, 75, communicant of Mediator-Redeemer, McComb-Magnolia died February 20, 2008.

Floyd "Nellie" Brent Steele, 78, communicant of Mediator-Redeemer, McComb-Magnolia died April 11, 2008.

Theodore "Ted" Stuart Cook, communicant of St. Andrew's Cathedral, 75, died April 12, 2008.

Carol Ann Pilgrim Conley, 51, communicant of Holy Innocents', Como, died April 17, 2008.

Helen Day Thomas, 88, died May 13, 2008. She was a communicant of Mediator-Redeemer, McComb-Magnolia.

Rebecca Jane Peeples, 60, communicant of St. James', Greenville, died June 21, 2008.

Charles Morton Sours, 82, died June 27, 2008. He was a communicant of St. James', Jackson.

Norfleet Ruffin Sledge, 80, died July 3, 2008. He was a former lay reader and warden of Holy Innocents', Como.

Douglas James George Horton, 58, communicant of St. Andrew's Cathedral, Jackson, died July 5, 2008.

Ann Scott Johnson, 64, communicant of Church of the Nativity, Greenwood, died July 5, 2008.

Elizabeth Powell "Tay" Wise, 93, died July 19, 2008. She was a member of St. Andrew's Cathedral, Jackson, where she had served as a Sunday school teacher, vestry member, and as president of the Altar Guild.

James Richards, 53, communicant of St. John's, Ocean Springs, died July 19, 2008.

Bessie George Adams, 99, communicant of St. Andrew's Cathedral, Jackson died July 25, 2008.

Executive Committee Deployment Report

August 1, 2008

New Calls and Appointments

The Reverend Dr. Julia Moore, as Interim Rector, Calvary Church, Cleveland
The Reverend Jason Shelby, as Assistant Rector, St. Columb's, Ridgeland

Additional Changes

The Reverend William Barfield, resigned, Chaplain, the University of Southern Mississippi and Assistant Rector, Church of the Ascension, Hattiesburg
The Reverend Ollie Rencher, resigned, Chaplain, the University of Mississippi and Assistant Rector, St. Peter's Church, Oxford

Positions Open

Vicar, St. John's, Aberdeen
Rector, Christ Church, Bay St. Louis
Rector, St. George's, Clarksdale
Rector, Calvary, Cleveland
Rector, St. Paul's, Corinth
Rector, St. James', Greenville
Rector, St. Peter's-by-the-Sea, Gulfport
Chaplain, University of Southern Mississippi, Hattiesburg
Associate Rector, St. John's, Ocean Springs
Chaplain, University of Mississippi, Oxford
Rector, St. Timothy's, Southaven
Rector, Advent, Sumner
Rector, All Saints', Tupelo

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Ninth Bishop of Mississippi

The Rev. Scott Lenoir
Editor

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The Bishop's Journal

July 1 - Vacation at home. Take Tabitha to Camp Bratton Green where she will serve as a counselor this week.

July 2 - Vacation at home.

July 3 - Vacation at home. I make final preparations for Lambeth and Uganda trips. Find myself a bit challenged trying to pack for three distinct trips - New Orleans, Uganda and England.

July 4 - Kathy and I travel to New Orleans for a brief visit to this special city where we will enjoy the food and music for a few days. Our new daughter-in-law, Giulianna Gray, will be ordained to the priesthood on Sunday, making this visit a very special occasion. Peter, Giulianna, Kathy and I enjoy the fireworks over the Mississippi River on this 4th of July.

July 5 - Vacation time in New Orleans.

July 6 - Kathy and I attend St. Anna's Episcopal Church in the morning where we get to meet Peter's new congregation and clergy supervisor. St. Anna's is an extraordinarily diverse and outreach oriented congregation in the New Orleans French Quarter.

In the evening I am invited to participate in the ordination of Giulianna by Bishop Jenkins of Louisiana. With Peter serving as Bishop Jenkin's Chaplain and Deacon it is a very special moment for us all.

July 7 - Meet up with the Rev. William Ndishabandi at the airport early. William will be my companion throughout my Ugandan trip. We fly out of Jackson to Detroit, then on to Amsterdam.

July 8 - After a layover of a few hours in Amsterdam we fly to Entebbe, Uganda, where we are met at the airport by an official delegation from the Diocese of Rwenzori and the Bishop Masereka Christian Foundation. Dozens of mostly young people greet us with song and prayers. I spend a little time with journalists before being driven to Kampala where I will spend two days with Bishop Masereka. I am staying at the Namirembe Guest House, a ministry of the Diocese of Namirembe. Late dinner with William Ndishabandi and Bishop and Mrs. Masereka.

July 9 - Up early for breakfast with the Rev. Dr. Herbert Gaalimaka, a Uganda priest who formerly served in Mississippi. The day is spent giving me an overview of the Kampala region. We begin the day with a trip to the "mother church," St. Paul's Cathedral, which sits high atop a hill over-

looking Kampala. The Cathedral, the guest house where I am staying, and an adjacent hospital formed the first major hub of the Anglican Missionary efforts to Uganda in the 19th century. Later, we visit the office of the Archbishop, but my visit with Archbishop Orombi has to be rescheduled for later in my trip.

A visit to the shrine to the Martyrs of Uganda in Namugongo, commemorated in our liturgical calendar, was a poignant moment. In the late 19th century Roman Catholic and Anglican Christians were killed by the Bugundan king as a consequence of their refusal to renounce their faith. We spent time at both the Roman Catholic and Anglican Shrines.

We leave Kampala in the afternoon for Jinja and a trip to the source of the River Nile. Like many, I had no idea that the Nile began in Uganda, flowing out from Lake Victoria. The setting was gorgeous, and new meaning was given to the spot when I learned that Mahatma Gandhi asked that his ashes be scattered in the spot of the Nile.

Returning to Kampala in the evening I enjoy dinner with a large number of people associated with Bishop Masereka. To my surprise two of the guests were students from Ole Miss, Andrew Meaders and Patrick Woodyard, who were in Uganda for the summer working on another project. It is a very small world.

July 10 - We leave Kampala for an extended drive to Kasese, the sight of the Bishop Masereka Christian Foundation. We stop in Mbarara - approximately half way to Kasese for lunch at the home of the Rev. William Ndishabandi. William had never seen this home, it being built by his wife while the Ndishabandi's were trying to negotiate visas for the family. It was a glorious occasion with neighbors, family and friends joining in the ribbon cutting and blessing of the house.

Leaving Mbarara we pass over the equator before arriving early evening at Bishop Masereka's home. A large crowd, including native dancers, welcome us with large amounts of native food. I greet the gathering and speak of the growing relationship between Mississippi and the Bishop Masereka Christian Foundation and the Diocese of South Rwenzori. I meet Bishop Jackson Tembo of South Rwenzori over dinner.

July 11 - The day is spent learning as much as I can about the community of Kasese. Morning is spent at the medical clinic, talking with staff and patients. I spend time talking and praying with HIV/AIDS patients who have dared to be public with their disease - a very courageous thing to

do in this country. Later, I am taken to Kamaiba Primary School where many of the students are recipients of education grants from the Bishop Masereka Christian Foundation. 900 students waving American and Ugandan flags welcome us as I am escorted in by native dancers. Much singing and dancing. It is a remarkable school where there are as many as 120 students in one classroom with one teacher. Over half the students are orphans. I hope to establish a relationship with this school and a school in our diocese.

Later in the afternoon I am given an extended tour of Kasese by the mayor of the town.

Late dinner at the Masereka home.

July 12 - We travel to the Queen Elizabeth National Park for a sightseeing safari. Though we only see one lion from a distance, water buffalo, gazelles, antelope, warthogs, waterbuck, elephants, monkeys and baboons are plentiful.

Lunch is at a breathtakingly beautiful site above Lake Edward and Lake Albert. We return home in time for tea at the home of the Right Reverend and Mrs. Jackson Tembo. Despite the current tension in our Anglican Communion Bishop Tembo is remarkably open about establishing some kind of person to person relationship with the Diocese of Mississippi.

Late dinner with the Maserekas.

July 13 - An extraordinary day of celebration commemorating the 7th anniversary of the Bishop Masereka Christian Foundation. The day begins with the eucharist at St. Paul's Cathedral where I am the preacher. Church is filled well beyond capacity with many children peering through all the windows. Extra singing and dancing as the festive nature of the day begins.

Following worship we go to the site of the new medical clinic of the Bishop Masereka Christian Foundation. I lay the cornerstone for the new building in an area surrounded by 150 Habitat for Humanity homes, another Bishop Masereka project during his episcopacy. Returning to the current clinic site we spend the

entire afternoon with speeches, singing, dancing and an ongoing auction of donated items with wonderfully funny, but none-too-subtle pressure on local political and business leaders to bid high to support the BMCF.

As part of the gift giving that takes place during the celebration, I am given certain items that mark me as an elder of the village and a Ugandan name, "Mumbere" which means "first born son."

Thousands from all spectrums of the community participate in the festivities. After dinner I pay a visit to the queen of this tribal district, a unique cultural experience. The day has given me an even deeper appreciation for the ministry of Bishop Masereka up to, and now including, the Bishop Masereka Christian Foundation.

July 14 - We travel from Kasese to Kampala today, driving a different route than earlier in the week. This time we travel through the central mountains, a more rural area with lush vegetation and both small and large farms. Bananas dominate, but thousands of acres are also in tea production. Arrive at Namirembe Guest House for the night.

July 15 - In Kampala in anticipation of my flight to London in the evening. A free morning gives me the opportunity to do a little shopping in one of the markets. Bishop Masereka's wife, Stella, is my guide. Lots of fun. I spend the afternoon preparing to transition from Uganda to the Lambeth Conference

Late in the evening I board a flight for London via Amsterdam. As I fly out of the Endibbe Airport I am keenly aware of what a remarkable journey that I have begun.

July 16 - Arrive in Amsterdam very early in the morning. Transfer to another flight to London. There is some mix up on my transportation to Canterbury, so I make my way with my luggage to the train station to travel the rest of the way to the Lambeth Conference.

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The Bishop's Journal,

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Am met at the train station by local hosts and transported to the University of Kent where the conference will take place. As I register and begin to move in I am reminded again of the great gift that a world wide fellowship is to us. Translation will be in eight languages throughout all events of the conference. My accommodations are in a dorm where I will share one bath with six other people. We will become very close before the 2 weeks are over.

Our opening session is held in an enormous tent, a setting in which I find echoes of our Tent Meeting of 2005. I pray that this Lambeth Conference, under this "Big Top," as it is called, will be a time that renews and challenges us as did our own Tent Meeting.

July 17 - We begin this day, as we will all others, with the eucharist and Bible study. Following Bible study we are taken by bus to Canterbury Cathedral where the bishops will be on retreat for the first two days of the conference. Retreat reflections by the Archbishop of Canterbury are powerful and provocative. The music, both by the bishops alone and the Cathedral Choir in the late afternoon lifts my spirits greatly. The time we are given to wander this great Cathedral in reflective silence after the presentations is an extraordinary gift.

Today I met Bishop Ezekiel Deiing Malaangdit from the newly emerging Diocese of Twic East in Sudan. I have responded to the Archbishop of Sudan's request for American partners in ministry, and in my conversation with Bishop Malaangdit we will explore what that may look like between Mississippi and his diocese.

July 18 - After eucharist with the entire conference and Bible study with our small groups, we return to Canterbury Cathedral to continue our retreat led by the Archbishop of Canterbury. Archbishop Williams reminds us that too few voices in the world are telling us that we are intimately bound to one another. "If the bishops are not saying that, then God help us." He invites us to go apart with a bishop that we have reason to fear and make a commitment to read scripture together and pray for one another over an extended period of time. I find two bishops willing to make that commitment with me. Later in the evening I eat dinner with a group of American bishops in a Canterbury restaurant that serves mussels 50 different ways!

July 19 - The eucharist and Bible study begin our day. We stay today at our Conference Center at the University of Kent to conclude our retreat. The Archbishop admonishes us that the great work of the evil one is to convince us that

despair is the only response to the conflict and challenges of this day. He reminds us that Jesus has gone before us to make a new way and our greatest failure is to refuse to hope in Christ. We conclude with lunch and have an afternoon free. I make good use of the freedom by traveling to a beautiful local golf course with some old friends and some new ones who share a common passion for golf.

July 20 - We are able to sleep a little longer today since we have no early morning eucharist and bible study. Instead, we board buses and are taken to Canterbury Cathedral for the grand and glorious opening service of the Lambeth Conference. This majestic and ancient Cathedral continues to be a marvelous hostess in her radiant glory. Our liturgy is a marvelous weaving together of Melanesian and English words and music. The Archbishop of Canterbury is the celebrant and Bishop Duleep de Chickera, the Bishop of Colombo (Sri Lanka) is our preacher. Using as his text Matthew 13:24-43, he reminds us that "if we seek to uproot the unrighteous there will soon be no one left." This was interpreted by most to refer to the desire of some provinces to reduce the status of the Episcopal Church within the Anglican Communion. Hundreds of reporters and photographers are swarming. I avoid them with great care.

In the afternoon we gather for a significant plenary meeting that marks the transition from our retreat-centered focus to the business of the Conference. A variety of initial presentations on the procedures and process that we will be using in our discussions of a variety of matters including an Anglican Covenant and the Windsor process.

After dinner I choose to take a short walk to listen to a delightful concert by the Mothers' Union Choir of the Church of Korea. Peace and unification of the two Koreas is a major theme.

July 21 - Early morning eucharist led by the Church of Korea. Mothers' Union Choir again sings. Bible study follows as we begin to explore in increasing depth the riches of the Gospel of John.

We spend two extended sessions today in our expanded groups, known as the "indaba" groups. Indaba is a Zulu word for a gathering for purposeful discussion, particularly in a time of challenge or crisis. The form of discussion in this year's Lambeth Conference is considerably different from previous Conferences, and very intentionally so. Between these two sessions each province gathers for an informal meeting and "check-in" to discuss internal matters.

In the evening I attend a very stimulating and insightful presentation by Dr. Brian McLaren, a keen observer of post modern culture and leader in what is being called the "Emerging Church."

July 22 - Morning Eucharist is led by the Province of Central Africa. Over breakfast and beyond I have an extended conversation with Bishop Ezekiel Deiing Malaangdit, learning the history and needs of his diocese in southern Sudan. It looks as if this will become another international relationship with the Diocese of Mississippi.

Bible study, then a return to our Indaba groups where our theme is "The Bishop as Evangelist." Over lunch I continued my conversations with a variety of Sudanese and Tanzanian bishops, an ongoing conversation that I am finding fascinating. I learned today that the norm (at least in the several dioceses whose bishops I was speaking to) was that no clergy, including bishops, are given a salary. All support themselves, mostly through subsistence farming.

July 23 - One of the impressions of the Lambeth Conference is that of a three ringed circus. That is not a negative comment, but rather speaks to the reality that so much is going on at the same time that it is impossible to grasp the fullness of a day's variety of events. A daily video journal and the various internal news blogs are helpful, but there is still much very important business taking place at the lunch table or in long walks between events.

The theme for today is "Transforming Society - The Bishop and Social Justice." After the community eucharist, today led by the Episcopal Church of Cuba, I continue my conversation with Bishop Malaangdit of the Diocese of Twic East in Southern Sudan. Yesterday the Church of the Sudan issued a strongly worded statement that seemed to have a chilling effect on these partnership relationships. However,

after this conversation and a subsequent one with the Archbishop of the Sudan I am reassured and convinced that the Church of Sudan is desirous of and committed to an ongoing relationship with the Episcopal Church. "Those things that unite us are greater than those things which divide us," I am told.

Our Bible study deepens as the trust level of the participants grows. In the afternoon the first of several hearings on the Windsor process takes place. Comment is civil, and in several cases, remarkably insightful. Several non-Americans speak to the truth that our communion has been historically and practically held together by common prayer, an area that seems to be neglected in both Windsor and the Covenant process.

Evening Prayer is led by the Church of Jerusalem and the Middle East. In the evening I gather with my continuing education colleagues to chart our direction for the next year.

July 24 - We are up very early for breakfast and then to board buses for London. Our first event is a march thru the city of Westminster, past Parliament, Westminster Abbey and across the Thames River to the Lambeth Palace, the official home of the Archbishop of Canterbury. We are joined by the heads of the Roman Catholic Church and the Jewish and Islamic communities of England to show our united support for the Millennium Development Goals. We are met at Lambeth Palace by the British Prime Minister, Gordon Brown, who gives a remarkable and inspiring address on the moral imperative of governments to address the poverty and education and medical needs of the world.

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O blessed Lord, you ministered to all who came to you: Look with compassion upon all who through addiction have lost their health and freedom. Restore to them the assurance of your unfailing mercy; remove from them the fears that beset them; strengthen them in the work of their recovery; and to those who care for them, give patient understanding and persevering love.

*Amen
BCP pg. 831*


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The Bishop's Journal,

Continued from page 4

Lunch follows under a garden tent of epic proportions. I find myself seated between the Archbishop of Wales and the Archbishop of the Sudan - a remarkable iconic moment for me.

We are given time for a leisurely stroll through the gardens of Lambeth Palace, then loaded onto buses for an across town trip to Buckingham Palace for the traditional tea with Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip. I am reminded that the only person who has been at every Lambeth Conference since 1948 is the Queen. Her grace and dignity are remarkable. Lovely afternoon.

Return to Canterbury late in the evening.

July 25 - Morning eucharist is led by the Church of North India and the Church of Bangladesh. I have an ongoing conversation with Bishop Ezekiel Deing each morning over breakfast about ways we can link our dioceses.

Our conference theme for today is ecumenism: "The Bishop and other Churches." We are joined for much of the conference by representatives of the Roman Catholic, Orthodox and multiple Protestant churches. Their co-mingling among us has already provided an enriching experience for us all.

I meet during lunch with a group of Sudanese bishops in an effort to learn more about the current state of the church. I am surprised to learn that they, like the Episcopal Church, are having to deal with unauthorized interventions by clergy and bishops from other Anglican provinces.

Each province meets during the early afternoon. This has become a very good way of staying in touch. After the provincial meeting I attend the first in a series of hearings on the Anglican Covenant. It has become clear that there are reservations about its present form. Those reservations are being expressed from places like Japan, Melanesia and Brazil. My sense is that our House of Bishops is pretty evenly divided at this point. I am open to the right kind of a Covenant.

July 26 - Morning eucharist led by the Anglican Church of Australia. During Bible study this morning some very fruitful conversation began that may signal a breakthrough in some of the areas that divide us. We have committed to pursuing that conversation over the next week. The formal photograph is taken in the afternoon. It took two photographers and a dozen members of their staff almost an hour to put us in place for the photograph, but there was a wonderful spirit to the whole process.

Following the photography I took a bus to the train station and boarded a train for

Brighton. Saturday evening through Sunday evening has been given to us to do with as we wish, and I decided to return to Rottingdean, the place of my 1992 sabbatical, for a brief visit with the people of St. Margaret's. Rottingdean is a lovely little village on the sea just east of Brighton that bounded on its other sides by the magnificent downs of southeast England. I am met at the train station in Brighton by St. Margaret's Vicar, the Reverend Martin Morgan, in whose home I will be staying tonight.

July 27 - Lovely day in Rottingdean. Up early to walk the streets of the village remembering the very special time my young family and I spent there sixteen years ago. I sit in the congregation enjoying the energy and enthusiasm of a baptism with many children and young families. St. Margaret's has always been the exception to our perceived stereotype of the dull and dying churches in England.

Lunch with the Morgans and others in the vicarage, then tea with another family in the afternoon. Return to Canterbury late in the evening, again renewed by a very special people in a very special village.

July 28 - Morning eucharist led by the Church of the Province of the Indian Ocean. Bible study continues to be a terribly important part of this conference for me. My larger combined group (Indaba" Groups) continues to struggle to fulfill its intention for in-depth conversation. Other groups report better progress.

Following lunch I made a brief presentation at the second of the three hearings on the ongoing Windsor process. The hearings are being held in a swelteringly hot venue that is not conducive to calm and reasoned conversation. Nonetheless, there remains a remarkable civility about all these proceedings.

I am aware of how tired I have become, but there are precious few moments in the day that are not scheduled with important matters. I opt out of an elective session in the afternoon.

Evening presentation by Rabbi Sir Jonathan Sacks, Chief Rabbi of the United Hebrew Congregations of the commonwealth is outstanding.

July 29 - Our schedule is changed significantly as our morning has been given over to a joint session with the spouse conference. Our theme for this powerful session is "Abuse of Power - Violence Against Women." Through a combination of drama, Bible study and story telling the uncomfortable truth of violence - both within and outside the church - is given to us in extraordinarily stark terms. Later, our stewards report the departure of nearly 100 men during the session. No women excused themselves.

The bishops of the Episcopal Church meet

during the afternoon with bishops from Central Africa for conversations initiated by them to discuss ministry links with dioceses in the U.S. We have had similar sessions with Sudan, Liberia and Congo.

In our afternoon Bible study we bid goodbye to Cardinal Carmack Murphy O'Connor, the Roman Catholic prelate of Great Britain. He has been a wonderful presence in our group for the past four days.

The Archbishop of Canterbury makes the second of these addresses to us during evening worship. He is very clear in his support of the emerging Anglican Covenant.

In the last evening I attend another conversation/hearing on the 'Windsor Process.

July 30 - Eucharist led by the Anglican Church of Hong Kong. Bible study and combined group begin to address the issue of biblical interpretation: Is there an Anglican approach to scripture? In the afternoon I attend a hearing on a preliminary draft of a conference communiqué. We still have much to do and some frustration is beginning to develop around what we can say that accurately reflects our common life here - which has deepened the relationships within the communion - and our theological divide over certain critical matters.

In the evening I attend a reception at the Canterbury home of Archbishop Williams and his wife, Jane.

July 31 - Normal morning routine. Eucharist led by the Anglican Church of Burundi, Bible study and Indaba Groups. Have an extended and productive conversation with the Archbishop of the Middle East.

Hearings are everywhere - the Covenant, Windsor, closing statement and new ideas generating from the Archbishop's address. It is very hard to find yourself limited to only one - the Covenant.

Free evening.

August 1 - Intensity is growing at Lambeth as we approach the last days of our time together. Eucharist is led by the Church of Pakistan (United). Remarkable sermon reflecting on being the church in a diocese controlled by the Taliban. My Bible study group, reflecting on

John 15, is a powerful moment for me. Our Indaba groups meet for 4 hours today discussing the Covenant. Churches in Japan, Brazil and elsewhere are adamant in their rejection. The rest of us are willing to be open to the process.

I am asked to do the press briefing for the Episcopal Church. Some real frustration for the press because the anticipated conflict at Lambeth has not materialized. Am asked to comment on voices outside Lambeth Conference, something I am not willing to do.

I have an extended conversation with my Sudanese bishop colleague. There is still so much misinformation about the Episcopal Church. I'd like to think that there is not intentional distortion of information taking place. Sometimes I am not sure.

In the evening I attend a hearing on the ongoing development of the statement that will be released at the end of the Conference. The work seems to be a bit uneven, but the first draft on scripture looks very promising.

August 2 - Final business day of at the conference. Morning eucharist - the highlight of every day - is led by the Church of Kenya. There have been a sizable number of Kenyan bishops attending despite the decision of their Primate to stay away.

Our Bible study and Indaba groups spent considerable time reflecting on the Windsor process and the Covenant. It's quite interesting to note that, in the last few days, no matter where a conversation begins, it always returns to Windsor and the Covenant.

I attend the last public comment session on the general report of our time together. Many are frustrated that we do not have very specific and concrete proposals coming out of this conference. However, Archbishop Williams' desire to focus the Conference on conversation and dialog while moving along the process on the adoption of the Covenant seems to have been fulfilled.

In the evening I attend a joy-filled plenary conversation with a group of our stewards - young people who have served as our "shepherds" and guides throughout these two and a

Continued on page 6



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The Bishop's Journal,

Continued from page 5

half weeks. Their deep faith and enthusiasm for the church and its mission has been evident throughout the week, but was in full display tonight. Participants in the panel were young people from Africa, Southeast Asia, the United Kingdom and the United States.

August 3 - Morning Prayer led by the chaplaincy team. Bible study and Indaba groups focused on what was valuable about the experience of Lambeth 2008. Overwhelming consensus that the interpersonal relationships and the deepening of understanding across cultures was the great gift of the Conference. There was, however, considerable frustration about the process that has produced the documents of this Conference.

In our final plenary session the "Reflections" report is formally given to Archbishop Williams. In his closing address the Archbishop called on the Communion to continue to move toward a Covenant relationship, asked for moratoria on the controversial matters facing the communion and affirmed his belief that if the Communion ruptures it will be the least and most vulnerable among us who will suffer the most.

We are taken by bus to Canterbury Cathedral for an extraordinary service that concludes with the names of the Melanesian Martyrs carried beyond the high altar to the chapel of contemporary saints and martyrs. The procession is accompanied by songs sung by the Melanesian Franciscan brothers who were part of the prayer and counseling ministry at the Conference. Very powerful. Our first serious rain of the Conference greets us as we leave the Cathedral, virtually washing out the dinner on the grounds so carefully planned for us. Somehow it seems an appropriate transition from the rarefied air of Lambeth. It's time to return to the normalcy of our lives.

As I began to pack I am keenly aware that I have been part of an historic moment. Despite the comments and predictions to the contrary, the center has been able to hold, and the

Communion, at least those who attended this Lambeth Conference, has been deepened in its sense of interdependency. We have learned anew how interrelated this world is, how the action of one member of the church so affects the whole, and how no one member of the Body of Christ can say to the other, "I have no need of you."

The depth of listening has been unprecedented and may signal a new way forward in the relationships within the Anglican Communion. Once again, God's reconciling love has given us a glimpse of something we had once only dreamed of.

There is still a long road ahead for the Anglican Communion, but we took many steps in these two weeks that seemed impossible just a few months ago.

Thanks be to God.

August 4 - Breakfast with my new Sudanese friends. I have invited Bishop Ezekiel Deing Malaangdit to be with us at our 2009 Diocesan Council. Our relationships with the Dioceses of Twic East (Sudan) and South Rwenzori (Uganda) are about to expand our understanding of what it means to be interrelated within a world-wide Communion.

Transportation is provided to Gatwick Airport where I will fly out tomorrow morning. Take an express train to London and spend a relaxing afternoon and evening in this special city. Note that the newspapers are singing Archbishop Williams' praises for holding the Communion together.

August 5 - Board an early afternoon flight, but mechanical problems delay departure and I miss my flight connection in Detroit. Overnight in Detroit.

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Pictured is a look at St. Mark's, Gulfport's new church building. The Rev. James Henry LeBatard, deacon, leads an Evensong service in early August.



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The Bishop's wife: what does she do?

By Scott Lenoir

Often people are identified most quickly through their spouse and little else is known about them except that they are married to a person with a high profile.

With many of us in the Diocese of Mississippi, outside of close friends and family, Kathy Gray may fall into that narrow field of identity defined simply as "the Bishop's wife."

"People may recognize my face and may know my name, but I'm actually pretty invisible," said Gray who for the past three years has been unable to travel regularly with her husband on his trips within and outside of the diocese.

True enough, Kathy Gray is the Bishop's wife and a lot more. Gray's life and ministry is rich and challenging and since Duncan III's election in 2000 she has undergone a lot of changes.

Many do not know that Kathy Gray is a career teacher who has for the last 20 years focused on teaching English as a Second Language (ESL) to students at Ole Miss, in the Oxford Public School District, Jackson Public Schools and the Madison County School District. Currently, she is teaching ESL at Madison Station Elementary School, where she is joined by several local Episcopalians.

"I grew up in Silver Spring, Maryland, a Washington, D.C. suburb. I went to school with kids from all over the world. Some were children of attachés to embassies, some were political refugees." This experience laid a good foundation for her ESL vocation.

In undergraduate school, Gray realized that she wanted to be a teacher. She received a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education from the University of Maryland in College Park. At the University of Mississippi, she earned a Master's degree in Curriculum and Instruction with an emphasis in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (T.E.S.O.L.).

Gray has taught English to adults and children from all over the world and is now in her fifth year of teaching in the Madison County School District.

"In my classes I may have five or six different languages represented so we have to function in a common language. English becomes our lingua franca."

Gray studied French between the ages of ten and sixteen, which helps her understand how we process and learn a foreign language. In addition, she learned some Spanish from her students and the Hispanic congregation at St. Peter's, Oxford.

Gray thinks that being a student of a foreign language helps her better understand how to teach.

Kathy's students come from a variety of backgrounds.

"My students's native languages last year were Russian, Punjabi, Finnish, Japanese, Spanish, Mandarin Chinese, Arabic, Persian, Farsi, and Korean," said Gray.

Most of the children in her classes were born in the United States, but are first generation immigrants and English is not their first language.



Kathy Gray with fellow teacher, friend and St. Columb's communicant Mary Margaret Woodrick at Madison Station School.

By the time the second generation is born in the U.S., English is a part of the family's heritage, and by the third generation the immigrants' original language may not be understood or spoken by the children.

There are different ideas regarding teaching English to students of other languages. Some believe that a child should not be bilingual, a position Gray does not hold.

"It is sad that so many Americans, including some educators, believe that students should abandon their first language and focus only on English; however, research shows that children who are truly able to become bilingual function better in society. They can earn more as adults, and they become more integrated into American society," Gray stated.

Becoming a foster parent

Helping children become more integrated into a better life took on a new meaning for the Gray family in 2005.

Tabitha, a young Sudanese refugee who was living in Jackson and attending St. Andrew's Cathedral, needed a new foster family. A member of the Dinka tribe, Tabitha was baptized in the Episcopal Church of Sudan.

When Duncan and Kathy first discussed the possibilities, Kathy told her husband, "I believe I'm being called to do this."

Bishop Gray says he remembers his wife saying that only one other time in her life which gave the conversation a different slant than before. After more discussion and prayer, Tabitha, now 17 years old, was placed in foster care with the Grays.

"We knew that Tabitha needed to have a normal growing up experience in a parish just like our sons did [Peter and Duncan IV] and you don't get that by being in a different church every Sunday, so once Tabitha moved in with us, I stopped traveling with him [Bishop Gray] and began attending the Cathedral full-time with Tabitha."

St. Andrew's Cathedral has a strong

Sudanese community and has a Dinka language worship service every other Saturday night. Tabitha attends that service with members of her extended family. Her uncle, James Lueth, often leads the service.

"The Cathedral is Tabitha's church home, where she has been welcomed, embraced and integrated into parish life from the time she arrived in the United States in 2000. It has been a great stabilizer for her," said Kathy.

"The good people of St. Andrew's Cathedral are helping me rear Tabitha as surely as the members of St. Peter's, Oxford, helped me rear my sons."

The years Tabitha has lived in Jackson have been the most stable in her life. She fled from the civil war in Sudan to a refugee camp in Kenya where she lived for six years before coming to the United States. Tabitha's mother died in that journey and Tabitha was cared for by her aunt and uncle who were children themselves at that time.

Being Tabitha's foster parents has been filled with joy and challenges that are different from the normal parental challenges. As foster parents with the Unaccompanied Refugee Minors (URM) program of Catholic Charities, there are monthly home visits from the social workers of both Catholic Charities and the Department of Human Services (DHS).

The Grays are required to attend monthly training sessions with the staff of URM, as well. Also, Tabitha is required to attend DHS training events and meet weekly with her social worker.

"In addition to the normal things all parents do, we help Tabitha navigate the institutional demands of her sponsoring agencies, as well as the complexities of becoming an adult in Sudanese and American cultures simultaneously," said Gray.

Being the Bishop's Wife

Kathy admits that becoming a bishop's wife was an adjustment. Because of the way a bishop functions, she wasn't as involved in his ministry

in the same way she was as a rector's wife.

The Grays both miss being intimately involved in parish life, as well as being involved in the daily lives of the parishioners.

"Before he became a bishop, I knew how he spent his days, what he was doing, and I was often a part of it. That's not the case now," said Kathy.

She has attended bishops' functions over the years where spouses are included. An issue which often surfaces among spouses at these meetings is the role of a bishop's spouse.

"The majority of the spouses have careers of their own," said Kathy, "and so the question becomes 'How can I honor my ordained spouse's call and vocation, and at the same time honor my own calling or vocation, and how do I live out of that?'"

It is a stiff challenge. The spouse community is comprised of many professionals who make significant sacrifices in order for their ordained spouses to serve as a bishop.

"Increasingly, I am seeing younger persons elected bishop, who may have young children or teenagers. The bishop's absence from family life is a huge sacrifice and challenge for those spouses and their children," Gray said.

After eight years of the being the Bishop's wife, pursuing her career, rearing Tabitha, becoming a grandmother and mother-in-law, losing her mother, turning fifty, Hurricane Katrina, and General Convention 2003, Gray said she believes, "My offering to Duncan and to the Church, is to release him and let him do what he is called to do whether it is in the diocese, somewhere else in the United States, or in another country."

Most days she's able to do this with a smile, "but there are those days when I say to him, 'Enough already. The world won't come to an end if you're not part of that project or committee.'"

"At this point in my life, my primary call is to love and support my family: Duncan, my sons and daughters-in-law, grandchildren and Tabitha and at the same time help my students find their voices, both literally and figuratively."

Kathy reflects that her life and the lives of her students are somewhat parallel journeys.

"We're trying to find our voices in a place that is very different from anything we've known before now."

It is hoped that this article, which Kathy was reluctant to do, has given some insight into the life of "the Bishop's wife."

As far as the future is concerned, Kathy Gray continues teaching ESL at Madison Station Elementary School. She'll focus on helping Tabitha complete her education, and enjoying her growing family.

Both Kathy and Duncan III will continue to focus on finding ways to spend more time together and with their family, which is a challenge, but one they meet with resolve and hope.

Episcopal Church brings worship for 12 years to historic Neshoba County Fair



Members and visitors of St. Francis of Assisi Episcopal Church, Philadelphia celebrate Holy Eucharist each July during the Neshoba County Fair.

By Chris Allen Baker
Diocesan Worship Leader

CABIN 252, NESHOPA COUNTY — Every late July, thousands of people converge on the rolling red clay hills to participate in the historic Neshoba County Fair, affectionately called “Mississippi’s Giant House Party,” just seven miles south of Philadelphia.

Owners of more than 600 cabins literally live on the Fairgrounds from Friday to Friday as they partake in a variety of activities that include socializing with friends and family, watching track races, listening to political speeches, attending arts and crafts shows, listening to great music and most of all eating great homemade food.

Among all these activities, fairgoers’ spiritual nourishment is filled with a worship service hosted by St. Francis of Assisi Episcopal Church of Philadelphia. For just one Sunday, St. Francis closes its doors at its church in town but opens its arms to fairgoers, Episcopalians and Christians of other denominations, who wander from other cabins near and far to hear the Gospel and participate in Holy Communion.

For more than 12 years, St. Francis has held Eucharistic services at the fairgrounds at their usual appointed time of 11 a.m. on the Sunday of Fair week.

Previously held along the race track at the cabin of Boots and Millie Howell, St. Francis has held Fair services since 2001 at Dr. John and Betsy Mann’s Cabin 252 in the extreme southwest corner of the fairgrounds. Lawn chairs are placed in the area in front of the cabin for the congregation.

The Rev. Harriet P. Simmons, vicar, presides over a makeshift altar at the foot of the Manns’ front porch steps.

“This has always been a special part of our church and a wonderful tradition to offer this service at the Fair,” Simmons said. “We have many people who regularly attend in addition to our own members. We always have good turnouts.”

The number of participants varies from year to year and this year about 30 people attended, which is about average. Simmons said the decision to continue the tradition is reviewed each year during the weeks leading up to Fair week, and so far members have continued to support keeping the tradition intact.

Although there is no means of having a piano or organ on site, there is no shortage of music. Instruments have ranged from a flute or sometimes a keyboard in the past to the current cello which is played by St. Francis communicant Emily S. Baker, also a full time member of the Mississippi Symphony Orchestra who regularly accompanies the church’s pianist and organist during services.

While many of the hymns sung during the regular service come from 1982 Hymnal, this year’s music came from Lift Every Voice and Sing II. St. Francis members fondly refer to it as the Red Book that contains traditional American gospel-style music. “This added a more ecumenical flair to the service,” Simmons said. “These are the more traditional hymns that a lot of people may remember growing up. Any member of a protestant church would recognize most of these hymns.”

As in the tradition of most Fair cabins, posters line the walls inside the cabin showing the signatures of visitors through the years and many who participated in the church service. After the service, participants continue their fellowship during a potluck lunch before everyone disperses to continue their enjoyment of the Neshoba County Fair.

From China with love: the Brandt Dick family welcomes Lucy Claire home

By Scott Lenoir

After trying and failing to conceive a second child for several years, the Rev. Brandt Dick, chaplain and teacher at Trinity Episcopal Day School in Natchez and his wife, Erica, decided two years ago that they wanted to begin the adoption process. Their search for a child eventually led the couple to China.

“We knew we were not finished with our family, so we decided to adopt,” said Erica Dick. “International adoption wasn’t the first option we thought about, but as I started looking at Chinese Children Adoption International (CCAI), I got very interested and knew this was the agency for us.”

The Dicks were certified with the CCAI in June of 2006. No one knew at the time, but shortly after the Dick’s acceptance, a special needs child was born in Jiangxi, China who would eventually become the Dick’s second child two years later.

The special need that faces Lucy Clair, now twenty four months old, is albinism. People with albinism have little or no pigment in their eyes, skin, or hair. There is always a degree of vision problems that accompanies albinism, but according to Erica, “she seems to be getting into everything like a normal toddler, so she can see, but she does hold many things close to her face.”

In the United States, people with albinism live a normal life and have the same type of general medical problems as the rest of the population.

The Dicks received word in March of 2008 that CCAI had matched a girl for their family. The naming of the child began then, in that long waiting period, but neither Brandt nor Erica had consensus on a name until their son Zachery solved the problem.

“One day while Zachery was playing he looked up at me and said, ‘My baby sister’s name is Lucy,’” said Erica. The name took, but it didn’t end there.



Lucy Clair Dick

The next day Zachery declared to his mother, “Her whole name is Lucy Claire.” With that pronouncement everyone agreed Lucy Claire was going to be the name of their adopted child.

On June 14, 2008, Brandt, Erica and Zachery received Lucy Claire in China. Erica, a teacher at Trinity Episcopal School, will be taking the year off to care for Lucy Claire.

The pathway to adoption is filled with bureaucracy and red tape in both national and international agencies, but Erica says that CCAI is a “wonderful agency and I can’t say enough good things about them.” She also says that Lucy Claire was worth all the process they went through.

In honor of Lucy Claire, Erica launched a website which details their journey through



Brandt, Zachery, Erica and Lucy

the adoption process, the trip to China and the uniting of the Lucy Clair with her new family.

To view this website log on to www.babyjellybeans.com. A search box is prominent on the index page. In the search box enter the first name “Lucy” and last name “Dick.” When the next page pops up with Lucy’s name on it, click “view website” and enter the password “Lucy.”

Plans are in the making to celebrate The Thanksgiving for the Adoption of a Child at Holy Trinity Parish, an event that is sure to bring much joy to the congregation and the Dick family as they prayerfully welcome Lucy Clair into their lives and community of faith.

Redeemer, Greenville VBS breaks record

The Vacation Bible School at Redeemer Greenville theme this year was “Power Lab- discovering Jesus’ miraculous power.”

A record breaking 31 children and 10 adults spent a week in July learning that Jesus gives us power to: 1) help others, 2) be brave, 3) Be thankful, 4) Live forever and 5) tell others about God.

Each day the children learned new songs related to Scripture which was then followed by a session of arts and crafts and then lunch.

Currently, the Church of the Redeemer is vacant, but holds worship services every Sunday and has a priest to celebrate Holy Eucharist twice a month.

As part of community outreach, Redeemer has adopted Armstrong Elementary School in Greenville. The church will help provide school supplies and other materials.

Redeemer is also planning for its annual Family and Friends Day celebration in the fall.



Vacation Bible School at Redeemer Church in Greenville “was an exceptional week” said parishioner Rose Hayes. Pictured is the Redeemer VBS class of 2008.

LAMBETH CONFERENCE



ENS photo/Mary Frances Schjonberg

Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams walks into Canterbury Cathedral July 20 to preside at the Lambeth Conference's opening Eucharist.



Archbishop Daniel Deng Bul, primate of the Episcopal Church of the Sudan, joins Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori in procession before the 10:30 a.m. Eucharist at Salisbury Cathedral July 13.



Presiding Bishop Katherine Jefferts Schori with other Anglican bishops and their spouses demonstrated on July 24 in support of poverty reduction worldwide, walking in purple cassocks past symbols of British power such as the Houses of Parliament and the prime minister's residence at Downing Street. Schori along with other bishops carries a sign reading "do justice, love mercy."



ENS photo/Matthew Davies

Canterbury Cathedral is seen from the University of Kent where the bishops of the Anglican Communion gathered for the 2008 Lambeth Conference.



Bratton Green campers fresh from the camp mud pit pose in front of the Chapel of the Holy Family.



Sarah Williams/Photo

Gray Center recently held its 1st Annual Gray Center Staff Appreciation Day on July 17, 2008. The Permanent Staff opened up the activities for the children of many of our Camp and GC kitchen and maintenance staffs. The day was complete with a cookout and a nice afternoon NOT working!



Peter Clark owns and operates Madison Cellars.

Madison Cellars owner, Peter Clark, has varied ministry

By Carolyn McClendon

If you've ever wondered what wine is used for communion services in the Episcopal Church, Peter Clark, owner of Madison Cellars, will be happy to tell you.

Clark furnishes the wine for Chapel of the Cross, Madison, where he is a member of the vestry and was a 2007 delegate to Council. The wine of choice: Taylor's Port that comes in large jugs. Madison Cellars also supplies several other Episcopal churches at a special discount price.

In business at the same location in Madison for the past twenty years, Clark is a faithful advertiser in the Mississippi Episcopalian.

"There's no way of knowing if a person visits my store because of seeing the ad in the church newspaper," Clark said. "However, sometimes a person will mention the Bible quote or prayer which I always include in our church related advertising."

The quotation generally focuses on an issue in which Clark is particularly interested. He chooses each verse used for his ads in the Episcopalian.

Reared in St. James' Church in Jackson, the son of retired Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals Judge and Mrs. Charles Clark, Peter has been in a spiritual quest for most of his life. For a few years, he visited different churches and attended St. George's Anglican Church, before settling in at Chapel of the Cross in 1994 where he found his spiritual home. "The church has been very good to me," he said.

He is an EFM graduate, has participated in

Cursillo and Ulteya groups, and in the future hopes to become active in pastoral care from the clinical side, visiting patients to find out how he can help with their spiritual needs. "This pastoral care program takes a tremendous amount of intense training," Clark said.

"I came to the Chapel when John Sewell was rector and I was close to David Christian. I consider Barbara McDonald, my EFM mentor, and other members of our EFM group, to be close friends.

Other members of the Chapel say Peter Clark is the guy who brings doughnuts and pigs-in-a-blanket for those assisting on the altar for services and for vestry meetings. Pat Evans said of him: "He is just a great, thoughtful guy. He is always ready to help with whatever is going on at the Chapel."

Peter Clark married Anne Whitehurst on July 19, 2008, in the Chapel of the Cross. Anne is a member of St Andrew's Cathedral. Although Anne and Peter's sister, Catherine, have been friends for 25 years, Peter met Anne only two years ago at Cursillo.

Peter is the father of two daughters and Anne has a son and a daughter.

The Rev. Scott Lenoir, editor of the Mississippi Episcopalian said, "We sincerely appreciate all of our advertisers. Without their support, it would be difficult to provide a quality newspaper on a monthly basis to every Episcopalian household in the state at no charge."

St. Columb's calls new Assistant Rector

By Scott Lenoir

Jason Shelby has a lot going on in his life: a new position at St. Columb's, Ridgeland and an October wedding to Camp Bratton Green Coordinator, Sarah Williams, also a parishioner at St. Columb's.

"I proposed to her on the night of March 7th in the garden at St. Columb's. It was snowing. I got down on one knee as asked her to marry me," said Shelby whose directness is offset by an easy, self effacing charm.

The call to St. Columb's hadn't materialized when the proposal was made. Shelby was serving in his first clerical position as middle school chaplain at St. Martin's Episcopal School in Metairie just outside of New Orleans.

"Before discerning a call to the priesthood, I wanted to be a teacher and being a chaplain at the school combined both. I taught religion classes, but I absolutely loved being a chaplain," said Shelby, a 2007 graduate of the School of Theology at Sewanee.

Shelby was born in rural Indiana near Ft. Wayne and is a cradle Episcopalian. In fact, his family connection with the Episcopal Church goes by nine generations on his mother's side.

Shelby graduated from high school and went to work for several years as a laborer and sales person at an outdoor furniture company. He enrolled at Indiana University at 22 and recalls telling his mother about his prayer life.

"I told her I was praying for strength and



The Rev. Jason Shelby

guidance. For success at school. And my mother said, 'Why don't you go back to church?' "

That suggestion led to Shelby's eventually entering a discernment process. After graduating from I.U., the Diocese of Northern Indiana accepted him as a postulant and Shelby entered seminary in 2004.

It was at Sewanee where Sheby met and became best friends with Mississippi seminarians. His first visit to Mississippi was to attend the

ordination of the Rev. Walton Jones, curate at St. Paul's in Meridian.

After Jones's ordination, Jason met Sarah, and that's about all that happened: the two met briefly, but impressions were made and soon the two began seeing each other.

The Rev. Brian Seage, rector of St. Columb's knew of the relationship and picked up on Shelby's desire to do full time parish work when he visited Mississippi.

"Once I found out he was interested in parish work, I knew I better move fast. We snatched him up as soon as we could," said Seage who had been looking for an assistant. "It just worked out great."

The Williams-Shelby wedding is October 3rd at St. Columb's and the reception is Oct 4th.

"We wanted to have the reception later so we could really enjoy it too," Jason said, and there is no doubt they will.

Our best wishes to you both!

A Hole in One!



D.A. Elliott, 12, made a hole in one in July at Colonial Country Club in Jackson. D.A. is the son of David and Dena Elliott of Ridgeland and grandson of the Rev. David and Gay Elliott of Jackson. D.A. boled out on the par 3, 145 yard, #7 with a Taylor Made hybrid. Grandfather, grandmother and two cousins witnessed the event. D.A. played with his grandfather a lot over the summer. Perhaps he'll follow in footsteps of his grandfather whom many fallen opponents know only as "The Silver Tiger".

The Allin House produces
an online monthly newsletter.
To receive this newsletter go to
www.dioms.org & signup.

A-V Center News

by Janet C. Nail



The class visiting the library was rowdy, insubordinate, inattentive-you get the picture. I was trying to teach them how to use the library, to understand the Dewey Decimal System, to know where the books are located. They weren't interested. They jumped on chairs, raced around tables; some of them pulled out a deck of cards and began to play poker.

My admittedly limited patience was stretched to the limit, so I called them into the children's room and told them a story: The Man Who Wouldn't Shuck Corn. When I finished, there was dead silence, then a few mutters of "I don't get it." But one student looked at me with big eyes and said, "Ouch!"

He understood.

I'm sure Jesus, the storyteller, had the same response from his audiences. A lot of head scratching, "I don't get it," and puzzled faces. But I'm sure that in every crowd there was someone who looked at him, awed, and murmured "Oh, wow."

People still say "Hunh?" about some of the parables. They scratch their heads, they wonder just what Jesus was talking about. But most of us have the advantage of years of hearing the various parables read in Sunday school and church, of thinking about them, studying them, and maybe even praying about them. Somewhere in all this may come an epiphany and we suddenly say, "Oh wow!" We get it.

MODERN PARABLES employs a new method of understanding the Bible through films that explain the biblical text. It uses modern stories that recreate in the viewer the same responses that the original audiences might have experienced. In other words, just watching the films begins to explain the historical, grammatical, contextual and interpretive elements of Jesus' parables. In helping people grasp the parables at an immediate gut level, the films enables them to engage the Bible in a powerful and compelling new way.

The program includes two DVDs covering six parables. Each parable is studied in two parts. The first session presents the film, which lasts from 13 to 20 minutes. Then the leader will ask questions about the film. Then the leader will explore the parallels between the film and the Bible text. Finally, there should be time for discussion and questions.

The second week covers Living the Parable. The lesson begins with reading the parable from scripture, watching the application video, asking questions, then reviewing the film.

The parables covered include The Hidden Treasure, The Samaritan, The Shrewd Manager, The Widow and the Judge, The Sower; and The Prodigal Son. (If it clarifies the parable of the Shrewd Manager, the program will be worth the cost!)

The program also includes a Teacher's Prep CD that the leader can listen to on his way to the class. These audio tracks present an overview of the material.

Should you want to extend the value of the class in this visually literate age, the leader's guide includes extra chapters that provide six additional lessons on film style and content.

If this appeals to you and you want to borrow it, call me at 662-746-5557 and ask for Miss Janet. Or e-mail me at grandmastruck1994@yahoo.com. And if someone beats you to the program, I have several programs on the parables; I can help you find what you need.

O blessed Lord, you ministered to all who came to you: Look with compassion upon all who through addiction have lost their health and freedom. Restore to them the assurance of your unfailing mercy; remove from them the fears that beset them; strengthen them in the work of their recovery; and to those who care for them, give patient understanding and persevering love.

Amen
BCP pg. 831


MADISON CELLARS
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Ring Around the Collar

By Denny Allman



I get about thirty newsletters each month with essays by the rector. All are good. Some are parochial and some are so topical as to be old news by the time this column goes to press. The one I pick for this column usually relates to what is going on in my life at the time it is due. Although I am retired from the active parish ministry I continue to supply at parishes which have a vacancy. In the ten years I have been retired there have been few Sundays that I have attended church as a congregant. Lately, I have been preaching a lot about what I consider to be Jesus' main message: "repent because the Kingdom of God is at hand." I acknowledge that the "repent" bit may be more John the Baptizer than Jesus, still if we are to enter the Kingdom we must cease doing those things which are keeping us from loving God and our neighbor. In addition, we must recognize and acknowledge that the Kingdom truly is at hand. This month's essay addresses that. It is by the Rev. Scott Lenoir, Vicar of St. Mary's, Lexington.

In the last few weeks we have heard parables from the Gospel of Matthew: the Parable of the Sower, the Parable of the Wheat and the Weeds, the Parable of the Mustard Seed, and the Pearl of Great Price.

In all of these parables Jesus attempts to illustrate what the Kingdom of God is like. In fact many of the parables begin with the statement "the Kingdom of God is like..."

The phrase "Kingdom of God" is concerned with what the kingship of God is about, rather than defining a kingdom with geographical boundaries.

One of the challenges we face is to develop an awareness of God's presence in our lives and in this world so that our lives and ministries may be strengthened to do the work that we have to do.

The Sunday I left my sermon lying on top of the desk in my office and did my best to wing it, I forgot to include a story that illustrates our problem in seeing God's kingship in the world.

The story is about the Amazon River, the largest river in the world. Its mouth is nearly 90 miles across. More water flows out of the mouth of the Amazon than flows from the Nile and Mississippi combined. The current is so strong that it can be traced 200 miles out into the south Atlantic Ocean.

In ancient times, many ships went adrift in the windless south Atlantic and crews would become distressed because they didn't have enough water. Many sailors perished.

It is told that other ships with crews who knew the area often would come alongside the distressed vessels to find out what the problem was. Those in the ships would almost always cry for water. They were dying of thirst.

In answer to the cry for water was for the sailors to just lower their buckets because they were in the mouth of the Amazon River!

God's Kingdom, the kingship of God, is often like the Amazon River was for the sailors dying of thirst. The water they so desperately needed was all around them, but they couldn't see it.

In my own prayer life I often pray to be open to God's Kingdom, to be able to receive it, to allow the Holy to work in me and throughout all in the Church.

The Holy is around us, but often it is as invisible as the life giving water of the Amazon was invisible to ancient sailors in the south Atlantic.

So let's try to lowering our buckets more often remembering the words in Eucharist Prayer C where we are called to:

"Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us.
Deliver us from the presumption Of coming to this Table for Solace only, and not for strength, For pardon only and not for Renewal."

The Kingdom of God surrounds us and brings healing and reconciliation to all who seek God's love and forgiveness.

If we're not too proud, not too smart, not too selfish, we stand to gain a depth of communion with the Holy that reflects the peace of God which passes our understanding.

May we all grow to experience such a depth of God's love and presence.
Yours in Christ, Scott+

Have you remembered God in your will?

Call the Rev. Kyle Dice-Seage

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Vampire bites treated in Honduras

Editor's note: The following is a continuation of reflections by Honduras Medical Mission team members. This piece is by Dr. Kathy Kvam.

For six out of the past seven years, I have spent a week each February in Honduras as part of the Honduran Medical Mission. I have heard myself described as a missionary, but I have some difficulty in identifying myself in those terms. After all, my patients are non-denominational. In fact, they neither attend church nor tithe. Most of them are reluctant at best to see me, and probably happy to see me go home. My laying on of hands is often an invitation for a swift kick.

In the real world, I am a small animal veterinarian. No hooves, no feathers, no scales is my motto. Dogs and cats are my every day, with names like Baby and Sweetie, Molly and Max. Princess. And because I practice in Oxford, Rebel and Dixie are favorites. But for one week each

year, reality is suspended and I find myself wrangling horses, working cattle, and treating dogs in the high mountain villages of a very poor Central American country. It may be more accurate to say that reality is encountered. The reality of that place and the reality of my life are brought into sharp contrast.

In some ways, my mission is different from that of the human doctors and dentists. People are complicated. You must take into account pride, cultural differences, and fears. Politics and power struggles invade most human interactions. We are human and we are flawed. Anyone who has ever served on a vestry knows this to be true. Animals, on the other hand, are easy. Rarely do they have hidden agendas. Their motivations are straightforward and morally pure. If I stick them with a needle, they try to kick me. That's fair.

My mission is fighting parasites. Worms, ticks, bot flies. All God's creatures get de-

wormed and treated for ticks. Then we tackle the viruses. We vaccinate all the animals for Rabies. Rabies is endemic in Honduras: I often see horses with the tell-tale trickle of blood typical of a vampire bat bite. In addition to Rabies, cows get vaccinated for their common viral diseases. So do the horses. It is good work and necessary. Without us, these animals would not see a veterinarian. We are it.

The amount of work I can do is limited only by time and money. Not unusual constraints, but they can be made easier by contributions. You can help by making a donation to this mission part of your reality. We can be enormously use-



Dr. Kathy Kvam sets up an outdoor vet clinic on Honduras Medical Mission.

ful given adequate resources- vaccines, wormers, and sprays — all of which cost money.

Am I a missionary? I suppose so. By the time I have de-wormed, sprayed and vaccinated these animals, they are all Episcopalians.

Pettway therapy dog brings smiles to children and seniors alike

By Julia Moore

If your idea of a poodle is some toenail painted, hair bow wearing, yapping ball of fur, then meet JJ-that's Johann Joachim to you.

JJ is a registered therapy dog, the product of many hours of training, who gets restless on his day off to don his green jacket and go out to visit. He presides over the household of Barbara and Keith Pettway, communicants of Calvary Church, Cleveland. Keith, professor emeritus of flute (retired) at Delta State University, is the immediate past Senior Warden as well as a Diocesan Eucharistic Minister and Visitor and Barbara is the treasurer of Calvary.

JJ and Keith visit on a regular basis three retirement homes/long term care units in Cleveland as well as St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis. He entered his career somewhat by accident. Beginning with obedience training and shows, JJ began to accompany Keith when Keith's mother entered the Special Needs Unit of Indywood. He discovered that JJ was good at visiting people and that people responded positively to him. That led Keith and JJ to their new ministry of pet therapy.

Pet therapy has as its goal bringing happiness and joy to all people whether they are young and old. Pet therapists, which include dogs, cats, birds, rabbits, even horses, visit hospitals, schools, nursing homes, special need centers, and schools. The simple act of being with an animal makes human beings feel better.

Keith comments, "Pet therapy is as much of a blessing for the person doing the visiting as for those receiving the visit. The rewards far exceed the effort involved."



Barbara and Keith were not thinking of a therapy dog when they chose JJ. They were simply looking for a dog that was smart, didn't shed, was fairly calm and pretty large. A standard poodle filled the bill, and JJ entered their lives.

Any breed or mixed breed can be used for therapy work. Size does not matter. The important thing is that the dog loves people, all people. The dog should be relatively calm, non-aggressive, and accustomed to new situations and unfamiliar surroundings.

Keith would very much like to encourage others to join him and JJ in this ministry. While JJ is registered with the Delta Society (www.deltasociety.org), there is also Therapy Dogs International. Registration with an accredited group is needed due to liability considerations. Keith would be happy to talk to you about the process of registration as well as give you any additional information about pet therapy. Please feel free to contact him at keith@keithpettway.com.

The 2008 Let's Eat Shrimp for MS Festival

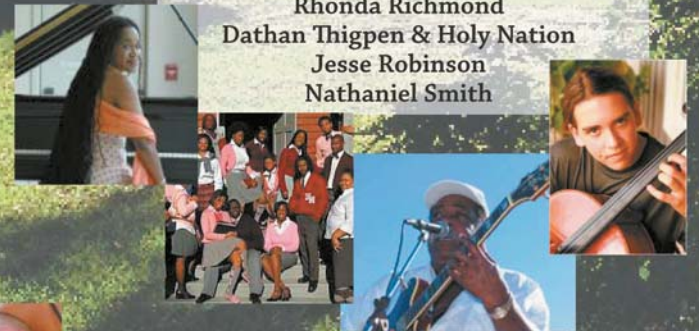
Sun., August 31st at The Cedars

4145 Old Canton Road, 4 - 8 p.m.
Entertainment & Shrimp Dinner
\$ 20.00 per person
Carry Out Available



LIVE Musical Review

Rhonda Richmond
Dathan Thigpen & Holy Nation
Jesse Robinson
Nathaniel Smith



Activities for Kids
Face Painting
Moonwalk

To Benefit
Lutheran Episcopal Services
in Mississippi



A bit of history

By John Fontaine

Fourth Bishop of Mississippi was first native of Diocese

William Mercer Green II was the first native of the diocese to service as bishop of Mississippi. He was elected at a special council held on June 25, 1918 at the request of bishop Bratton who was serving in France as a religious worker with the YMCA.

At first, the Rev. Mr. Green declined because of a technicality, but accepted when the election was reaffirmed at the regular 1919 diocesan council. Annual salary was set to \$3,600 plus a residence was provided. The consecration service was held in Jackson on May 29, 1919 at St. Andrew's where he had been rector since 1912.

Bishop Green was born July 12, 1876 in Greenville where his father, the Rev. Duncan C. Green, the son of the first bishop of Mississippi, was serving as rector. Duncan Green died in the yellow fever epidemic of 1878, and William was taken into the family of Bishop Thompson at Battle Hill in Jackson. William Mercer Green was



educated for the ministry at Sewanee. His first charge was as a missionary. Living at Battle Hill in 1899-1900, he worked as a carpenter and painter on construction of the church at Ridgeland and Flora. Green was rector of Grace Church, Canton and St. Paul's, Meridian before becoming first dean of All Saints' College, Vicksburg in 1909. Three years later he was called to be rector

of St. Andrew's, Jackson. As bishop coadjutor, Green filled all Episcopal responsibilities during Bishop Bratton's service in France. Bishop Green noted in 1939 that "Bishop Bratton has said on many occasions that he and I were one in Episcopal duties. I cannot be too grateful for the happy years we have labored together and for the spirit of affectionate unity which has characterized our work together."

The two episcopates, extending from 1903-1942, can only be considered together.

GRAY CENTER SEARCH FOR NEW SITE MANAGER BEGINS TODAY

Site Manager is the overall management level position responsible for all facilities maintenance at Gray Center which includes all of Camp Bratton-Green and the surrounding 770 acres.

Details of Site Manager Job Description may be found on the Gray Center website, at [www.graycenter.org/site manager.html](http://www.graycenter.org/site%20manager.html)

COMPENSATION

Salary dependent upon qualifications, paid health insurance (employee + spouse), Short Term Disability, vacation, four-bedroom house, and meals when prepared.

Please call Bill Horne at
601-859-1556 or 601-278-9242
Or email at
bhorne@graycenter.org
[Include Subject: Site Manager]

Notes & Quotes,

Continued from page 2

NOTABLE QUOTES...

"...things are not always the way they used to be...In our media and local conversations, there is an element of uneasiness. Whether people are worried about high gas prices, natural disasters or upcoming elected officials, the base line of the anxiety is the same; things are going to change. Change is a wonderfully dreadful thing. Some changes are good; socks or diapers come to mind, while other changes are bad-like spouses or jobs..." (Mediator-Redeemer, McComb-Magnolia). "Sometimes our differences are a strength. Sometimes they are destructive. I believe one major factor is "that vision thing." When folks share a vision of what we are to be and do, we bring our various talents and ways of looking at things to work for common or shared goals. When we don't share that, our differences divide and cripple..." (Resurrection, Starkville). "...When you miss a Sunday of worship, for me it is a pang in my heart, a little death, that you are not in your pew, your usual seat-singing, praying, standing, kneeling, receiving the Eucharist. I miss you, your fellow pilgrims on the walk miss you and surely God misses you. Some Sundays you go out-of-town (please go to church when you are out-of-town), but other Sundays you just do other things than go to church or you don't feel as good as usual and want to sleep in. What other day of the week did you worship God? Make Sunday morning the highest of commitments; give that time over to God and being present to God." (St. Matthew's, Kosciusko).

"Sometimes during Daily Morning Prayer or the Eucharist, I'll think to myself, 'I should ponder these words more,' or 'I need to see what kind of meditation I could write on this...That happened again the other day when Bob and I read this bidding at Daily Morning Prayer: 'For the poor and the oppressed, for the unemployed and the destitute, for prisoners and captives, and for all who remember and care for them, let us pray to the Lord.'

I believe that each time I pray that in the liturgy, the Spirit has a little better whack at opening me up to the poor inside of me, and the poor outside of me. That is to say, opening me to my 'poor selves'...that I want to deny and ignore (my fear, anger, prejudice), and the poor who live down my street and in my town (interesting that I want to deny and ignore them both, huh?) What would happen if I were to embrace them both? What would that look like? How would that change me?" (Grace, Canton).

"A FRANCISCAN BLESSING, courtesy of the Rev. Mike Dobrosky: May God bless you with a restless discomfort about easy answers, half-truths and superficial relationships, so that you may seek truth boldly and live deep within your heart.

May God bless you with holy anger at injustice, oppression and exploitation of people, so that you may tirelessly work for justice, freedom and peace among all people.

May God bless you with the gift of tears to shed with those who suffer from pain, rejection, starvation or the loss of all that they cherish, so that you may reach out your hand to comfort them and transform their pain into joy.

May God bless you with enough foolishness to believe that you really CAN make a difference in this world, so that you are able, with God's grace, to do what others claim cannot be done..." (St. George's, Clarksdale).

And finally, a little humor, from Epiphany, Tunica:

"You'll know you're an Episcopalian..."

...if the women of your guild are already asking, 'Is it too early for wine?' at a 10:30 meeting and the answer is 'Of course not.'...if you recognize your neighbor, or rector, in the local liquor store and go over to greet them; if you know Smoky Mary's is a church, not a bar; if you don't think Agnus Dei is a woman; if your choir director suggests discussing something over a beer after choir rehearsal; if you ever find yourself saying, 'Oh, but we've never done it that way before..."

Enough said.

OPPORTUNITY FOR GENERAL MAINTENANCE POSITION

The Duncan Gray Center

Needed - General Maintenance Person, On-site, residential. Housing and meals (as prepared) provided. Health insurance, retirement, disability and vacations included. Detailed Job Description available at www.graycenter.org/general-maintenance.org Call Bill Horne, 601-859-1556 or email resume to bhorne@graycenter.org.

Julian Toney/Photo



St. Thomas, Belzoni is getting a face lift. Many of the stained glass windows were in poor condition and were recently removed to be refurbished. Installation of the new windows began in late July.

The coolest event in the Diocese just got cooler. *Literally.*

By Jamie Dickson

Bishop's Barbeque Planning Committee Member
Member of St. Alexis Episcopal Church, Jackson.

Even though 2007 saw the revitalization of the beloved Bishop's Barbeque, August is easily the hottest time of the year in the Northern Hemisphere, let alone central Mississippi. In fact, the only people who were comfortable at last year's Barbeque were the "unfortunate" clergy who found themselves on the wet side of the dunking booth. (In fact, Bishop Gray himself likened the experience to Brer Rabbit's "begging" not to be thrown into the briar patch).



2008 will come and pass without a gathering at Gray Center, but the Barbeque has not run away forever. You asked for it and we heard you - the planning committee has decided to host the Barbeque on Memorial Day, 2009. Don't fire up your grills: let us do the cooking for you! All in the Diocese are invited to convene at Gray Center for a long weekend of food, fun, and fellowship. While some things will remain the same (some great food, excellent music, and a fantastic silent auction), there will be some additions, too. Be on the lookout for: more organized activities for families and churches; a Sunday morning liturgy in which we will remember those who have served, are serving, and have sacrificed their lives in our armed forces; and the biggest selling point of them all-cooler temperatures!!

Stay tuned for further details and save the date — **Memorial Day Weekend 2009.**

Questions, comments, or want to volunteer to help?

Contact our Bishop's Barbeque Co-Chairs: Crystal Skelton (crytz76@yahoo.com) and Greer Proctor-Dickson (greerproctor@gmail.com) or Gray Center Director, Bill Horne (hornebill@gmail.com).

Pathways to Participation, Continued from page 1

Phil Eide of ECD/Hope Community Credit Union was also honored for his incredible work around affordable housing on the Mississippi Gulf Coast following Hurricane Katrina. Because of his creativity and trusted relationships, Eide found a way for Episcopal Relief and Development and the Episcopal Diocese of Mississippi to invest their long term recovery funds so that workforce persons living at 60-80% of AMI continued to have avenues to rebuild their homes or become first time homeowners for years to come.

Jason Pollan with the MS Center for Justice and Scott Crawford, advocate and board member of the Coalition for Citizens with Disabilities were also honored.

Many Episcopalians attended this three day event which was coordinated by Julie Propst and assisted by Dorothy Ndishabandi, both members of All Saints Episcopal Church in Jackson and on staff at the Coalition for Citizens with Disabilities.



Attending the Pathways to Participation Conference reception were the Rev. Cathy Halford, All Saints, Jackson, Mr. John Byrd, Redeemer, Biloxi, the Rev. Jane Bearden, Redeemer, Biloxi and the Rev. Annie Cumberland, St. Andrew's, Jackson.



Receiving the Champion for Change Award is Mr. Phil Eide of ECD/Hope Community Credit Union. Pictured with Phil is the Rev. Carol Stewart who with the Diocese of MS and ERD benefitted greatly from Phil's creative and relational energy in the building of the Hallelujah Housing Project.

Brotherhood introduces order to prospects

Those interested in learning about the Brotherhood of St. Andrew are invited to attend a breakfast on Saturday, Sept. 13th at 8:30 a.m. at St. Pierre's Episcopal Church in Gautier.

The Jackson County Chapter is hoping to expand its presence on the coast and will use St. Pierre's as a central meeting place.

Call the Rev. Hunter Isaacs at 228-497-9819 for details.

music in the city

A new series of concerts
one Tuesday a month
at

St. Andrew's Cathedral

&

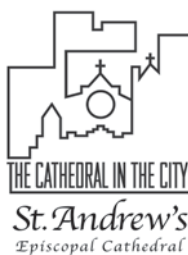
Mississippi Museum of Art



MISSISSIPPI MUSEUM of ART

Enjoy after hours in downtown
Jackson with:

- Wine and Hors d'Oeuvres at 5:15 pm
- Musical Performance at 5:45 pm
- Free Admission (donations welcome)



St. Andrew's
Episcopal Cathedral

Exact dates, locations and specific artists will be announced each month.

Sign up to receive email notifications about Music in the City by visiting www.msmuseumart.org or www.standrewscathedral.org or by calling 601-354-1535.

Music in the City will feature such skilled local and regional vocalists and musicians as:

- Sibyl Child
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- Shawn Leopard
- John Paul
- Lester Senter
- Marta and Danuta Szlubowska
- University Of Southern Mississippi Trombone Choir
- The St. Andrew's Cathedral Choir

Get a little culture. Have a Lot of fun.

2008 Lambeth Conference, *Continued from page 1*

"The vast majority of bishops had the impression that the Episcopal Church had said or done nothing toward the wider Communion since 2003," said Gray referring to the outrage that many in the Anglican Communion expressed regarding the practice of some bishops in the Episcopal Church who allow the blessing same sex unions as well as the election and consecration of the Rt. Rev. Gene Robinson. Gray spent a lot of time copying and distributing resolutions and statements from the Episcopal Church over the last five years that were universally well received.

Regarding the Windsor Report recommendations particularly, Gray said that very few bishops attending Lambeth knew that the vast majority of bishops in the Episcopal Church have been obedient to the Windsor recommendations. "Our perceived silence on so many of these matters...served to confirm a perception of American arrogance."

Gray was moved to address the Windsor Continuation Panel regarding his experience of being Windsor compliant and the conflict he has experienced with African bishops who say they are compliant, but do not act on the recommendations of the Windsor Report. His words to the panel were later referred to by Archbishop Williams' who thanked Bishop Gray for a "grace-filled intervention in a difficult moment."

Lasting Impressions

Gray stated that his most lasting memories of the conference are the stories, often reluctantly told, by bishops living out their Episcopacy in the context of civil war, famine, oppression and threat, and extraordinary poverty and disease.

"Several [bishops] had been imprisoned and many were living out their faith ...with little or no salary or stipend."

Bishop Gray III says that he leaves Lambeth with a renewed appreciation of how fragile the church is as opposed to the image held by so many that the church is a well organized marching machine.

Post-Lambeth plans

Gray says that the "bonds of affections" which unite us in the Anglican Communion are not theological, "but are rooted in an interdependency that requires intentional acts to nurture relationships and build trust. I return to Mississippi with a renewed desire to develop and deepen relationships of genuine mutuality across the Communion."

Gray plans to focus on strengthening the diocese's 30 year relationship with the Diocese of Panama as well as developing a relationship with the Bishop Masereka Christian Foundation and the Diocese of South Rwenzori in Uganda which Gray visited in July prior to the opening of the Lambeth Conference.

Also, Bishop Gray made a commitment to be a partner with the newly emerging Diocese of Twic East in Southern Sudan. As many Sudanese who have settled in Mississippi come from that region, Gray believes that it will be "special" in a multitude of ways to walk with the newly emerging Diocese of Twic East in Southern Sudan.

Bishop Ezekiel Diing Malaangdit, the Assistant bishop of the Diocese of Bor, has been assigned by his Archbishop to develop the new diocese. Malaangdit will be Mississippi's guest at the 2009 Annual Council where the formal relationship will be launched.

According to Gray, "We are far more connected and woven together than I ever imagined."

Bishop Gray said that he hopes the new and renewed initiatives of our Diocese can be life giving for us and our partners and be a contribution to the health of the Anglican Communion.

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DIOCESAN CALENDAR

AUGUST 2008

- 22-24
• Center for Formation & Ministry - "Without A Map": Spiritual Renewal for Gay and Lesbian Persons & Friends, Gray Center
- 23
• Safeguarding God's Children Diocesan Safe Church Training - 8:30 a.m. - 12 noon, St. Andrew's Cathedral, Jackson.
- 28
• Committee on Prison Ministry meeting - 5 p.m., Allin House, Jackson
- 28-30
• KAIROS
- 30
• Stewardship of Creation Committee meeting - 12 noon, Allin House, Jackson
- 31
• Katrina Recovery Sunday

SEPTEMBER 2008

- 1
• Allin House closed in observance of Labor Day
- 2
• Deadline for submittal to The Mississippi Episcopalian
- 4
• Finance Committee - 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
- 7
Bishop Gray visits:
• Trinity, Yazoo City - 10:30 a.m.
- 8
• Gray Center Executive Committee meets - 2 p.m., Gray Center

- 9
• Diocesan Trustees meet - 2 p.m., Allin House
- 10
Bishop Gray visits:
• St. Alexis', Jackson - 6:30 p.m.
- 11
• Executive Committee meets - 11:30 a.m. - 3:30 pm., Saint Andrew's Cathedral, Jackson
- 14
Bishop Gray visits:
• Holy Cross, Olive Branch - 10 a.m.
- 16
• Fresh Start South - St. Johns, Laurel 10:00-3:00
- 16-19
• House of Bishops, Salt Lake City, UT
- 18
• Mississippi Religious Leadership Conference - 12 noon
- 18
• Fresh Start North - St. Peter's Oxford, 10:00-3:00
- 19-21
• Sr. High DOY - Camp Bratton Green
- 21
Bishop Gray visits:
• St. Mark's, Jackson - 10:30 a.m.
• Ordination of the Rev. Billie Abraham to the Priesthood - 5 p.m., St. Alban's, Bovina
- 28
Bishop Gray visits:
• St. Paul's, Columbus - 10:30 a.m.

OCTOBER 2008

- 1
• Dedication of St. Mark's, Gulfport - 5:30 p.m.

- 3-4
• Adults Working With Youth Conference - Camp Bratton Green
- 5
Bishop Gray visits:
• Christ Church, Holly Springs- 11 a.m.
- 5-7
• Presbyter Post-Ordination Consultation, Place to be determined
- 7
• Deadline for submittal to The Mississippi Episcopalian
- 7-9
• Sewanee Trustees, Sewanee, TN

- 10
• Standing Committee meets, Allin House - 11:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
- 11
• Day on the Diaconate
- 12
Bishop Gray visits:
• Holy Trinity, Vicksburg - 10:30 a.m.
- 13-16
• Clergy Conference, Gray Center
- 16-18
• Bishops & Chancellors Conference, Atlanta, GA
- 17-18
• Gray Center Board meets, Gray Center
• Diocesan Worship Leaders' Conference, Gray Center

- 17-19
• Children's Sabbath

- 19
Bishop Gray visits:
• St. Patrick's, Long Beach - 10:30 a.m.
• St. Elizabeth's, Collins - 6:00 p.m.
- 22
• Deacons' Council, Allin House - 11 a.m.
Bishop Gray visits:
• St. Peter's by-the-Lake - 6:30 p.m.
- 23
• Finance Committee meets - 11 a.m. - 3 p.m., St. Andrew's Cathedral
- 24-26
• Clergy Spouse Retreat, Gray Center

- 26
Bishop Gray visits:
• Trinity, Hattiesburg - 10:30 a.m.
• St. Stephen's, Columbia - 5 p.m.
- 29
• St. Andrew's Episcopal School Convocation, Jackson - 10 a.m.
- 30-November 2
• Cursillo
- 31-November 2
• Jr. High DOY, Camp Bratton Green

The 2008
Let's Eat Shrimp for MS Festival
Sun., August 31st at The Cedars
4145 Old Canton Road, 4 - 8 p.m.
Entertainment & Shrimp Dinner
\$ 20.00 per person
Carry Out Available

LIVE Musical Review
Rhonda Richmond
Dathan Thigpen & Holy Nation
Jesse Robinson
Nathaniel Smith

Activities for Kids
Face Painting
Moonwalk

To Benefit
Lutheran Episcopal Services
in Mississippi

The Center for Formation & Mission of The Episcopal Diocese of MS presents

Knitting, Needles, & Yoga

Sept. 19, 20, & 21, 2008

Contact The Rev. Debo Dykes for more information: debo@dioms.org or 601-948-5954.

Or register online at [www.dioms.org / News & Events](http://www.dioms.org/News%20&%20Events)

Cost: \$210.00

