



THE MISSISSIPPI EPISCOPALIAN

SPECIAL COUNCIL ISSUE

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Presiding Bishop visits Diocese of Mississippi

By Scott Lenoir

The first official visit of the 26th Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church to the Diocese of Mississippi said that her time here gave her a better understanding of who we are and what our church is doing. In turn, parishioners from across the diocese turned out in droves to get a chance to see and hear what the first woman Presiding Bishop in the history of The Episcopal Church had to say.

"I'm delighted to learn about the various ministries that are going on Mississippi, some of which are not being done in other parts of the church like your work on racism," said the Most Rev. Dr. Katharine Jefferts Schori, who has visited 70 of the 110 dioceses in the Episcopal Church since her consecration in 2006.

"Your willingness to address difficult issues within the context of faith is an inspiring example to the larger church and I'm hoping it will continue."

Jefferts Schori's visit was fast-paced, but intensive. The visit included a meeting with the Mississippi General Convention deputation; she attended three dinner gatherings with clergy, clergy spouses, and lay leadership in Jackson and Greenwood; met with Episcopal educators, both



Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori fields questions in an open forum at Nativity, Greenwood during her first official visit to Mississippi since being consecrated in 2006.

public and parochial, as well as others working on the legislative side of the issue to discuss the challenges Mississippi faces in education; she visited Stewpot Community Services; there were three question and answer forums in parishes; two press conferences; and a meeting with an Episcopalian whose love for his community has managed to change the face of Greenwood through a commitment to build a business in the

Delta and stay there.

The Presiding Bishop also preached, celebrated, and baptized three infants at St. Andrew's Cathedral on the first Sunday after the Epiphany to a standing room only congregation.

During the public forums held at Nativity, Greenwood, St. Andrew's Cathedral, and St. Philip's, Jackson, Jefferts Schori addressed a variety questions posed by Episcopalians that ranged in topic from theology, public policy, sexual orientation, seminary education, and more. Each forum was packed with parishioners from throughout the diocese.

One question Jefferts Schori answered at Nativity, Greenwood had to do with a much publicized remark that she made regarding Jesus' role in salvation. Bishop Katharine was asked if there were, as represented in the story, other roads to salvation other than Jesus.

Jefferts Schori responded by first taking issue with the way her answer was reported, and then was pleased to have the opportunity to state clearly her position.

Presiding Bishop,
Continued on page 2



INSIDE: 182nd Annual Council Agenda; Nominations; 2009 Budget Proposals; Annual Reports; Resolutions

Precouncil Viewing February 6 at 1:00 p.m. "Traces of the Trade" at Church of the Ascension in Hattiesburg

Soup kitchen ministry becomes long-term commitment for Cathedral EYC

By Annie Cumberland

Five years ago, the Episcopal Youth Community at the Cathedral was asked to consider serving meals at the Stewpot Community Kitchen in Jackson. Soon after, the EYC committed to providing and serving a meal at Stewpot every two months.

Over the past five years, serving at Stewpot has become part of the traditional programming for the EYC at the Cathedral. On Stewpot Sundays, youth in grades six through twelve gather in the kitchen and prepare lunch during the 11 o'clock service. Following that service, everyone travels down Capitol Street to serve the meal. Typically, the meal includes fried chicken, mashed potatoes, a vegetable, a roll, and a cookie. St. Andrew's has even become known at Stewpot as the group that provides this meal!

EYC members take an active role in the distribution of the food. The youth can always be found making plates in an assembly line and delivering beverages to the tables. Although the group of servers is always slightly different, almost every youth participates in this ministry before graduating from high school.

Last summer, the EYC took a trip to Sewanee, Tennessee. While in Sewanee, the EYC traveled to Chattanooga and worked at a soup kitchen. The time spent at that soup kitchen was the highlight of the trip for several of the youth, because it gave them a



St. Andrew's EYC members (L to R) Eleanor Wells, Anne Coursey Little, Annie Cumberland, Claire Sykes Alexander, Lee Schmidt, and Andrew McLarty hand out gift bags at a Stewpot lunch in December.

chance to compare their experiences at Stewpot with a similar organization. When asked about that trip, Bob Gilchrist wrote, "I LOVED the Chattanooga soup kitchen and everything they were doing for the homeless, and I can't wait to put to use what I learned about the homeless there."

Last winter, the EYC began a new tradition of handing out Christmas gifts during the December lunch. This year, on December 14th, the youth handed out bags to the men, women, and children that were sharing the noon meal. The bags included toothpaste, a toothbrush, socks, hats, and candy canes.

In addition to serving at Stewpot, the youth of the Cathedral are responsible for funding the meals and the Christmas gifts. In order to raise those funds, the EYC hosts a benefit each year called the Capital City

Dinner Dance. Held in the Parish Hall at the Cathedral, this event offers a delicious dinner accompanied by live music. The youth serve as waiters for the event, as well as helping with a variety of other tasks.

The Capital City Dinner Dance will be held on February 21st this year, and it will feature a Mardi Gras theme. The youth of the Cathedral invite you to be a part of their long-standing ministry at Stewpot by attending the dinner dance. Tickets are on sale February 1st. Please contact Laurie McCarley at the Cathedral to make a reservation: 601.405.3708.x121.

SALUS CRUCE
salvation by the cross

Presiding Bishop,

Continued from page 1

“Christians believe that Jesus died for the whole world, right? We also acknowledge that God made promises to the Jews that haven’t been broken. And that God, if you read the Bible carefully, made promises to Ishmael and Hagar whom the Muslims claim as their ancestors. My job as a Christian is to live my life the best way that I can and share the Good News I know about Jesus with others in the world. My job is not to judge how God is going to sort out other people’s salvation,” said Jefferts Schori.

This was the only time that applause thundered throughout the packed forum after she answered a question, perhaps indicating it was an issue on everyone’s mind.

Also of concern at the forums, particularly at St. Philip’s in Jackson, was the issue of homosexuality. The question was brought up several times by people gathered at St. Philip’s who were concerned that the Episcopal Church had lost its way since the consecration of the Rt. Rev. Gene Robinson in 2003, an openly gay man who recently entered into a civil union with his partner of twenty years.

Jefferts Schori spent a lot of time addressing the issue of the authority of Scripture and biblical interpretation. She cited the practice of Anglicanism to view Scripture through the classic method of using church tradition and reason in the process of interpretation. She also cited how Scripture was used to justify slavery during the Civil War. She spoke in some detail about the various prohibitions in the Old and New Testaments and the context in which the prohibitions were delivered.

However, it appears to this reporter that Jefferts Schori’s final answer to the final question regarding the prohibition against homosexuality in Leviticus, encapsulated the position which she holds to be true: “...we haven’t taken them [the prohibitions] out of the Bible. We’ve read it in its own context- as a part of a purity code that helps to define a nation- which is part of our roots, but it’s not who we are today.”

Accompanying the Presiding Bishop for part of her time in Mississippi was her husband, Richard (Dick) Schori whose enthusiasm and good humor was especially welcomed by spouses of clergy.

“We’re the backbone of the church,” said Schori, “we support the clergy so the clergy can do its job of supporting the church.” He added with a smile, “Without us, there might not be a church!”

Point taken, Richard.

Look for more articles regarding the visit of the Most Rev. Dr. Katharine Jefferts Schori in the February Edition of The Mississippi Episcopalian.



Members of the newly elected Mississippi General Convention deputation pose with Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori and Bishop Gray in the chancel of St. Andrew's Cathedral.



Richard (Dick) Schori, second from left stands with clergy spouses (Schori's proclaimed "backbone of the church") at a luncheon in Greenwood. Pictured from left to right, Dorothy Gates, Fonda Lundin, Kathy Gray, Sberley Richter, Ed Sisson, Betty Carlise, Katie Lamb, and Beth Rowe.

Coming up next month in The Mississippi Episcopalian:
*A Covenant of Common Life Between
The Episcopal Diocese of Mississippi
and The United Methodist Conference of Mississippi*

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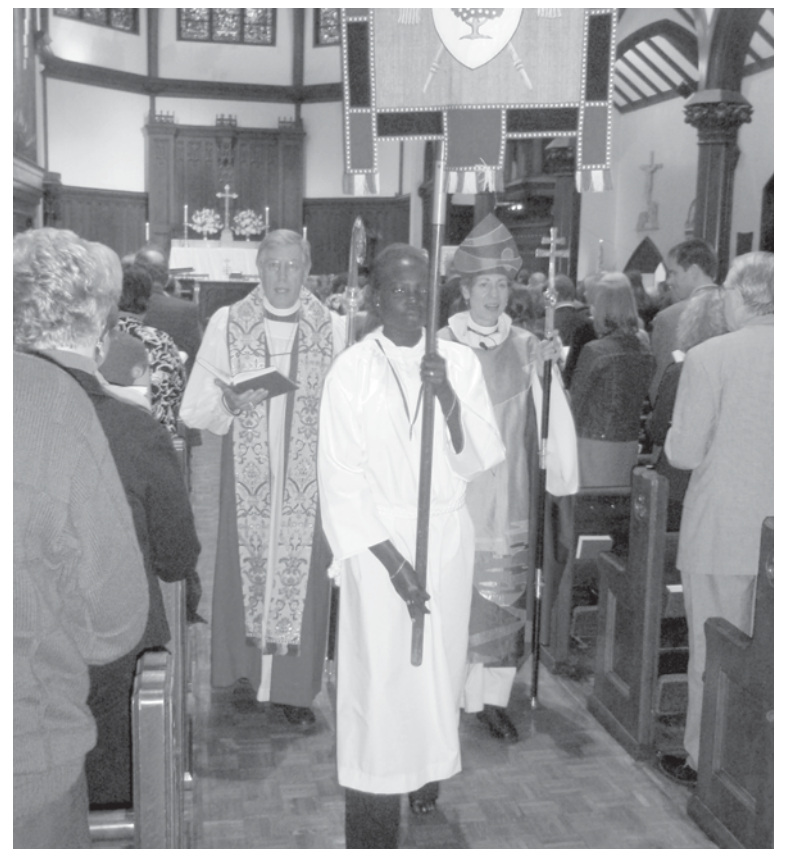
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The Rt. Rev. Duncan M. Gray III
Ninth Bishop of Mississippi

The Rev. Scott Lenoir
Editor

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Bishop Gray and Presiding Bishop Jefferts Schori process from St. Andrew's Cathedral led by banner bearer Tabitha Agany after the service of Baptism and Eucharist on the first Sunday after the Epiphany.



182ND ANNUAL COUNCIL

Reconciling

A welcome from Hattiesburg Episcopal Churches

The 182nd Annual Diocesan Council is fast approaching and the Hattiesburg Episcopal Churches are busily putting the finishing touches on a year's worth planning. The Lake Terrace Convention Center (LTCC) is eagerly awaiting the influx of Episcopalians from all over the state. If you have lost your directions for getting to the LTCC, just remember that it is at the intersection of I-59 and US 49. It may be a rather hackneyed cliché, but in this case, you really can't miss it.

Tom Slawson, in his homily at Catherine Rickett's ordination to the priesthood in Columbia, mentioned that annual council in this diocese - unlike in so many other dioceses — is attended by a lot of people, not because they have to but because they want to, so it is no mystery why all of us in Hattiesburg are looking forward to this grand event. The liturgies, the fellowship, and even the serious business strengthen us each year so that we may return home to be even more faithful stewards of God's bounty.

There will be a few additions this year, including the renewal of our baptismal vows Friday evening and a healing service component at the closing Eucharist. Moreover, Friday afternoon, before the official opening of council, "Traces of the Trade" will be presented at Church of the Ascension.

One area of great importance, beside the Bishop's address, of course, is what are we going to have to eat. On Friday night, there will be heavy hors d'oeuvres and an open cash bar. The usual box lunches will be served for Saturday lunch. On Saturday night, the hors d'oeuvres will

be lighter, with fruit and vegetable trays along with other finger foods and a cash bar. While we are enjoying our nibbling, we will be entertained by Millie Hong, vocalist, and Brian Blair on the piano. After the performance, you are free to eat dinner in Hattiesburg which has an abundance of restaurants. Your registration packets will be filled with information about what is available food-wise in Hattiesburg... and if you haven't been here since Katrina, you will be surprised at how much we've grown!

Again, your Hattiesburg brothers and sisters look forward to greeting you in February. Travel safely here and plan to have a wonderful time.

Faithfully,

The Very Rev. Dr. Susan Bear, Church of the Ascension
Mary Ellen Stainton, Church of the Ascension

182nd Annual Council One Church in Mission Reconciling

Locations listed are at the Lake Terrace Convention Center

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6

- 1:00 - 4:30 p.m. **Traces of the Trade**, Ascension, Hattiesburg
- 2:00 - 6:00 p.m. **REGISTRATION**
Council Committee meetings
- 4:00 - 5:00 p.m. Hearings on Council Resolutions, *Main Hall*
5:00 p.m. Newcomer orientation
- 6:30 p.m. **OPENING SERVICE OF EVENING PRAYER**
Evening Prayers
Commissioning of newly licensed worship leaders
Bishop's Address
- FIRST BUSINESS SESSION**
Report of the Credentials Committee
Dispatch of Business Committee
Welcome by host churches
Nominations and Elections Committee

DIOCESAN RECEPTION

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7

- 7:30 - 10:30 a.m. **REGISTRATION** continues
- 8:30 a.m. **MORNING PRAYERS**
BUSINESS SESSIONS
- 9:00 a.m. First Ballot
Presentations and Committee reports
Budget 2009
- 10:15 a.m. **Break - approximate**
- 12:00 p.m. **NOONDAY PRAYERS**
- COUNCIL LUNCHEON**
- 2:00 p.m. **BUSINESS SESSION**
Ballot, if necessary
Presentations and Committee reports
- 3:15 p.m. **Break - approximate**
- CLOSING PRAYERS**
Commissioning of newly elected officers
- 5:00 p.m. Business Session adjourns
immediately followed by
DIOCESAN RECEPTION *with Millie Hong, accompanied by Brian Blair*

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8

- 9:00 a.m. Hold for business
- 10:00 a.m. **Closing Eucharist**
Reading of the Memorial Roll
Benediction and Adjournment

RESOLUTION ON SUPPORT FOR THOSE STUDYING FOR ORDAINED MINISTRY

Resolved: That the Episcopal Diocese of Mississippi at its Convention meeting on February 6th to 8th memorialize the 76th General Convention of the Episcopal Church and its Standing Committee on Program, Budget and Finance to provide funding in the coming triennium in the amount of \$100,000 in year one, \$150,000 in year two and \$200,000 in year three for the purpose of providing needs-based scholarships for Episcopal Seminarians. And be it further

Resolved: That said funds be administered and distributed to needy seminarians through the existing Scholarship Program of the Society for the Increase of the Ministry (SIM), said Society having an established record of 151 years of experience in administering scholarship grants to Episcopal seminarians. And be it further

Resolved: That the General Convention direct SIM to report annually to the Executive Council on this work and its effectiveness in meeting the needs of the future ordained leaders of this Church and that the Executive Council, in turn, provide a full report to 77th General Convention.

Explanation:

This funding schedule is intended to bring the support from the General Convention budget to a level matching the annual grants committed by the Society for the Increase of the Ministry (\$225,000.00 for the academic year 2008-09).

Enrollment of full-time Master of Divinity students in the residential seminaries of the Episcopal Church has declined 25% over the last three academic years due largely to the dramatic increases in the cost of seminary education, training and formation. The cost

of three years of seminary can range from \$51,000 to over \$100,000, depending upon family circumstances and one's choice of seminaries.

About half of our seminarians struggle under the burden of debt, most of which is educational debt. The average debt of those with debt in the Class of 2009 only halfway through seminary is \$44,772. Projecting these figures to graduation and ordination, the average indebtedness of new ordinands will approach or exceed \$60,000.

The high cost of seminary education and the threat of debilitating debt limits diversity among our seminary student bodies and limits the placement opportunities for ordinands to those congregations which pay better than others.

It was at the 62nd General Convention (1970) that the seminary deans and the Board for Theological Education first called for direct financial support from General Convention. This action later led to the passing of a resolution calling on parishes to commit 1% of their net budget income to the support of the seminaries of the Episcopal Church. In 1979 the Convention reaffirmed the principle but raised the amount to 1.50%. The 1% principle was reaffirmed at several Conventions which followed. The last reported Parochial Report figures from 1999 demonstrate that such support amounted to only .0027% (barely one quarter of one percent) of the called for support. Had support been sustained at 1.00% of net budget parish income, scholarship funds would have increased substantially and the cost of

such education, training and formation would have been reduced very significantly and the situation with our seminaries might be quite different.

Meanwhile, the Episcopal Church remains the only major denomination in the United States that does not have a central funding source to support seminarians in their education, training and formation.

While both the General Conventions of 2006 and 2003 called upon various stake-holding agencies of the Episcopal Church to study this issue and to make recommendations, the General Convention has yet to become part of the solution by providing any funding to support seminarians in need. Since 1789 we have consistently acted as if funding of seminaries and seminarians is someone else's problem, not our own. It is now time for the General Convention and its budget to become an active participant in the solution.

Submitted by
The Very Rev. Bruce McMillan, Christ Church Holly Springs
Edward B. Sisson, St. Peter's Oxford

Resolution for ERD Sunday

Title: Establish the First Sunday of Lent as Episcopal Relief & Development Sunday

Be it Resolved, that the Diocese of Mississippi dedicate the first Sunday in Lent as Episcopal Relief & Development Sunday and that congregations and individuals be encouraged to support Episcopal Relief & Development's life-saving work through prayer and a special offering that will help heal a hurting world.

Be it further Resolved, that the Diocese of Mississippi submit the following resolution to be considered and adopted by Province IV.

Be it further Resolved, that the Diocese of Mississippi submit the following resolution to the 76th General Convention of The Episcopal Church, meeting in Anaheim, California, July 2009:

Resolved, the House of Bishops concurring, this 76th General Convention of The Episcopal Church dedicate the first Sunday in Lent as Episcopal Relief & Development Sunday and that congregations and individuals be encouraged to support Episcopal Relief & Development's life-saving work through prayer and a special offering that will help heal a hurting world.

Explanation

In 2008, the Presiding Bishop designated the first Sunday in Lent as Episcopal Relief & Development Sunday and as an annual celebration of Episcopal Relief & Development's role in our collective mission to seek and serve Christ in all persons.

The Episcopal Church's ongoing commitment to fight poverty and disease around the world is lived out in a variety of ways. Advocacy with our government for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals is one vital way. Another is through the ministry of Episcopal Relief & Development, which, as the relief and development arm of the Episcopal Church, works globally to alleviate hunger, fight disease, and strengthen communities.

Submitted by:
The Rev. Diane Livingston, Diocesan Coordinator for ERD
The Rev. Luther Ott, ERD National Board Member

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Nominations To The 182nd Annual Council Of The Diocese Of Mississippi

* *Nominated Incumbents eligible for Re-election*

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

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Elect two clergy for three-year terms

Elect one clergy for one-year unexpired term

Elect one clergy for two-year unexpired term

Elect two lay persons for three-year terms

LAY



† **POVALL, Ms. Hilda C.**

Calvary, Cleveland; Delta Convocation

Office Manager at Povall & Jeffreys, P.A (law office); former vestry member, Jr. Warden and Sr. Warden; chaired two building renovation projects; licensed lay reader; participant in ECW projects (past president); and served on Altar Guild for 35 years. Involved in many civic organizations serving as president of Jr. Auxillary; Crosstie Art Council; Delta Home & Garden; secretary of Delta Arts Alliance; chair of Cleveland Heritage Commission since 1995; past president and Board

member (6 years) of MS Heritage Trust. Currently serving on Executive Committee as an appointee; served as delegate or alternate many times for local parish and attended ECW Conference as well as Wardens' Conference; attended the 2006 General Convention as a visitor in Columbus, Ohio to be present for the election of a new Presiding Bishop.

Special Gifts: Willingness to serve and persevere in doing whatever work needs to be done.

Expectations: I have no concrete expectations. My hope is that I will be able to contribute in some way to the betterment of our diocese.



STRAY, Dr. Stephen

St. Andrew's, Jackson; Central Convocation

Assistant Professor of Microbiology, University of Mississippi Medical Center, Jackson; Sunday School facilitator; parish choir; former vestry member at St. Paul's Cathedral, Oklahoma City; volunteer for Habitat for Humanity; Stewpot volunteer; Facilities Committee; Arts Alive, Downtown Jackson; past member of Standing Committee (Oklahoma); past member and chair of Higher Education Ministries Commission (Oklahoma); National Executive Council Committee on

Science, Technology and Faith.

Special Gifts: I have leadership experience at the parish, diocesan, and national levels, and a great love of Episcopal / Anglican liturgy, music, and intellectual inquiry. I'd like to think I have an inquiring mind and a discerning heart.

Expectations: I hope to help the diocese continue its witness and ministry to all the people of Mississippi as a beacon of hope and welcoming and loving home, while maintaining its institutional strength for future generations.

TREASURER

Elect one lay person for one-year term



* **THURMOND, Mr. Ed**

St. Mary's, Lexington; Delta Convocation

Diocesan Treasurer since 1997; Retail Merchant; Mission Committee; past Sr. Warden; Rotary Paul Harris Fellow; former mayor; past City Chamber of Commerce president; past County Chamber of Commerce president; past director of MS Economic Development Council; past chair of Salvation Army; past chair of Red Cross; alternate deputy to 2006 & 2009 General Convention; Finance Committee; Insurance & Compensation Review Committee; Okolona Trustee; past

chair of Cursillo; past chair of School for Small Churches; Diocese of South Florida Cursillo Leaders Workshop staff; chair of Cursillo Leaders Workshop in the Diocese of Alabama

Special Gifts: Organizational skills and experience

STANDING COMMITTEE

Elect one presbyter for four-year term

Elect one lay person for four-year term

PRESBYTER



McMILLAN, The Very Rev. Bruce D.

Christ Church, Holly Springs; Northern Convocation

Rector of Christ Church, Holly Springs for 13 years; Dean of the Northern Convocation; facilitator of Community Prayer Group; chair of Holly Springs Housing Authority; chair of Holly Springs Ministerial Alliance; former member of the Executive Committee; former Trustee of the University of the South; member of the Diocesan Finance Committee; former representative to Province IV meeting at Kanuga.

Special Gifts: Much experience serving on diocesan committees,

conciliatory spirit and love of the Episcopal Church of the United States.

Expectations: To help our diocese serve the broader church and our bishop in these challenging times.



† **NDISHABANDI, The Rev. Dr. William K.**

All Saints'/Jackson State University, Jackson; Central Convocation

Rector of All Saints', Jackson; Chaplain at Jackson State University; Ministerial Association of South Jackson; mentor at Oakley Training School; vice-president of Lee School PTA; Mission Mississippi (racial reconciliation); Interfaith Community Project; Our House, Inc. (domestic violence); member of the Boys & Girls Club; member of Accreditation, Core Values Assessment, Student Life, and Development

Committees at Jackson State University; Institutes of Higher Learning Campus Ministry; advisor for the Religious Council and International Student Life at Jackson State University; Standing Committee; former member of the Executive Committee; served on the Diocesan Strategy Committee; Racial Reconciliation Committee; Cursillo Weekends; Kairos in Mississippi; Black Clergy Association.

Special Gifts: I bring with me twenty-three years of experience in my vocation, a religious and cultural diversity, a strong passion for the ministry, and a deed heart for the Episcopal Church.

Expectations: I expect to find a place within this Church I love so much where my gifts can be shared, the community can be empowered, and life can be renewed.



SEAGE, The Rev. Kyle Dice

All Saints', Inverness; Convocation

Presbyter (currently serving as permanent supply priest at All Saints' Inverness); St. Colum's - Ridgeland MS: Christian Education Committee, chair of Wednesday Night programming, Priest Associate (2005-2008); Madison County Schools PTO; diocesan Director of Development (2005-2008); past member of the following diocesan ministries: Executive Committee, Music and Liturgy Committee, Insurance and Compensation Review Committee, Ministry with Gay

and Lesbian Persons, and Search Committee for Diocesan Bishop; campaign director, Darkness Into Day, a national campaign to raise funds for Katrina re-building and re-structure in the Dioceses of Mississippi and Louisiana.

Special Gifts: With my experience as a presbyter both on the parish level and as a member of the diocesan staff, I believe that I understand the process of church polity and process of our church.

Expectations: I hope to be able to be a resource for the bishop and the diocese in the coming years as we continue to navigate both the celebrations and the disappointments that will inevitably be a part of both our diocesan and national church life. With Bishop Gray's sabbatical coming this spring, I hope to bring experience and energy to the committee that will act in his stead as he takes his Sabbath Leave.

LAY



ANDERSON, JR., Mr. John F.
St. Andrew's, Jackson; Central Convocation

Retired Commercial Insurance Broker; member of St. Andrew's since 1949; past vestry member; two terms as Warden; parish Stewardship chair twice (every member canvass); parish Evangelism; church school teacher; parish choir; outreach projects; Stewpot volunteer; Good Samaritan Center volunteer; Habitat for Humanity volunteer; Rowan Middle School tutor; past member of the diocesan Executive Committee; past chair of diocesan Stewardship Committee; past chair

of the diocesan Insurance Committee; alternate to General Convention twice.

Special Gifts: I have been active in the Church all my life and involved as an adult since 1960. I have experience at St. Andrew's and on the diocesan level.

Expectations: I have served on the Executive Committee several times but never on the Standing Committee. I would look forward to working with and for Bishop Gray in this capacity.

TRUSTEE OF THE DIOCESE

Elect one lay person for four-year term

LAY



ADAMS, Mr. Holmes S.
St. Andrew's, Jackson; Central Convocation

Attorney, Adams and Reese LLP; presently on church Outreach Commission; past member, Sr. Warden, Jr. Warden, and clerk of the vestry; church Finance Commission; Sunday School teacher; Treasurer of Stewpot Community Services, Vice Chairman of the Board of the Eudora Welty Foundation; Chairman of the Board of Managers of the Luckyday Foundation; Advisory Board of the Junior League of Jackson; past chairman of the Board of the United Way of the Capital

Area; Chairman of the Board of the Mississippi Museum of Art; President of the Mississippi Museum of Art Foundation; twice Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Jackson Preparatory School; 2008 as Diocesan Trustee appointed by Bishop Gray.

Special Gifts: Experience overseeing investments and money managers.

Expectations: Conservative management of diocese endowment and trust funds to support diocesan goals.

TRUSTEE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF THE SOUTH

Elect one lay person for three-year term

LAY



BAGLEY, Mr. Scott
Christ Church, Bay St. Louis; Coast Convocation

Retired United States Judge Advocate (JAG); Sr. Warden; church treasurer; vestry clerk; vestry member; Rector Search Committee member; President of Hancock County Historical Society; Director of Bay Waveland Yacht Club; Council Delegate for three years.

Special Gifts: As a Sewanee alum & long time supporter, I believe I have a special appreciation for this unique institution's values.

Expectations: To help make sure a Sewanee education and experience remain relevant and meaningful in a world that seems to change daily.



* **McLARTY, Ms. Margaret**
St. Andrew's, Jackson; Central Convocation

Financial Advisor and Sr. Vice President at Wells-Fargo Investments; vestry member; former Sr. Warden; former Jr. Warden; Verger; church Stewardship chair; Acolyte Warden; Liturgy & Memorials; former EYC advisor; Leadership Jackson Alumni Association Board; sustaining advisor of the Junior League of Jackson Advisory Planning Board; St. Andrew's Episcopal School trustee; 2000 & 2009 General Convention 1st alternate deputy; Annual Council verger; Katrina recovery effort

volunteer; former president of the Standing Committee; Executive Committee member; president of the Vergers Club of the Episcopal Church; co-chair of the 2008 Mississippi Day at the National Cathedral; trustee of The University of the South

Special Gifts: In my first term as trustee, the chancellor appointed me as chair of the Trustee Committee on University Relations. This year we were able to achieve 100% participation in trustee giving, a first in many years. Other programs begun are Church Development and Student Recruitment.

Expectations: It would be my great privilege to continue the work begun on University Relations. This important effort develops trustee involvement in the financial efforts and communications for Sewanee. As a parent of students for the past 8 years, being able to serve has been one of my greatest joys.

ECCLESIASTICAL TRIAL COURT

Elect two clergy for three-year terms

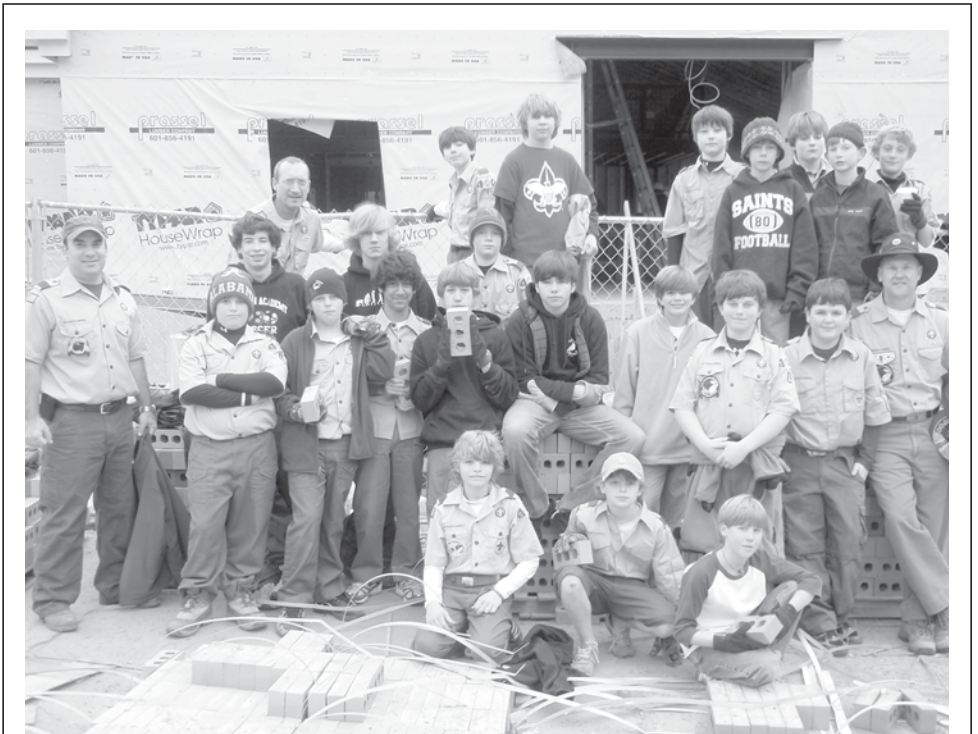
Elect one lay person for three-year term

LAY



* **MILLER, Jr., Mr. Harold D. (Hal)**
St. James, Jackson; Central Convocation

Attorney; Church School Teacher; licensed lay reader; vestry; Jr. and Sr. Warden; past President of Hinds County Bar and Mississippi Bar Foundation; Education for Ministry (EfM), past secretary of Standing Committee; past chair of Council Elections Committee; Ecclesiastical Trial Court.



Boy Scout Troop 1 jointly sponsored by St. Andrew's Cathedral and St. James', Jackson went to work sorting out 40,000 bricks as a service project to help the brick masons working on St. James' Jackson new addition. Troop 1 is the oldest scout troop in Mississippi first chartered by St. Andrew's in 1916. The 7 million dollar expansion at St. James' includes a scout hut for Troop 1.

2009 ANNUAL BUDGET

	(1) 2008 Budget	(2) Actual 12/31/2008	(3) % Spent	(4) 2009 Requests	(5) 2009 Proposed
1 RECEIPTS					
2 Parochial Pledges	1,681,554	1,729,661	103%	1,558,333	1,580,333
3 Prior Year Pledge Payments	150,000	160,465	107%	91,931	40,000
4 Coast Appeal	35,000	6,225	18%	-	-
5					
6 Phillips Trust	230,230	230,230	100%	211,610	211,610
7 Johnson Home Trust	8,250	8,938	108%	8,250	8,250
8 Beasley Trust	6,561	7,101	108%	6,192	6,192
9 Thompson Trust	38,006	38,006	100%	35,692	35,692
10 Thompson Aging Ministries	1,095	1,095	100%	976	976
11 Kenneth Willis Trust	13,000	11,229	86%	9,000	9,000
12 Church Foundation	11,536	11,536	100%	-	6,700
13 Wade Moore	20,000	20,000	100%	-	-
14 Small Church Moore Fund	10,000	10,000	100%	10,000	10,000
15 Thomsen Trust	3,500	3,500	100%	-	1,800
16 Robert Donnelly	4,072	4,072	100%	-	-
17 Thomas Blake Fund	11,000	11,771	107%	9,000	9,000
18 Allin House Endowment	39,227	39,227	100%	37,411	37,411
19 Theological Education Trusts	5,824	5,824	100%	5,830	5,830
20 Parish in Need	25,000	25,000	100%	-	-
21					
22 Okolona Endowment for Jackson State	47,500	47,500	100%	47,500	47,500
23 Christ Our Savior - Okolona	-	-	-	-	19,800
24 Gibbons for Development	30,000	30,000	100%	-	-
25 Reserve for Development	-	-	0%	-	-
26 Canon Missioner from St. Barn	-	-	-	-	-
27 Canon Missioner - Other	-	-	-	-	-
28 Pastoral Missioner from ERD	150,000	150,000	100%	150,000	150,000
29 Asst Econ / Dev from ERD	47,118	47,118	100%	53,850	53,850
30 CFM Director - Gibbons	-	-	-	-	-
31 CFM Director - Other	-	-	-	-	-
32 CFM Program - Gray Center	12,000	12,910	108%	12,600	12,600
33 Support of SA Deacon	10,000	11,000	110%	12,000	12,000
34 EFM from Congregations	-	-	-	-	-
35					
36 Battle Hill	3,000	4,455	148%	4,000	4,000
37					
38 Trustee Bookkeeping	6,000	6,000	100%	6,000	6,000
39					
40 Miscellaneous Donations	-	-	-	-	-
41 Budget Restoration	-	2,000	-	-	-
42					
43 Investment Interest	8,500	7,869	93%	4,000	4,000
44 Memorial Income	-	-	-	-	-
45 Mississippi Episcopalians Ads	10,000	6,595	66%	10,000	10,000
46					
47 Visions, Hopes and Dreams	-	-	-	-	-
48					
49 Prior Year Balance	(6,824)	(6,824)	-	-	130,000
50					
51 TOTAL RECEIPTS	2,611,149	2,642,504	101%	2,284,175	2,412,544
52					
53 ONE CHURCH					
54 SUPPORT OF THE BISHOP					
55 BISHOP GRAY					
56 Stipend	79,738	79,738	100%	83,975	79,738
57 Housing Allowance	5,000	5,000	100%	5,000	5,000
58 Pension Premium	21,233	21,233	100%	22,224	21,233
59 CPG Response	(21,233)	(21,233)	100%	-	-
60 Travel	12,000	11,217	93%	9,500	9,500
61 Continuing Education	2,000	1,902	95%	1,200	1,200
62 Automobile Expense	3,000	2,441	81%	2,727	2,727
63 Medical, Life, Disability Insurance	19,382	19,382	100%	19,718	19,718
64 Sabbatical Funds	1,500	1,500	100%	1,500	1,500
65 BISHOP GRAY TOTAL	122,620	121,180	99%	145,844	140,616
67 BISHOP'S HOME					
68 4735 Northampton - Utilities	6,000	6,007	100%	6,200	6,000
69 4735 Northampton - Maintenance	5,000	5,000	100%	5,000	5,000
70 BISHOP'S HOME TOTAL	11,000	11,007	100%	11,200	11,000
71					
72 SUPPORT OF THE BISHOP TOTAL	133,620	132,187	99%	157,044	151,616
73					
74					
75 ADMINISTRATION & ALLIN HOUSE					
76					
77 CANON TO THE ORDINARY					
78 Stipend	36,284	36,284	100%	38,098	36,284
79 Housing Allowance	40,000	40,000	100%	42,000	40,000
80 Pension Premium	13,731	13,731	100%	14,418	13,731
81 CPG Response	(13,731)	(13,731)	100%	-	-
82 Travel	9,000	8,558	95%	6,750	6,750
83 Continuing Education	1,500	1,217	81%	1,125	1,125
84 Automobile Expense	3,760	3,532	94%	3,520	3,520
85 Medical, Life, Disability Insurance	19,382	19,382	100%	19,718	19,718
86 CANON TO THE ORDINARY TOTAL	109,926	108,972	99%	125,629	121,128
87					
88 CANON FOR ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE					
89 Salary	66,961	66,961	100%	70,309	66,961
90 Pension	6,026	6,026	100%	6,328	6,026
91 Travel and Continuing Education	4,000	2,334	58%	4,000	4,000
92 FICA Taxes	5,122	4,443	87%	5,379	5,102
93 Medical, Life, Disability Insurance	20,419	20,624	101%	20,755	20,755
94 CANON FOR ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE TOTAL	102,528	100,389	98%	106,771	102,844
95					
96 CANON FOR MISSION					
97					
98 SUPPORT STAFF					
99 Bishops' Secretary	34,814	34,814	100%	-	-
100 Bookkeeper	34,814	34,814	100%	36,555	34,814
101 Assistant to the Canons	30,000	28,750	96%	31,500	30,000
102 Assistant to the Bishop	-	10,329	-	39,900	38,000
103 Sexton	7,036	7,060	100%	7,388	7,036
104 FICA Taxes	8,160	7,388	91%	8,824	8,403
105 Pension Premiums	6,267	5,483	87%	7,921	7,543
106 Life, Medical Insurance, Disability	44,571	37,416	84%	34,012	34,012
107 Support Staff	-	410	0%	1,000	-
108 SUPPORT STAFF TOTAL	165,662	166,464	100%	167,100	159,808
109					
110 GENERAL OFFICE					
111 Sabbatical Funds - staff	2,500	2,500	100%	2,500	2,500
112 General	5,000	7,488	150%	5,000	5,000
113 LESM - Office Support	-	-	0%	-	-
114 Parking - staff	7,112	7,957	112%	7,500	7,500
115 Parking - meetings	1,100	636	58%	800	800
116 Dues and Subscriptions	1,586	1,712	108%	1,437	1,437
117 Postage	9,100	6,529	72%	7,500	6,000

118 Supplies	6,000	4,236	71%	4,200	4,200
119 Printer toner, etc.	800	1,528	191%	1,500	1,500
120 Bank Charges and Fees	666	585	88%	700	700
121 Telephone	10,200	13,206	129%	12,319	10,200
122 Telephone - Long Distance	-	-	-	-	-
123 Telephone - Advertising	1,116	1,127	101%	1,146	500
124 Diocesan Hospitality	500	74	15%	-	250
125 Equipment Maintenance	-	-	-	-	-
126 Maintenance - Computers & Software	8,000	6,716	84%	5,989	6,000
127 Maintenance - Contracts	2,000	-	0%	-	-
128 Equipment Reserve	3,000	3,000	100%	3,000	-
129 Automobile Reserve	8,000	8,000	100%	8,000	8,000
130 Staff Development	1,300	1,304	100%	1,300	1,300
131 Insurance	3,686	4,743	129%	3,948	3,686
132 Workers' Compensation	2,850	2,045	72%	3,000	2,850
133 Audit	15,000	4,000	27%	15,000	15,000
134 Miscellaneous	500	250	50%	500	500
135 Duplicating - Riso	5,200	5,629	108%	5,400	5,200
136 Duplicating - Copier	4,600	5,435	118%	4,500	4,600
137 Duplication - Supplies	1,200	262	22%	400	400
138 Bishop Maseraka's visit	-	-	0%	-	-
139 GENERAL OFFICE TOTAL	101,016	88,961	88%	95,639	88,123
140					
141 ALLIN HOUSE					
142 Utilities	7,400	6,762	91%	6,100	7,400
143 Maintenance Contracts	1,800	1,968	109%	1,810	1,800
144 Renovation Repayment	21,516	33,461	156%	39,433	39,433
145 Repairs and Maintenance Reserve	2,000	2,000	100%	2,000	-
146 ALLIN HOUSE TOTAL	32,716	44,190	135%	49,343	48,633
147					
148 ADMINISTRATION & ALLIN HOUSE TOTAL	511,848	508,976	99%	544,482	520,536
149					
150					
151 EPISCOPAL COMMITMENTS					
152 TEC Commitment	320,913	320,913	100%	429,963	293,327
153 Coast Support	35,000	6,225	18%	-	-
154 Province IV Quota	-	-	-	-	-
155					
156 EPISCOPAL COMMITMENTS TOTAL	355,913	327,138	92%	429,963	293,327
157					
158 ORDAINED MINISTRY					
159					
160 COMMISSION ON MINISTRY					
162 COM Expenses	7,500	10,052	134%	11,000	7,500
163 Continuing Education for Clergy	5,000	4,784	96%	5,000	5,000
164 COMMISSION ON MINISTRY TOTAL	12,500	14,836	119%	16,000	12,500
165					
166 THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION					
167 Seminary Tuition and Fees	35,905	35,680	99%	21,500	21,500
168 Seminarian Travel Fund	-	2,239	0%	3,674	2,000
169 Seminarian Medical & Psychological Ex	1,250	5,338	427%	1,300	1,250
170 Seminarian Life & Medical Insurance	51,296	56,354	110%	71,112	68,612
171 Moving to Seminary	14,000	4,574	33%	5,500	5,500
172 THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION TOTAL	102,451	104,185	102%	103,086	98,862
173					
174 CURACY TRAINING					
175 Curacy Support	40,000	31,209	78%	57,500	52,500
176 Moving from Seminary	14,000	7,225	52%	16,000	14,000
177 CURACY TRAINING TOTAL	54,000	38,434	71%	73,500	66,500
178					
179 RETIRED PRESBYTER SUPPORT					
180 Retired Presbyter Life & Medical Insuranc	55,177	61,456	111%	58,490	58,490
181 Retired Clergy Wellness	2,900	2,033	70%	2,300	2,300
182 Phillips Christmas	9,000	9,200	102%	9,000	9,000
183 RETIRED PRESBYTER TOTAL	67,077	72,689	108%	69,790	69,790
184					
185 CLERGY CONFERENCES					
186 Clergy Conference	29,870	28,478	95%	29,140	26,500
187 Clergy Workshops	-	1,931	0%	2,500	-
188 Presbyter Spouse Weekend					

IN MISSION					
223					
224					
225	SUPPORTED MISSIONS				
226					
227	CONGREGATIONS				
228	George Martin - Church Planter	-	-	-	5,000
229	Como, Holy Innocents	4,000	4,083	102%	-
230	Columbia, St. Stephen's	-	-	0%	-
231	Jackson, All Saints	6,228	(3,896)	-63%	-
232	Jackson, St. Alexis	135,000	135,000	100%	120,000
233	Olive Branch, Holy Cross	34,000	34,000	100%	46,901
234	Jackson, Christ our Savior	-	5,405	-	10,000
235	Hernando, New Church	-	-	0%	15,500
236	CONGREGATIONS TOTAL	179,228	174,593	97%	192,401
237					
238	CANON MISSIONER				
239	Bay St. Louis, Christ	25,000	25,000	100%	7,000
240	TOTAL CANON MISSIONER	25,000	25,000	100%	7,000
241					
242	PASTORAL MISSIONER				
243	Stipend	40,740	40,740	100%	42,777
244	Housing Allowance	39,600	39,600	100%	41,580
245	Pension Premium	14,461	14,461	100%	15,184
246	CPG Response	-	-	0%	-
247	Office Expense	4,200	3,563	85%	4,200
248	Telephone / Internet	1,726	-	0%	1,726
249	Travel	9,000	14,237	158%	6,750
250	Professional Expense	6,100	499	8%	6,100
251	Continuing Education	2,500	2,388	96%	1,875
252	Medical, Life, Disability Insurance	19,382	19,382	100%	19,718
253	TOTAL PASTORAL MISSIONER	137,709	134,869	98%	139,910
254					
255					
256	PROPERTY MAINTENANCE				
257	Itta Bena - insurance	625	600	96%	625
258	124 Price Street, Oxford - Maintenance	1,500	1,500	100%	1,500
259	PROPERTY MAINTENANCE TOTAL	2,125	2,100	99%	2,125
260					
261	SUPPORTED MISSIONS TOTAL				
262		344,062	336,562	98%	341,436
263					
264	OUTREACH				
265	All Saints School	-	-	-	-
266	Congregations for Children	10,000	3,721	37%	10,000
267	MS Religious Leadership Conference	2,000	2,000	100%	2,000
268	Panama: Overseas Mission Clergy	5,000	5,000	100%	5,000
269	St. Francis Academy / St. Michael's	-	-	0%	-
270	University of the South	500	500	100%	500
271	Whispering Pines Hospice	2,500	2,500	100%	2,500
272	OUTREACH TOTAL	20,000	13,721	69%	20,000
273					
274					
275					
276	PRISON MINISTRY				
277	Parchman, Chaplain	4,800	4,785	100%	7,200
278	Camp Caritas	1,000	-	0%	8,000
279	Prison Ministry Committee	2,000	1,730	86%	2,000
280	PRISON MINISTRY TOTAL	7,800	6,515	84%	17,200
281					
282	SERVANT MINISTRIES				
283	ASSIST ECON & COMM DEV				
284	Stipend	44,767	44,767	100%	40,000
285	Housing	20,000	20,000	100%	23,170
286	Medical and Life Insurance	8,952	8,952	100%	9,096
287	Pension	11,658	11,658	100%	11,371
288	CPG Response	(11,658)	(11,658)	100%	-
289	Expenses	5,480	4,522	83%	5,000
290	ASSIST ECON & COMM DEV	79,199	78,241	99%	88,637
291					
292	SERVANT MINISTRIES TOTAL				
293		79,199	78,241	99%	88,637
294					
295	DEVELOPMENT				
296	Planned Giving Committee	-	-	0%	-
297	Resources	500	500	100%	-
298	DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT	500	500	100%	-
299					
300	DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT				
301	Stipend	750	750	100%	-
302	Housing	25,000	25,000	100%	-
303	Life Insurance	360	360	100%	-
304	Continuing Education	500	500	100%	-
305	Travel & Professional Expenses	1,500	2,675	178%	-
306	Program / Office	3,000	525	17%	-
307	Pension	4,635	4,635	100%	-
308	TOTAL DIR OF DEV	35,745	34,444	96%	-
309					
310	TOTAL DEVELOPMENT				
311		36,245	34,944	96%	-
312					
313	COMMITTEES / RESOURCES				
314	AIDS	6,000	4,936	82%	6,000
315	Wardens' Conference	2,500	1,941	78%	4,400
316	New Vestry Member Retreat	5,000	1,941	39%	-
317	Audio Visual Center	4,600	4,600	100%	3,200
318	Committee Meetings	4,200	5,307	126%	5,000
319	Diocesan Journal	-	-	0%	-
320	Bishops' and Chancellors' Conference	1,500	-	0%	1,500
321	Background Checks	100	(1,774)	-1774%	-
322	TOTAL COMMITTEES / RESOURCES	23,900	16,952	71%	21,500
323					
324	TOTAL IN MISSION				
325		511,206	486,935	95%	488,773

INVITING					
329					
330	GRAY CENTER				
331	Camping Ministry	144,472	144,472	100%	151,696
332	Conference Center	50,000	50,000	100%	47,541
333	Gray Center Board Meetings	3,500	4,589	131%	3,500
334	TOTAL FOR GRAY CENTER	197,972	199,061	101%	206,146
335					
336	CENTER FOR FORMATION & MISSION				
337	Center for Formation and Mission	5,000	5,261	105%	10,000
338					
339	DIRECTOR - CFM				
340	Stipend	-	14,735	0%	-
341	Housing Allowance	45,935	31,200	68%	48,232
342	Pension Premium	8,268	8,268	100%	8,268
343	Travel	2,000	3,386	169%	2,000
344	Continuing Education	500	675	135%	500
345	Medical, Life, Disability Insurance	19,382	19,382	100%	19,718
346	TOTAL CFM DIRECTOR	76,085	77,646	102%	79,132
347	TOTAL CFM	81,085	82,907	102%	89,132
348					
349	GRAY CENTER TOTAL				
350		279,057	281,968	101%	295,278
351					
352	CONGREGATIONAL REDEVELOPMENT / NEW CHURCH STARTS				
353					
354	DIOCESAN STRATEGY COMMITTEE				
355	Dio Strategy / Venture Grants	10,000	10,000	100%	10,000
356	Congregational Redevelopment Subcom	-	457	0%	-
357	DIOCESAN STRATEGY COMMITTEE S	10,000	10,457	105%	10,000
358					
359	DIOCESAN STRATEGY MISCELLANEOUS				
360	Moving Mission Clergy	4,000	-	0%	10,000
361	DIOCESAN STRATEGY MISCELLANEOUS	4,000	-	0%	10,000
362					
363	CONGREGATIONAL REDEVELOPMENT				
364		14,000	10,457	75%	20,000
365					
366	CHAPLAINS				
367					
368	COLLEGE				
369	Millsaps	-	-	-	1,000
370	USM Chaplaincy	62,732	36,594	58%	30,000
371	Oxford, UM	67,065	61,476	92%	78,663
372	Starkville, MSU	63,930	63,930	100%	54,626
373	Jackson State University	47,500	47,500	100%	47,500
374	COLLEGE TOTAL	241,227	209,500	87%	210,789
375					
376	INSTITUTIONAL MINISTRIES				
377	Jackson, Medical Center	14,815	15,245	103%	14,559
378	INSTITUTIONAL MINISTRIES	14,815	15,245	103%	14,559
379					
380	CHAPLAIN TOTAL				
381		256,042	224,744	88%	225,348
382					
383	COMMITTEES / RESOURCES				
384	Altar Guild	1,000	-	0%	2,300
385	Ecumenical Relations	-	1,663	0%	2,000
386	Music and Liturgy	-	-	0%	-
387	Licensed Lay Ministries (net)	-	-	0%	-
388	Leadership Program for Musicians	-	-	0%	-
389	Mississippi Music Conference	3,000	3,000	100%	3,000
390	TOTAL COMMITTEES / RESOURCES	4,000	4,663	117%	7,300
391					
392	COMMUNICATIONS				
393					
394	COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR				
395	Production Fee	-	-	0%	-
396	Contract Fee	15,000	10,000	67%	12,000
397	COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR T	15,000	10,000	67%	12,000
398					
399	COMMUNICATIONS				
400	The Mississippi Episcopalian	75,000	75,215	100%	75,860
401	Diocesan Publications	2,000	-	0%	-
402	Communications	500	-	0%	-
403	Website support	6,500	6,000	92%	6,500
404	COMMUNICATIONS TOTAL	84,000	81,215	97%	82,360
405					
406	COMMUNICATIONS TOTAL				
407		99,000	91,215	92%	94,360
408					
409					

Annual Budget,
Continued on page 9

Beemon Drugs
Maywood Mart, Jackson
601-366-9431

VOLUNTARY PROPORTIONATE GIVING REPORT

As of 12/31/2008

PARISH/MISSION	2008			2009	
	VPG %	\$\$\$ Estimate	Actual 12/31/2008	VPG %	\$\$\$ Estimate
ABERDEEN, St. John's	11.0%	7,740	7,740		no estimate
BAY ST. LOUIS, Christ	11.0%	11,715	11,246	11.0%	12,040
BELZONI, St. Thomas'					
BILOXI, Redeemer	10.0%	28,631	27,805	10.0%	12,000
BOVINA, St. Alban's	13.0%	11,285	11,400	13.0%	12,434
BRANDON, St. Luke's	4.0%	2,484	2,400	4.0%	4,582
BRANDON, St. Peter's	11.0%	31,254	26,144	11.0%	30,546
BROOKHAVEN, Redeemer	7.0%	13,245	12,141		no estimate
CANTON, Grace	12.0%		19,390	12.0%	19,000
CARROLLTON, Grace		300	-		no estimate
CLARKSDALE, St. George's	10.0%	20,000	14,824	10.0%	23,500
CLEVELAND, Calvary	12.0%	13,200	13,692	12.0%	19,000
CLINTON, Creator	6.0%	19,350	20,559		20,304
COLLINS, St. Elizabeth's	10.0%	3,900	3,891	10.0%	3,708
COLUMBIA, St. Stephen's		894	760		1,000
COLUMBUS, Good Shepherd		3,240	3,124	12.0%	1,941
COLUMBUS, St. Paul's	16.0%	76,100	73,788	16.0%	79,000
COMO, Holy Innocents'	6.5%	5,739	5,739	7.0%	5,932
CORINTH, St. Paul's	10.0%	13,650	12,829	10.0%	12,992
CRYSTAL SPRINGS, Holy Trinity	10.0%	5,300	4,500	10.0%	5,000
DIAMONDHEAD, St. Thomas'	12.0%	18,500	17,256	10.0%	17,162
ENTERPRISE, St. Mary's	10.0%	1,889	1,884	10.0%	1,884
FOREST, St. Matthew's	10.0%	550	-		no estimate
GAUTIER, St. Pierre's	10.0%	10,135	9,020	10.0%	10,135
GREENVILLE, Redeemer	15.0%	4,320	4,320	15.0%	3,600
GREENVILLE, St. James'	13.0%	44,802	45,935	13.0%	33,100
GREENWOOD, Nativity	14.0%	50,000	46,678		51,830
GRENADA, All Saints'	13.0%	21,614	23,270	13.0%	18,356
GULFPORT, St. Mark's	18.0%	61,266	61,265	18.0%	65,266
GULFPORT, St. Peter's	13.0%	32,000	24,588	13.0%	27,000
HATTIESBURG, Ascension	10.0%	19,150	23,938	12.5%	24,763
HATTIESBURG, Trinity	10.0%	40,483	16,868	5.0%	13,000
HOLLANDALE, St. Paul's					1,000
HOLLY SPRINGS, Christ	10.0%	10,000	9,108	10.0%	10,000
INDIANOLA, St. Stephen's	14.0%	24,255	26,763	14.0%	23,463
INVERNESS, All Saints'	15.0%	3,000	2,250		no estimate
JACKSON, All Saints'	15.0%	14,814	11,320	12.0%	10,200
JACKSON, Medical Center Ministry		1,000	-		-
JACKSON, St. Alexis'	10.0%	1,850	1,233	11.0%	5,600
JACKSON, St. Andrew's	11.8%	164,379	138,356	12.1%	167,707
JACKSON, St. Andrew's Episcopal School					-
JACKSON, St. James'	8.0%	115,000	110,801		110,801
JACKSON, St. Mark's	10.7%	9,630	10,000	10.0%	9,000
JACKSON, St. Christopher	12.0%	9,396	9,396	13.0%	11,124
JACKSON, St. Philip's	12.5%	50,000	48,347	12.5%	48,000
KOSCIUSKO, St. Matthew's	12.0%	4,122	4,166	12.0%	3,039
LAUREL, St. John's	8.0%	15,879	16,840	8.0%	18,940
LELAND, St. John's	10.0%	3,000	2,662	10.0%	3,000
LEXINGTON, St. Mary's	14.0%	5,939	6,722	12.0%	4,830
LONG BEACH, St. Patrick's	16.0%	20,960	10,144	16.0%	24,000
MACON, Nativity			532		-
MADISON, Chapel of the Cross	12.0%	82,200	85,080	12.0%	95,000
MCCOMB, Mediator/Redeemer	12.0%	18,000	14,640	12.0%	16,000
MERIDIAN, Mediator	14.0%	45,000	45,000	14.0%	42,000
MERIDIAN, St. Paul's	18.0%	98,280	98,280	18.0%	85,410
MICHIGAN CITY, Calvary			200		200
NATCHEZ, Trinity	16.0%	51,000	45,583	12.0%	38,250
NEWTON, Trinity					-
OCEAN SPRINGS, St. John's	11.0%	36,300	38,060	11.0%	36,575
OKOLONA, St. Bernard's					-
OLIVE BRANCH, Holy Cross	10.0%	7,866	5,028	10.0%	6,601
OXFORD, St. Peter's	0.0%	120,000	110,000		100,000
PASCAGOULA, St. John's			47,864		37,040
PASS CHRISTIAN, Trinity	8.0%	14,400	11,437		12,000
PHILADELPHIA, St. Francis'	10.0%	7,000	7,649	10.0%	7,650
PICAYUNE, St. Paul's	12.0%	11,760	9,074		no estimate
PORT GIBSON, St. James'	3.0%	3,300	2,648	4.0%	3,500
RAYMOND, St. Mark's			105		-
RIDGELAND, St. Columb's	14.0%	45,000	46,200	14.0%	36,400
ROLLING FORK, Chapel/Cross	10.0%	5,050	4,620	10.0%	5,650
ROSEDALE, Grace					-
SOUTHAVEN, St. Timothy's	11.0%	22,865	27,152	2.0%	4,000
STARKVILLE, Resurrection	16.0%	42,230	47,143	16.0%	46,583
SUMNER, Advent			3,249	8.0%	no estimate
TERRY, Good Shepherd	8.0%	3,000	3,000	5.0%	2,000
TUNICA, Epiphany	10.0%	-	2,333	10.0%	no estimate
TUPELO, All Saints'	12.5%	63,375	55,279	13.0%	62,000
VICKSBURG, Christ	13.5%	16,875	17,875	13.0%	no estimate
VICKSBURG, Holy Trinity	13.0%		21,826	10.0%	24,000
VICKSBURG, St. Mary's		1,500	1,440		no estimate
WATER VALLEY, Nativity					-
WEST POINT, Incarnation	14.0%	19,083	17,524	14.5%	22,081
WOODVILLE, St. Paul's		1,500	1,500		no estimate
YAZOO CITY, Trinity	10.0%	6,000	4,237		5,400
		1,747,544	1,729,660		1,668,118

Annual Budget, Continued from page 8

BUDGET WORKSHEET 2009						
	(1) 2008 Budget	(2) Actual 12/31/2008	(3) % Spent	(4) 2009 Requests	(5) 2009 Proposed	
410	TOTAL INVITING	652,098	613,048	94%	642,286	560,443
411						
413						
414	TOTAL TRANSFORMING					
415						
416	YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT MINISTRIES					
417	COORDINATOR FOR YOUTH MINISTRIES					
418	Stipend	12,000	12,000	100%	12,600	12,000
419	Housing Allowance	-	-	0%	-	-
420	Pension Premium	2,225	2,976	134%	2,268	2,225
421	Travel	2,500	-	0%	-	-
422	Continuing Education	-	-	0%	-	-
423	Medical, Life, Disability Insurance	-	-	0%	-	-
424	COORD FOR YOUTH AND COLLEGE M	16,725	14,976	90%	14,868	14,225
425						
426	YOUTH COMMISSION					
427	College Work (net)	500	-	0%	-	-
428	Division of Youth (net)	12,000	6,877	57%	10,000	8,000
429	Happening (Net)	3,000	1,915	64%	3,000	2,500
430	New Beginnings (net)	-	-	0%	-	-
431	VOCARE (net)	11,000	4,037	37%	10,000	7,500
432	Young Adult Ministries	-	-	0%	-	-
433	Youth Commission Expenses	5,150	2,596	50%	6,000	2,500
434	YOUTH COMMISSION TOTAL	31,650	15,426	49%	29,000	20,500
435						
436	YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT MINISTRIE	48,375	30,402	63%	43,868	34,725
437						
438	COMMITTEES /RESOURCES					
439	Bishop's Mission Corps	45,000	44,356	99%	44,500	40,000
440	Young Adults Discernment	500	21	4%	500	150
441	Fresh Start - Transition Clergy	-	65	0%	-	-
442	Fresh Start - Committee / Training	3,050	375	12%	18,225	3,050
443	Vacancy Consultations	-	-	0%	2,000	-
444	Stewardship of Creation	-	80	0%	250	250
445	Cursillo	11,000	14,944	136%	11,000	10,000
446	Daughters of the King	-	-	0%	-	-
447	Cong Consultation Reserve Fund	-	-	0%	5,000	2,500
448	EFM	2,500	2,500	100%	4,065	2,500
449	Stewardship	1,200	1,065	89%	800	600
450	TOTAL COMMITTEE / RESOURCES	63,250	63,405	100%	86,340	59,050
451						
452	TOTAL TRANSFORMING	111,625	93,807	84%	130,208	93,775
453						
454						
455						
456	TOTAL RECONCILING					
457	Racial Reconciliation	1,500	1,545	103%	8,000	5,500
458	Ministry & Formation for Diaconate	11,175	10,964	98%	11,175	11,000
459	MDG balance	3,500	3,500	100%	3,500	-
460	Ministry with Gay & Lesbian Persons	3,050	4,900	161%	3,800	2,000
461	Lutheran Episcopal Services in MS	15,000	15,000	100%	15,000	15,000
462	Disability Task Force	-	-	0%	-	-
463	Episcopal Relief and Development Resp	500	500	100%	700	500
464						
465	TOTAL RECONCILING	34,725	36,409	105%	42,175	34,000
466						
467	TOTAL EXPENDITURES	2,632,674	2,505,249	95%	2,791,066	2,409,519
468						
469	Prior Year Expenses		(1,594)			-
470	Other diocesan cuts					11,000
471						
472	NET	(21,525)	138,849	-645%	(506,891)	(7,975)



Presiding Bishop Jefferts Schori and her husband Richard Schori receive a gift from St. Philip's at the conclusion of the Q&A forum.

Diocesan Altar Guild (DAG) 2008 Annual Report

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

DAG has set up a fund that will help our coast churches supply their sacristies once they have been rebuilt. DAG continues to provide the traveling communion sets used each year at annual Council. Since 1987 DAG has provided over 125 deacon stoles for the Diocese. Denise Brown of Hattiesburg has graciously agreed to weave these beautiful stoles for our deacons in order that DAG can continue this wonderful ministry. The DAG Church Supply Closet, housed at St. Mark's in Jackson, has very little in its inventory. Mary Jackson, chairperson for the supply closet, requests that vestments, linens, and brass and silver in good condition be donated to the closet for distribution throughout the diocese as needed.

Church of the Creator, Clinton hosted the DAG annual meeting on May 17, 2008. Cassandra Price and Linda Tolliver, DAG co-presidents, and members of Church of the Creator welcomed altar guild members from throughout the diocese. Brother Vincent Ignatius was the keynote speaker. He presented a wonderful program on "The Making and Use of Altar Linens: What can We learn from Benedict's Rule" Geoffrey Acker of Church of the Creator presented a workshop on "Buds in May: Blending Splendor with Splash" A workshop on the Prayer Shawl Ministry was presented by Lucette Bennett, Mary Frances Ponder and Rosa Dial of St. Philip's. Following the closing Eucharist, celebrated by Bishop Gray and assisted by the Rev. Ann Whitaker, a lovely luncheon followed in the parish hall. Wendy Brantley served as meeting coordinator.

Polly Marshall and Jan Smith, past DAG presidents, and Martha Bigelow represented DAG at the Province IV Altar Guild Meeting which met in Kanuga, NC in June.

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

Cassandra P. Price
Linda Tolliver

A-V Center Report

The A-V Center provides programs for the enrichment of the spiritual journey of parishes, missions, and individuals in the Diocese of Mississippi. This programming is available by request; the only cost to users is postage.

Currently, the collection is largely VHS, but we are working to change over to DVD as funding allows. We are sensitive to the needs of our users and we try to purchase with these needs in mind. We are always open to requests.

Any parish, mission, or individual in the Diocese may borrow from the A-V Center by contacting Janet Nail, the director, at grandmastruck1994@yahoo.com or by telephone, at 662-746-5557 (this is a work number, so ask for Miss Janet).

The director is also available for consultation about your needs via e-mail or telephone or by mail, P.O. box 145, Yazoo City MS 39194.
Janet C. Nail

Education For Ministry (EfM)

by Dorothy A Byrd, Diocesan EfM Coordinator

EfM is alive and well across the Diocese of Mississippi! A total of 22 groups meet regularly in various locations across the state. There'll be a graphic depiction of these diverse groups at the display booth at Annual Council. Stop by and check us out...

Normally in the summer, three EfM mentor training events are offered at Gray Center in July and August. Because of requests from first-time and returning mentors, I added an additional training event in September. For 2009, I have scheduled the following events to be held at Gray Center; all events run from 2 PM Thursday until approximately 1 PM Saturday. Future events consider Sewanee's 18 month recertification requirements and will be scheduled accordingly.

TRAINING DATE	EVENT	REG. DEADLINE
January 22-24, 2009	Basic Mentor Training	12-29-2008
January 22-24, 2009	Formation (Spirituality)	12-29-2008
July 9-11, 2009	Basic Mentor Training	6-8-2009
July 9-11, 2009	Formation (Design Skills)	6-8-2009
September 10-12, 2009	Basic Mentor Training	8-10-2009
September 10-12, 2009	Basic Mentor Training	8-10-2009

Plans are underway to hold a training event in the Southaven area, possibly in mid February. Details on that will be forthcoming in a later article.

The next few months hold some exciting possibilities to take EfM to new levels across the state. In each setting, participants discuss materials provided by the University of the South, Sewanee; spend time in worship; and engage in a reflective process that connects knowledge gained with day-to-day lives. This reflective process is considered the heart of EfM and is the piece that helps focus participants' ministries.

In a normal setting, 6-12 participants register with a mentor, optional co-mentor, for weekly meetings of 2-1/2 to 3 hours; also known as face-to-face (f2f). This is ideal for larger churches, or smaller churches that can combine participants to form a single group. However, many of the parishes and missions across the diocese are unable to support such a seminar. Thus, two different scenarios for a seminar group are in the planning stage.

One possibility is for an on-line seminar; a computer-to-computer (c2c) group. A portion of the course work (1 to 1-1/2 hours per week) is completed at the participant's convenience throughout the week. This would include lesson discussion, further reflection on previous work, or "catching up" with group activities. Once a week all participants would "sign in" to a discussion board for the reflection process. This would take approximately 1-1/2 hours each week; date and time of this would be set for each group. Each on-line seminar group should have 6-8 participants.

An alternative for those who prefer the f2f-style gathering would rely on a monthly meeting to cover the materials and reflections. Such a meeting would be held at Gray Center (most likely) and would go from 6 PM Friday through 8:30 AM Sunday. [This gives compatible contact hours.] During the weekend, participants would discuss and reflect upon multiple chapters of the text materials. There should be 9-12 participants in this setting.

If you would like information about any of the above mentioned mentor training events or seminar groups, please give me a call. My phone number (cell with voicemail) is 228-697-0014. Information about these alternatives will also be available at the EfM display at annual council as well as on the diocesan web page.

A Date to Remember...

February 18-20, 2009

Trinity Institute: Racial Abundance, A
Theology of Sustainability, Gray Center

Congregations for Children

Bishops announce 2009 Legislative Agenda

By The Rev. Carol Borne Stewart

During the 2008 diocesan council in Natchez, Bishop Gray welcomed 12 Episcopal congregations into the Congregations for Children (CFC) Network; this network includes congregations from the Roman Catholic Diocese of Jackson, the Mississippi Conference of The United Methodist Church and the Episcopal Diocese of Mississippi. Growing awareness of the fact that 31% of Mississippi's children live in poverty has greater numbers of our congregations asking how they can make a difference in these desperate times. Many of our churches either held Children's Sabbaths or participated in ecumenical events to raise this awareness during the fall. Over 150 individual names have been added to our Episcopal legislative and policy update list serve.

At least five new congregations will be introduced to the 2009 council in Hattiesburg as members of the Congregations for Children Network. They include St. Patrick's, Long Beach, St. Mark's, Jackson. St. Thomas, Diamondhead, Church of the Redeemer, Biloxi, and Church of the Mediator, Meridian.

Bishop Duncan M. Gray III, along with Bishop Joseph Latino, Catholic Diocese of Jackson, and Bishop Hope Morgan Ward, Mississippi Conference of the United Methodist Church have announced their 2009 legislative agenda. It includes:

1) Education - A staggering 35% of students who enter schools in Mississippi do not graduate. This rate speaks volumes to the amount of poverty and illiteracy in our state and casts a gloomy forecast on the economic and educational future of Mississippi. For this reason, Congregations for Children is advocating 3 key areas where education can be improved.

- a. Pilot Pre-K Funding
- b. MAEP Funding Full-Funding of Education
- c. Funding for At-Risk Children
- 2) Childcare
 - a. Mississippi Low-Income Children Initiative Legislation (TANF)
 - b. Legislate Grants for Adequate Childcare
- 3) Foster Care
 - a. Monitor Compliance with Olivia Y. vs. Barbour
- 4) Healthcare
 - a. SCHIP
- 5) Juvenile Justice
 - a. Mississippi Youth Justice Project - Cradle to Prison Pipeline
- 6) Fair Taxation
 - a. Cigarette Tax Increase to Fund Children's Healthcare
- 7) Immigration Issues Facing Children
 - a. Education
 - b. Housing

While the issues facing children of immigrants are very complex, Congregations for Children will monitor legislation during the 2009 legislative session to seek ways of implanting policies that positively affect the immigrant children living in Mississippi.

For congregations interested in learning more about Congregations for Children, please contact The Rev. Carol Borne Stewart Assistant to the Bishop for Outreach and Community Development 601-948-5954

A Date to Remember...

February 20-21, 2009

Praying in Color: Prayers for Lent,
Gray Center, Big House

Companion Diocese Committee

Two trips were made to Panama by the ECW and members of the Companion Diocese Committee: one in January to Panama's ECW and annual council meetings and one in October in conjunction with our joint medical mission.

In January, Evelyn Gregory, ECW President, and Lollie Everett, Chairman of the Companion Diocese Committee, flew to Panama to attend the Panamanian ECW and Council Meetings.

In October, Barbara Brunson, Lollie Everett, and Betty Jo Dulaney, representing ECW and the Companion Diocese Committee, went down to form plans for next year while our Panama Medical Mission team was busy out in the field. Both trips were both very successful in continuing our deep respect for one another and helping us to learn more about our respective cultures.

In November, the ECW President of Panama, Eunice Vassell, visited our ECW Fall Conference. She spent a week with us learning about our culture and getting to know our diocese better. During this time she and various members of the Companion Diocese Committee and ECW met to fine tune some of the plans we had made in October.

Vassell also visited with Betty Jo Dulaney, in Tunica, to see the Mississippi Delta. She also spent some time in the Jackson area to see the Church at work in the city.

The first visit planned for 2009 is Bishop Gray's presence at Panama's Annual Council in February the week after our own Council. Other visits and projects are in the planning stages.

We feel we are making great strides toward a common understanding of each other, and that the love and understanding we share of Christ and the Episcopal Church will help us to be friends, and companions in the truest sense.

Lollie Everett, Chair
Companion Diocese Committee

Deacons' Council Report to 182nd Annual Council

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

Two new deacons were ordained in 2008: Steve Owen and Cathy Halford.

In April, the North American Association for the Diaconate's Board, Archdeacons, and Formation Directors met at Gray Center. The Mississippi Deacons' Spring Conference was held in conjunction with this national meeting and the deacons of our diocese provided logistical support and transportation. This meeting will return to Gray Center in March of 2009 and deacons from the diocese will again serve as hosts.

There are currently seven postulants for the diaconate in Deacons' School. Three of these postulants began in 2007 and four completed the discernment process in 2008 and began classes and Clinical Pastoral Education under the supervision of The Rev. Dr. Curt Burge. Mrs. Gay Yerger continues to serve as the Director of Formation for the postulants.

Much gratitude goes to for many years of dedicated service is owed to The Rev. Carol Stewart and The Rev. Frank Spencer. Carol stepped down as chair of the Deacons' Council in March after many years of service. The diaconate program in the diocese has been transformed under her leadership. Frank served as Dean of the School for the Diaconate for the past several years and has developed a professional school which continues to form postulants for the diaconal ministry. We thank The Rev. Dr. Bryan Owen who has assumed duties as Dean of the School for the Diaconate.

We look forward to continuing our work in the diocese as we strive to serve Christ by serving the helpless.
The Rev. Bill Hanna, Chair
Deacons' Council

Ecumenical Officer Report

The diocesan ecumenical officer is a primary resource for the Bishop seeking to carry out the ecumenical mandate given in the preface to the ordination rites: "the order of bishop carries on the apostolic work of leading, supervising, and uniting the Church." The Ecumenical Officer accomplishes several things for the Bishop.

1. Assist the Bishop and advise on ecumenical matters.
2. Seek out and strengthen relations with other churches within the diocese.
3. Maintain relations with councils of churches and other ecumenical agencies.
4. Insure that diocesan program and budget reflect ecumenical involvement where applicable.
5. Keep the diocese and its agencies informed on ecumenical developments through initiation of informative programs and consciousness-raising.
6. Be a resource for congregations, convocations, and other bodies within the diocese and keep in touch with ecumenical developments in congregations.
7. Initiate and plan for responsible and effective participation in ecumenical events in the diocese.
8. To insure a two-way flow of ecumenical communication between the "Local Church" and the Provincial Coordinator as representative of the EDEIO network.

To this end in 2008

- 1) I attended the National Conference for Diocesan Officers in Chicago
 - 2) Represented Bishop Gray at an Emerging Church Conference in Memphis
 - 3) Worked to strengthen relationship with the United Methodist Conference of Mississippi
 - 4) Attended the Mayor's Prayer Breakfast hosted by Mission Mississippi with Bishop Gray
- Respectfully submitted
The Rev. Michael C. Nation, Ecumenical Officer

ECW 2008 Report

The Mississippi ECW has completed another busy and productive year. Our Winter Board Meeting was held in the Big House on January 4 & 5, 2008. Since this is our annual planning session, annual reports from parishes and convocations were reviewed. Communication opportunities were explored. We renewed our commitment to the goals of the ECW in the local parish. Evaluation and goals were presented for all ECW diocesan outreach projects: Bishop Marble Children at Risk; Scholarship Programs; Panama Mission Trip and the collection of Pediatric Non-Prescription Medicines; St Francis Academy; United Thank Offering; and Church Periodical Literature.

The Mississippi ECW Board manned a booth at the Diocesan Council where information about the work of the ECW was available. Annual calendars designed by the ECW were sold for \$3.00 each. These are excellent resources for all Episcopalians in the diocese. Note cards are sold in continuing support of the Bishop Marble Children at Risk Project. Church Women United were also housed at the booth.

The ECW Board has compiled an update on "Recommended Reading List" to enhance the spiritual education and journey of women in Mississippi. It is available annually at Spring Conference.

Spring Conference was held at Gray Center, March 14-15, 2008. The Reverend Diane Livingston, Chairman of Episcopal Relief and Development Committee gave an update on "Recovery and Rehabilitation on the Coast." The Reverend Carol Stewart presented an appeal for becoming involved in Congregation for Children. Both presentations were quite informative and thought provoking.

We had four attending the Province IV Leadership Conference June 2-4, 2008 at Kanuga.

Fall Conference Annual Meeting was November 14-15 at Gray Center. The Reverend John Stone Jenkins gave an in-depth presentation on "Learning How to Pray". It was well received by all. Sixty-nine attended. Grace Steiner was elected President Elect. Lollie Everett and Grace Steiner were elected delegates to Triennial which

will meet in Anaheim, CA, July 8-17, 2009. Barbara Brunson was elected 1st alternate,

Lynn Wellons was elected 2nd alternate. Evelyn Gregory, President, and Jane Wacaster, UTO Chairman, will also serve as delegates. We are all looking forward to meeting with ECW members from the other Provinces, and exchanging thoughts and ideas.

We welcome the ECW from Trinity, Hattiesburg, MS. We are pleased that you have reactivated.

Mississippi ECW symbolizes women at work carrying the message of hope and love mandated by our Lord Christ. We go forth prayerfully with the word, Christian education, and mission.
Evelyn Gregory, President

Episcopal Relief and Development

Episcopal Relief and Development continues to be the compassionate response of the Episcopal Church to human suffering around the world and is active in over 40 countries, transforming the lives of more than 2 million people. Through the generous response of those who give, ERD is able to partner with the worldwide Church and ecumenical agencies to work alongside communities using an integrated development strategy that advances lasting change. The chief areas ERD focuses on are these: alleviating hunger and improving food supply; creating economic opportunities and strengthening communities to help people improve their income potential; promoting health and fighting disease; responding to disasters and rebuilding communities.

As your diocesan coordinator, I was pleased to see Mississippians give to ERD when disasters hit other areas such as the mid-west floods and areas in Louisiana and Texas after they were hit by Gustav and Ike - even as volunteers and funds continue to come to our own Gulf Coast to assist in its rebuilding efforts. Many of you helped to buy treated mosquito nets (one was on display at last year's council meeting in Natchez) to help prevent malaria from killing 3000 children daily in Africa. I encourage every outreach/servant ministry committee to remember the work of ERD as it designates its funds each year. Also, I am in need of parish representatives who will keep the work and needs of ERD before their parish. I would be pleased to visit any parish to share information about ERD.

The Rev. Diane Livingston, ERD Diocesan Coordinator
dianelivingston@hotmail.com, 228-265-4794

Fresh Start Committee

Fresh Start is a program that guides and strengthens clergy who are in new cures. Fresh Start facilitators are trained to guide discussion and reflection by using a collection of "modules" that address the typical issues and concerns of individuals and groups who are going through a change of leadership. The purpose is to better equip both clergy and lay people to make healthy leadership transitions. Fresh Start is a collaborative ministry supported by the Episcopal Church Foundation, the Office for Ministry Development, the Church Deployment Office, CREDO Institute, Inc. and the various dioceses running Fresh Start programs.

It is a diocesan-led program so the way Fresh Start is implemented varies from diocese to diocese. In Mississippi, we use the program with the newly ordained clergy, the clergy in new assignments and permanent deacons. A revised version of Fresh Start was introduced in 2008 and provides new information based on national feedback from both participants and facilitators. The Rev. Canon David Johnson serves on the National Advisory Committee and is a faculty member for facilitators' training.

In 2009, we will continue to conduct Fresh Start sessions and explore ways to use Fresh Start in new ways, including presenting a Fresh Start module at the Wardens Conference in February. In addition, we have identified a growing need among clergy and lay people for information and training about topics relating to congregational development, such as strategic planning. We want to expand the Fresh Start Committee's mission to meet that need by providing congregational development guidance and resources to congregations and clergy.

Executive Committee Annual Report

February 26 - 27, 2008

The following one-year appointees to the Executive Committee were approved: Mrs. Hilda Povall, Calvary, Cleveland; Mr. Jim Thorell, St. Timothy's, Southaven; Mrs. Josie Williams, St. Alban's, Bovina. The following were appointed to the Capers Scholarship Committee: Josie Williams, Brian Ponder, Sheri Cox, and Brian Seage.

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

Bishop Gray shared his expectations and thoughts about the proposed new structure for the diocese. Gray is hoping that there will be shared leadership and less top-down situations. He is organizing an enhanced Finance Committee to share with the responsibilities and anxieties of diocesan finances. Gray will form both a Campus Ministry and Supported Mission task force to provide oversight and mentoring for those ministries.

The Executive Committee discussed visits to vestries to get feedback on the diocesan restructuring and Voluntary Proportionate Giving. What is the role of the office of the bishop? For what purpose are we reorganizing? What is the role of the bishop?

Mr. Bill Horne, executive director of Gray Center, reported to the Executive Committee. Bishop Gray remarked that Gray Center probably would never be self-sustaining and would have to be funded from the diocesan budget. Support of the mission on Gray Center should be clear and communicated to the diocese. In the late 1980's, there was a clear mission for Gray Center, but that has been lost. Bishop Gray and the Board of Managers will be focusing on the renewed mission. The Board of Managers has recently met with Mr. Chip Westbrook to discern what makes Gray Center a transforming and different place. Bookings seem to be on budget with a portion of every weekend being booked. A partnership with the Center for Ministry at Millsaps has been formed which means reduced rates for Millsaps and midweek bookings for Gray Center.

Reports from institutional chaplains were presented. The Executive Committee commented that all are interested in building relationships and the students are seeking consistency and community. There is a need for more funding for campus programs since most of the diocesan support is compensation for the chaplains. All five campus ministries are different.

Reports from supported missions were presented.

The final 2007 financials were presented and accepted. The \$250 budgeted for College Works Committee will be directed to Calvary Church in Cleveland to be used for their ministry to Delta State University.

There was a review of the communications survey. The Rev. Scott Lenoir is the new editor of The Mississippi Episcopalian and will focus on local news and human interest stories.

June 25, 2008

The Executive Committee discussed visits to vestries and mission committees to get feedback on role and function of diocesan ministry. The Executive Committee also reviewed the proposed survey which will begin July 1 and be concluded by August 15. The first visit will not have discussion about Voluntary Proportionate Giving. After the data from the first visit has been gathered, the second visit will be planned and there will be discus-

sions around Voluntary Proportionate Giving and the Canon for Mission.

Bishop Gray shared the plans for his visit to Uganda with the Rev. William Ndishabandi. He will be visiting the Bishop Masereka Christian Foundation and discerning the level of support from Mississippi. He will be appointing two persons to serve on the Foundation's board.

Bishop Gray reported on his visit to Lambeth in July. Gray has scheduled a gathering of clergy and interested lay persons for August 14 at St. Andrew's Cathedral to give his perceptions of Lambeth Conference.

Mr. Bill Horne reported to the Executive Committee. Horne reported that earned income is close to budget and that expenses are under budget. Cash flow is improving and Gray Center has not drawn all of the diocesan support for 2008.

The Bishop's Barbeque has been rescheduled for May 23, 2009 which is Memorial Day weekend and hopefully will become a permanent date.

The financials through May 2008 were presented and the Voluntary Proportionate Giving report was reviewed.

Upon motion, \$3,500 from the Zed Hawkins Fund will be distributed to St. Matthew's in Forest for clergy supply assistance. A motion to accept the proposed Accountable Reimbursement Policy passed.

Bishop Gray reported that Mrs. Catherine Johns will retire August 31, 2008. Johns has served on diocesan staff for eighteen years and will be missed greatly. Upon motion of Seage and second from Josie Williams, the Medicare supplement will be provided for Johns and her spouse. Upon motion Johns will receive a gift equal to four months compensation.

A motion to grant the Rev. Helen Tester and the Rev. Charles Floyd a loan of \$25,000 from the Clergy Housing Fund passed.

The Executive Committee was updated on All Saints School.

Bishop Gray reported that LESM has been awarded a \$37 million FEMA grant to enhance case management on the coast.

September 11, 2008

Bishop Gray reflected on his time in Uganda and the Lambeth Conference. He explained the ways he envisioned the Diocese of Mississippi building relationships in the Anglican Communion.

- ❖ Build on the companion diocese relationship with the Diocese of Panama with a trip to Panama for their diocesan convention in February 2009.

- ❖ Continue the relationship with the Diocese of Honduras, particularly through the Honduras Medical Mission.

- ❖ Create a relationship with the Archbishop of Sudan and a new diocese in Southern Sudan, Twic East. The existing Sudanese Ministry Committee will be working in this area.

- ❖ Continue to work with the Bishop Masereka Christian Foundation in Uganda. This foundation pays for the education of orphans and assists those with HIV/AIDS. The Rev. Laura Gettys and Mr. Chuck Barlow will serve on the board of this foundation. The diocese may be hosting a mission to Uganda in 2010 and may be developing a relationship with a school in Uganda.

Options for medical insurance were discussed. Upon recommendation of the Finance Committee, the annual insurance premium allowance was set: for a family to \$19,358 and \$8,736 for an individual with the participant paying the difference in premium

for a more expensive plan.

Upon recommendation of the Finance Committee, the following medical plans for 2009 will be offered for 2009:

- ❖ High Deductible Health Plan II (HDHP) with funded Health Savings Account (HSA)
- ❖ Empire Blue Cross/Blue Shield PPO 75 / 50
- ❖ Empire Blue Cross/Blue Shield EPO 80
- ❖ Empire Blue Cross/Blue Shield PPO 90/70
- ❖ Empire Blue Cross/Blue Shield EPO 90

Upon recommendation of the Finance Committee, three dental plans sponsored by the Medical Trust will be offered at no cost to the church.

There was discussion on the denominational health care plan which will be proposed at General Convention.

Upon recommendation of the Finance Committee: 1) the pension base for the Minimum Full-time Parochial Presbyterian Support will be \$43,500; 2) the pension base of clergy in supported missions and chaplaincies will increase by 5%; 3) the minimum increase for clergy in non-supported missions and parishes be 5%.

Projections for the 2009 budget with the loss of the Church Pension Fund's support and other Katrina related funds were discussed.

Mr. Bill Horne reported to the Executive Committee that a new endowment has been received for the maintenance of existing buildings. There should be some income in 2009.

Council registration was set at \$80 per person with a special \$35 registration fee for seminarians, college representatives, young adults (non-delegate under 35), and spouses of retired clergy or seminarians. There will be a late fee of \$20 add to the registration fee.

December 18, 2008

The Voluntary Proportionate Giving report for 2008 was reviewed and the estimates for 2009 discussed. The projected income for 2009 is less than 2008 and will affect the budget for 2009. The proposed budget for 2009 was discussed and will be finalized on January 7. Housing resolutions for the clergy on diocesan staff were approved. The offering at the closing Eucharist at Annual Council will be presented to Bishop Ezekiel Diing of the new diocese of Twic East or the Rev. Arthur Toro if Bishop Diing is not present.

The current financial status of Gray Center was reviewed and a surplus for 2008 is anticipated. Since Gray Center's request for 2009 from the diocesan budget has been reduced, the Gray Center's Finance Committee will have to revise the 2009 budget.

Materials created for the visitations and suggested visitation format were reviewed.

As a result of the passage of A147 at General Convention in 2006, a denominational health plan will be proposed at General Convention 2009. Discussion followed on the proposal which would require participation in a DHP for all employees working 30 hour or more per week.

The nominations and resolutions received to date were reviewed. There was discussion on how we can use less paper and make Council more green.

Traces of the Trade, a documentary based on the story of one of the largest slave trading families, will be shown and discussed at Church of the Ascension, 1:00 - 4:30 on Friday, February 6.



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A PET CREMATORIUM

Gibson Sims

Gray Center Annual Report- 2008

2008 was a year. Many of us might like to stop right there! For Gray Center it was a banner year. Without any heroic actions on the part of the Trustees or other money-controlling bodies of the diocese or from unplanned and unexpected end-of-year contributions we actually cleared a bottom line by a significant amount. We began the year looking at a deficit budget and we cleared that with room to spare.

The blessings abound for Gray Center in 2008. We had many fine conferences, several larger than anticipated and many smaller ones that were not even on the horizon when we put together the budget last year. We expect to see most of these clients again in 2009.

Blessings continue.....Our staff - once again - stepped forward and did what they had to do to serve our guests and, yet, without busting the budget. Supervisors have participated in the development of the 2009 budget and they will assist monthly in guiding our fortunes this year. We lost some folks and we picked up some others.

Lost from our ranks is the entire four-man maintenance department, including Charley Belote, Richard Lawrence, Joe Billingslea, and Eddie Kelly. Much good work is credited to all four of these men. They have all moved into other things they are interested in. The blessings are that we were not without good support for very long. We were able to take advantage of changes in the economy and the auto industry and pick up a couple of folks displaced by Nissan cutbacks. As well, we were able to entice Joe Green - long time camper and staff person at Camp Bratton-Green - to join our on-campus staff. Early returns on the three of these workers is quite favorable and we invite you all to make their acquaintance on your next trip out our way.

You may have seen - if you've been to the center this past year - many new trees. Mr. Lee Lewis and a host of other helping hands have found, purchased, planted, watered, and otherwise tended gently to another 50 - 60 saplings and seedlings bringing Lee's two-year planting project up to over 100 new plants. And on the subject of the landscaping, the Weekend Work Crews have done an incredible amount of clearing and improving about our campus. Of late they used equipment supplied and operated by Bill Sugg to clear areas along the east side of roads at the center and at the camp. Much trash shrubbery and unwanted brush has been cleared and the existing trees will now be able to flourish and you will be able to see around some dangerous corners as well.

Camp was again a real blessing, with new and previous camp directors doing their best and staff persons joining them. Our nurse was a real asset and we are once again looking for a fulltime nurse for the summer - or maybe a couple or three who could tag-team it?

Our board has taken some new directions and one of the most profound is the meeting we had in late January. We worked on goals and objectives for 2009 and the years beyond. This information will now be input into the objectives we will share as staff at the center, those measurable areas upon which our performance each year can be determined. The Board of Managers also has a Vice-chairperson for the first time. Girault Jones has agreed, in this capacity, to share the reins for 2009 with the bishop and then to assume the full chairmanship in 2010.

Our thanks to all who have given so generously of their time and their money to support our ministries and our unchallenged success in 2008. We look forward to an even better '09.

Bill Horne
Executive Director
Gray Center

A Date to Remember...
March 14, 2009
Gray Center Board of Managers

Licensed Lay Ministry Committee

During 2008 Trinity Church, Hattiesburg and St. Pierre's, Gautier organized and hosted convocational workshops for relicensing of Licensed Diocesan Worship Leaders.

The Center for Formation and Mission of The Episcopal Diocese of Mississippi offered for us our annual conference Sabbath Time finding rest, letting go, being renewed in October.

We processed nineteen new applications for Licensed Diocesan Worship Leader during the year. Nine persons have completed the Licensed Worship Leader Education program and have been recommended for licensing by the Bishop this year.

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

Danny Ray Meadors Chair

Panama Medical Mission

The 2008 Panama Medical Mission served in the Ipiti area of Panama in October. There were nine team members from the diocese of Mississippi and eight from the diocese of Panama. Clinic was open for three days, each day in a different community, and the physicians attended about 750 patients, dispensing appropriate medication to those in need. A celebration of seven years in the area, and the resulting increase in health care awareness and availability from the Panama Health Department was shared by all in the joint medical team; the mission has been asked to serve in a different area, as yet undecided, in Panama in 2009.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dawn Flannes

Prison and Justice Committee

In 2008 the Diocesan Prison and Justice Committee embarked on a mission to bring Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP) to Mississippi. This program, which has been around for about thirty years, is dedicated to reducing the level of violence in our society by teaching interpersonal conflict resolution skills through an experiential process. This committee gained information from an experienced Louisiana participant and eventually sending two people to Nebraska for training with the completion of this training during December. After touring the Raymond Detention Center and with the blessing of Chief Sheriff Malcolm McMillan, the first basic workshop will take place in the Detention Center, January 23-25.

The Safe Church Committee

During 2008, the Safe Church Committee hosted Safe Church training in Jackson at St. Andrew's Cathedral in August, and we plan to host training again this fall. Training continues to be well-attended. The Rev. David Johnson provided Safe Church training at Camp Bratton Green and at Gray Center for the Adults Who Work with Youth conference. There was also a presentation for Camp Caritas at Gray Center in June.

A committee member attended Safe Church Online Training in Dallas in April. We hope to be able to offer this as an alternative follow-up training within the next year. Two committee members attended training in Chicago to learn how to provide educational opportunities for the diocese regarding Safeguarding God's People, the newest curriculum from Church Pension Fund regarding adult victimization and the church. These opportunities will be added to our mission for the 2009 as we continue to support our Diocesan mission.

Leigh Jensen Crawford
Chair, Safe Church Committee

The Episcopal Church at Ole Miss (ECOM) Staff & Ministries

The following manuscript is an overview of the responsibilities of St. Peter's ECOM personnel. In its current manifestation, the ECOM personnel are comprised of a Lay Chaplain and an ECOM advisor. These two positions were created to ensure a smooth transitional period between the departure of our former chaplain and the arrival of a new, ordained candidate. The intention of this overview is to validate the activities of the ECOM personnel listed in the ECOM budget.

The primary focal points of our ECOM ministry can be divided into worship, fellowship, communications, and outreach; the most important and intentional ministry being our worship. ECOM personnel are required to schedule and maintain the fall-spring liturgy each Sunday at 5:30, immediately followed by a fellowship dinner. The ECOM personnel with the help of a supply priest or assisting parish clergy coordinate the liturgical schedule. Also dealing with coordination of worship, ECOM personnel identify and train students and others to serve as lay readers, chalice bearers, acolytes, ushers and greeters. In addition, ECOM personnel design and update the service leaflets for Sunday worship weekly.

Communication, of course, is a daily necessity that is integral to the success of ECOM as a campus ministry. Communication begins with the students, and ECOM has several tools useful for networking including a website, facebook pages, frequent ads newspaper and other miscellaneous publications, and producing flyers, cups, bulletin boards, etc. ECOM is blessed with a number of students who have committed themselves to spreading the word about the uniqueness of ECOM as a campus ministry. Another essential avenue of communication occurs between the campus ministers and the Dean of Students office on campus. Their program offers several events that maximize a student organizations ability to reach out to students. The most effective means of communication, however, is sitting face to face in fellowship with these students and getting to know them as individuals and grace-filled examples of Christ's on-going presence in the community, which brings us to fellowship.

One spiritual, sustaining core of ECOM fellowship beyond Holy Eucharist occurs when we gather together at for biblical reflection each Tuesday night at our ECOM program entitled "Food and Faith". ECOM personnel are responsible for scheduling and maintaining "Food and Faith", as well as exploring other opportunities for spiritual formation centered on extended prayer, silence, and meditation. Fellowship also extends to our graduate students and recent grads here in Oxford as the Canterbury Crew meets twice a month to discuss theological issues in a friendly environment. Obviously too, our fellowship dinners after the service on Sundays are a pivotal part of our campaign to create an exemplary Christian community at Ole Miss.

Last, but most certainly not least, are our avenues for outreach offered to our ECOM community. Students are welcomed and encouraged to participate in any and every outreach program offered by St. Peter's church. The two primary outreach programs serviced by ECOM students are Leap Frog, an after-school tutoring program for elementary children, and Manna, a feeding ministry for those in need in the local community. ECOM personnel not only participate in these outreach ministries, but are also responsible for the recruitment of willing volunteers and sometimes overseeing the Manna feeding ministry.

C. J. Meaders, Lay Chaplain
October 17, 2008

A Date to Remember...

March 27-29, 2009

Senior High Day

Gray Center

Honduras Medical Mission

Report to the 182nd Annual Council
of the Diocese of Mississippi
Hattiesburg February 6-8, 2009

The Honduras Medical Mission is an example of One Church in Mission, Inviting, Reconciling, and Transforming. Hondurans and Mississippians are all invited to the shared the Eucharist and healing clinics. Through the compassion and healing hands of the professionals and their support staff from Mississippi and the local community, God's healing and reconciling grace is made manifest. Most of the Mississippi team members speak of how the Honduras experience has transformed their lives. They pray that the experience of the team's ministry transforms the lives of those in Honduras.

The 27th annual Honduras Medical Mission was sponsored by the parish of St. Philip's, Jackson and ran clinics in Honduras for four days between February 23rd and February 29th, 2008. The 33 team members included physicians (5), dentists (3), optometrists (2), nurses (5), a vet, a pharmacist, priests (2), a deacon, and support staff (13). Team members pay their own expenses; but, the purchase of supplies and medicine is dependent on the generosity of individuals, parishes, and institutions from around the diocese.

For the first time at the request of Honduran Diocesan Lloyd Allen, the 2008 mission held its clinics in Omoa on the north coast of Honduras. This was a change from the accustomed venue in the mountains of Santa Barbara. The team commuted daily from the nearby diocesan camp and conference center in Muchilena. The physicians in the medical clinic saw 2,322 individuals representing 1,101 families. The pharmacy filled 8,586 prescriptions. The dentists pulled 710 teeth from 316 patients. To prevent tooth decay, the sealant team sealed 1,196 permanent molars of 217 children. The eye clinic checked the

vision of 811 patients and dispensed 644 pairs of glasses. The vets treated 472 animals, principally dogs, horses and cattle. With the exception of the eye clinic, these numbers were down from the 2007 mission.

The HMM Committee met on April 12, 2008 at St. Philip's, Jackson to evaluate the 2008 Mission and to begin making plans for the 2009 Mission. After extended discussion, it was decided to speak with bishops Gray and Allen about the possibility of returning the mission to the mountains of Santa Barbara. The opinion of Committee members was that there was more need in the mountains and that the team's service there was a better use of diocesan funds and the time and skills of the professionals. Bishops Gray and Allen decided that the 2009 Mission would return to San Joaquin, Santa Barbara. Bishop Allen asked that the Mississippi team meet with his development committee to seek ways in which the team could help empower the villagers and make them less dependent on the medical team. This meeting with the Honduran development committee will be incorporated into the 2009 Mission.

The HMM Committee met on August 9th to select the team for the 2009 Honduras Medical Mission. This will be the 28th annual mission. The team will be in Honduras from February 23rd until the 29th 2009. St. Philip's, the 15th parish to sponsor the mission, will once again be responsible for the organization of the team effort. The team selected consists of physicians, dentists, nurses, vets, a pharmacist, 2 priests, a deacon, and support staff. Some applicants were asked to be on a waiting list to replace team members who drop-out at the last moment. A training meeting for the 2009 team will be held at Gray Center on January 16th and 17th, 2009. In 2010 and 2011, the parish of Chapel of the Cross, Madison will sponsor the HMM. The HMM Committee encourages interested individuals to apply for the 2010 Mission. New professionals and support personnel are needed.

HONDURAS MEDICAL MISSION TEAM 2009

Saturday, February 14 - Saturday, February 21

Cynthia Allen	Physician	St. Philip's, Jackson
Brian Bullard	Support	St. Philip's, Jackson
Frances Christian	RN/TL	Chapel of the Cross, Madison
Cassie Cole	Dental Sealant	Dallas, TX
Debbie Cole	RN	Dallas, TX
Faith Dugger	RN/Sealant	St. Peter's by the Lake, Brandon
Jason Dugger	Support	St. Peter's by the Lake, Brandon
Margaret Dutcher	RN	St. Philip's, Jackson
Bev Owens	Physician	St. James, Jackson
Joshua Hailey	Photo/Trans	St. Alexis, Jackson
Lester Hailey	Pharmacist	St. Philip's, Jackson
Deborah Hanson	Team Leader	St. Philip's, Jackson
Keleigh Hanson	RN/Sealant	St. Philip's, Jackson
Adelaide Henderson	Physician	St. Paul's, Columbus
Beverly Herbert	Support	St. Philip's, Jackson
Matthew Herbert	Translator	St. Philip's, Jackson
Ray Holder	Dentist	Madison, MS
George Jackson	Support	St. John's, Laurel
Kathy Kvam	Veterinarian	St. Peter's, Oxford
Scottye Lee	Dentist	First Baptist, Madison
Chip Leggett	Dentist	Mediator/Redeemer, McComb
David Lemberg	Clergy	Mediator/Redeemer, McComb
Caroline Peeples	Support	St. James, Jackson
Holly Peeples	Physician	St. James, Jackson
Catherine Rickett	Clergy	St. Stephen's, Columbia; St. Elizabeth's, Collins
Chris Scott	Team Leader	Chapel of the Cross, Madison
Joan Senteney	Physician's Asst.	Jackson
Andy Shores	Veterinarian	St. Columb's, Ridgeland
Lauren Shores	Veterinarian	Dallas, TX
Ed Sisson	Translator	St. Peter's, Oxford
Penny Sisson	Clergy/Translator	St. Peter's Oxford
Marion Smith	Support	St. Peter's, Oxford
Robert Stewart	Support	St. Peter's, Oxford
Ann Elise Winn	Dental Sealant	St. James, Greenville
Hal Winn	Dentist	St. James, Greenville

REPORT TO 182nd ANNUAL COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY WITH GAY AND LESBIAN PERSONS

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

The Committee met on three occasions during the year (1 March, 17 May, and 4 October). A summary of new initiatives, ongoing projects and accomplishments follow:

1. The Bishop stated in his 4 August 2008 letter to the clergy: "I have tried to suggest that if we are truly to be a church of invitation then we must take seriously the fact that there are invisible, unconscious and unintentional barriers that are part of our church. Two recent conversations with visitors to the Episcopal Church have reminded me of the comment 'everyone knows that we are open to all people' is not true for many who seek God and yearn for a church home."

The Bishop reemphasized his initial request of 24 April 2006 to clergy: "that a clear statement of welcome be published in a visible part of the church facility." The statement he suggested is: "We respect the dignity of all persons regardless of national origin, race, gender, age or sexual orientation, and welcome and encourage them to participate fully in all areas of parish/mission life." The committee fully supports the Bishop in this endeavor and will strive to see progress in this area in 2009.

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

2. The third annual retreat for gay, lesbian and other interested persons was held 22-24 August 2008 at Gray Center. The Rev. Fr. Brad Hinton, Rector of St. David's Episcopal Church, and Day School in Wilmington, DE was the retreat leader. The theme for

this years retreat was "Without a Map: the journey for full inclusion into the Church." Participants considered the ramifications of a rambling life journey. This was accomplished through personal anecdotes, study of biblical passages, silent reflection and shared experiences. The participants were able to find room to rejoice in recent gains while considering their own potential status as spiritual landmarks.

The fourth annual retreat will be 21-23 August 2009 at Gray Center. We are very excited that the Bishop has provided us with a list of women priests to consider for retreat leader.

3. The chief accomplishment of the committee this year was the presentation of a clergy pastoral training course on issues concerning gay/lesbian persons and their family members. The Bishop in a March 2008 letter to clergy stated: "my commitment to the pastoral care of all members of Christ's body calls me to imagine new models for care-giving in our day. The Bishop went on to say: "I can learn to listen more deeply and I trust that in so listening I can become a more effective pastor. That is my hope for this conference." His hope was more than fulfilled by the reception the training received from the participants. The training was held on 1-2 June 2008 at Gray Center. The presenter was The Rev. Dr. Philip Culbertson, Theological Lecturer at The College of St. John the Evangelist, at The University of Auckland, Auckland, New Zealand. His presentations were in part based on Chapter 7 ("Counseling Gays and Lesbians", from his book "Caring for God's People: Counseling and Christian Wholeness") A special note of thanks is expressed to The Rev. Jane Alexander and Dr. John Allin who contributed considerable time and energy to make this project possible.

In 2009 the committee plans to explore with The Rev. Dr.

Culbertson the possibility of him developing and presenting additional training in this area.

4. As an out growth of the above mentioned training; the Bishop has asked the committee to explore and develop a counseling program/resource to address the concerns of teenagers who "come out" during church sponsored events (happening, winter solstice, etc.) The counseling will also address the concerns and needs of their parents and other family members. We are pleased that The Rev. Graig Gates is leading this project.

5. Members of the committee designed a logo to be used in connection with its projects and initiatives. The design is the outline of the state of Mississippi with the rainbow colors within, and the shield of the Episcopal Church superimposed. The Bishop approved the design and its use, which was first displayed on T-shirts at this year's retreat.

The Committee has recently welcomed three new members: The Rev. Harriet Simmons from Philadelphia, Dr. Robert Stewart from Vardaman and Brent Cox from Jackson. A very special "God speed" to Van Bankston who has entered seminary.

Lastly, I would like to thank the members of the Committee who have worked diligently to make the above described projects a reality. All of us are looking forward to 2009 with a strong sense of enthusiasm and commitment.

Respectfully submitted,
John A. Lever, Chairman

The Center for Formation & Mission of The Episcopal Diocese of Mississippi

ANNUAL REPORT 2008

submitted by The Rev. Debo Dykes

November 9, 2008

...Ch-Ch-Ch Changes!

The Center for Formation & Mission of The Episcopal Diocese of Mississippi has provided exceptional opportunities this year for clergy and lay people from throughout the Diocese, Province IV, and beyond, to participate in a broad spectrum of conference offerings that have nurtured and empowered the spiritual development of Christian discipleship. I am reminded of Paul's words to the people of Corinth, "Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed" (1 Corinthians 15:51)

The Center for Formation & Mission is indeed bringing change to The Duncan M. Gray Camp & Conference Center by providing educational, formational, vocational, and spiritual program offerings. During 2008, conference attendees participated in events that included "The Trinity Institute National Theological Webcast: Religion and Violence, Holy Leisure Silent Retreats and Spiritual Direction, Annual Wardens and New Vestry Members Conference, Sacred Stitches Knitting and Needles Conference, Gathering of Leaders, Growing Our Ministries with God's People (North American Association for the Diaconate), Sacred Vessels: behold the feminine face of God, Jackals & Giraffes: Non-Violent Communication Workshop, Annual Retired Clergy and Spouses Conference, Spiritual Renewal: Without a Map, Annual Clergy Conference: The Emerging Church, and Seeing the Face of God in Each Other: Anti-Racism Training for Diocesan Leaders.

During 2008, the Center for Formation & Mission projected income to Gray Center in the amount of \$62,100.00. CfFM exceeded 2008 budget projections by generating \$82,990.60 (projecting \$3,000.00 from "Seeing the Face of God in Each Other" anti-racism conference scheduled for Dec. 5th & 6th, 2008) to Gray Center. This figure is based upon actual invoices received from Gray Center for 2008. CfFM exceeded budget projections by \$20,890.60 for 2008.

The Center for Formation & Mission Program Committee and I are pleased with the success of The Center for Formation & Mission program offerings for 2008. I want to especially thank members of the CfFM Program Committee for their guidance and support: The Rev. Ann Whitaker, Chairperson, The Rev. Alston Johnson, Mrs. Gay Yerger, The Rev. George Woodliff, The Rev. Becky Youngblood, The Rev. Jennifer Deaton, Ms. Patricia Lewis, Mr. Bill Horn, and Ms. Sissie Wile. On December 16th, Bishop Gray will welcome new members to the Center for Formation & Mission Program Committee: The Rev. Rwth Ashton, Ms. Barbara McDonald, The Rev. Kyle Seage, Ms. Becky Williams, and Mr. Jason Woodcock.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude and appreciation to The Rev. Ann Whitaker for her pastoral leadership as Chairperson for the Center for Formation & Mission Program Committee over the past three years. Ann has been like manna in the wilderness as we have sought ways to give new life and to feed those who have been spiritually hungry from throughout the Diocese of Mississippi and beyond. Ann has led the CfFM Program Committee through its first years with a strong pastoral presence and an encouragement to venture beyond ourselves to taste the sweetness of that great mystery of the Holy. Ann will be resigning as Chairperson for the Center for Formation & Mission, but will remain on the CfFM Program Committee for an interim period.

The Center for Formation & Mission calendar of program offerings for 2009 is attached at the end of this report. Many of the 2009 conference offerings meet IACET guidelines for required clergy CEUs. The Diocese of Mississippi will require all clergy to complete at least 10 CEU contact hours over the next 2 year period. Providing programming that helps clergy comply with the national church's CEU requirements, as well as the Diocese of MS, is an additional objective of the Center for Formation & Mission.

The Center for Formation & Mission calendar of events for 2009 is replete with spiritual formational offerings. Come let us "...Ch-Ch-Ch Change your life" in 2008!

Ch-Ch-Ch Changes!

Center for Formation & Mission 2009 Calendar of Events

Annual Council / Feb. 6-8 / Hattiesburg		
February 13 & 14	St. Andrew's/Jackson	Healthy Congregations
February 18, 19, & 20	INN	Trinity Institute "Radical Abundance: a theology of sustainability"
February 20 & 21	BIG HOUSE	PRAYING IN COLOR: Prayers for Lent
February 26, March 5, & March 12 (10am to 4pm)		Lenten Quiet Day with Bishop Gray
February 27, 28	CENTER	Wardens & New Vestry
March 12, 13, & 14	CENTER	Stewardship: Using the gifts God has given us to do the work God is calling us to do"
or April 23, 24, & 25		
March 19, 20, 21, 22	CENTER	NAAD
March 17 NAAD Board arrives (10)		
April 6, 7, 8	BIG HOUSE	Knitting & Needles (Holy Week)
May 1, 2, 4	Cottage #3	Holy Leisure Silent Retreat
May 26, 27	INN	Clergy & Spouses
August 21, 22, 23	INN	Spiritual Renewal 09
Sept. 18, 19	Cottages 1,2,&3	Family Formation & Spirituality
October 2 & 3	INN & 2 COT	Electronics Conference
Oct. 13 - 16	CENTER	Clergy Conference
Oct. 16, 17	CENTER	Licensed Lay Ministry Renewal
Oct. 23 & 24	INN	Province IV Christian Education with Sharon Pearson
Nov. 6, & 7	INN	Liturgical Arts / Christina Ed.
Dec. 4, & 5		INN Anti-Racism "Seeing the Face of God in Each Other"
Dec. 4, 5, 6		Cottage #3 Holy Leisure Silent Retreat

Other CfFM program offerings are being explored to fill "week days" (Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, & Thursday) at Gray Center during the 2009 year.

Stewardship of Creation Committee

by Andrew Whitehurst, chairman

Our committee held two full meetings of members, one before council and one after council. We crafted a statement on global warming for the Bishop per his request. He adopted our statement and introduced it to the church community at the Annual Council in Natchez in 2008.

Our committee introduced a resolution at the council that asked clergy to devote their sermons on Rogation Sunday in May to earth stewardship. This passed, and as far as we can tell, clergy did try to cover topics about stewardship of the air water and land on Rogation Sunday. We asked for sermon texts from priests and received only one sermon by email - but it was a very good one by Fr. Bill Livingston of Pass Christian. We addressed the youth delegation at the council and invited them to make comments from the floor on the resolution. Despite initial enthusiasm, no youth members commented from the floor. Our Committee wrote and submitted a resolution that would have asked all county boards of supervisors to enact recycling programs. This resolution was not introduced on the floor at the council.

The committee members tended a booth at the council that had compact fluorescent light bulbs for sale, and copies of a 2007 issue of Reflections, a periodical published by Yale Divinity School. This issue was about the intersection of theology and the environment. We sold these for a dollar, sold light bulbs for \$5.00, and \$7.00 a pack, and gave away the remainder of the bulbs in a drawing to get more people to take them home and use them. Our committee received a cash gift from the Episcopal Church's Province IV environmental ministry director, Joyce Wilding. It was with these funds that we purchased light bulbs, literature and other supplies for our tabletop display at the 2008 Council in Vicksburg. Anyone interested in being on the committee please write the chairman at: aewhitehurst@live.com

Stewardship Committee 2008 Annual Report

During 2008 the Stewardship Committee continued to sponsor the Networking stewardship magazine. Each month the latest issue is sent to each parish from the TENS headquarters in Wichita, Kansas. It is the best continuing education we know of for stewardship.

The committee continues to offer stewardship consulting to each parish. Call either the office of the Diocese in Jackson or Robert F. Ward in Meridian, 601-482-2003.

Also, Planned Giving services are provided by the committee. A wonderful example of such stewardship was announced at a special 9 a.m. service at St. Paul's, Meridian on Sunday Dec. 14th. We hope that the entire diocese will receive news of this most gracious gift from a former member of the parish as she planned her estate.

Respectfully submitted,
Robert F. Ward



Mary Berry and Chip Davis visit with Mike and Barb Dobrosky at the Mississippi Crafts Center during a clergy/spouse gathering attended by visiting Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori during the P.B.'s first official in January.

Sudanese Ministry Committee Report

12/02/08

By Greg Miller

The mission of the Sudanese Ministry Committee is to offer a network of support for the education, employment, health, and social and spiritual well-being of Sudanese refugees in Mississippi. We also work to offer education about the lives of the Sudanese in Mississippi as well as the state of the conflict in Sudan.

Bishop Gray III's recent meetings with Sudanese Bishops at Lambeth, and his plans for continuing engagement with the Sudanese diocese of East Twic, will help revitalize our own diocese spiritually while doing God's work abroad and in Mississippi. The ministry is taking part in the building up of God's church globally.

The Committee continues to sponsor Sudanese evening prayer, Saint Andrew's Cathedral parish offering food and fellowship following the services. Diocesan clergy, upon invitation from cathedral clergy, have begun offering communion once a month. We mentored Sudanese refugees. We helped them apply for citizenship, seek out and pay for essential medical treatment, look for jobs, write resumes, apply for passports, fix cars, and find apartments. We have been with the Sudanese when they became U.S. citizens. We attended graduations. We sponsored students at the Education Center so that they can complete their high school diplomas. We offered book scholarships each semester to college students, increasing the money we offer about 40% this year because of successful fundraisers, including summer school for first time in years. We contacted helpful Episcopalians (and others) at universities the Sudanese are attending. We offered small loans, and we continued a special relationship with Hope Credit Union, helping these young people to develop credit and develop financial literacy. We made presentations at three Jackson high schools with members of the Sudanese community, and students in Greg Miller's Millsaps College course on Sudan created a website that includes video interviews of local Sudanese refugees.

The Diocesan Committee and Saint Andrew's Episcopal Cathedral also sent representatives to the American Friends of the Episcopal Church of Sudan in Chicago. James Lueth was elected to the national steering committee of the Sudanese Leadership Conference. Bul Mabil, who works for Lutheran Episcopal Relief on the Mississippi Coast, also attended.

This year, we were able to increase the amount of aid to the young Sudanese because of a successful fundraising event at the Mississippi Museum of Art, co-sponsored by Saint Andrew's Episcopal Cathedral, from which we netted approximately \$6,000 for the committee's work. The priestly music group Rubrixx generously donated their talents for an evening, earning another \$2,000 for our work. As a result, we were able to raise the amount of money we offer in scholarships each semester by about 40% and also to offer help for summer school.

Several young Sudanese have recently received their undergraduate degrees in business, and others will finish this year. We are in need of mentors and business people willing to help these young people begin their professional lives.

Vocare 2008 Annual Report

Vocare in Mississippi had a mixed year during 2008, with work continuing to find new and better ways to address spiritual issues for young adults 19-29 years of age. Bylaws for the ministry were completed and await final approval from the bishop. The Rev. Brian Ponder took over as the ministry's spiritual director, following the departure in late 2007 of The Rev. Tim Jones, who left the diocese to return to England. Adrienne Hinton served as rector for the spring 2008 Vocare weekend at Camp Bratton Green, which was preceded by bad weather and mishaps that affected many on the staff. But the weekend went on without a hitch despite early problems and by closing service Sunday, the sun was shining and pilgrims and staff were looking to the future with new plans and hopes.

The Vocare Fall 2008 weekend was cancelled following weak registration. While no specific reason can be cited for the cancellation, talks continue to find ways to strengthen the weekend program's outreach and evangelism for 2009 and beyond.

Vocare in Mississippi is part of the Vocare International program. The 2009 year will clearly be a rebuilding year as Brian Ponder's departure from the diocese to take a position in Tennessee in October once again left the Vocare spiritual director's position open. Positions on the steering committee, including an at-large board member, Cornerstone director and lay director for the program must also be filled. With new leadership and energy, however, the Vocare flame will no doubt continue to burn and provide spiritual renewal, call and direction for 2009 and beyond.

Yours in Christ,
Maggie Williams

Wellness Committee Report

The wellness of the retired clergy and spouses of the Episcopal Church is a continuing concern of the Diocese of Mississippi. The expression of this concern is exercised by the Bishop with the assistance of the Chaplain to Retired Clergy and Spouses.

"Many clergy and surviving spouses face tremendous trauma in their changed circumstances. To be at the center of a bustling congregation, leading worship, teaching classes, being intimately involved in peoples' lives at moments of transition and crisis, providing leadership and direction to a community of faith is, for most priests, a deeply satisfying and fulfilling experience.

"To find oneself at the end of all that - to be at the center of a faith community one day and to be completely out of it the next - is for many a deeply jarring experience. The same is true for surviving spouses." [CARING FOR OUR TREASURES. cpg].

For many, this time of retirement presents a lonely and unrewarding period of life. The chaplain to the retired clergy and spouses is an extension of the bishop's (and church's) concern and care for these persons. This past year, as in preceding years, we communicated with each person by card/phone/e-mail on his/her birthday, wedding anniversary and other events in their lives. The annual retreat at Gray Center was well attended and enjoyed by all. We renewed friendships, told war-stories, feasted on conference center cuisine. Of special concern were health issues, needs, and changes in the pension/health program. We look forward to this "moment in maturity" again in the coming year.

Respectfully submitted,
The Rev. Thomas E. Tiller [Rtd]

Mississippi Episcopal AIDS Committee

Annual Report 2008

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

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

The Diocese of Mississippi delegation to the Province IV Network of AIDS Ministries Kanuga HIV and AIDS Retreat in June 2008 was once again the largest ever with 36 people living with HIV/AIDS and five MEAC volunteers and caretakers attending. This total of 41 was a record number once again and all enjoyed the trip thoroughly. The retreat is sponsored by the Province IV Network of AIDS Ministries and the National Episcopal AIDS Coalition (NEAC). Mississippi MEAC volunteers are active on the

regional planning committee and plan to increase the participation in the delegation each year in the future.

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

The Emergency Fund maintained by MEAC remained strong during 2008 with a grant of \$45,000 from the Mississippi HeARTS Against AIDS benefit. Donations were also received from Episcopal churches in the diocese and individuals and organizations throughout the state. These funds are spent at a rate of up to five thousand dollars a month in order to supply essential medications for patients waiting for approval for AIDS Drug Assistance Programs (through the Mississippi State Department of Health) and for Medicaid patients who require more than the allowed seven prescriptions each month. Even patients with medication coverage through private insurance need one-time assistance paying high co-payments.

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

A special grant was received in 2008 for the second year for assisting patient placement into substance abuse programs. These funds were awarded by the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration.

Changes to both the Mississippi Medicaid eligibility guidelines and the HOPWA management in the Jackson area have been of great concern to committee members during 2008. Mississippi HeARTS Against AIDS has sponsored an additional fund raiser this year to help meet the growing needs. The changes may lead to an increased need for emergency funds for medications and for rental assistance.

The Mississippi Episcopal AIDS Committee also works to organize prayer and healing services, memorial services, and to link people to churches. Committee members work closely with HIV/AIDS housing programs, service agencies, and Ryan White HIV/AIDS health programs. MEAC has worked during 2008 to increase diversity within its membership and to expand knowledge and activities of the committee.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Ella Tardy, Chair, Mississippi Episcopal AIDS Committee



Diocesan staffer Debo Dykes and Anita George of Resurrection, Starkville share a laugh at the Mississippi Arts and Crafts Center dinner held on the occasion of the Presiding Bishop's visit.

WORSHIP LEADER RENEWALS

Report note: the names below reflect all applications received by press time.

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

CENTRAL CONVOCATION

Brandon, St. Luke's: Mara Jean Johnson, Archie McKay.
Brandon, St. Peter's: Robert Houston, David DeLeeuw, Lisa Maisel, Ross Hartford, Ralph Maisel, Finley Knox, Harry Perdue, Rob Benson, Howard A. Roser, Jean A. Roser, Ann 'Randy' Belton.
Canton, Grace: John R. Childress, Sr., Mary Jane Dow, A. P. Durfey, Jr., Holly G. H. Derickson, Marian Durfey, Robert Killelea.
Clinton, Creator: Marti Williams, Michael Milone, Jackie Tyer, Alice Read.

Forest, St. Matthew's: Mary Jo Walsh.
Jackson, All Saints': Cindy Gavette.
Jackson, St. Andrew's: Jacqueline Mohle, Michael S. Flannes, Margaret McLarty, John Anderson, Jr., D. Carl Black, Jr., Edward Nicholson, Bob Thompson, Laura Clapp, Diana O'Toole, Cheryl Kirchner, Pat Crockett, Kenneth M. Parker.
Jackson, St. James': Ellen Ford, John Gibson, Hal D. Miller, Jr., John Elton Rawson, Mary Crouch Rawson, Yvonne Rogers, Heber Simmons, Catchings B. Smith, Margaret G. Yerger, Peggy Bowles, Barbara Block Fowler.

St. Mark's: Barbara Beadle Barber, Raphiell Ashford, LaWanda M. Washington
Jackson, St. Philip's: Pam David, Margaret Buhner, Mary Frances Ponder, Lester Hailey, William Buhner, II, A. Frederick Parker, Patience Rall, Glynn Bradshaw, Deborah Hanson, Kenneth Bennett, Thomas Andrew Welch, Julie Breland, Jim Carrington, Grace Duckworth, Gerald McWhorter, Lucette Bennett, Beverly Herbert, Jan Evers, Ben Preston, Jill Cole Bullard, Nancy Scott, Thomas Willard, III.

Madison, Chapel of the Cross: Patricia H. Evans, William Fanning, Ella W. Weston, Ann Homer Cook, William Horne, Jr., Marilyn Beach, Charles C. Barlow, Jr.

Ridgeland, St. Catherine's: Jona Keeton
Ridgeland, St. Columb's: Beatrice Langston Berry, L. Brooks Derryberry, June Steinberger, Siegfried Steinberger, William Girod, Malcolm McMillin, Ernest Vanlandingham, Bob May, Janis Quinn, Floyd Sulser, Gregory Grant, Floyd King, Joycelyn Stabler, Betty Jo Mahaffey, John Robert Mahaffey, Janice Jordan.

COAST CONVOCATION

Biloxi, Redeemer: Laura Frederick, Dorothy Byrd, Richard Wilder, Virginia Chavez, Malcolm Jones, James Wheeler.
Diamondhead, St. Thomas': H. Edward Weidlich, Jr, Sally Kappus, James R. Williams.
Gautier, St. Pierre's: Thomas P. Langley, Donald Waddell, B. A. Thornton, Suzanne Cox.
Gulfport, St. Mark's: John M. Harral, Walter V. Williams, Jerome H. Carver, Larry Killebrew, Suanna Smith, Terry Helms, Ruthie Wilder, Mary Nichols, Patti Sneed, James Keith, Andrea Balias.

Gulfport, St. Peter's: Maria Watson, Joy Jennings, Sue Cassidy.
Long Beach, St. Patrick's: Danny Ray Meadors, Douglas MacCullagh, Susan Gregory, Clelie McCandless, Kitty MacCullagh, Dove Green, Mildred H. Bryant, Kathy Davis.
Ocean Springs, St. John's: Joanne P. Calhoun, Lena Melton, Mary Jo Morgan.
Pascagoula, St. John's: Chester Dobrowski, Robert McDonald, Mary Warfield, John Goff, Terry Goff, Lee Crowe Jr., Kay McBroom, Janet Williams Hux.
Pass Christian, Trinity: Gordon D. Burton, Evelyn A. Gregory, Thomas C. Shellnut, Stephen D. McNair.

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

DELTA CONVOCATION

Cleveland, Calvary: Carol L. Jones, Robert T. Ragan, Clay Rayner, Cheryl Lyon, Evelyn Lyon, Lee Aylward, Keith Pethway, Hilda Povall, Steven Craddock
Greenville, St. James': Walter B. Swain, Jr., Ashley Hines, Dot Meeks, Dotti Lowe, Mike Boyd, Tom Conte.
Greenwood, Nativity: James Amandus Barrett, Jr., Mary Rose Carter, Charlot S. Ray, Henry Flautt, Hank Lamb, Philip Barbour.
Indianola, St. Stephen's: David B. Allen, William E. Baker, Walton Gresham III, James H. Lear, Richard G. Noble, Eleanor Failing, Woods Eastland.
Lexington, St. Mary's: H. L. Nichols, III.
Rolling Fork, Chapel of the Cross: Ruth G. Baggett, Anne W. Weissinger, Fonda Lundin.
Sumner, Advent: Stephen Vaught
Yazoo City, Trinity: Janet C. Nail, Jill Woodliff, Priscilla Harper, Robert Harper

NORTHERN CONVOCATION

Grenada, All Saints': James J. Turner.
Holly Springs, Christ Church: Janey Fant.
Michigan City, Calvary: Dottie Jenkins.
Oxford, St. Peter's: Michael de L. Landon, Ed Sisson, Patricia Rogers Lewis, Seth Walley, Holt
Montgomery, Onaye Farrish, Donald Newlin, Kay Paris, Maurie White.
Southaven, St. Timothy: Joe Schmitt.
Tunica, Epiphany: Del R. Coggins

OLD RIVER CONVOCATION

McComb/Magnolia, Mediator/Redeemer: Curt Lamar, Judy Johnson.
Port Gibson, St. James: Frances Charles Nelson, Charles Marsalis, Katherine Bilbro.
Vicksburg, Christ Church: Brenda Benway, David Benway, Edwin L. Boren, Jane Calhoun, Sharon S. Miller, Richard T. McGee.
Vicksburg, Holy Trinity: Herbert Watson Jones, Mary Ruth Jones, Lee Davis
Thames, John Cole, Patricia Smith.
Vicksburg, St. Alban's: Elizabeth Selby, Harvey Smith, Jr. Josie Williams
Vicksburg, St. Mary's: Linda Tolliver.

SOWASHEE CONVOCATION

Columbia, St. Stephen's: Mark Stevens, Ann Simmons, Christine Fortenberry.
Hattiesburg, Ascension: Larry Mullican, Patricia Byrd, Kenneth Cantrell, George Gunter, Edward Brown,

Rick Fortenberry, Rosalie Zimmerman.
Hattiesburg, Trinity: Sallamae H. Wilcox, Barbara Parker, Harvey Poole, Patty Bomboy, Sarah Wainwright., Lucia Perdue.
Laurel, St. John's: Pat Landrum Myers, Patricia Bailey.
Meridian, Mediator: Ann Glass Glazer, Dorothy Reeves, William Stallworth, Nancy Ziller, Sara Scaggs, E. Ann Milsted, Lois Downs, Tim Quick, Jean Garrison, James Robert Smith.
Meridian, St. Paul's: Nancy Arrington, Betty Melton.
Philadelphia, St. Francis: Sandy Weatherford, Evelyn Perry, Chris Allen Baker.

TOMBIGBEE CONVOCATION

Aberdeen, St. John's: Velma Lettice Bowen, David Houston III.
Columbus, St. Paul's: Katharine E. Woods, Douglas N. Crowe, Robert Proffitt.
Corinth, St. Paul's: Olivia Mcintyre.
Starkville, Resurrection: Thomas H. Handy, Guy Arnold
Hargrove, Robert Collins, Lynn Phillips Gaines
Tupelo, All Saints': David R. Sparks, Nathan Duncan.



HEALTHY CONGREGATIONS WORKSHOP

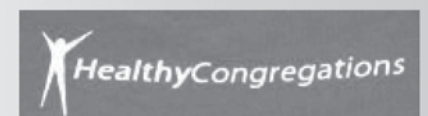
Friday, February 13, 2009,
6:30 pm - 9:00 pm,
and Saturday, February 14, 2009,
9:00 am to 4:30 pm,
at St. Andrew's Cathedral,
Jackson, Mississippi

How can a congregation recognize and address anxiety before that anxiety fuels destructive conflict within the faith community? What can church leaders do to become more aware of their own emotional reactivity, and the way that their presence influences the ebb and flow of anxiety within a congregation? Congregational leaders will find help with such questions at the **Healthy Congregations** workshop provided by the Center for Formation and Mission of the Diocese of Mississippi. The workshops will be presented by The Rev. Chip Davis. Fr. Davis has been trained by the Lombard Mennonite Peace Center (LMPC) to present the **Healthy Congregations**

workshop, and has 20 years experience in Family Systems Theory. Fr. Davis is the rector of Trinity Episcopal Church, in Natchez, MS.

Cost of the **Healthy Congregations** workshop is **\$30.00 per person** with the maximum cost for a **congregational team of \$100.00**. Each registrant will receive a conference notebook.

For more information contact The Rev. Canon David Johnson at frbosco@bellsouth.net. For registration information contact The Rev. Debo Dykes at debo@dioms.org, or call **601-948-5954**.



Registrar Report 2008

ORDAINED TO THE VOCATIONAL DIACONATE

Steve Owen, 1/5/2008, by Duncan M. Gray, III at Church of the Mediator, Meridian
Catherine Halford, 5/29/2008 by Duncan M. Gray, III at St. James', Jackson

ORDAINED TO TRANSITIONAL DIACONATE:

Annie Kay Cumberland, 6/7/2008, at St. Andrew's Cathedral, Jackson by Duncan M. Gray, III
Peter Whittlesey Gray, 6/7/2008, at St. Andrew's Cathedral, Jackson by Duncan M. Gray, III
Catherine Rickett, 6/7/2008, at St. Andrew's Cathedral, Jackson by Duncan M. Gray, III

ORDAINED TO PRIESTHOOD

Margaret Susan Ayers, 2/1/2008, by Duncan M. Gray, III at St. James', Port Gibson, for Diocese of Montana.
Jeremy David Blauvelt, 9/4/2008, by Duncan M. Gray, III at Trinity, Pass Christian, for Diocese of Pittsburgh.
Billie Abraham, 9/21/2008, by Duncan M. Gray, III at St. Alban's, Bovina.
Peter Whittlesey Gray, 12/13/08 by Bishop Charles Jenkins, St. Anna's, New Orleans for the Diocese of Mississippi
Catherine Rickett, 12/14/08 by Duncan M. Gray, III at St. Stephen's, Columbia

DIMISSORY RECEIVED:

Margaret Susan Ayers, 2/7/2008, from the Diocese of Montana
Jeremy David Blauvelt, 9/4/2008, from the Diocese of Pittsburgh
Jason B. Shelby, 9/8/2008, from the Diocese of Northern Indiana

DIMISSORY ISSUED:

Paul E. Stricklin, 2/19/2008, to the Diocese of Upper South Carolina
Michael Elmore Bertrand, 3/15/2008, to the Diocese of Western Louisiana
George Randall Sartin, 4/1/2008, to the Diocese of Florida
Ollie V. Rencher, 9/1/2008, to the Diocese of West Tennessee
Elizabeth Wheatley Jones, 9/1/2008, to the Diocese of Alabama
William G. Barfield, 9/1/2008, to the Diocese of West Virginia
James Brian Ponder, 11/1/2008 to the Diocese of West Tennessee

CHANGES IN THE DIOCESE:

Ed Lundin, 4/1/2008, to Chapel of the Cross, Rolling Fork.
Jeff Reich, 6/1/2008 to St. John's, Laurel
Paul Stephens, 7/24/2008, to serve as an interim in Collierville, TN
Billie Abraham, 9/1/2008 to St. Alban's, Bovina
Liz Jones, 10/1/2008 interim St. Peter's by the Sea, Gulfport
Julia Moore, 6/9/2008 interim Calvary Church, Cleveland

DIED:

Jay W. Breisch, 5/02/2008 in North Potomac, Maryland
William Murray Bullock, 5/4/2008 in Tarboro, North Carolina

LICENSED:

Jane Alexander
Jane Bearden
Arnold Bush
Susan Carney
Ted Dawson
Terrell Griffis
Edgar Ince
Kenny Ryan-King
Heather Parr
LaRae Rutenbar
Margarita Swetman
Noble Walker

Peggy Jones
Registrar



Robert Langford with Operation Shoestring (St. Andrew's, Jackson) and Lisa Percy with the Willaim Winter Institute (St. James', Greenville) are pictured in a forum on public education held at Marshall Elementary School in Southwest Jackson during the visit of Presiding Bishop Jefferts Schori. The P.B. also visited St. Andrew's School in Ridgeland. Look for an article on Episcopalians involved in public and parochial education in the Feb. edition of The Mississippi Episcopalian.

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

Lenten Quiet Days with Bishop Gray

On Thursdays,
February 26, March 5, & March 12, 2009
From 10:00 am to 4:00 pm / \$40.00

The Duncan M. Gray Camp &
Conference Center, Canton, MS

Register online at
[www.dioms.org/digital_faith/
events/176](http://www.dioms.org/digital_faith/events/176)

For more information contact Debo Dykes at
debo@dioms.org

The Bishop's Journal

December 1 – Day Off

December 2 – Staff meeting in morning. Conference call with persons planning the “Traces of the Trade” showing and discussion at Annual Council.

Annual Consultation with the Rev. Debo Dykes. Meeting with an aspirant for holy orders.

Late afternoon conference call with seminarian.

December 3 – Up very early to take a plane to Jacksonville for our regular meeting of the Province IV House of Bishops. Am met at the airport by a shuttle that takes us to Camp Weed, the diocesan camp and conference center for the Diocese of Florida.

December 4 – Camp Weed - Province IV House of Bishops

December 5 – Camp Weed - Province IV House of Bishops

December 6 – Leave Camp Weed after breakfast. Return to Jackson in the afternoon

December 7 – Up very early to travel to the Delta. Early service at Grace Church, Rosedale, something that has become an Advent tradition. After brief visit with the congregation, I drive to Calvary Church, Cleveland, where I preach, celebrate and confirm 2. During lunch, I talk to the congregations about a variety of matters in a question and answer format.

Following lunch I have a good session with the vestry to discuss their search process. I am pleased with the health and vibrancy of this congregation.

Return to Jackson late afternoon.

December 8 – Day Off

December 9 – Staff meetings throughout morning. Begin to look seriously at 2009 diocesan budget that will necessitate major cuts in most areas. A combination of post-Katrina outside funding coming to an end and difficult economic times has produced extraordinary challenges for the coming year.

Financial discussions continue throughout the day in anticipation of meeting of Diocesan Finance Committee on Thursday.

December 10 – Breakfast with Canons McCormick and Johnson and Chancellor Granville Tate. Later in morning meet with the Rev. Bill Livingston. Meet with Standing Committee through much of the middle of the day. Late afternoon conference call with seminarians.

December 11 – Snow and ice hits Jackson and parts South. A decision is made to postpone the Finance Committee meeting until next Tuesday. Later afternoon sessions with Canon McCormick and the Rev. Tom Slawson concerning music and liturgies for this year's Diocesan Council in Hattiesburg.

December 12 – Meet with Bishop Hope Ward of the United Methodist Church, Dean Edward O'Connor from St. Andrew's, the Rev. Michael Nation, our ecumenical officer, and one of the pastors from Galloway Methodist Church in Jackson to plan for the next major step in deepening the relationship between our church and

the Mississippi Conference of the United Methodist Church. A major joint event is being planned for March 3, the Feast of John and Charles Wesley.

Later in morning I meet with the Rev. Ann Whitaker for an annual consultation.

In the afternoon I leave with my mother and father for New Orleans. Kathy and Tabitha follow later. I will be ordaining my son Peter to the priesthood tomorrow.

We stay in New Orleans with old friends Henry and Mary Beth Hudson. Henry is now rector of Trinity Church, New Orleans.

Rehearsals for service is at St. Anna's. Afterwards, Kathy, Tabitha and I gather with Peter and Julianna at their home.

December 13 – At St. Anna's, I ordain Peter to the priesthood. A very special moment. Bishop Charles Jenkins of Louisiana is the preacher. Great joy and much incense! Reception follows at Grace Church, New Orleans where Peter has only recently assumed responsibility for both English and Spanish-speaking congregations.

Lunch with Hudsons and family.

Kathy and I give my sister, Anne Finley and Catherine Clark a brief tour of our old New Orleans neighborhood before taking them to the airport.

Evening with Peter and Julianna at their home.

December 14 – Kathy and I are up early to drive to the coast for visitation to St. Peter's by the Sea, Gulfport. I preach, celebrate, confirm five and receive one in a joyous celebration. The Rev. Liz Jones is now the interim rector at St. Peter's and her wonderful spirit is contagious.

Delicious brunch precedes a very encouraging session with the vestry of St. Peter's. Before I leave I meet with the Rev. Margarita Swetman.

Kathy and I drive to Columbia where I ordain the Rev. Catherine Rickett to the priesthood in a wonderfully warm and joyous celebration. Many diocesan clergy participate and the Very Rev. Tom Slawson preaches a wise and insightful sermon.

Ms. Fran Ginn caters a marvelous dinner following the service. Kathy and I return home very late, but filled with much joy.

December 15 – Day off.

December 16 – Finance Committee meets throughout the day trying to balance the 2009 budget. After most items were reduced to 2008 levels and significant cuts were made in many areas, we are still faced with a serious deficit.

Afternoon meeting with the board of the Center for Formation and Mission to talk about my vision for this ministry of the diocese.

Late afternoon annual consultation with the Rev. Minka Sprague.

December 17 – Appt. with the Rev. Arthur Toro. Annual consultation with the Rev. Deacon Steve Owen. Annual Christmas lunch with active and retired bishops of Roman Catholic, Methodist and Episcopal Church. It is always so good to get together with those on whose ecumenical shoulders we active bishops stand. Spend the entire afternoon with the Trustees of our diocese as we hear the distressing news of

the performance of our investment portfolio.

December 18 – Morning at home working on sermon and answering mail.

Most of the rest of the day spent with Diocesan Executive Committee as we struggle with the 2009 budget. Plans are also made for congregational visitations to approximately 1/3 of our congregations.

Late afternoon appointment with Mr. Ben Roach.

In the evening, I meet with the vestry of St. Peter's by the Lake to discuss their willingness to accept a seminarian graduate for next year.

December 19 – Conference call in the morning with the Right Rev. Shannon Johnston. Travel to Memphis for personal business.

December 20 – Most of day spent Christmas shopping. Late afternoon party for Sudanese Community at the home of Dr. Greg Miller, chair of our Sudanese Ministry Committee.

December 21 – Up early to travel to coast for my annual visitation to St. Thomas, Diamondhead. Stained glass above altar is broken due to serious accident earlier in the week during the hanging of greenery, but spirit is very good. I preach, celebrate, baptize 1, confirm 4 and receive 3. Reception follows where I discuss financial challenges with some parishioners. All acknowledge that substantial progress has been made post-Katrina.

Lunch with the Rev. Bill White, his wife Susan and several parishioners at the Country Club.

After lunch, I drive to Biloxi for a meeting with the rector and vestry of Church of the Redeemer.

Return to Jackson in the evening.

December 22 – Day off Christmas shopping

December 23 – In office. Staff meetings through the morning. We then adjourn for our annual staff lunch. Gathered at this time of year with those who work so hard for this church, my heart is filled with the deepest appreciation.

Poignant for its timing, our lunch is interrupted by yet another problem with our ongoing negotiations with AmeriCorps and its lease of All Saints School in Vicksburg.

Office is closed in the afternoon, though Canon McCormick is dispatched to Vicksburg to address the latest All Saints problem.

December 24 – Christmas Eve worship begins at Church of the Creator, Clinton where Kathy, Tabitha and I join Duncan, Amber and their two girls for the Christmas pageant and eucharist. Very special moment for me.

After dinner at Duncan and Amber's home, I return to Jackson for the late service at St. Andrew's Cathedral. I preach and celebrate within the magnificence of the music and beauty and mystery of the midnight mass.

December 25 – Christmas Day. After a quiet morning, Kathy and I spend the afternoon in Clinton with the Grays and several members of Amber's family.

December 26 – Kathy and I travel to New Orleans for post Christmas visit with Peter and Julianna.

December 27 – New Orleans.

December 28 – Sunday morning at Grace Church, New Orleans where I, for the first time, hear Peter preach and celebrate the eucharist both in English and Spanish speaking services.

December 29 – New Orleans. Kathy and I enjoy the morning together in this city that remains so special to both of us. We return to Jackson in the early evening.

December 30 – Staff meetings in the morning. Annual consultations with the Rev. Deacon Bo Keeler. Monthly meeting in afternoon with LESM Director, Mike Huseth.

December 31 – Morning in the office. Appointments with LESM Board Chair Carol Penick.

Leave at noon to begin a babysitting assignment on New Year's Eve with our granddaughter, Harper.

Bishop Gray's 2008 Discretionary Fund

Receipts:

Cash on Hand 1/1/2008	\$ 3,192.47
Honorariums, Visitations, etc	\$ 17,158.92
Total	\$ 20,351.39

Disbursements:

Charities, Grants, Conferences, etc	\$ 16,737.68
Balance on Hand 12/31/2008	\$ 3,613.71

Bishop Gray's 2007 Official Acts

Baptisms	30
Confirmations	359
Received	28
Ordinations to the Transitional Diaconate	3
Ordination to the Vocational Diaconate	1
Ordinations to the Priesthood	2
Sermons and Addresses	120
Diocesan Conferences and Meetings	132
Other Conferences and Meetings	99
(Univ. of South, House of Bishops, etc.)	
Office Conferences and Appointments	179
Other Calls	31
Community and State Conferences and Meetings	18

4		Annual Budget (2008)	2009
5	Revenues		
6	Income		
7	Conference Center		
8	Total Conference Center	547,910	545,000
9	Center for Formation		
10	Total Center for Formation	34,329	43,000
11	Pioneer Camps		
12	Total Pioneer Camps	8,000	3,000
13	Ropes		
14	Total Ropes	0	1,000
15	Camp Bratton Green		
16	Total Camp Bratton Green	274,991	283,858
17	Total Income [EARNED]	865,230	875,858
18	Endowments / Grants		
19	Diocesan Support		
20	Total Diocesan Support	193,849	201,041
21	Endowments		
22	Total Endowments	48,458	41,100
23	Other Income		
24	Total Other Income	47,374	55,000
25	Total Endowments / Grants	289,681	297,141
26	Fund Raising / Other		
27	Fund Raising		
28	Total Fund Raising	33,477	21,000
29	Merchandise		
30	Total Merchandise	10,002	8,000
31	Total Fund Raising / Other	43,479	29,000
32	Unearned Income	333,160	326,141
33	Total Revenues	1,198,390	1,201,999
34	Expenses		
35	Administrative		
36	Employee Expense		
37	Total Employee Expense	162,589	176,118
38	Employee Benefits / Expense		
39	Total Employee Benefits / Expense	48,955	46,000
40	Employee Insurance		
41	Total Employee Insurance	132,032	112,057
42	Insurance		
43	Total Insurance	75,120	73,430
44	Office Expenses		
45	Total Office Expenses	35,815	38,000
46	Debt Service		
47	Total Debt Service	4,860	5,000
48	Management Expenses		
49	Total Management Expenses	9,793	9,793
50	Promotion		
51	Total Promotion	5,180	6,000
52	Other Administrative Expense		
53	Total Other Administrative Expense	24,898	
54	Program		
55	Total Program	3,914	7,000
56	Center for Formation		
57	Total Center for Formation	13,000	13,000

4		Annual Budget (2008)	2009
58	Total Administrative	516,155	486,398
59	Physical Plant		
60	Employee Expense		
61	Total Employee Expense	116,619	88,900
62	Utilities		
63	Total Utilities	136,342	136,000
64	Vehicles		
65	Total Vehicles	25,140	20,000
66	Services		
67	Total Services	19,000	19,000
68	Routine Maintenance		
69	Total Routine Maintenance	33,674	30,000
70	Endowment Maintenance		
71	Total Endowment Maintenance	5,000	15,000
72	Other Plant Expenses		
73	Total Other Plant Expenses	0	2,000
74	Equipment and Furnishings		
75	Total Equipment and Furnishings	819	1,000
76	Total Physical Plant	336,594	311,900
77	Housekeeping		
78	Employee Expense		
79	Total Employee Expense	50,029	52,006
80	Supplies		
81	Total Supplies	24,000	22,994
82	Total Housekeeping	74,029	75,000
83	Food Services		
84	Employee Expense		
85	Total Employee Expense	117,071	117,071
86	Food and Supplies		
87	Total Food and Supplies	142,322	152,135
88	Total Food Services	259,393	269,206
89	Winter		
90	Winter Camp		
91	Total Winter Camp	3,900	3,900
92	Total Winter	3,900	3,900
93	Summer		
94	Employee Expense		
95	Total Employee Expense	29,300	29,223
96	Program		
97	Total Program	24,623	25,000
98	Total Summer	53,923	54,223
99	Pioneer Camps		
100	Total Pioneer Camps	8,000	3,000
101	Ropes		
102	Total Ropes	2,000	2,800
103	Other Camp Expenses		
104	Total Other Camp Expenses	2,400	2,000
105	Total Expenses	1,256,394	1,208,427
106	Net	-58,004	-6,428
	Depreciaton		100,000
	Net-Net		-106,428



Hank Lamb/Photo

Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori fields a question from Henry Outlaw (Calvary, Cleveland) at a question and answer session at Nativity, Greenwood.



Jim Carrington/Photo

Presiding Bishop Jefferts Schori answers questions at a forum at St. Philip's Jackson.



The Rev. Paul Stephens and Martha attended a gathering in Jackson to visit with Presiding Bishop Jefferts Schori. Paul has recently accepted a call to serve as rector of All Saints', Tupelo. He was most recently the interim rector at Holy Apostles in Collierville, TN. Welcome back home, Paul!

Coast stained glass given new life in Olive Branch cross window

By Scott Lenoir

A piece of the southern-most parish in Diocese of Mississippi, Christ Church in Bay St. Louis, occupies an honored place in the northern-most region of the diocese at Holy Cross Church in Olive Branch.

The Rev. Bruce Cheney, Vicar of Holy Cross, gave new life to the stained glass remains of Christ Church when he and his wife, Nancy, visited Bay St. Louis in 2007.

On that visit, the Rev. Elizabeth Wheatley Jones gave Cheney several buckets of slab glass which was saved from Katrina. Cheney, who has worked with stain glass before, used the heavy pieces to create a faceted window that tells the story of Hurricane Katrina.

"I had been looking for stained glass debris from the hurricane, but it was hard to find," said Cheney. "Elizabeth had several buckets on site and gave four of them to me."

"The window features the Morse code SOS, a depiction of Katrina which pushes a large blue wave through the image," said Cheney. There is also a Mariner's cross and a small cross at the point of true north which Cheney says is a reminder of our reliance on God when faced with the raw power of nature.

When asked how many hours he put into the creation of the piece, Cheney said that he had no idea, but guessed, "hundreds."

Cheney cut pieces one inch pieces of stained slab glass and then cast the pieces into



The Rev. Bruce Cheney, vicar of Holy Cross Church in Olive Branch, stands by his Katrina Cross window which he created from fragments of stained glass found on the grounds of Christ Church, Bay St. Louis.

an epoxy resin and mix. The design of the cross window is achieved by the inter-play of the translucent stain glass colors and the opaque epoxy.

Cheney said the piece is done in honor of all those on the coast who suffered through Hurricane Katrina and especially for the six Episcopal Churches that were destroyed by the storm.

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Amen
BCP pg. 818

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A-V Center News

by Janet C. Nail



I remember my baptism well.

I was seven years old, and I had been attending church alone for a year. I yearned for the day that I could walk up the aisle, while the congregation sang "Just

As I Am," and "give my life to Jesus."

My mother's uncle lived with us while my father was in Korea, and he was a staunch church-goer. He started going to church with me, and he shamed my mother into going with us one evening.

This was my chance.

As the congregation came to the verse that says "Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind/sight, riches, healing of the mind/Yea, all I need in Thee to find,/O Lamb of God, I come! I come!" I slipped from the pew and walked to the front of the church.

I joined the church, although now I am sure I had no idea what I was doing. But the deed was done, and my baptism was scheduled.

For some reason, baptisms seem to be done at the night service. So the next week, I,

and the adults who had walked down that night, gathered to be baptized.

When I saw that I would be "dunked," I almost backed out. I have a great fear of water, and baptism looked like drowning to me. But I walked into the baptismal pool, and the preacher intoned, "I baptize you in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit," and then he dipped me into the water.

I began to choke and grabbed his arm. He was a kind man, accustomed to children, and he immediately brought me up and whispered that I was all right. He even gave me a little hug as he sent me up the steps out of the pool.

My mother was mortified (I think my panic must have been visible, but Uncle Bob just laughed. "God wouldn't let you drown while you are being baptized, baby."

NOW he tells me.

Eventually, I began to understand what I had done, what had happened to me. And I was grateful for Dr. Quarles, the preacher who understood why I desperately needed to be baptized, even if I didn't.

Well, we do it differently in the Episcopal Church, don't we?

If you want to prepare candidates, parents, and/or sponsors for an upcoming baptism, you may be interested in a new program in the A-V Center. BAPTISM; A LIFELONG CELEBRATION is a comprehensive look at the spiritual journey

called baptism.

In this program you will meet several people who explain how baptism strengthens their personal relationship with God and affirms their place in a spiritual community. You will learn why we are baptized into the faith and what it means to be a baptized Christian.

This may be an excellent program to use to prepare a children's Sunday class about baptism. I remember this as being one of the most powerful classes I taught when I was still in the trenches. The children learned about the sacrament and in the last class, they brought their dolls to be baptized. (I had loaner dolls for the boys.) The impact of the class was evident at the next baptism: all the children surged forward to watch with eagerness "the real thing."

After you have explained, taught experientially, walked everyone through the service, and set the date for the baptism, you have one final thing to do and I have the resource to help you explain the power of the sacrament.

Happening used the video program BAPTISM: A SACRAMENT OF BELONGING for many years. Watch it and you will see why.

Pedro, a boy who has been horribly burned, is an outcast because of his scarred face. He moves from place to place, never finding a home, always chased away. One day he sees a place where boys are running, shouting, playing-even laughing. He is drawn almost against his will to the gate. A priest who sees him draws him in. Pedro asks to stay, and the priest turns to the boys, who have grown silent. Should we, he asks, allow this boy to stay, knowing that other people will make fun of him?

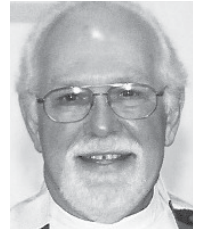
In the silence, a small boy comes forward. He walks up to Pedro and takes his hand. Turning to the priest, he says, "Es mi hermano." He is my brother.

And that is what baptism means. It is becoming part of a community in which a kind man assures a panicky little girl that she is safe; a community that allows children to experience the sacrament, a community that welcomes an outcast boy as a brother.

To borrow these or any other programs, call me at 662-746-5557; or e-mail me at grandmastruck1994@yahoo.com. You may also call to discuss any of your Christian Education needs.

Ring Around the Collar

By Denny Allman



One of the more commonly asked question of Christians is "Why do you go to church so much?" The question is usually not asked of clergy because everyone knows that we HAVE to go to church. One answer to that question is that it is a privilege, a right and a duty to go to church. Surely in this country we take the privilege and right for granted. However, in other countries Christians find it difficult to attend worship services. That brings us to duty. We have a duty to worship almighty God our creator and redeemer. When I came into the Episcopal Church it was in a very Anglo-Catholic parish. I once asked the rector why we were expected

to attend services so much. His answer was "it was good for our immortal soul." We have this duty to care for our immortal soul as well as worship our God. I think this idea may not be the common knowledge I think it should be. Fr. Matt Rowe, rector of Holy Nativity, Greenwood addressed the concept in his November newsletter. The first paragraph addresses the recent election but it also has a bearing on the rest of the essay.

The American people have this week taken part in the great experiment of representative democracy by going to the polls to elect representatives, senators, judges, governors and a new President and Vice-president of the United States. The electoral process is one of those things that makes our nation a shining light of freedom in the world. It has sometimes been taken for granted in our nation, but this election seems to have awakened many to the privilege, the right, and the duty to participate that we share as Americans, and for which so many brave Americans have sacrificed.

Voting is truly a privilege, a right, and a duty for citizens of our good land. From that example I want to draw attention to something that is a privilege, a right, and a duty in which we share as Christian people, and that is the worship of God. We have the privilege of gathering week by week to share in the encouragement of fellowship with one another; to bring our concerns, our needs and our shortcomings before the mercy of God; to be edified and instructed by the Word of God; and to be spiritually fed in the Holy Communion. We have the right to approach God as Our Father, not on the basis of anything we have done to deserve that right, but because it is a gift of grace freely bestowed upon us in the saving work of Christ - his life, death, resurrection, ascension, and coming again. We also have a duty to share in the gathered worship of God. In the Elizabethan English of Rite I we speak of "our bounden duty and service." My copy of the St. Augustine Prayer Book, a devotional aid for Episcopalians with catholic leanings states that catholic custom requires regular attendance at its chief act of worship, the Holy Eucharist.

My hope and prayer is to encourage those who regularly practice their Christian privilege, right, and duty to join in the worship life of the Church, to continue to be faithful in practice. I also hope to stir up those who have fallen out of practice to take it up again, to once again take part in the joyful fellowship of the Church of the Nativity. The Church is the family of God. There is a place at the Table for every member of this family. This family needs all of its members in order to be fully who it is and who God wants it to be. If you've been away for any reason, please know you still have a place here to share in the great privilege, right, and duty to worship Almighty God.

Blessings to one and all.

Matt+



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DIOCESAN CALENDAR

JANUARY

- 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.
• Bishop Gray visits: 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
- 24
• Fresh Start Committee, Allin House, Jackson
- 25
• Bishop Gray visits: Redeemer, Brookhaven - 10:30 a.m.
• Bishop Gray visits: St. James', Port Gibson - 5:00 p.m.
- 27
• Legislative Breakfast - 7:00 a.m.

FEBRUARY

- 1
• Bishop Gray visits: St. Alban's, Bovina - 10:00 a.m.
• Ordination of the Rev. Annie Cumberland to the Priesthood - 5:00 p.m., St. Andrew's Cathedral, Jackson.
- 3
• Deadline for submittal to The Mississippi Episcopalian
- 6-8
• 182nd Annual Council, Lake Terrace Convention Center, Hattiesburg
• Annual Youth Council, Trinity Church, Hattiesburg
- 9-10
• Allin House Closed
- 13-14
• Healthy Congregations, St. Andrew's Cathedral, Jackson
- 18-20
• Center for Formation & Mission - Trinity Institute: Theology of Sustainability, Gray Center, Canton
- 20-21
• Center for Formation & Mission - Praying in Color: Prayers for Lent, Big House, Gray Center, Canton
- 20-22
• Jr. High DOY, Camp Bratton Green, Canton
- 25
• Ash Wednesday, Lent begins
• Bishop Gray visits: St. Andrew's Lower School, Jackson - 8:15 a.m.
- 27-28
• Warden & New Vestry Members' Conferences, Gray Center, Canton

MARCH

- 1
• Bishop Gray visits: All Saints', Tupelo - 10:30 a.m.
• Bishop Gray visits: Calvary, Michigan City - 4:30 p.m.
- 3
• Deadline for submittal to The Mississippi Episcopalian
• Fresh Start - 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m., St. John's, Laurel
• Covenant of Common Life Celebration Dinner & Service - 7:30 p.m. - St. Andrew's Cathedral, Jackson, with Galloway United Methodist Church
- 4
• Executive Committee - 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., St. Andrew's Cathedral, Jackson
- 5
• Bishop Gray visits: Coast Episcopal School, Long Beach - 8:00 a.m.
• Fresh Start - 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m., St. Peter's, Oxford
- 6-7
• Commission on Ministry, Gray Center, Canton
- 7
• Standing Committee - 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m., Gray Center, Canton
- 8
• Bishop Gray visits: Trinity, Natchez - 10:30 a.m.
- 8-10
• Presbyter Post-Ordination Consultation, Gray Center, Canton
- 10
• Diocesan Trustees - 2:00 p.m., Allin House, Jackson

11

- Deacons' Council - 11:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m., Allin House, Jackson
- Tombigbee Convocation Confirmation Service - 6:30 p.m., St. Paul's, Columbus

14

- Gray Center Board - 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m., Gray Center, Canton

12-19

- House of Bishops, Kanuga, NC

16-25

- Center for Formation & Mission - "Lent in the Holy Land" pilgrimage

19

- Mississippi Religious Leadership Conference - 12:00 noon

19-22

- North American Association for the Diaconate's Annual Conference for Diaconal Formation Directors and Archdeacons, Gray Center, Canton

22

- Bishop Gray visits: St. Paul's, Meridian - 10:30 a.m.
- Bishop Gray visits: St. Mary's, Enterprise - 5:00 p.m.

27-29

- Sr. High DOY, Camp Bratton Green, Canton

27-28

- Friends of Gray Center, Gray Center, Canton
- Arts Alive, Downtown Jackson

29

- Bishop Gray visits: St. Clements', Vaiden - 10:30 a.m.

Faithful Departed

by Peggy Jones

December 2008

John Thomas Bell, 81, communicant of Resurrection, Starkville, died July 31, 2008.

Elaine Steed, 53, communicant of Trinity, Yazoo City, died September 5, 2008.

The Rev. William R. Dunaway, 70, communicant of Mediator-Redeemer, McComb, died October 1, 2008.

Nino Antony Bologna, 89, communicant of St. James', Greenville, died October 5, 2008.

Lawrence T. "Dooner" Wade, 88, communicant of Chapel of the Cross, Rolling Fork, died on October 20, 2008.

Bernice O'Bannon Gatlin, 75, communicant of St. Mark's, Jackson, died November 4, 2008.

Merle Berry Montjoy, 88, communicant of St. Andrews, Jackson, died November 5, 2008.

Vicki Holmes, 65, communicant of Trinity, Yazoo City, died November 12, 2008.

Emily R. Compton, 89, communicant of Holy Trinity, Vicksburg, died November 19, 2008.

Mary Stone Brister, 86, communicant of St. Andrews, Jackson, died November 30, 2008.

Mary Brown, 95, communicant of St. Andrews, Jackson, died December 8, 2008.

Shirley C. Thomas, 73, communicant of St. James' in Greenville died Dec. 21, 2008.

Jean White Lowe, 81, communicant of St. Andrews, Jackson, died December 24, 2008.

Dr. Duane F. Hurt, 61, communicant of Nativity, Greenwood, died December 31, 2008.

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Crosses and birdhouses bring blessings to St. John's Pacagoula and beyond

By Scott Lenoir

What began as a simple gift to say thank you to relief workers volunteering their time on the Mississippi Coast after Hurricane Katrina turned into a joyful ministry as well as creating a new source of income for a variety of projects at St. John's in Pascagoula.

The ministry began when long-time St. John's parishioner and Coast artist Mary Bet Evans and some friends began thinking a gift to offer some Coast volunteers from Harttlesburg as a way to say thank you for the good work done at St. John's after Hurricane Katrina.

"We noticed the piles of debris in the streets, especially the parquet flooring that had been removed in the church and in houses," said Evans.

Evans and other parishioners began fashioning crosses out of the flooring which they wrapped in wire and decorated with beadwork and broken china or pottery shards.

The gifts were such a hit with the volunteers, more were made and the group started putting them out for donations to St. John's.

"We made three hundred dollars quickly and so we did a little sale at our arts and crafts festival," said Evans. That's where the Rev. Carol Stewart, who was working on the Coast with LESM, saw them. Stewart was so taken with the crosses that she contacted Phyllis Thompson and

Barbara Ladner at St. Andrew's bookstore in Jackson about marketing them.

Thompson and Landner decided sell the crosses through the bookstore as an outreach project. Over the years, St. Andrew's Bookstore sold over fifteen hundred crosses, and 178 Katrina Birdhouses garnering over twenty-two thousand five hundred dollars for St. John's. And that's only money generated through bookstore sales alone.

Another facet of the cross ministry came when Carl Rensink, now a parishioner at St. Pierre's in Gautier, built over three hundred Katrina Birdhouses for the cause.

To date over thirty-five thousand dollars has been collected by the crosses and birdhouse ministry at St. John's. All the money made goes into a special fund and is used in a variety of ways from outreach to helping with needs of the church.

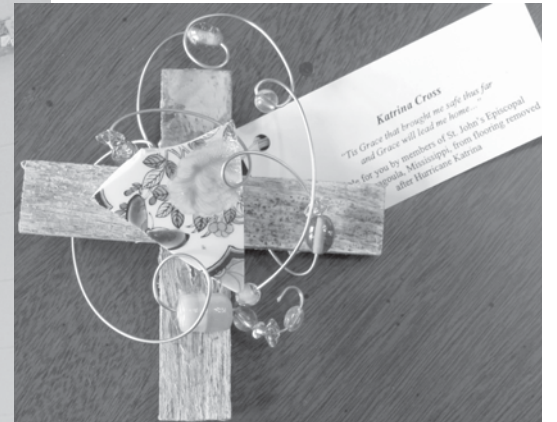
The core cross makers are Evans, Barbie Harkey, Len Murray, and Susie Kimball who only have a small amount raw material left.

Besides the obvious help in creating new funding for St. John's, Evans said that the most wonderful gift has been the reactions of gratitude people show who receive the crosses from across the country and in other nations as well.

"The reactions we've gotten have truly



Barbie Harkey, Mary Bet Evans, and Len Murray make Katrina Crosses for St. John's Pascagoula which has provided funding for ministry the parish never imagined.



profound sense of peace and hope. I keep it nearby. Thanks for sending along another cross and keeping that hope alive."

Evans says there are many such stories about these Katrina Crosses that have been resurrected from the debris of the storm and it is those stories that have given the ministry the sustaining strength to continue.

"It's been a great, great experience to work on this," says Evans.

St. John's Rector, the Rev. Dennis Ryan agrees, "It is a project and ministry that the Spirit has led our folks into and we've all been blessed by its presence," said Ryan.

touched people's hearts all over the world," said Evans revealed a note that was sent to her a Michigan widow who wrote: "My faith has been seriously tested for many years now, and while I still have a deep belief in a God who looks after all of us, I feel a bit "lost". A co-worker gave me a Katrina Cross this week. What a thoughtful gesture, but it was the cross that gave me such a

Flesh colored band-aids?

By The Rev. Debo Dykes

Children just love band-aids! I can remember as a child how exciting it was to have mommy reach in the medicine cabinet and open the Johnson & Johnson Band-Aid box, tear open a flesh colored band-aid, peel off the two sides, and firmly press the flesh colored band-aid to my scraped knee. I was awed at the sight of my flesh colored band-aid. It was my "trophy"! A well earned badge of "wounded flesh"!

Not until December 6, 2008, while attending the anti-racism conference, "Seeing the Face of God in Each Other" with Dr. Anita George and the Rev. Carol Stewart, did I ever think a thing about flesh colored band-aids. Why should I? After all, band-aids were flesh colored. Suddenly, shocked by this subtle privilege of "whiteness" I realized that growing-up with flesh colored band-aids meant MY flesh color!

Few topics are as likely to arouse such passionate feelings in our culture today as the question of "white privilege", anti-racism, and the oppression of people of color. Nearly 2,000 years ago when the Jesus movement began, it offered a glimpse at the possibility of transforming the relationships of race (ethnicity), slavery, and even sexism.

The baptismal formula preserved in Paul's letter to the Galatians represents this vision. Paul saw the new age of God's Kingdom as one in which a new equality between all races and social groups would be established. Paul anticipated that Jew and Greek, male and female, slaves and free would become brothers and sis-

ters and work together in preaching the Good News of God. "As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus." Galatians 3:23-4:4

And... where are we today?

Having produced the promotional piece on Constant Contact notifying people of the upcoming anti-racism conference, "Seeing the Face of God in Each Other", I sat at my desk and paused before clicking "send". I wondered how people would respond. Would they be understanding, responsive, and compassionate?

I received many emails that were compassionate and understanding. Would there be those who would find the conference offensive and thus be critical of the event? How long would it take before I began to receive emails criticizing this event? Moments? Days? weeks? It took moments! Here they came. "Get over it! I'm not responsible for what my ancestors may or may not have done to black people (slaves)! I'm moving on with my life and suggest the Church needs to move on too!" Another said, "There's no such thing as 'white privilege' anymore!" And another said, "If the Church doesn't stop trying to push this 'racial' issue onto us white people and make us feel guilty, I just may have to change churches!" As these responses continued to surface in my email, I was saddened by the hostility of Christians to consider Jesus' ministry of denouncing the exploitation of

humans. Clearly, throughout the sacred text, Jesus' passion is that of justice. Certainly, I thought, there are things still to be learned.

Many of us think we are each doing enough to eradicate racism and oppression. Many are. Many of us think we are no longer racist or prejudiced. Many are not. Yet it is the story of the flesh colored band-aids that brings me to a new awareness of how, as a white person, I do not have to navigate through my day scanning the horizon for indications of racial prejudice and attitudes that can disrupt the events of my life and the life of my husband and children.

And yet, one of the participants of December's anti-racism conference shared with us just such an experience. He is a black man and a Lutheran pastor, who bravely articulated the obstacles faced today by people of color. His stories, and the stories of only two other black people present for the conference (one being Dr. Anita George), were stories I call "Kingdom moments." They were moments that revealed God's brave attempt to intervene and judge the injustice of the present social order and to offer a new social order that is truly in keeping with the divine will. Luke speaks of this divine advocacy created on the earth when he says, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me...God has sent me to proclaim



Communicates of Christ Church, Vicksburg (left to right) Vernon de Anaya, Susan Disharoon, Charlene Eichelberger, Deloris Terrell, the Rev. Chan Osborn de Anaya, Robert Engler and Mike Dollar (in front) attended the Anti-racism conference with the Rev. Jonathon Smith, a Lutheran pastor from Vicksburg

release to the captive, ... to set at liberty those who are oppressed." Luke 4:18-19

This was not my first anti-racism training conference. In fact, I had considered just sitting in the dining room or lobby following registration, and not actually attending. After all, I had been to one training already and knew all about white privilege and anti-racism stuff. But this time was different. It was different because Anita and Carol spoke not only from their hearts, but from their own experiences. Anita and Carol were willing to be totally vulnerable; totally at risk with the participants; truthful, emotional, raw, and humble. Their stories were personal. And because they are both southerners, the authenticity of their stories

was palpable; as if the Holy Spirit opened her jaws and breathed on me.

The story of the injured child of color and the "flesh" colored band-aid is now a part of my life, a part of my awareness, a part of how I look at the world. I want to be a better person. I want to understand the passion of Jesus and his longing for God's distributive justice. I want to experience Jesus' insatiable passion for a world in which justice and compassion dominates our thoughts, our hearts, our minds. Imagine such a world.