



# THE MISSISSIPPI EPISCOPALIAN

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## Reflections on Gray Center

By Duncan M. Gray III

I was first introduced to Gray Center at about the time I was learning to walk. In those days this property, newly purchased by the Diocese of Mississippi, was called "Rose Hill," the name given by its original owner. Even today there are those in the diocese who continue to use that evocative name to describe this hallowed ground.

The purchase of the land was to provide a permanent home for Camp Bratton-Green. In 1946, a little before I was born, the camp opened its military surplus barracks doors to new generations of campers who would encounter the living Lord in this special place.

Under those great pre-tornado pine trees, my own soul was nourished in conversations with clergy from throughout this diocese. It was at Camp Bratton-Green that I had my first serious girl friend (in the fourth grade) and made my first formal confession to a priest (ninth grade). It was at Camp Bratton-Green that I learned a profound lesson in self giving through the first special sessions (while in college), and it was there that Kathy and I took our children to be nurtured in the faith and communion of this church. Camp Bratton-Green was the primary place of my spiritual formation prior to my going to seminary. I cannot walk those woods or spend a quiet moment by the lake without a flood of memories of so many special people over so many formative years.



Jud Meaders/photo

An autumn view of Rose Hill Lake at Camp Bratton Green.

The construction of the Conference Center, a visionary project of this diocese, was completed in 1992 and has expanded dramatically the ministry of what we now call Gray Center. No longer content to serve simply as a facility for other groups to use, Gray Center has become proactive in providing significant educational and formational opportunities for adults. The Center for Formation and Mission, the Bishop's Mission Corps and the newly added Family Camp (to be held in conjunction with the Bishop's Barbeque, May 22-24) are examples of proactive initiatives being taken to more fully utilize this great

resource of the church.

I clearly have a deep emotional bond to Gray Center. It gave birth to the spiritual awakening that made me the person I am today. It will also be my final resting place as Kathy and I have recently purchased plots in the cemetery. But there are thousands who have been touched by this place. In this issue of the Mississippi Episcopalian we celebrate its ministry of over 60 years.

May God make us forever faithful stewards of this remarkable gift.

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Jud Meaders/photo

President-elect Barak Obama stumped at Jackson State University during the Democratic Primaries last summer to an energetic and excited crowd. The Obama Campaign turned into a powerful machine that proved to alter the political landscape in a way that no one envisioned but the Obama faithful.

## 500 Years!

### Time to clean out the Church's attic!

By Debo Dykes

Phyllis Tickle, founding editor of the Religion Department of Publishers Weekly, the international journal of the book industry, stunned our diocesan clergy with her presentation on "The Emerging Church" during Clergy Conference, October 13th through 16th. Tickle, who is frequently quoted in sources like USA Today, Christian Science Monitor, The New York Times, as well as in electronic media like PBS, NPR, and The Hallmark Channel is an authority on religion in America and a much sought after lecturer.

Tickle took on the daunting task of reviewing with our attentive Mississippi clergy the major turning points or "Great" events in the life of the Christian church. Her contention is that every 500 years or so the church goes through a "great transformation." Counting back from the present, the Great Reformation took place about 500 years ago -- 1517 to be exact.

Prior to that, The Great Schism occurred when the Eastern and Western churches split over disputes



Scott Lenoir/photo

about icons and statues. Five hundred years earlier, Gregory the Great blessed and encouraged the monastic orders, which would preserve the Christian faith through the Dark Ages. Of course, 500 years before that, we're back in the first century and the time of the apostles. Today, Tickle contends, the Church is in the throes of "The Great Emergence".

500 Years!

Continued on page 4

**SALUS CRUCE**  
salvation by  
the cross

## Notes & Quotes

by Maria Watson



Ah, autumn—and what you bring with you! October, November and part of December—it's always difficult for me to decide which of these months I love most: October for its first

brisk temperatures and continuous beautiful weather; November for its glorious opening with All Saints and closing with Thanksgiving and—frequently, as this year, the beginning of Advent, my very favorite of all the liturgical seasons; or December with the Advent message of preparation and its accompanying expectation of Christmas and the winter season that follows.

I write this as we switch back to standard time, better known to me as “God’s time.” I love daylight saving time in the spring and summer months, but feel comforted in the late fall and winter as dusk hovers and lights come on early. There is an inexplicable coziness about it, and somehow, I always feel my life turning more inward—searching, seeking, even quieting itself a bit.

With these last months of the year come regular activities in the church: stewardship, though more and more parishes are starting earlier and earlier; bazaars; looking forward to the new church year that begins with the First Sunday in Advent and what it will hold for us all.

In the interest of brevity and timeliness, this column is based primarily on those newsletters that came to me most recently, as well as some events of which I have first-hand knowledge.

St. Thomas’, Diamondhead, held its annual Maine Event (lobster dinner) to benefit Wilmer Hall in Mobile October 25, and we had the pleasure of joining them and sitting with Sue Stewart, a

lovely friend from my days at Touro Infirmary in New Orleans. The parish hall was packed; the evening festive; and the food delicious!

At least two parishes are wrapping their stewardship campaigns around the baking and delivering of bread, a strategy our interim rector at St. Peter’s by-the-Sea, Gulfport, says stewardship guru Terry Parsons taught her. Those parishes are St. Peter’s, Gulfport, and St. Peter’s by-the-Lake, Brandon. “While the bread itself might not be an expensive gift,” says the Rev. Charlie Deaton, rector, “the symbol is a willingness to give of oneself to sustain the other. We invite one another to share in the larger communion of the church by opening our storehouses and providing sustenance.” At the same time, says Interim Rector, the Rev. Liz Jones of St. Peter’s, Gulfport, “We ask those who receive the loaves of bread to consider prayerfully what they will give back” to the work of the church.

All Saints’ Day was celebrated appropriately with great glory in so many of our parishes around the diocese as we honored all of the saints, including our own special loved ones who “now in glory shine.” This special high, holy day is the subject of some of the Notable Quote excerpts you will find at the end of this column. All Saints’, Tupelo celebrated with A Journey of Life, Death and Resurrection: Evensong with the All Saints’ Choir and Sanctuary Hospice House. St. Stephen’s, Indianola, asked that pledge cards be turned in on All Saints’ Sunday.

At St. James, Greenville, on Sunday, November 23, Tom Key was to portray C.S. Lewis On Stage, in what was billed as “a captivating one-man show.” Earlier, on November 20, the parish planned an incredible Harvest Bazaar, with luncheon, a spectacular silent auction, a wide variety of booths and a special Christmas ornament. St. John’s, Ocean Springs, plans its 2008 Cookie Walk December 13, with the sale of a variety of Yuletide delights for all ages

A number of you are participating in communal, ecumenical Thanksgiving services, as well as

your own parish services: Resurrection, Starkville, which will join the area service at First Baptist Church; Advent, Sumner, was taking part in the community service tentatively set (at this writing) for November 16 at First Baptist Church, Sumner. Holy Innocents’, Como, was joining the service at Como United Methodist Church on Sunday, November 23. St. Peter’s, Brandon, was planning to partner with a number of other area ministries to provide breakfast and a fellowship service to the homeless and hungry on Thanksgiving morning. All Saints’, Grenada, was joining the community service at First United Methodist Church Sunday, November 23, and having its own service Thanksgiving Eve, November 26. Ascension, Hattiesburg, has a different twist on Thanksgiving; there it’s gumbo time as the parish raises money to support its EYC Outreach Mission trip to another state through the sale of gumbo.

Looking ahead to Advent, St. Patrick’s, Long Beach, planned a wreath-making day on Sunday, November 23. St. Paul’s, Columbus, was also planning to make Advent wreaths on November 30, the First Sunday of Advent. Holy Innocents’, Como, and St. Peter’s, Oxford, will join with other churches for a service at one of the units at Parchman. It will be the 11th trip for Holy Innocents’.

St. Paul’s, Columbus kicked off its capital campaign, “How Firm a Foundation,” Wednesday, November 5. The campaign will benefit preservation of the historic church as well as parish ministries.

### NOTABLE QUOTES...

“But in all things give thanks to God.” Notice that this doesn’t say “FOR all things give thanks”; we know that it would be impossible to give thanks to God for all the things that trouble us. But we CAN give thanks IN all circumstances. The news may be bad, but God is good (Trinity, Yazoo City)

“It’s...widely known that many popular Halloween customs date back to the pre-Christian

Druids of Ireland and Britain...However, these customs come to us through the filter of many Christian centuries. Christ has conquered the powers of darkness and revealed the old gods to be nothing. The once fearful aspects of this season have become playful. Where once adults shuddered in fear, now even the smallest child can laugh...” (Nativity, Greenwood).

“Since the 10th century, Christians have extended this (All Saints’) observance to a second, a Day of Commemoration of All Faithful Departed, also known as All Souls’ Day. The emphasis of All Saints’ Day was and is to honor the departed, especially ‘heroes of the faith’; the emphasis of All Souls’ Day to pray for the dead, especially for those near and dear to us.” (St. Paul’s, Columbus).

“The Feast of All Saints’ is the feast par excellence of encouragement. We are not done with the struggles here—but we draw comfort and strength by remembering the courage, endurance, struggles, examples and finally, the sheer perseverance of God’s saints, in whose lives the presence of God’s grace still shines.” (All Saints’, Grenada).

“The worship of our remote ancestors gave birth to all the arts. Music, dance and the visual arts were first of all sacred exercises, the human response to the numinous. And today music continues to be an integral part of our worship, for it opens us—heart, mind, body and spirit—to God.” (Grace, Canton-by Nancy Roth, Episcopal priest, retreat leader, musician, dancer and author).

### Dates to remember...

January, 4-5, 2009

Permanent Staff Interviews at Camp Bratton Green

Continually published for 132 years in the Diocese of Mississippi



## The Mississippi Episcopalian

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O God, our heavenly Father, whose glory fills the whole creation, and whose presence we find wherever we go: Preserve those who travel; surround them with your loving care; protect them from every danger; and bring them in safety to their journey’s end; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen  
BCP pg. 831



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## The Bishop's Journal

**October 1** – Morning appointments had to be reshuffled as I had to take care of a blow-out on a tire on Kathy's car as she rode north on I-55 to work. Appointments with the Rev. Jeff Reich and the Rev. George Woodliff before leaving for the coast to formally dedicate the new church and parish house at St. Mark's, Gulfport. What a joy filled evening as the people of this congregation and others from around the coast celebrated the long journey to recovery and renewal that has culminated in the building of this beautiful facility.

The congregation of St. Mark's and their rector, The Very Reverend Bo Roberts, deserve much credit for their courage, energy and creativity.

Was surprised and very moved by the decision to thank me for my help in the rebuilding with a plaque and picture in the narthex.

Kathy and I spend the night and have a good visit with my parents and Bo and Pam Roberts.

**October 2** – Return home for meetings through the afternoon. Annual consultation with the Rev. Chip Davis.

**October 3** – In office throughout the day. Early morning session with the Rev. Chuck Culpepper. Annual consultation with the Rev. Deacon Frank Spencer. Late afternoon appointment with the Rev. Bryan Owen.

**October 4** – We get up early to attend Tabitha's cross country race in Clinton. Later in the evening, I join in celebrating the marriage of Sarah Williams and the Rev. Jason Shelby at St. Columb's in Ridgeland.

**October 5** – Up very early to drive to Holly Springs to join with the congregation of Calvary Church in the celebration of their 150th anniversary of the dedication of the church in 1858. I gave thanks for the restoration and rededication of the original bell in the church's steeple. Long time parish leader Ray Smithers was honored by the congregation as we dedicated altar hangings in his honor. I preached, celebrated, confirmed 3 and licensed one lay eucharistic minister. Lunch that followed fed an overflow crowd that had gathered on this special homecoming.

Afterwards, I spent time with the rector, the Rev. Bruce McMillan.

On my way home I stop over in Oxford to buy my Halloween pumpkins at St. Peter's.

Home to Jackson in the evening.

**October 6** – Day off. Spend the morning on the golf course. Significant portion of the afternoon spent in conversation with bishops from dioceses of Western Louisiana, Arkansas and Louisiana discussing matters related to All Saints' School. Change my plans about attending Trustees meeting at Sewanee. Press of business requires that I stay in Jackson.

**October 7** – At home all day working on a multitude of matters. Return to office around mid day to pass on a variety of things to staff.

**October 8** – Work out of my home today. Still trying to catch up on mail and long delayed projects. Return to office at lunch to deliver and pick up materials.

**October 9** – At home continuing administrative responsibilities. Though I have missed being at Sewanee, the time to concentrate on long neglected projects has been very valuable.

**October 10** – Staff breakfast in early morning. Appointment with the Rev. Hunter Isaacs. Standing Committee meets through much of the middle of the day. Brief visit with The Right Reverend Jack Biggers, formerly of this diocese. Late afternoon session with Canon McCormick, our chancellor and the Rev. John Jenkins concerning our negotiations about All Saints' School.

**October 11** – Most of the day spent at All Saints' Church in Jackson participating in the Day on the Diaconate.

**October 12** – Annual visitation to Holy Trinity, Vicksburg. At the early service, I preach and celebrate. Lead a forum between services discussing my trips to Uganda and the Lambeth Conference. At the later service, I preach, celebrate, confirm three and receive one. The musical setting for this service is a beautiful Celtic one that was put together following my comments a year ago about how much I enjoyed a particular Celtic anthem by their choir. After a brief reception, I joined the vestry of Holy Trinity for lunch and a wide ranging discussion.

**October 13** – Annual Clergy Conference begins today. Preliminary events include the 6th Annual Bishop's Open. This year's winner is the team led by the Rev. David Elliott who brought his grandson, D.A. Elliott, along to bolster the strength of his team.

Deacons and presbyters of the diocese gather for the opening banquet of this year's conference at Gray Center. Very good spirit as we come together for one of only two "command performances" during the year.

**October 14** – Clergy Conference continues with a series of presentations by our speaker, Mrs. Phyllis Tickle, a keen and insightful observer of contemporary culture. Her talks spark much conversation.

**October 15** – Clergy Conference at Gray Center. Phyllis Tickle concludes her presentation. Her presence among us has been extraordinarily stimulating. The rest of the day is spent on diocesan administrative matters. Evening presentation by our vice-chancellor, Mr. Wayne Drinkwater, on the relationship of civil law and pastoral confidentiality expected of the clergy.

**October 16** – Conclusion of Clergy Conference includes eucharist, renewal of ordination vows and healing. There is also time for a wide open conversation on any matter of concern.

As we leave this annual conference, I am always reminded of how much the church in this diocese has shaped me. I am also so very grateful for the many gifts so freely shared by an extraordinary group of clergy.

**October 17** – Spend much of the morning with the Rev. Christopher Powell as he gives me a tour of the new building projects at St. James', Jackson. I am thrilled by the vision of this church for its ministry in the coming year.

In office during most of the day. Afternoon appointment with an aspirant for holy orders.

**October 18** – At Gray Center all day for meeting with the Gray Center Board of Managers. Long but productive session.

**October 19** – Arise early to travel to the Coast. Morning with the congregation of St. Patrick's, Long Beach. I preach, celebrate, and confirm five and receive two in their worship space at Camp Coast Care. (My next trip here should be to bless and dedicate their new building!) After lunch with the congregation, I met with the vestry for a good discussion about a variety of matters. Drive to Diamondhead for a home visit with the Rev. Bill White who is recovering from some surgery complications.

Drive to Collins for annual visitation at St. Elizabeth's. I preach, celebrate and confirm two. Good visit with a variety of young people during dinner.

Return to Jackson late.

**October 20** – Day off.

**October 21** – Staff meetings through most of morning. Annual consultation with the Rev. Deacon Penny Sisson. After a brief break to see my granddaughter, I meet with Dean Edward O'Connor and Deacon Carol Stewart to discuss certain aspects of disaster preparedness.

**October 22** – Early morning breakfast with Methodist and Roman Catholic bishops. Morning session with the Rev. Deacon Bill Hanna, then meet with Deacons' Council through much of midday.

Afternoon appointments with an aspirant for holy orders and the Rev. Tom Slawson.

In the evening, I make my annual visitation to St. Peter's by the Lake, Brandon. The vibrancy of this congregation is clearly evident as I confirm 8, receive 2 and reaffirm one. Dinner afterwards. I stay late enjoying the wonderful spirit of this congregation.

**October 23** – Morning appointment with an aspirant for holy orders. Finance Committee meeting consumes much of the day. Late in the afternoon, I slip out to watch Tabitha compete in her District Cross Country meet.

**October 24** – Spend the morning getting ready for the Annual Presbyters' Spouse Retreat which Kathy and I host each year at Gray Center. This year she and I will be the retreat leaders.

Drive to Gray Center in afternoon. Meet there with an aspirant for holy orders, then continue the preparations for the retreat.

In the late afternoon, Kathy and I welcome

the participants to the retreat. We will be staying in the Big House at Gray Center. Our theme is "Exploring Our Past, Imagining Our Future."

**October 25** – Spouse Retreat at Gray Center. Very good time with these spouses who make considerable sacrifices so that their clergy spouses can provide leadership for that church.

**October 26** – I leave early from Gray Center (Kathy will lead the rest of the retreat on her own) to drive to Hattiesburg for an annual visitation to Trinity Church. Due to a mix up on my part, I miss two scheduled events. I arrive later than anticipated and I am very chagrined, but rector and parishioners are forgiving (at least outwardly!) I preach, celebrate and lead a renewal of baptismal vows that includes an anointing with water. Reception follows. Travel to Columbia where I preach, celebrate and, again, renew our baptismal vows with the anointing with water. In addition, I commission ten wonderfully excited and energetic children as new acolytes in this congregation. Very special occasion.

Dinner and good conversation afterwards. Very good spirit here.

Return to Jackson late.

**October 27** – Take morning off, then travel to Gray Center for meeting with the Camp Bratton-Green coordinator, Sarah Shelby, and the directors for next year. Overnight at Gray Center.

**October 28** – Camp Directors Meeting concludes at noon. Several new initiatives and policy changes are enthusiastically embraced. I am so appreciative of the commitment and sacrifices made by so many for the ministry of Camp Bratton-Green.

Return to office in afternoon. Late appointment with aspirant for holy orders.

**October 29** – Spend the morning at St. Andrew's Episcopal School in Ridgeland where I install Mr. George Penick as new Head of School at a school wide assembly on a gorgeous fall day. Lunch following with trustees, administrators and friends of the school. Return to office in afternoon. Annual consultation with the Rev. Charlie Deaton.

**October 30** – Office all day. Annual consultations with the Rev. Sandra DePriest and the Rev. George Woodliff. Late afternoon appointment with the Rev. Deacon Cathy Halford.

**October 31** – Office all day catching up on correspondence. Late afternoon session with an aspirant for holy orders.

Drive Tabitha to Gray Center to serve on staff for the Junior High Division of Youth weekend. While there I have a good visit with new Gray Center personnel.

Home in the evening to enjoy a Halloween visit from our granddaughter, Harper, and her parents.

### *Date to remember...*

December 2nd

The Mississippi Episcopalian Deadline

## A-V Center News

by Janet C. Nail



When Sebastian called that night, he was crying so hard I couldn't understand him. Finally his dad, the Expert, took the phone. It seemed that he had been re-read-

ing *THE TWO TOWERS*, the second book in the *Lord of the Rings*. A page had fallen out (understandable; it was the Expert's old set that had been MY old set, over forty years old). Sebastian had tried to tape the page back in and it had torn so badly he couldn't read.

"Don't worry, Sweetheart," I consoled him. "I have another set that I will send you."

The Expert was silent for a moment, then he said cautiously, "You have another whole set of the *Lord of the Rings*?"

"Boxed," I told him. Well, doesn't everybody?

Actually, it's an addiction. I love to give people books, and I have learned that most books lent to people never return. So I am always on the lookout for the books I love at prices I can afford AND that I can afford to give away. Of course I have an extra set of Tolkien! I have another set of Narnia, too.

This is known as abundance.

Advent is truly a season to celebrate abundance, isn't it? After all, it was God's abundant love that gave us the gift of His Son.

This is the season to show JESUS OF NAZARETH to your intergenerational Sunday school classes.

Beginning with the Annunciation, this series dramatizes the life of Jesus based on the Gospels of Matthew and Luke. (I agree with one friend who applauded the very pregnant Mary walking to Bethlehem; most movies have a very svelte and well-groomed beauty sitting side-saddle on a donkey!) Being no scholar, I cannot verify the total accuracy of every part of the movie, but I do know that it follows the two gospels closely.

Do you need some way to help your children realize that Advent/Christmas is not solely Santa Claus and Christmas trees? You may be interested in *PREPARING FOR CHRISTMAS II*, a series of four programs, each one developing a special aspect of God's promise to send us a Saviour and of the wonder of Jesus' birth. Adults and children are drawn into the experience of hope and joy that mark the Advent season and the glory of Christmas.

In part one, Father Anthony Scannell takes us through a series of brief vignettes that show us how everyday life is a constant reminder of what Jesus' becoming human means to us.

In the second program we meet a very special person who spends his life as Santa Claus. Father Declan Madden is a "natural" Santa Claus who brings to seniors and children his own lov-

ing presence and gift for helping them realize how special they are.

In part three we witness a touching story of the power of a child's faith as she prays for and gets a "Christmas daddy" for just one day. Here are simple, hard pressed people who are transformed by the spirit of Christmas and a child's love.

In the final part, Father Scannell introduces us to Aaron, the donkey belonging to Joseph and Mary. Through the eyes of this gentle beast, we witness the events leading up to and following the birth of Jesus. From the Annunciations and the call for a census, we go with Aaron to the home of Elizabeth and on the eventful journey to Bethlehem.

This is a dramatic Advent calendar that the whole family or class can enjoy.

What would the season be for the children at the church without a Nativity program? *THE NATIVITY*, narrated by Charlton Heston, tells the story of the two babies born during this season: John, who will go before the Messiah to prepare the way, and Jesus, who is the Son of God.

To enrich your Advent classes we also have the Nativity narratives from Luke (from the New Media Bible), This is the Revised Standard Version of the story.

A seasonal classic is *MARTIN THE COBBLER*, based on the Tolstoy story "Where Love Is." Martin is a devout man who reads the Bible faithfully and one evening Jesus speaks to him.

"Martin, I am coming to visit you tomorrow. Be ready."

In his excitement Martin cleans his shop, prepares a simple meal, and sits down to wait for Jesus.

Before long, he sees the cracked and broken boots of an old soldier who is sweeping the snow off the sidewalk. He calls him in to warm himself by the fire, gives him soup, and presses some new boots on him.

Later he sees a young woman with a baby struggling through the snow. Again, he calls her in, feeds her, and gives her warm clothes and money to travel home.

Finally, he sees a young boy who runs over an old woman carrying firewood. He makes peace between them, gives them encouragement, and sends them on their way, the chastened boy helping the old woman.

Disappointed, he sits down, sure that he has missed seeing Jesus. But the voice speaks.

"I came, Martin. Did you not recognize me?" Each of those he helped files past him as Jesus continues, "Whatsoever ye do unto the least of these, my brethren, you do also unto me."

A powerful lesson about giving, about abundance, about living for Christ.

To borrow any of these programs or to discuss your Advent needs, call me at 662-746-5557 (ask for Miss Janet) or e-mail me at [grandmastruck1994@yahoo.com](mailto:grandmastruck1994@yahoo.com). I will be glad to help you.

## 500 Years,

Continued from page 1

But, Tickle's talk about the "Emerging Church" was not focused solely on religion. Her presentation included issues that are also cultural, technological, and sociological. Of course, context shaped each of the other great church transformations as well, and today is no different. Tickle offered an overview of church history and world events in which she charted shifts in the center of authority in the life of the church.

In the Great Reformation, of course, the cry of authority was sola scriptura – "only scripture." Tickle traced the diminution of the authoritative place of scripture in culture and Christianity from its heady beginnings in the Reformation to its marginalization in the post-modern era. Then she dropped "the bomb" and posed the question, "In a virtual world, such as, let's say, "second life", can the body

and blood of Christ, the Eucharistic elements, be consecrated through the Internet? A virtual blessing so to speak?" A sobering pause blanketed the room full of Mississippi clergy.

So, is it time to "clean out the Church's attic?"

Although some clergy were blown away by Tickle's presentation, to the extent that she received a long, loud, standing ovation that showed a level of respect for both who she is and what she said, she really ticked a few clergy off as well. But I think pleasing some and ticking some off is to be expected from any hearty discussion about change in front of a large and diverse group such as our Mississippi clergy. However, for me, and many others present, it was one of the most memorable presentations I've heard in years, and has shaped my thinking and participating in a community of faith.



Scott Lenoir/Photo

*Cursillo #116 participants (l.tor.) Jonnie Cleveland, Alyssa Killebrew, Keath Killebrew, and Eddie Matthews all from St. Mary's in Lexington pause for a picture at the Closures (closing Eucharist) on Nov. 2nd at Gray Center.*

## Cursillo presses on in Mississippi

Julie Breeland, rector of Cursillo #116, gave thanks to all the staff and participants at the Closures (closing Eucharist) held Nov. 2nd at Gray Center.

Those participating in #116 were: **James Briggs**, St. Philip's Jackson; **Melissa Cavett**, Chapel of the Cross, Madison; **Steve Clemmer**, Chapel of the Cross, Madison; **Jonnie Cleveland**, St. Mary's, Lexington; **Frances Curry**, St. Paul's Woodville; **Lori Douglas**, Mediator, Meridian; **Connie Hines**, St. Peter's by the Lake, Brandon; **Alyssa Killebrew**, St. Mary's, Lexington; **Keath Killebrew**, St. Mary's, Lexington; **Philip Lawes**, Nativity, Greenwood; **Eddie Mathews**, St. Mary's Lexington; **Kitty McCleave**, St. Peter's by the Lake, Brandon; **Susan McKinley**, Ascension, Hattiesburg; **Ben Preston**, St. Philip's, Jackson; **Jerry Ramos**, Mediator, Meridian; **Arthur Toro**, Christ the Savior, Jackson; **Jane Turo**, Christ the Savior, Jackson.

The 4th Day workshop will be held on Dec. 6th at All Saints' in Jackson.

Cursillo #117 is scheduled for April 29th-May 3rd. The rector for #117 will be Robert Pooley. If you are interested in attending or being on a Cursillo staff, please contact your priest.

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*Editors Note: The article below is reprinted with permission from **Portico Magazine** in Jackson and focuses on one of Camp Bratton Green's Special Sessions directed by the Rev. Patrick Sanders and Corey Schnieder. The other Special Session this year was directed by the Rev. Charlie Deaton and Jamie Dixon. Special Sessions of camp are excellent opportunities for ministry and a lot of fun. If you're interested in participating in one of the hallmark experiences in our diocese contact the diocesan office and we'll put you in touch with Patrick or Charlie about being on staff.*

## Creating Special Memories

*Every summer Camp Bratton-Green opens their camp to a special group of campers.*

By Susan Marquez

Since 1968, Neil Rosenblatt has looked forward to his time at summer camp. So have Jerry Hogue and Joe Fortner. For the past 40 years, the trio have spent a week at Camp Bratton-Green, an idyllic spot in northern Madison County where days are spent lounging in the pool or lake, canoeing, fishing, as well as participating in sing-alongs, craft sessions and campfires. It's typical summer camp fare, but the campers are unique. Now adults, Neil, Jerry and Joe look forward to the week at camp as much as any fourth grader does. Perhaps it's because the camp provides a way to escape from the everyday world where things are different. It puts them on a level playing field with their peers, allowing cares to be forgotten, for awhile at least, and they can find joy in God's nature.

Camp Bratton-Green is run by the Episcopal Diocese of Mississippi. Generations of children have made treasured memories summer after summer at the camp. And for two very special weeks each summer, the camp is a place where mentally and physically disabled people can create memories as well. Camp co-directors Corey Schnieder and Patrick Sanders have been involved with the special needs program for many years. "Cory has been coming for ten years, and this is my 18th year," says Patrick, who serves as the curate at St. James' Episcopal Church in Greenville.

The special needs camp holds two sessions each summer. One is for campers aged 33 and under and the other is for campers aged 34 and up. "The youngest campers are between the ages of ten and twelve," explains Patrick. "And the oldest camper at this session is 77. The cool thing about it is that when camp is over, the campers start counting down to next summer. Some even go home, wash their clothes and re-pack their bags so they'll be ready for camp a year from now."

With nine permanent staff members and many volunteers, the camp is as special for those working as it is for the campers. "I wouldn't miss

it for anything," states Charles Fowler, who volunteers at the camp with his wife and children. "We take our family vacation to do this each summer, and it's really brought us closer together as a family. I even have a grandchild here this summer." Finney Couhig of Louisiana has been attending Camp Bratton-Green since she was a child. "I became a counselor at 15, and ended up going into special education as a career because of this. Most of us keep coming back because we've learned to see the campers as individuals first, before we see their disabilities."

Many of the campers have developed roles at the camp over the years. Neil serves on the permanent staff and also assists with the junior high camp. "Neil's older than dirt," laughs Patrick. "He knows all there is to know about this camp!" And Jerry serves as a security guard at the camp along with fellow camper Calvin Dickerson. It's a job the duo take very seriously. "They have badges and all kinds of gear, and a different outfit for each day of camp," says Corey. "And both have actually gotten real security jobs outside of camp." The two write tickets to campers for littering and noise violations, and one year, they actually made a real difference for a camper in distress. A camper was having a seizure, and since Calvin had his security radio, he was able to call for help.

Bishop Duncan Gray III attended the much-anticipated talent show on the last night of the camp and recalled "I started here as a counselor, then directed the camp for a couple of years. There are physical challenges for the campers, but we also look at the spiritual aspect to see how this situation translates into the Gospel. The Gospel becomes something other than knowing a Bible story. Instead, we have to think about how we can be a Gospel-bearer to people who experience life differently from ourselves. The question of 'what is normal?' really becomes a philosophical and metaphysical question, because we realize that God relates to each one of us in a wonderfully unique, but similar, kind of way."

Photo/Charlie Deaton



Staff from the guys' wheelchair cabin helping one of the campers out of the trailer at the picnic.

Photo/Mary Grace Kullman



Staff and campers on the "no-bay-bayride" on their way to enjoy a picnic and field games near the Big House.

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## Gray Center Musings

By Bill Horne

### “It’s a dry heat!”

I have just returned from a tremendously exciting meeting and conference in Prescott, AZ. ‘Ever been there? Personally, didn’t rightly know what to expect. No grass. Pretty red rocks and cactus, 10 – 12 feet tall. Dry. Hot. Nice folks...

I’m having a cup of coffee from a mug in the conference room at Chapel Rock Camp and Conference Center in Prescott. I look at a paper and read, “It’s a dry heat!” The words appear to be coming from the mouth of a caricature of a bishop, miter, crozier and all. It’s what they respond, when you say, “Sure is hot!” We say here, “It ain’t the heat, it’s the humidity!” Different strokes for different folks.

We had a keynote speaker, The Rt. Rev. Gary Lillibridge, Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of West Texas. A charming man and a real advocate for our camps and conference centers. I’d like to share with you a few of his thoughts.

“Don’t know that I’d have been a priest if I had not gone to camp. It was very formative in how I see the church and the world.”

“By using it (camps and conference centers), it becomes holy.” “They must be totally related to all areas of the church, Cursillo, EYC, DOY, EFM, Altar Guilds, etc.’

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Nurture Christian Faith and Discipleship  
Develop Christian Leadership  
Strengthen Congregations

“Connect the mountaintop experiences of our centers with the road to the cross.”

“Our guests come to be refreshed, recharged; they live in the valley.”

“It is all about our ongoing life in Christ.”

From an article by Nancy Furgeson of *Camping Magazine*, ‘Our camping centers are where grace is shared. The practice of pilgrimage began as a practice to get away and be in a holy space; camps are today’s pilgrimage destination and our campers are the pilgrims.’

Our bishop and the Board of Managers of Gray Center could have written these words for they exemplify our deepest thoughts and wishes for Gray Center. I pass them on to you as food for your own thoughts on the incredible blessing we have in the place we call Gray Center.

Times are strange today and uncertainty exists everywhere, but one thing does not change, and that is that our children are worth all we can afford to invest in them. Consider Gray Center as an investment this year, one that will pay untold dividends regardless of the market’s condition!

Bill Horne  
Executive Director



## Camp Bratton-Green Alumni Association New Year’s Eve Party

This New Year’s Eve come out and join friends and the new Camp Bratton-Green Alumni Association for a celebration to ring in the New Year at Gray Center. The event is open to anyone, and those interested in joining the Alumni Association will be able to sign up during the gathering.

The cost of the event is \$65 for a single individual and \$95 for a couple. There is no lodging cost for children who stay with parents, but there will be a meal cost of \$23 for each child. Included in the cost are New Year’s Eve dinner, late evening hors d’oeuvres, lodging, midnight fireworks, and a New Year’s Day brunch. **For meal purposes, please understand that registration and fee must be received by December 27 in order to attend the event.** Those interested may register on the Alumni Association website, linked through the Camp Bratton-Green website, <http://graycenter.dioms.org/camp/index.html>, or mail in the included registration form to:

Camp Bratton-Green Alumni Association  
PO Box 1113  
Oxford, MS 38655

For further information, contact the Alumni Association at [alumni@graycenter.org](mailto:alumni@graycenter.org)

### Camp Bratton-Green Alumni Association New Year’s Eve Party

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Children and ages: \_\_\_\_\_

Lodging Preference: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Chalet or Lodge)

Individuals attending: \_\_\_\_\_ Single adult (\$65)  
\_\_\_\_\_ Couple (\$95)  
\_\_\_\_\_ Children’s meals (\$23 per child)

Total: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to the Camp Bratton-Green Alumni Association. We look forward to seeing everyone out there.



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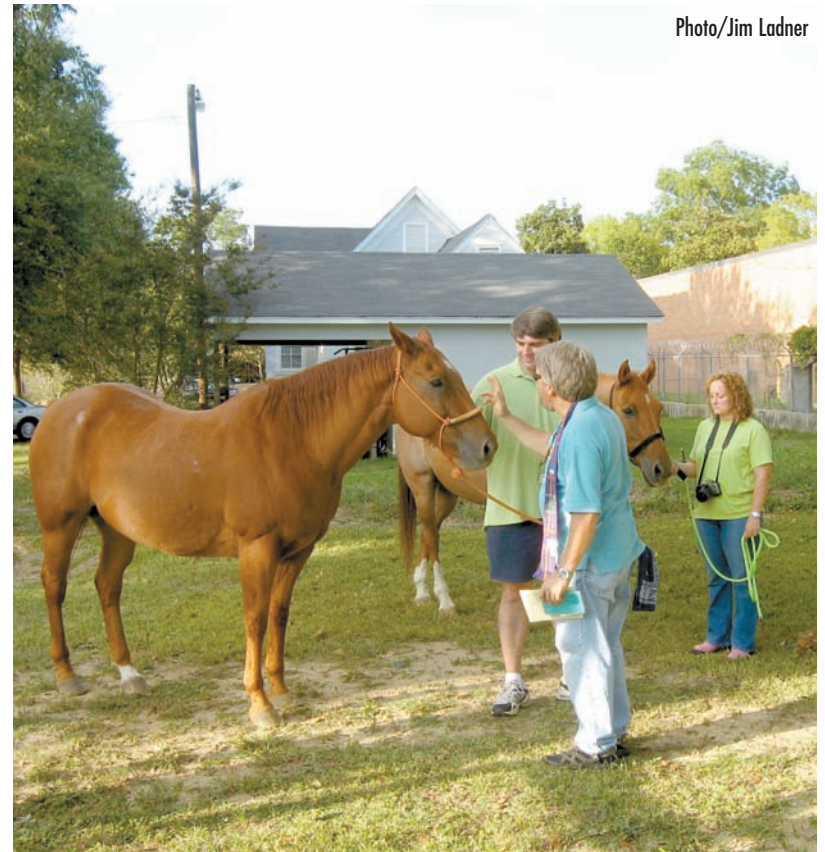
Email: [mail@graycenter.org](mailto:mail@graycenter.org)  
Website: [www.graycenter.org](http://www.graycenter.org)



\*Please call us for assistance with these options.



Bishop Gray III confirmed 9, received 2 and reaffirmed 1 at St. Peter's by-the-Lake in Brandon on Oct. 22nd. Pictured above: front row l to r: Dennis Wilson, presenter, Teresa Witcher, Andrew DeLeeuw, Gracey Belote, Leah Lucas, Patrick Harper, Lisa Maisel, presenter, Amelia Brunson. second row l to r: Rick Witcher, Edwin Smith, Sharron Smith, Bishop Duncan M. Gray, Aaron Taylor, The Rev. Charlie Deaton, rector. back row: Michael Oglesby and David Putman. (Not pictured: Andy Taylor, presenter.)



Photo/Jim Ladner

The Rev. Jud Meaders blesses Rea at Grace Church's annual Blessing of the Animals. Scott & Wendy Shelton are the owners.

## Goat Roast tradition continues at St. Philip's

By Jim Carrington

For 27 consecutive years the Parish Church of St. Philips has hosted a Bluegrass Mass and Goat Roast featuring the popular Mississippi Bluegrass band, The Vernon Brothers.

The event is traditionally scheduled for the second Sunday in October, following a number of years being held on the Sunday closest to July 4. In 1996, the heat finally resulted in the move to October.

This year's Mass was attended by over 400 people, all of whom spilled out of the church and into the "hollow" where the Vernon Brothers continued their music and the people ate goat and pork and fellowshiped while tapping their feet to the music. The 27th Annual Goat Roast was blessed with extremely comfortable weather for its outside venue with a cloudy sky and temps in the 70's, resulting in parishioners and visitors hanging around long after the music ceased.

The Goat Roast weekend has several traditions other than the Vernon Brothers band entertaining. The "goat cooking" takes place on Saturday in the hollow. On Saturday evening, many parishioners bring their choice of foods and beverages to cook on the grills already hot from cooking the meat for the annual Goat Roast. Before going home, a number of those parishioners gather in the Parish Hall to pull meat for Sunday's meal.

Earlier in the day, a large number of St. Philip's women gather to prepare the beans, potato salad and slaw that accompany the meat. Others sign up to bring cakes, cookies, etc.

The annual Bluegrass Mass and Goat Roast is truly a parish event with large numbers of St. Philipians' involved in making it happen. This includes designing the year's t-shirt, selling goat gear and tickets to the event, cooking, setting up and cleaning up.

For a photographic look at the 27th Goat Roast, visit the following web sites: [www.stphilipsjackson.com](http://www.stphilipsjackson.com). and [www.jcarringtonphotos.smugmug.com](http://www.jcarringtonphotos.smugmug.com).

Mark your calendars for October 11, 2009 and plan on being at the 28th annual St. Philip's Bluegrass Mass and Goat Roast.



Over 400 parishioners and visitors spread across the hillside to listen to the Vernon Brothers Bluegrass Band entertain at the 27th annual St. Philip's Goat Roast.



Photos/Jim Carrington

Darden Wade serves goat and pork to participants of the 27th Annual Goat Roast. Baked beans, potato salad and slaw round-out the menu.

Editors Note: This is the fourth in a series of stories about the businesses which support *The Mississippi Episcopalian*.

## Wright & Ferguson: pioneers among funeral directors

By Carolyn McLendon

Long before many of us were born, Wright and Ferguson Funeral Home was serving the needs of central Mississippi. Founded 85 years ago by Ellis Wright and Warren Ferguson, the funeral home which is one of the oldest in the nation, is managed by the grandson of one of the original partners.

"We've built this business on the philosophy of my grandfather, Ellis Wright, and his partner. Our funeral home is here to help others in time of crisis and grief. We feel we are privileged to be allowed to help our friends and neighbors through the rituals which accompany death."

Although most Catholic and Episcopal funerals are from the church of the deceased, about half the funerals conducted in the greater Jackson area take place at Wright and Ferguson.

The funeral home has four locations: Jackson, Madison, Clinton, and Raymond.

"We opened our Madison location fourteen years ago," Wright said. "At that time there was only a printing company and us on this part of

Highland Colony Parkway. Now, businesses are up and down Colony Parkway. We are in the middle of a tremendous growth area." The exterior of the Madison facility resembles that of the High Street location.

Today, cremations accounts for 15% of the funerals; the rest are traditional burials. Wright and Ferguson does not have a crematorium on site but uses one in Brookhaven or a Jackson crematorium owned by Robert Miller, former coroner of Hinds County.

Pre-planning one's funeral has a great appeal, Wright says, and 45% of their clients have chosen this method. "Although pre-planning saves money, that is not the main reason for this service. It gives a person an opportunity to choose what kind of funeral service he/she wants. The person can pick a casket when there is no stress involved. The decision will be made in advance and all the children will recognize that this is what their loved one wanted. It saves family friction and promotes harmony. There is a lot more than just picking out the casket. The person can plan every detail of

the funeral service and we will record it and have it on file for when it is needed."

Today Wright and Ferguson Funeral Home is owned by Service Corporation International, with main offices in Houston, Texas. Ellis Wright is the general manager and there are four funeral directors. Trey Sebrell is funeral director of the Jackson facility.

"Through the years I have been impressed by the dignity and strength of families. For example, several years ago a fourteen year old boy died suddenly of a rare blood disease of which family was unaware. As we sat a round a table planning the funeral, I felt heart sick for his parents. But the father reached over, placed his hand on the Bible which was on the table, and said, "If I believe this book, then I am going to have to live this book."

Wright said clergy are appreciative of the efforts the employees of Wright and Ferguson make to be available to help with the smallest detail. "We often can anticipate The minister's needs before he or she asks."

## Faithful Departed

by Peggy Jones

**Faye Willoughby Aspinall**, 62, communicant of Holy Innocents', Como, died October 8, 2008.

**Frederick Claiborne Craig**, 78, communicant of St. Andrew's Cathedral, Jackson, died September 30, 2008.

**Charles Thomas (Bubba) Fowler**, 87, communicant of St. Peter's-by-the-Lake, Brandon, died April 22, 2008.

**Louise Austin Lowe**, 80, communicant of St. Peter's-by-the-Lake, Brandon, died October 9, 2008.

**Idera Gordon Spencer**, 92, communicant of St. Peter's-by-the-Lake, Brandon, died October 17, 2008.



Delta Convocation clergy met at St. Stephen's, Indianola last month. Pictured left to right in front of the red church door are the reverends Matt Rowe, Bill Richter, Ed Lundin, Julia Moore, George Woodliff, Patrick Sanders, Craig Gates, and Wilson Webb. Moore is the interim rector at Calvary, Cleveland and also Dean of the Delta Convocation.

## Diocesan clergy convocation meetings take place every month

By Scott Lenoir

Each month members of the clergy throughout the Diocese of Mississippi meet within their own convocations. The bishop appoints deans of each convocation who convene their clergy to discuss various events and programs going on in the convocation, diocese and also to simply catch up with each other.

Many of the clergy groups, such as the Delta Clericus pictured above, have a set agenda which begins with Morning Prayer, a time for each priest to catch the group up on events in his or her life, followed by a teaching or book study, lunch, and then diocesan or convocation business.

Other convocations simply have a social time which includes lunch and announcements.

Bishop Gray also convenes the deans of each convocation several times a year at the Allin House in Jackson to help facilitate communications and program objectives for the diocese.

The convocational system began in 1884 under Bishop William Mercer Green II and varied in number through out the years from the original five to four in 1906 to 6 in 1910.

Convocations were discontinued in 1956, but reinstated by Bishop John Allin through an act of Annual Council in 1972.

The convocations today include Northern, Delta, Tombigbee, Central, Sowashee, Old River and Coast.

## A Bit of History

By John Fontaine

### The Diocese of Mississippi once had its own seminary

The Church of the Holy Comforter at Dry Grove in Hinds County (just west of Terry) was chosen by Bishop William Mercer Green as the site of his attempt to meet post-war conditions and produce a native-born Mississippi clergy.

In 1873, some six or seven men, "no one of them prepared to enter any of our theological seminaries," were placed under the care of the Rev. Dr. William K. Douglas and studied for Holy Orders.

Housed in the rectory and two cottages, the students were instructed in "elementary literary studies and in the exegesis of the Hebrew and Greek Scriptures." Dr. Douglas was assisted by his wife and sister and the Ladies Society of Holy Comforter.

In 1874, Douglas reported, "in this large household of over twenty people, there has been no hired help outside the kitchen and laundry. Not only that, considerable carpenter work, the fencing and cultivation of a large garden have been done within ourselves."

The bishop himself raised the money to defray the living expenses of the students and this endeavor usually was referred to as the Bishop Green Training School. The fact that this was largely a self-contained, communal enterprise suggests a compari-

son with the school and monastery that Bishop Ives established in North Carolina and which Bishop Green often commended in the 1840s.

By 1876, the school had grown to the extent of using four buildings, and by 1878 had ten postulants enrolled and a library of a thousand volumes. Like so many other institutions in the diocese, the school suffered severely in that year's yellow fever epidemic. Dr. Douglas' wife and sister and three of the students died. The school never recovered and was closed within a year or two. The church building survived until 1906.

In its short life, the school furnished a number of priests to the diocese and helped start St. Paul's Associate Mission at Terry as a center for missionary work in the central and southern portions of the diocese.

When the Dry Grove School declined, references to the center at Terry ended. The Church of the Good Shepherd in Terry continued, however, so it seems unlikely that fortunes of the two were linked.



Church of the Holy Comforter, c.1870

## Alternatives To Violence

By Cathy Halford

The Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP), an experiential program, is dedicated to reducing the level of violence in our society. Many are shocked by the increasing conflict on the streets, in our schools, and in the home. More than 30,000 people were victimized by violent crimes last year in Mississippi.

AVP is an intensive, two-day learning experience offered on three levels – Basic, Advanced, and Training for Facilitators – and is designed to create successful personal interactions and transform violent situations through interpersonal conflict resolution skills.

Although everyone is not physically or verbally violent, AVP workshops seek to assist individuals in personal growth and change in many unexpected ways. Each participant will attend a workshop only once. After attending all three workshops, the participant can be a part of an AVP team as a trainer.

AVP conducts workshops for adults, teenagers, battered women's residents, prison inmates, youth home residents, homeless shelter staff members, public school classes, and other community groups. It is a program for everybody drawing its participants and its trainers from all religions, races, and walks of life.

The Diocesan Prison and Justice Committee is planning to schedule the first Basic Workshop in January, 2009. If you or anyone you know might be interested in learning more about this successful program, please contact The Rev. Cathy Halford by December 20 at 601-607-3096 or email [chalford48@yahoo.com](mailto:chalford48@yahoo.com).



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A young Honduran girl visits the medical clinic for her check up with the physicians.

## Speaking Spanish helpful, but not required

By David Lemburg

Like most Americans, I have had numerous opportunities to learn Spanish. At every level, I took the "other" option. I took Latin and German in High School; Hebrew, Aramaic, and French in College and Greek in Seminary. Last spring I had an experience that made me regret my language choices. I went to Honduras as part of the Honduras Medical Mission.

The Honduras Medical Mission was part of this mystical ethos of the Diocese of Mississippi. Most of my senior clergy colleagues have been a part of one or more Medical Missions. The events and stories about what takes place on such missions are almost legendary in some circles. Although I do not count myself in the "legend," I do hope to share something of the magnitude of what takes place on these trips.

The core of the experience is hard, hard work. I got up at five or five-thirty in the morning and went to sleep at eleven or eleven-thirty each night. There were lots of activities and numerous problems to be addressed and overcome each day. However, what I take from that experience is not the extreme level of effort that one does each day, but how one doesn't seem to care how hard the work is because of the near instant gratification one receives by doing the work. One thing that I believe is universal from any past mission worker is the belief "We got back more than we gave."

In church we talk about the golden rule, "Do unto others as you would have done unto you" not the "He who has the gold makes the rules" one. In Honduras, I saw this biblical social system worked out better than I have ever experienced in the United States. One example of such was when driving in a car or truck; it was very common to pull over when you saw someone walking on the side of the road and offer them a lift. I asked the person I was with in my

broken Spanish of Latin cognates who the person was; my driver said he didn't know, he just knew the person needed a lift. At first I was shocked, I would never do that here, nor do I know anyone who would—too many bad things could happen to you. I am not implying that Honduras is safer than America; from the amount of machine guns and heavy bore weapons I experienced, I do not think it is safer. I do think that a basic level of understanding the needs of the other is communicated better in Honduras than in America. Yes, there are bright yellow Hummers driven by the fabulously wealthy in both countries. However in Honduras, there are more people who live outside those gilded lives than in them.

One last thing about the people of Honduras and the Spanish language; both of them are more complex and rich than one might expect. I was speaking to a number of parents with small children, children that appeared to be the age of my daughter who is four. I thought I was asking, "How old is your son or daughter?" but what I was actually saying was an anatomy question that even a four year old can answer. Not one parent looked at me with the shock and disbelief as would warrant such a rude and ignorant question; they took my mangling of their native tongue in great stride and answered the question I should have asked instead. It took the careful teaching of one of my fellow missionaries to educate me on my ignorance of the "N" with a diacritical tilde in años.

If you get the chance a serve in a country like Honduras, do so. If you can't go to serve in a country like Honduras, please support someone who can. The experience is exceedingly rich even in the minutiae of the everyday small talk.

To learn more, log on to [www.hondurasmedicalmission.net](http://www.hondurasmedicalmission.net).

**ONLINE: visit**  
[www.hondurasmedicalmission.net](http://www.hondurasmedicalmission.net).

## 2008 Panama Medical Mission team see health progress in Panama Indian Tribes

By Dr Kent Kirchner, St. Andrew's Jackson

On October 5th, five physicians and one clergy departed on the 7th Annual Panama Medical Mission from the Diocese of Mississippi.

The team members were: Dr. Frank Criddle, St. Andrews, Jackson; Dr. Kent Kirchner, St. Andrew's, Jackson; Dr. Adelaide Henderson, St. Paul's, Columbus; Dr. Hilton O'Neal, St. James', Greenville; Dr. Robert Connolly, St. John's, Memphis; and the Rev. Emma Connolly, St. John's, Memphis.

After arriving in Panama City and spending the night at the diocesan guest house, the team was joined by a cadre of communicants from throughout our companion diocese to begin work with the Kuna and Embera Indians living around the town of Torti, on the outskirts of the Darien Province.

The trip was full of wonderful surprises. First, the area had acquired a number of active sustainable medical resources since our last visit. These included a more active Ministry of Health, a supported pharmacy, an infirmary, programs to assure childhood vaccinations, nutritional evaluation and support. Additionally, the Episcopal Diocese of Panama had a begun program which supplied monthly pharmaceuticals to families in need in the area.

Also, the logistical support for the five U.S. physicians was provided almost entirely by Panamanians.

Finally, the health of the population was perceptibly better than what we had experienced on previous visits. The children were cleaner, better nourished and overall happier. I saw fewer ear infections, respiratory illnesses, and prescribed fewer antibiotics than on previous visits.

The adults requested parasite treatment both for their children and for themselves, demonstrating an improved understanding of the basic mode of transmission of this problem. Classes providing instruction in hand washing and water purification by the village "promoter", a village resident, charged to be a link between the villagers and various health programs available to them.

The highlight of the trip for me was seeing an entire class of special needs children brought in a group by their teacher to be "checked out". A final surprise was that our room in Torti had a window air conditioner which actually worked.

This is the last mission to this region of Panama. It has been determined that the Kuna and Embera Indians have sufficient access to health care and understanding of the basics of a disease prevention to no longer benefit from yearly visits by the gringo doctors.

Although it was with sadness that we heard this news, those of us who have participated in this trip for several years agree that the Lord has worked a miracle in this place and among these people. We are blessed to have been able to experience this.

Next year we will journey to the other side of the canal to work with a Latino population in an area even more remote and primitive than the area around Torti. We look forward to this new opportunity to serve.

If you are interested in serving on the Panama Medical Mission please contact: Dawn Flannes, 601. 982. 5744, e-mail dawnflannes@bellsouth.net or Frank Criddle, e-mail crid@mac.com.



The Rev. Emma Connolly and a Panama Diocese volunteer check in patients at the Kuna Indian village in Ipiti for medical services from the Panama Medical Mission.

## Jon Marc Van Zutphen tapped to manage Mission on the Bay and Camp Coast Care

By Betsy Enochs and Scott Lenoir

Lutheran Episcopal Services in Mississippi has appointed Jon Marc Van Zutphen to manage and direct two hurricane relief programs on the Coast.

Van Zutphen, who has been the head chef at Camp Coast Care, began his new duties on October 1st, according to the Rev. Diane Livingston, who stepped down from being Coast Care Director at the end of September.

"For those who have enjoyed his [Van Zutphen's] wonderful culinary work, don't worry. His menu rotation and his training of a new chef will insure delicious food at the camp. Jon Marc will be in a full time position to carry out the duties of managing both camps," said Livingston.

Van Zutphen is an Episcopalian and a communicant at St. Peter's by the Sea, Gulfport.



Livingston, who began her ministry at Camp Coast Care in 2005 while still living in Starkville, served as the camp's director for the last 13 months.

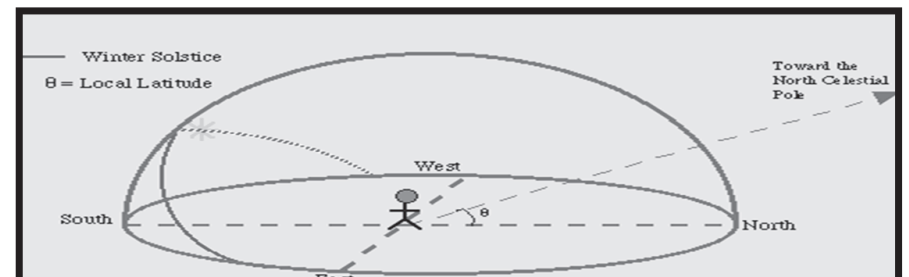
"Thanks to so many in the diocese who have supported in a multitude of ways the work here on the coast over the past three years. Help is still needed to assist those who continue to wait for a permanent home".

Livingston added that her experience as Director of Camp Coast Care has been transformational. "Over and over I am in awe of the energy, the sense of humor, the faithfulness, the creativity and the love for brothers and sisters in Christ whom the volunteers have come to serve. I have been transformed and inspired by what I have learned from volunteers and staff here at the Camp."

### CAMP COAST CARE (CCC) STATS AND FACTS

- The camp began operations just a few days after Hurricane Katrina hit in 2005.
- More than 11,000 volunteers from 8 countries have worked with CCC.
- Over 100,000 volunteer hours have been spent on the Coast.
- CCC volunteers rehabilitated 388 homes and started 18 new constructions.
- The camp provided an Emergency Medical Center, a food and clothing bank, and debris removal service in the initial disaster relief effort.
- CCC continues to implement case management and long-term recovery for Coast residents.
- CCC is operated by LESM which is Lutheran Episcopal Services in Mississippi
- LESM now has privatized its Case Managers who help clients discuss and plan for short and long-term goals.
- On average case managers see 100 new clients per month (including direct assistance)
- Since July 1, 2007 \$1,537,322 have been obtained in grant dollars (outside of CCC monies)
- LESM Case Management is "#1" on the Gulf Coast for acquiring federal dollars.

## Winter Solstice 2008



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## DIOCESAN CALENDAR

### NOVEMBER 2008

16  
Bishop Gray visits:  
• Christ Church/St. Mary's, Vicksburg – 10:30 a.m.

16-18  
• Presbyter Post-Ordination Conference, Gray Center, Canton

20  
• Mississippi Religious Leaders' Conference – 12:00 noon  
• Convocation Deans meet, 11:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Allin House, Jackson

21-22  
• Healthy Congregations Workshop – 8:00 a.m.-12:00 noon, St. Peter's, Oxford

21-23  
• Mississippi Youth Work Weekend, Mission on the Bay, Bay St. Louis

22  
• Gray Center Board Meeting – 9:00 a.m.- 2:00 p.m., Gray Center, Canton

23  
Bishop Gray visits:  
• St. John's, Ocean Springs – 9:00 a.m.

26-28  
• Allin House Closed – Thanksgiving Holiday

30  
• First Sunday of Advent

### DECEMBER 2008

2  
• Deadline for submittal to The Mississippi Episcopalian

3-6  
• Province IV House of Bishops

5-6  
• Racial Reconciliation Training: Seeing the Face of God in Each Other, Gray Center, Canton

7  
Bishop Gray visits:  
• Grace, Rosedale – 8:00 a.m.  
• Calvary, Cleveland – 11:00 a.m.

8  
• Gray Center Executive Committee – 2:00 p.m., Gray Center, Canton

10  
• Standing Committee meets – 11:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Allin House, Jackson

11  
• Finance Committee meets – 11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m., St. Andrew's Cathedral, Jackson

13  
• Ordination of the Rev. Peter Gray to the Priesthood – New Orleans, LA

14  
• Bishop Gray visits: St. Peter's by-the-Sea, Gulfport – 10:30 a.m.  
• Ordination of the Rev. Catherine Rickett to the Priesthood – 5:00 p.m., St. Stephen's, Columbia

17  
• Diocesan Trustees meet – 2:00 p.m., Allin House, Jackson

18  
• Executive Committee meets, 11:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m., St. Andrew's Cathedral, Jackson

21  
Bishop Gray visits:  
• St. Thomas', Diamondhead – 10:00 a.m.

24-26  
• Allin House Closed – Christmas Holiday

25  
• Christmas Day

27 – January 1  
• Winter Solstice

### JANUARY 2009

1  
• Allin House Closed – New Year's Day

4  
Bishop Gray visits:  
• St. Christopher's, Jackson – 10:30 a.m.  
• Good Shepherd, Terry – 4:00 p.m.

4-5  
• Permanent Staff Interviews, Gray Center, Canton

4-7  
• Presbyter Discernment Committee  
6  
• First Day of Epiphany  
• Deadline for submittal to The Mississippi Episcopalian

8  
• General Convention Deputation – 10:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., St. Andrew's Cathedral, Jackson

10  
• Tombigbee Convocation

Pre-Council Meeting – 10:30 a.m., St. Paul's, Columbus

10-15  
• Episcopal Church Camp & Conference Center National Conference, Gray Center, Canton

11  
Bishop Gray visits:  
• Incarnation, West Point – 10:30 a.m.

12  
• Coast Convocation Pre-Council Meeting – 6:30 p.m., St. Mark's, Gulfport

13  
• Central Convocation Pre-Council Meeting – 6:30 p.m., St. Philip's, Jackson

14  
• Sowashee Convocation Pre-Council Meeting – 6:30 p.m., Ascension, Hattiesburg

15  
• Mississippi Religious Leaders' Conference – 12:00 noon  
• Northern Convocation Pre-Council Meeting – 6:30 p.m., St. Peter's, Oxford

18  
Bishop Gray visits:  
• Nativity, Greenwood – 10:00 a.m.  
• Grace, Carrollton – 4:00 p.m.

19  
• Allin House Closed – Observance of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

20  
• Delta Convocation Pre-Council Meeting – 6:00 p.m., St. Stephen's, Indianola

21  
• Fresh Start – 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., St. Andrew's Cathedral, Jackson

22  
• Old River Convocation Pre-Council Meeting – 6:30 p.m., Holy Trinity, Vicksburg

23-24  
• Gray Center Board, Gray Center, Canton

25  
Bishop Gray visits:  
• Redeemer, Brookhaven – 10:30 a.m.

• St. James', Port Gibson – 5:00 p.m.



Alice Shands, Eleanor Failing and Lynn Baker helped organize the month long juried art exhibit A Feast for the Eye which closed on All Saints' Day at St. Stephen's Indianola.

Jim Abbott/photo



Bishop Gray splits the fairway with a crusher drive on the #1 tee at Deerfield sending many in the gallery into hand raising heights of awe. The team of Elliott, Elliott, Lenoir, and Rowe recaptured the coveted Bishop's Open Trophy again after missing out on last year's competition.



Van Bankston signs his name in General Theological Seminary's Matriculation Book that students have signed for 190 years. Van is a junior at GTS in New York City. His home church is Nativity, Greenwood.

## St. Mary's open for tour

Historic St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Vicksburg will be open for the Second Annual Antebellum Tour on December 6th from 11:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. St. Mary's is an excellent example of the Carpenter Gothic style. It was built in 1874 and has a full set of beautiful English stained glass windows and original tin chandeliers. With the exception of some electrical lighting, everything remains the same as when it was built.

Several other pre-Civil War homes will also be open. The Cemetery, which features 440 Civil War graves, will be available for touring.

November 2008



Seeing  
the  
Face  
of God  
in  
Each Other

Committee on Racial Reconciliation of  
The Episcopal Diocese of Mississippi

December 5th & 6th, 2008  
A Conference on Racial Reconciliation

The Duncan M. Gray Camp & Conference Center  
For registration information  
Please call 601-948-5954, or register online at [www.dioms.org](http://www.dioms.org)  
A presentation of  
The Center for Formation & Mission of The Episcopal Diocese of Mississippi

## 'Nothin's as constant as change!'

The seasons change. The weather changes. The economy changes and on and on. It has been said that we move forward or we retreat; there's no standing still. How true this has been at Gray Center.

As surely as we move from summer to fall, we are moving forward with some very significant changes; changes in personnel and changes in our board and changes in our fun!

### A New Vice-Chairman

The Gray Center Board of Managers has been blessed to have the leadership and the wisdom of the bishop, The Rt. Rev. Duncan M. Gray, III, as Chairman during 2008. As the year draws to a close it appears there are several initiatives the bishop had been involved in establishing that will probably not be fully implemented until later on in 2009. In the interest of seeing these things completed he has decided to remain on Chair through the new year, but with a change: He has asked Girault Jones, of All Saints', Grenada to serve in 2009 as Vice-Chair and then to serve as Chair when the bishop steps down in early 2010.

Girault is no stranger to the board or to diocesan service. In his own words:

My first time at Rose Hill was when my father brought me by to see the new camp which had been built. My older brothers had come to Bratton Green and stayed in old army cabins. They helped cut bushes and swam in the lake. My uncles Cecil B. Jones, Sr., Girault M. Jones, and others had come up with the plan. My father had suggested that a silo form be used to cast the concrete swimming pool. And so it was built; until the tornado destroyed it in 1991. I was privileged to design the present pool.

I was a camper in 1958 and 1959, and on the first "permanent staff" in 1960 and 1961. I served on the Board of Managers 1978-80, Executive Committee from 1982-84, Standing Committee from 1988-91, Gray Center Board of Managers from 1992-95, and then again from 2003-2008 - a total of thirteen years on the BOM.

As my mentor, Wallis Schutt, once said: "That means you're getting old".

I've been proud to serve my Diocese over the years and look forward to many more years.

Girault's continued service to the Board of Managers and to Gray Center in this expanded capacity is welcomed with great enthusiasm by all. It is especially important that he has agreed to serve as Vice-Chair next year as the bishop will be on sabbatical for a portion of 2009.

### New Maintenance Staff

Last year Eddie Kelly of our Maintenance Staff notified us that he would be leaving us to pursue a new career with one of our client's firms. It was a good move for him and we wished him well. Later this year, Joe Billingslea left us



Gray Center has hired new maintenance staff. Pictured from left to right are: Bill Stilson, Joe Green, and Dave Wilson.

and then, just as camp was winding down, Charley Belote, our Site Manger, and his assistant, Richard Lawrence, both left as well.

Fortunately, we had already begun to make some progress in filling Eddie's job and had hired Dave Wilson. Dave stepped in and with some weekend help from Eddie they kept things running as we searched for a new Site Manager and an Assistant Site Manager. With over a dozen applicants, selection was not an easy task, but two candidates were finally hired; Bill Stilson as Site Manager and Joe Green as his assistant. They are both now living on campus, Bill in the Guest House and Joe in the Bishop's Cabin behind the Big House.

Of the three folks, only one, Joe Green, has a history with Camp Bratton-Green. He has been involved with camp activities as camper and staff person for decades. Even though Bill and Dave had no previous experience with Gray Center we are already taking advantage of their approach to the Center's needs from a completely "outside perspective." Change is inevitable and God willing, it will be in the right direction. Please welcome our new associates when you see them.

### Bishop's Barbeque Moves to Cooler Weather

We can all rest easy now; the Bishop's BBQ has been re-scheduled to the Saturday of Memorial Weekend, May 23rd, 2009. Everybody wanted to get out of the heat of August and our BBQ Committee heard you! This is going to be even bigger and even better - beyond the lower temps - for children's entertainment and the involvement of our individual church families will be the centerpiece of our plans. The new gazebo up on the hill will provide an improved venue for our entertainment. The Silent Auction is already growing to exceed last year's and the same incredible BBQ will be served. But this year - it being a BBQ-kind of weekend anyway - Grae will be smoking even more shoulders for take-out. They will be limited to pre-orders so don't miss out the chance to take one (or more!) home with you.

MARK THE DATE ON YOUR CALENDARS:  
MAY 23RD 2009!!!!



Guitarist and vocalist for Passenger Jones, the Rev. Patrick Sanders, St. James', Greenville, (left) plays at the Jacktober Festival block party and charity benefit on North Congress St. in Jackson. Not pictured is the Rev. Walton Jones, St. Paul's, Meridian who plays keyboard for the band.



Nat Duncan, St. Alexis', Jackson, ran sound for all the bands at Jacktober Fest.



Some of the participants in the Annual Bishop's Open held every year prior to Clergy Conference were (l.to r.) David Knight, David Johnson, Tom Fanning, David Elliott with grandson D.A. Elliott, and Bob France.



Calendars are available at Gray Center for \$15.00 each  
Or buy two calendars for \$25.00  
Say you saw this ad in The Mississippi Episcopalian and  
receive one calendar free during November!  
THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF GRAY CENTER

### Dates to remember...

December 5-6.

Seeing the Face of God in Each Other: A Conference on Racial Reconciliation.

Call 601-948-5954 to register or register online at [www.dioms.org](http://www.dioms.org).