

# THE MISSISSIPPI EPISCOPALIAN

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## Episcopalians coping with economic downturn

By Scott Lenoir

As the TV ad says, "Life comes at you fast." No one knows this better than the growing ranks of the unemployed. Chances are someone in your parish or mission is looking for a job in our state where the unemployment rate stands over 9% according to the latest statistics from the Mississippi



Employment Security Commission.

For Beth Downs, a communicant of St. James' in Jackson, the experience of losing her job left her in a panic.

"It was very sudden. I go no warning, no severance, nothing," said Downs, 59, a former Senior Underwriter with Realty Mortgage (RM) in Jackson.

In February, Bank of America froze Realty Mortgage's line of credit which shut down the company's ability to fund mortgages. The wholesale division

was laid off first and a short time later, owners Tommy Taylor and Charlie Myres were forced to shut down the entire company, even though business was good at RM and the company was in good shape financially.

Realty Mortgage was the largest privately owned mortgage company in Mississippi employing some 300 people who are now looking for work.

"I was mortified," said Downs. "The roughest time was at the beginning. I was afraid that I wouldn't be able to get a job in time to save my house. I thought I'd have to pack up and live with my daughter in Indianapolis because there are more job opportunities there until I could get back on my feet and come home to Mississippi."

Mark See, a communicant of Grace, Canton, received notice before losing his job at L-3 Vertex Aerospace in Madison, MS. See was told just before Christmas that he would be laid off January 9th.

"One day I got called into the office in December with my director and the Vice President and somebody from HR. You walk into that and

you know where the next step's going. So I had to go through the holidays with that knowledge," said See, 41 who was a technical staffing manager in Business Development.

Several other employees also got walking papers which See believes saved L-3 at least \$500,000 a year in salaries.

See is no stranger to hard times as he and his wife, Marsha, who now is employed with Lutheran Episcopal Services of Mississippi. Both survived the World Com melt down in 2003. The Sees have three children, ages 7, 9 and 10 and are, in Mark's words, "shifting priorities" during this time between jobs.

St. Peter's by-the-Sea communicant Ross Wicks is another Episcopalian competing in a tight job market on the Coast. Wick was employed as a sales representative with Allied Waste which recently merged with Republic Services, the same company that now owns BFI. Wicks said the entire Gulfport sales office of Republic was let go and all the sales are now handled out of Mobile.

**Job losses,**  
*Continued on page 4*

## Bishop's Barbeque promises a giant Memorial Day Weekend celebration

By Jamie Dickson

The smell of barbeque wafting in the breeze; an eclectic array of items more varied than any middle-Eastern bazaar; an upbeat blues-rock tune swaying a crowd; the laughter of children (or are those adults acting like kids?) dancing over a field; where are such things found? Simple: at The Bishop's Barbeque Memorial Day Weekend extravaganza at Gray Center.

The Bishop's Barbeque, a fundraiser benefiting Gray Center, will be a weekend-long event this year, expanding its range of activities to fit the interests of any Episcopalian (or non-Episcopalian, for that matter). The planning committee, headed by Crystal Skelton and Greer Proctor-Dickson of St. Alexis', Jackson, hopes that the long Memorial Day weekend will bring a multitude of attendees for a multitude of reasons. "With events spanning from Friday night through Sunday morning," Skelton says, "the Barbeque will undoubtedly appeal to anyone who graces us with their presence."



Jim Carrington (center) and friends serve up the pork at the last Bishop's Barbecue.



### Friday night kickoff

Friday evening promises an intimate evening of low-key fellowship. Those who have reserved rooms in the Conference Center for Friday will be treated to a delicious helping of jambalaya courtesy of St. Phillip's, Jackson.

Saturday's breakfast will be a continental spread designed by Gray Center's culinary expert, Grae Dickson. Space is still available, but rooms are going quickly! Contact the Gray Center office (601-859-1556) to reserve a spot.

### The main event

At noon on Saturday, the weekend's namesake event begins. Legions of hungry Episcopalians will be served mouth-watering barbeque by willing volunteers from St. Philip's, Jackson. As Grae Dickson says, "Gray Center will cook it, St. Philip's will serve it, but it's up to the rest of the diocese to eat it!"

The standard adult plate includes BBQ pork/chicken, baked beans, coleslaw, Texas Toast, a cookie, and a drink. For younger attendees, the child's plate will hold a BBQ Pork Sandwich, chips, cookie, and a drink. All parishes have been mailed tickets, and prices are as

follows: adult \$10 in advance, \$12 at the gate; kids \$5 in advance, \$6 at the gate. Additional beverages will be available to beat back the summer heat: bottled water will be sold for \$1, beer for \$2. Also, whole Boston Butts will be pre-sold for \$25 apiece. Anyone interested should e-mail Grae Dickson at grae@graycenter.org. Also, any individuals or groups interested in helping with food service/cleanup, etc. should e-mail Grae as well.

### Live music

As the barbeque begins to make its way across the taste buds of the crowd, musicians will begin to tantalize their eardrums as well. Live music, which has been sponsored by Jackson area churches St. Andrew's, St. Philip's, St. Columb's, St. James', and Chapel of the Cross, will begin shortly after food is served.

The range of styles is staggering. Ralph Miller will soothe the crowd with his acoustic and spiritual standards. Jackson native Will Skelton is currently assembling a musical entourage that will offer a number of standard favorites and original jams.

Rubrixx, the all-priest combo that rocked

Diocesan Council in Natchez two years ago, and at the last barbeque, will hit the groove playing their Chicago styled blues-rock and other favorite rock classics.

Rubrixx personnel include the Rev. Charlie Deaton (St. Peter's by-the-Lake, Brandon) on lead guitar and lead vocals; the Rev. Scott Lenoir (Bishop's staff) on harmonica and vocals; the Rev. Alston Johnston (Chapel of the Cross, Madison) on drums; and the Rev.

Brian Owen (Cathedral of St. Andrew, Jackson) on bass.

Rounding out the musical lineup will be Mississippi natives and college rock favorites the Kudzu Kings. While the Kings have stopped touring full time, they are reuniting just for the Barbeque. Their brand of bluegrass-country inspired rock runs the gamut of musical styles. Soft and lyrical, brash and rowdy, the Kudzu Kings cover it all. Anyone who has heard the Kings in concert will

undoubtedly want to make the trek to Gray Center, and anyone who has not experienced what lead singer Tate More of Oxford and the rest of his gang have to offer will be pleased.

**Bishop's Barbeque,**  
*Continued on page 8*



Kathy Gray and the Bishop, sporting a new mitre, traveled the grounds greeting guests via golf cart at the last BBQ.

## Notes & Quotes

by Maria Watson



Palm Sunday, and with it, Holy Week, have arrived. Although we have had a very full Lent, it is now that the real drama, and the emotional exhaustion it invariably carries with it,

begin: one of my favorite times of the year as it leads inexorably to the glory of Easter.

But before I dive into the many Passiontide observances taking place in our Diocese, I want to tell you about something extraordinary-and dear to me-that's happening in my own parish, **St. Peter's by-the-Sea, Gulfport**. Our organist and choirmaster of 11 years, J.T. Anglin, has attained the high honor of being one of 100 musicians chosen to attend the AIMS Summer Vocal Institute, the oldest and best-known of summer vocal programs in the world, in Graz, Austria. Although he is going to AIMS to receive training to marry his education to his music career, J.T. has been accorded an additional opportunity: he's been invited to audition at several Austrian opera houses while in residence at this prestigious school. But, he must pay his own expenses (about \$12,000-this ain't no cheap trip!) and several Coast churches are helping him. A mid-Lenten concert at St. Peter's netted him \$2,700 after proceeds from donations and a silent auction were counted. A similar concert was to be held at St. Pierre's, Gautier, where he "trained" for 11 years to come to us. Many of you know J.T. from Council or from Summer Music Conferences. If you'd like to help him with this worthy trip to Austria, please call St. Peter's, 228-863-2611, to learn how you can make your tax deductible donation.

Now, for what many of you are doing as Holy Week unfolds.

Maundy Thursday brings with it a number of observances: For **St. Mark's Gulfport**, a Seder

Supper followed by a celebration of Holy Eucharist; for **St. Peter's by-the-Sea**, the ceremony of footwashing, Institution of the Eucharist and Stripping of the Altar. **St. John's, Laurel**, has similar plans with a procession to the Altar of Repose, then to spend time in prayer with the Blessed Sacrament which has been consecrated for Good Friday services. While most parishes are undoubtedly observing Maundy Thursday in the same fashion, these stand out in newsletters: **Trinity, Natchez; St. Peter's by-the-Lake, Brandon; All Saints', Jackson**.

Stations of the Cross are a part of many Lenten Friday services and certainly of those on Good Friday. **St. John's, Pascagoula**, had a particularly interesting "take" on this special service on Palm Sunday: Living Stations of the Cross prepared and led by the parish children and youth who made props and scenery and dressed in character as well. St. Patrick's, Long Beach, which had hoped to be in its new home for Easter, didn't quite make it but proclaimed this its last Easter "in exile," and planned to decorate its Camp Coast Care surroundings accordingly.

In other Coast rebuilding news, **Redeemer, Biloxi**, is negotiating a contract with an architect for its new church and has signed on with a contractor. They hope for completion in May 2010. **Christ Church, Bay St. Louis**, also seems to be making progress toward rebuilding with a recent bid opening on their plans. **Christ Church's** choir also has new vestments, a gift from Christ and Holy Trinity Church, Westport, Connecticut.

Moving past Holy Week and Easter, **Calvary, Cleveland**, planned to participate in the annual Crossie Arts and Jazz Festival April 18 on the courthouse lawn. **St. John's, Laurel**, is hosting Happening #69 April 24-26.

**St. Matthew's, Kosciusko**, is preparing to celebrate its 50th anniversary May 3, with other events, including an Art Extravaganza, to precede the big day when the Rt. Rev. Duncan M. Gray Jr. will celebrate at the Sunday 10:30 a.m. service. **St. John's, Ocean Springs**, has been busy for months, preparing for its annual Renaissance Faire May 2-3, when all proceeds will go to its

outreach projects. A King's Feast will be held Friday, April 24. The Renaissance Faire has grown every year into an eagerly anticipated, major event. The ECW of **St. Mark's, Gulfport**, is planning its annual Spring Luncheon for Friday, May 1, with a Market featuring baked goods and crafts.

**All Saints', Jackson**, is planning a Mexican Fundraiser Meal for May 9. **St. Peter's-by-the-Lake, Brandon**, plans a special fun-filled weekend at Camp Bratton Green May 1-3.

More planning ahead: **St. Mark's, Gulfport, St. James', Jackson**, and **Creator, Clinton**, are gearing up for Vacation Bible School this summer. **Creator, Clinton**, has a Blues and Barbecue event planned for mid-July.

**St. Peter's, Oxford**, always a big participant in the Honduras Medical Mission, along with other parishes, reports that 2,061 individuals were seen in the medical clinic; 1,067 teeth were extracted from 395 mouths; 1,021 molars and premolars were sealed in 156 children; 8,661 prescriptions were filled; 1,023 pairs of glasses were dispensed; 938 animals were treated; and 11 church services were held. Onward to next year!

**St. Paul's, Columbus**, is happy to have its organ, which has been in restoration and refurbishment at Schantz Organ Works in Ohio, back in place after a six-month absence. **St. Paul's** was also on Columbus' Spring Pilgrimage tour in early April. And, they're sending 17 youth and chaperones on a Mission Trip to Washington, D.C., in May.

Each month, **Holy Cross, Olive Branch**, hold a different, contemporary worship experience in an outdoor setting. Worship in the Woods was the offering on Saturday, April 4.

**Advent, Sumner**, wants to help people near their church "grow green," by distributing garden seeds to 150 families. Each packet contains enough seeds-okra, sweet corn, bell peppers, pinkeye purple hull peas, butter beans, squash, collards and watermelons-for a small, family-sized garden.

Finally, **St. Pierre's, Gautier**, has revived its colorful and interesting newsletter, *The Keys of the Kingdom*, with a new editor, Vicky Reed.

Congratulations, **St. Pierre's** and Vicky.

With much more news to report, space is getting tight and I must leave room for some interesting quotes. As always, the latest newsletters I get are the ones I open first because they contain the latest news. Please keep in mind the deadline for this column: first Tuesday of the month of publication, with the paper landing in mailboxes during the last week of the month. That means I look for things that are coming up or are not so far past as to be out-of-season, so to speak, so please, think FUTURE when you read this and when you write your own parish newsletters.

### NOTABLE QUOTES...

"What is discernment? Discernment is seeking God with all our senses-taste, sight, sound, smell and touch. Discernment is about big things, about life-changing events and decisions. But discernment is also about everyday things. In which direction do you set your feet in the morning? How open is your heart to the gift of community and creation around you?...God calls us to discern God's presence. Sometimes discernment comes quickly...Other times, it comes slowly, painstakingly and even seemingly not at all." (**St. Peter's, Oxford**) "Fear keeps us from experiencing life fully, from experiencing great moments of joy and happiness; and even from experiencing a close walk with God. The thread and threat that runs through all of our fears is giving up control-but it is a false sense of control that we have. True security and true freedom come from God and from trusting God." (**St. Matthew's, Kosciusko**). "The reality of life is ultimately not about us. Part of saying yes is to give up our lives for others. Our salvation is not the ultimate goal. Nor is heaven that for which we strive. We strive for a life in Christ. That is our ultimate reward. To live as he lived." (**Trinity, Natchez**).



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## The Bishop's Journal

**March 1** – Annual visitation to All Saints', Tupelo has multiple dimensions. I preach, celebrate, baptize 2, confirm 10 and receive 1. It is also the occasion for the celebration of a new ministry with the new rector, the Rev. Paul Stephens. A great and joy-filled day, even with two inches of snow that creates some logistical problems.

After the service and reception I have a good discussion about the challenges and opportunities facing this congregation, now with new leadership.

Return home late afternoon.

**March 2** – Day off.

**March 3** – Staff meetings through most of the morning. Afternoon planning sessions with Edward O'Connor. Later appointment with an aspirant for holy orders. Lengthy phone conversation with the Right Reverend Shannon Johnston as I continue in my assigned coaching role with him.

In the evening, I participate in an extraordinary ecumenical event. After a fellowship dinner at Galloway United Methodist Church with members of St. Andrew's and Galloway, more than 300 process from Galloway to St. Andrew's for a Eucharistic celebration and a signing of a "Covenant for Common Life" by Bishop Hope Morgan Ward and me. The Covenant is a commitment by the two bishops to work in specific ways to find common areas of ministry. Galloway United Methodist and St. Andrews will be the icons of this new relationship, but it is our hope that each of our congregations will look to partner with the other denominations locally.

**March 4** – Meet with Diocesan Executive Committee through much of the day. Almost half of this year's Committee is newly elected or appointed. Thus, most of the focus of this meeting is on orientation.

Afternoon appointment with the Rev. Deacon Frank Spencer.

**March 5** – All day at Gray Center as leader of a Lenten Quiet Day.

**March 6** – Morning appointments with an aspirant for holy orders. Later annual consultation with the Rev. Alston Johnson. Conference Call with College of Bishops Executive Committee. Later meet with Sebri Agachan.

Drive to Gray Center for overnight meeting with the Commission on Ministry

**March 7** – Commission on Ministry and Standing Committee meet at Gray Center. After these meetings conclude, I pick up Kathy and we drive to Natchez.

In the evening at Trinity Church, I read Evening Prayer and participate in the blessing of the Trinity Episcopal School Junior Class.

Overnight at the home of Cathy and Chip Davis.

**March 8** – Meet with vestry of Trinity Church before the worship service to discuss ongoing challenges.

At the parish Eucharist I preach, celebrate and confirm one. Kathy and I enjoy the fellow-

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ship of a very nice reception afterward.

Saying our goodbyes, we drive back to Jackson where I have a meeting with the Mission Committee of St. Alexis. Good session as I continue to see steady growth in members and financial support in this mission to young adults.

Drive to Gray Center to meet with the participants in the Post Ordination Consultation (POC) program.

Home to Jackson, late.

**March 9** – Drive to Oxford to work with my accountant on my tax return

**March 10** – Morning breakfast with colleague bishops. Staff meetings through the morning. Over lunch begin a conversation with small group about a diocesan-wide conversation about the challenge of mission in the 21st century and the possibility of a capital campaign to fund the church mission through the next generations.

Afternoon with the trustees of the diocese, as we get the very bad news about our investment portfolio. Conversations continue about the impact of the deepening recession on our diocesan budget.

Late afternoon Canon Johnson and I travel to Hattiesburg to meet with the vestry of Trinity Church to begin conversations about the next steps in their parish's life now that their rector has accepted a call to a new congregation.

Home late in the evening.

**March 11** – Annual consultation with the Rev. Laura Gettys. Spend mid day with the Deacons Council working on a variety of matters related to the vocational Diaconate. Mid afternoon I leave for Columbus.

At St. Paul's, Columbus, I confirm 14 and receive 2 from the combined congregations of Resurrection, Starkville; Incarnation, West Point and St. Paul's Columbus. It is a very special moment as members of all three congregations join together for the celebration.

Following a reception, I return home to Jackson very late.

**March 12** – All day at Gray Center as I lead a Lenten Quiet Day.

**March 13** – Office all day trying to catch up on correspondence before leaving for the House of Bishops meeting in North Carolina. Appointments during the day with Judy Morris, the Rev. Arthur Toro, Deborah Hansen and Jamie Dickson.

**March 14** – At Gray Center for most of the day working with the Gray Center Board of Managers. I excuse myself a little before the end of the meeting in order to catch a flight to Asheville for the House of Bishops' Meeting already in progress at Kanuga Conference Center.

Arrive very late, but my luggage has stayed in Atlanta.

**March 15** – My luggage and I am reunited this morning. The House of Bishops traditionally ceases all work on Sunday. Thus, after our community Eucharist we are free for the afternoon. I

find a golf game with some old friends.

Evening session with the Presiding Bishop engaging in an informal question and answer session.

**March 16** – Very weak and sick this morning. Try to make it to a few meetings but spend much of the day in bed.

**March 17** – Still feeling a little weak, but I am able to participate in the full schedule including being a part of electing the new bishop of the Diocese of Ecuador Central.

**March 18** – House of Bishops meeting concludes in the evening.

**March 19** – Leave House of Bishops meeting and fly back to Jackson. Return to office in the afternoon – Appointment with Don Chancellor, seminarian. Quick visit with my mother and father, then drive to Gray Center to greet the participants in the meeting of the North American Association for the Diaconate.

Return to Jackson in the evening.

**March 20** – Work at home catching up on mounds of correspondence.

**March 21** – Day with family. Sister Catherine Clark and her family in town today.

**March 22** – Drive to Meridian for annual visitation to St. Paul's. Meet with young confirmands before the service. At the morning Eucharist I preach, celebrate and confirm 5. Immediately following, I bless and dedicate a handsome bronze mold celebrating a wonderfully generous gift to St. Paul's from Cora Lee Poindexter Graham in memory of her father, Richard Poindexter. This gift retires the debt from the new parish house construction and provides ongoing support for St. Paul's. Thanks be to God for such generosity.

Wonderful reception follows. We are joined by Duncan, IV, Amber and the girls who are in town for the weekend. Lunch with the Graham family.

Afternoon conversation with the Rev. Greg Proctor, then drive to Enterprise for annual visitation to St. Mary's. I preach and celebrate in the historic congregation then join the congregation for dinner at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Buckley.

Return to Jackson late.

**March 23** – Day off. Spend time with my mother in hospital.

**March 24** – Staff meetings throughout the morning. Prepare for conference call with All Saints' School Board of Trustees at lunch with Chancellor Granville Tate and Canon Kathryn McCormick.

Midday conference call with All Saints' Board as we reorganize ourselves in anticipation of several years as landlords for the AmeriCorps Program at All Saints'.

Travel to St. Dominic's Hospital to visit my mother. Late afternoon appointment with postulant John Kellogg.

Overnight at St. Dominic's.

**March 25** – In office all day. Morning appointments with the Rev. Michael Nation and the Rev. Craig Gates. Afternoon session with an aspirant for holy orders and an annual consultation with

the Rev. Deacon Cathy Halford.

I am working fast and furiously trying to catch up on a variety of matters before taking my sabbatical leave next week.

**March 26** – In office throughout the day finishing up several matters in preparation for my sabbatical. Met with the Rev. Ann Harris, new assistant rector at St. John's, Ocean Springs. Annual consultation later with the Rev. Chan Osborn deAnaya. Annual consultation with the Rev. Deacon Diane Livingston in the afternoon.

**March 27** – Spend the day with Executive Staff retreat at Gray Center working on staff responsibilities during my sabbatical absence. Conversation with Executive Director of Gray Center, Bill Horne, in the afternoon.

In the evening I host a gathering of Friends at Gray Center, a self selected support community for the ministry of Gray Center. A small, but enthusiastic, group comes prepared to offer good ideas and suggestions for the further development of Gray Center.

**March 28** – Friends of Gray Center continue its conversation and discussions through lunch. The sun has returned after days of rain and the lush beauty of Gray Center radiates the magnificence of God's creation.

After saying goodbye to the Friends of Gray Center, I have an extended conversation with a young clergy couple who is considering a call to work as a team in a new model for Delta ministry.

**March 29** – Drove to Vaiden to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the founding of St. Clement's Episcopal Church. Though services are held rather infrequently the church is lovingly cared for by Mr. Clarence Pierce. Many townspeople from other churches join us for the ecumenical service of celebration. I am the preacher for the event. Afterwards, we have lunch at the ancestral home of Mr. Pierce.

After lunch in Vaiden, I drive back to Jackson for the 126th anniversary celebration of the founding of St. Mark's, Jackson. The church is full and we'll remember the gifts of the past and look forward to God's future. I am the celebrant for the Eucharist. My father, the Rt. Rev. Duncan M. Gray, Jr. is the preacher. Festive and joyful reception follows. I await with eager anticipation the about-to-be-published history of St. Mark's written by Ms. Barbara Barber.

**March 30** – Office during most of the day. Appointment in the morning with the Rev. Greg Proctor.

**March 31** – Drove to the Coast where I spend all day with representatives from St. Mark's, St. Patrick's and Redeemer discussing thoughts and plans for reducing the debt incurred by the purchase of new properties.

Home to Jackson very late.



## Job losses

Continued from page 1

"When management starts talking less and less, you get this gut feeling that something's going to happen," said Wicks, 32, who struggled with how to break the news to his wife, Brandy, who works two part-time jobs. The Wicks have two children ages 2 and 4 years old.

Wicks said he's still trying to figure out which way to go. He wants to look for work outside of sales, but realizes that sales is where he can make the most money. He is looking for employment as far away as Eugene, Oregon, but would like to stay in Mississippi.

Wicks, See and Downs all knew that their life styles would have to be changed. Wicks and See received some severance to cushion the blow. See said that he has always budgeted in a lot of savings from his paycheck which has been a blessing to his family after his job loss.

Downs was offered nothing at her termination and wasted no getting her finances in better order. "I came home, sat down at my computer and I immediately made a list of all my expenses and started cutting things. I cut my telephone to basic service. I cut my cable back to bare minimum. I cut my minutes on my cell phone down to the minimum. Then I hit the online job boards which took days to fill out.

"Once I figured out the worst thing that could happen and plan for that, it was a lot easier," said Downs who has spent most of her career underwriting retail and wholesale mortgage.

Downs, See and Wicks all began to network as much as they could. Their job is to search for a job using all connections from computers to personal interviews.

A personal contact finally yielded fruit for Downs in early April. She is now working as an underwriter with Mortgage Consultants in Jackson.

"I made the contact with Mortgage Consultants early on, but I'd kinda of given up on them. Then I got a call and my new boss said 'can you help me?'" With those words, the crisis of unemployment was over for Downs.

See and Wicks are still looking for work. See says that there aren't any jobs in Mississippi like the one he had at L-3, so he is considering other lines of work because he wishes to stay in Mississippi.

### Support offered

One important piece of the job search for all three was using the Mississippi Employment Security Commission (MDES). It is to be noted that MDES is not the unemployment office of old, but an up to date networking source utilizing online job boards and business partnerships

throughout the state and the nation. And most important, it's free of charge.

"We can help persons not only look for jobs, but we can help them prepare resumes. We can help them get job training if they want to get a different job," said Tommy Dale Favre, the Executive Director of MDES who is also a communicant of St. Pierre's in Gautier.

Favre says there are 53 WIN Job Centers in Mississippi and residents of the state are, at the most, 40 miles from a center.

MDES offers a network of training providers, including the community colleges, and sometimes the training can be provided at no cost to the individual.

"Of course, if they are eligible for unemployment benefits, they need to call our office and go through that process," said Favre who added that no appointment is necessary to be served at the WIN Job Centers.

One new piece of information is that young people will have a great deal of employment opportunities this year through the WIN Job Centers.

"There will be more money for adults and people dislocated from their jobs, but on top of that there will be a lot of money for summer youth programs. If the teenager can work then that might help some."

Primarily the summer jobs program will be working with municipalities or community action agencies. The work can be used not only to make money, but build a resume for future job opportunities.

Beth Downs admitted to having reservations about going to the job center in Madison County.

"I thought it was going to be a nightmare and it wasn't at all. They were the nicest, most helpful people I could have asked for."

Wicks and See also gave MDES praise for the services they received.

### The Church

One piece of support The Episcopal Church offered to those going through the hardship of these economic times was expressed in a pastoral letter issued by the House of Bishops in March ([http://www.dioms.org/digital\\_faith/news/344](http://www.dioms.org/digital_faith/news/344)) during a meeting a Kanuga in North Carolina. The pastoral letter targeted the economy and the difficult times that people are experiencing.

Part of the letter called for the church to listen: "Anxiety, when voiced in community can be heard, blessed and transformed into energy and hope, but if ignored, swallowed or hidden, fear



Tommy Dale Favre,  
Executive Director of the  
Mississippi Employment  
Security Commission and  
St. Pierre's, Gautier  
communicant.

and anxiety can be corrosive and lead to despair."

Bishop Duncan Gray III said, "These difficult times we're hearing about are a reality for many members of our church, people who are very close to us. The church has probably been a little slow to respond effectively and pastorally to those who've been impacted in dramatic ways."

Gray urged all in the diocese, especially clergy, to seek ways to be present with and pray with those who have lost their jobs as well as watching for opportunities to provide help. A parish may provide a place for a support group meeting

or help facilitate the necessary component of networking that is often crucial to finding employment.

The Allin House is offering Episcopalians looking for work a place to post their resumes on a page of the diocesan website.

### Living day to day

In this between time, Wicks says he's concentrating on taking everything day by day. "I get too caught up in the big picture. You have to

keep your eye on the big picture, but I think if people could take everyday individually and look at what's important, like their family, the children, the church and try to keep active, things will be better."

Mark See says that it was a layoff that brought him and his family to Mississippi. "It is literally the old saying, 'one door closed, one door open.'" See is hopeful and determined to stay in Mississippi.

"It's not about the money. I'd like to find a really good fit. I've chased money and positions, but it doesn't matter to me now, it never really did, but it's time to do something different," said See.

To read the resumes of Ross Wicks and Mark See, log on to [www.dioms.org](http://www.dioms.org). Click on the link "Connecting Jobs & People"

If you are an Episcopalian and wish to post your resume on the diocesan website, please contact The Rev. Scott Lenoir at [slenoir1@comcast.net](mailto:slenoir1@comcast.net) or call him at 601-856-8234.

To learn more about job opportunities in the state visit the Mississippi Department of Employment Security's website at [www.mdes.ms.us](http://www.mdes.ms.us) or make a visit to your local WIN Job Center.

## FAITHFUL DEPARTED

**James V. LeLaurin**, 89, communicant of St. Paul's Meridian, died August 8, 2008.

**Robert P. "Bobby" Young**, 78, a communicant of Holy Trinity, Crystal Springs, died Nov. 16, 2008.

**Jeanette Ferguson Noe**, 68, communicate of St. Paul's Meridian, died December 14, 2008.

**Dorothy "Dottie" Dulaney**, 80, communicant of Church of the Epiphany, Tunica, died Jan. 7, 2009.

**Edgar Vaughn "Breezy" Baker**, 88, communicant of St. James', Greenville, died February 14, 2009.

**Montgomery A. Prichard**, 51, communicate of St. Paul's Meridian, died February 25, 2008

**Philip Hale Mason**, 79, communicant of St. Timothy's, Southaven, died February 28, 2009.

**Mary Jane Dow**, 89, communicant of Grace, Canton, died March 6, 2009.

**Edgar Wallace Delia**, 75, communicant of Ascension, Hattiesburg, died March 9, 2009.

**Lucile Southworth Kimbrough Himes**, 94, oldest communicant of the Church of the Nativity, Greenwood, died March 13, 2009.

**Ruth Downing Thompson**, 91, communicate of St. Jame's Greenville, died March 16, 2009.

**June Steinberger**, 84, communicant of St. Columb's, Ridgeland, died March 17, 2009.

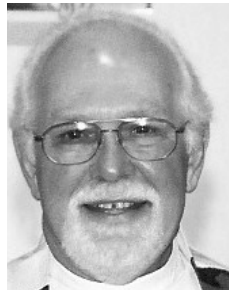
**John A. Chalk**, 79, communicant of St. Paul's, Meridian, died March 22, 2009.



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## Ring Around the Collar

By Denny Allman



*As I write this we are preparing for Palm Sunday, that bitter/sweet Sunday of triumph and tragedy. Along with Good Friday it is one of our saddest of liturgies. However, as you read this we are in the Great Fifty Days of Easter, the most joyous of seasons. We celebrate, sing and say Alleluias with gusto. It is truly a time of great liturgical joy. In the essay below, the Rev. Lynn Barker, Rector of All Saints', Grenada addresses this joy. The essay is from last year, hence the reference to four-dollar gasoline.*

The Great Fifty Days of Easter are the church's protracted period of liturgical joy. What? Well, we commemorate the time, between the first Easter morning and Pentecost, when tradition tells us Jesus made many appearances to

those who believed - and to some, like Thomas, who needed help with their belief. The horrors of the Passion, the grief over losing the Beloved One, the guilt and shame of fear and denial and flight - all were swallowed up in joy at the divine victory over death. Like the very first Christians, we rejoice that the very worst that human sin can throw against God is not enough to overcome the love of God for human sinners. Alleluia.

For most people, however, 'protracted joy' does not come naturally. We may think we have it with the dawn of a new love. Sleep deprivation notwithstanding, it may be ours with the birth of a long-awaited child. But soon enough 'reality' returns, with colic and teething, mounds of laundry, and with the realization that this person we thought we loved a) won't put the top back on the toothpaste or b) won't stop nagging us about the toothpaste tube.

The times, we may say, do not lend themselves to much joy. War and hatred are endemic in our world. By Pentecost some of us may be paying four US dollars just to get fifteen miles down the road. And each day's reporting brings more news from the 'crisis in lending' - from tottering markets to staggering numbers of people hoodwinked into borrowing what they can never expect to repay.

*Protracted joy?*

Liturgy (that Greek word for 'the people's work') is an enactment and re-enactment, in word and sacrament, of the deepest truths about God and us. It is not enough to sit alone under a tree once in a while and maybe think a little bit about these things. **We get together, as the people of God have come together since the time of Jesus and even before, to work the mysteries of God into the world by what we say, sing, read, and do (take, break, bless, share...) as a body.** That is why we tell the story, year by year, again and again of that relationship. It is also why the telling and retelling is marked by distinct seasons: Let's face it - this relationship has had it's ups and down. Our Easter Season work is to celebrate together the way we know the story turns out. By this work, those divine mysteries plant in us a joy that cannot fade.

In keeping the Easter Season we may be feeling the great joy in the here and now. Or we may be borrowing in faith against the joy we know is our destiny. On All Saints' Day we may sing: "we feebly struggle, they in glory shine." For these Fifty Days, however, we too, shine in the glory that is ours and shall be ours. There is no crisis of credit here: borrow all you want. Amen. Alleluia.

Faithfully yours, Lynn+

## A Bit of History

By John Fontaine

### MISSISSIPPI'S ONLY ECCLESIASTICAL TRIAL

A dispute dating from 1936 finally ended with the trial of a priest in 1939- the only such trial ever held in the diocese- and fortunately very rare in the Episcopal Church.

It all began when a visiting priest- the Rev. Camille Estornelle- held a highly successful preaching mission at Holy Trinity, Vicksburg. Soon after, the vestry voted to call Estornelle as rector as he accepted despite the objections of Bishop William Mercer Green, II.

Because Estornelle was a divorced man, and for other undisclosed reasons, the bishop would not accept his Letter Dimissory from the Diocese of New Jersey and repeatedly urged him to resign. Estornelle continued to refuse which forced the bishop, with the advice and consent of the Standing Committee, to withdraw his license to officiate in the diocese effective January 1, 1938.

On January 4, 1939, the parish voted to withdraw from the diocese and fifteen days later the Diocesan Council voted that such an action violated the church's canons.

Obviously the Rev. Mr. Estornelle made strong personal connections with the people of Holy Trinity. He even married again a member of the congregation. There are some who still remember him fondly as a charismatic figure from their early teens and hold warm feelings that override the sensational trial.

In January, 1939, the Standing Committee charged Estornelle with: 1) violating diocesan authority by performing ministerial duties after his license was revoked, and 2) encouraging the parish to withdraw from the diocese in violation of canon law.

Estornelle contended that the bishop had no right to refuse his Letter Dimissory after he had been duly called as rector, and that he had taken no part in any meeting where withdrawal from the diocese was considered.

The trial court met at St. Andrew's, Jackson in July and August 1939 and found Estornelle not guilty on the first count, but guilty on the second and he was suspended "from exercising the functions of a minister" until he severed all connections with the diocese.

The provincial Court of Review upheld these findings and subsequently Estornelle left the diocese after divorcing his second wife.

These are the facts as recorded in the official history of the diocese. Charlotte Capers was a member of the editorial committee and wrote the first draft of the Estornelle trial with her own inimitable touch of irony.

The committee adopted an edited version as being more in the style and tone of the rest of the history, but did leave intact Charlotte's final sentence: "He died in New Jersey in 1967 at the age of seventy-one, with his fourth wife numbered among his survivors."

## Deployment News

From the Rev. David Johnson.

*Bishop Gray has made the following appointments of graduating seminarians to serve in the Diocese of Mississippi:*

❖ **Carol Mead** to serve as chaplain and curate at Mississippi State University and Church of the Resurrection, Starkville

❖ **Judy Morris** to serve as curate at St. Peter's-by-the-Lake, Brandon.

Graduating seminarian **Jody Burnett** will be remaining in Virginia for the immediate future.

The three graduating seminarians are scheduled to be ordained to the transitional diaconate at 10:30 a.m., Saturday, May 30, at St. Andrew's Cathedral. Bishop Joe Burnett of the Diocese of

Nebraska will ordain on behalf of Bishop Gray who, of course, is on sabbatical.

Carol may be e-mailed at [thenewmead@yahoo.com](mailto:thenewmead@yahoo.com)

Judy may be e-mailed at [morrijl0@sewanee.edu](mailto:morrijl0@sewanee.edu)

Jody may be e-mailed at [JBurnett@vts.edu](mailto:JBurnett@vts.edu)

The **Reverend Annie Cumberland** is now serving as the Diocesan Co-Coordinator for Youth Ministries. This appointment took effect on March 1, 2009. Annie will continue to be the Curate for Youth and Families at St. Andrew's Cathedral, Jackson.



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## Parishioners are united over mosaic sidewalk

By Daryl Bell, Delta Democrat Times

GREENVILLE - Two churches united by common beliefs became one Wednesday afternoon when a walkway between St. James Episcopal Church and First Presbyterian Church was formally dedicated.

"This is a celebration," said Rev. Jonas Hayes, pastor of First Presbyterian. "We're celebrating the things we have in common."

Members of both churches gathered at the prayer bridge for song and prayer. The prayer bridge is a cemented walkway highlighted by mosaics created by the youth of both churches under the direction of artist Kathy Davis. Each mosaic represents a story from the Bible.

At Wednesday's ceremony, eight people told those stories. Some read from the Holy Scriptures, others recited short stories.

The ceremony will always be special to

the Rev. Patrick Sanders, priest-in-charge at St. James' Episcopal Church.

Sanders expects to be called to leave St. James' soon, but he's developed a deep friendship with Hayes and has grown close to other members of First Presbyterian.

"This is something that I am going to always remember," Sanders said. "This is a very special moment."

"We've got some members of St. James' who are married to members of First Presbyterian," he said. "You never know which church they'll be at on Sunday, but they'll be at one of them."

After the ceremony, a potluck dinner was served in the St. James' Episcopal Church parish hall.

The idea for the event came from Sanders' wife, Jennifer. She figured that since the two churches are so close together, separated only

by a parking lot and a short chain-link fence, yet share a common desire to practice their religious beliefs freely and openly, that it was only logical for the two neighbors to become one in a spiritual setting.

Vaughn Construction is credited for building the Prayer Bridge.

*The Rev. Patrick Sanders (left) pastor of St. James' Episcopal Church, Sanders' daughter, Skye, and the Rev. Jonas Hayes, pastor of First Presbyterian Church, dedicate a walkway Wednesday evening between the churches' parking areas. Eight mosaic tiles in the sidewalk depict biblical themes.*

Photo by Bill Johnson, Delta Democrat Times



## Tubbs Chosen for Costa Rica Program

Sewanee, TN - March 27, 2009 - Allen Tubbs, son of Doyle and Bonnie Tubbs of Webb, Miss., has been chosen to represent St. Andrew's-Sewanee School as their third exchange student to the Centro de Educacion Creativo (CEC) in Monteverde, Costa Rica. Allen is a sophomore boarding student at SAS which is located in Sewanee, Tenn. He will attend CEC for one semester in the fall of 2009.

This will be Tubbs' third opportunity to travel abroad as a student ambassador. Through People-to-People he travelled to France, Italy, and Malta, and he recently returned from a Spring Break trip to China sponsored by his school.

Tubbs is looking forward to the experience, "I am friends with quite a few foreign students at St. Andrew's-Sewanee," Tubbs said. "I like to listen and to try to learn things from the Korean, Taiwanese, German and Lithuanian students. I first got a look at life in a different place when I left Mississippi to attend boarding school in Tennessee and now I am ready to take my life farther away into the land of Costa Rica." St. Andrew's-Sewanee School will welcome a student from CEC to its campus as part of the exchange.



*Allen Tubbs of Webb, Miss. will attend the Centro de Educacion Creativo in Costa Rica as an eleventh grade exchange student in the fall.*

At St.

Andrew's-Sewanee, a boarding and day school in Sewanee, Tenn., Tubbs takes voice lessons and sings with a campus quartet. He is a member of the school's cross country team and has participated in soccer. He is currently competing with the school's tennis team and

enjoying functional pottery classes in addition to his college preparatory curriculum.

St. Andrew's-Sewanee School is a boarding and day school serving 260+ students on a beautiful wooded mountaintop in Sewanee, Tenn. (pop. 2,500). The school welcomes applications from students from across the United States and around the world. The current student body represents 15 states and 10 countries. More information is available at [www.sasweb.org](http://www.sasweb.org)

## Bebe Rodgers Memorial Scholarship for Cursillo and Kairos of Mississippi

The Chapel of the Cross Episcopal Church of Rolling Fork, Mississippi is announcing the creation of the Bebe Rodgers Memorial Scholarship. The Scholarship is established to honor the legacy of service and Christian outreach of Mrs. Bebe Rodgers; she touched so many lives through her serving on staff at Cursillo and Kairos weekends, encouraging Cursillistas before, during and after the weekends, and supporting both the Cursillo and Kairos movements. The award is intended to assist candidates to attend a Cursillo weekend or a team member on staff for a Kairos weekend.

The scholarship will supplement and match monies in a three-way partnership for Cursillo: one part Ultreya support, one part Scholarship support (up to \$75 per Cursillista), and the remainder from the participant. The support for a Kairos team member who requests assistance is \$250. The Scholarship Fund stipulates that the applicant's Ultreya or sponsor matches the funds given by the scholarship up to \$75.00. One Kairos weekend team member can receive up to \$250.00 per weekend.

Father Ed Lundin, rector of the Chapel of the Cross, Rolling Fork, said: "Bebe would be proud to see her memory honored in this manner. Both Cursillo and Kairos meant a lot to her as she



*Bebe Rodgers*

encouraged those who wanted to become leaders in their churches through Cursillo and those who offered unconditional love to inmates through Kairos. Also, the Scholarship Fund is a way to honor Bebe's legacy of service and the ongoing commitment of our congregation to Cursillo and Kairos.

We hope the scholarship affords opportunities to participate in Cursillo and Kairos, particularly during times of economic hardship."

To donate to this scholarship or to request a scholarship from the Bebe Rodgers Memorial Fund to attend as a participant on a Cursillo or Kairos weekend, please contact Julie Breland, Secretariat Treasurer. Her address is Julie Breland, Treasurer Cursillo of Mississippi P. O. Box 16834 Jackson, MS 39236-0834



*Senior Warden Ben Carmichael and Kathy Carmichael, Trinity Church Hattiesburg, present the Rev. Bill Stroop with a Katrina cross for his going away present. He also received a green handmade stole with Swedish embroidery made by B.J. Andrade, a communicant at Trinity. Palm Sunday was Stroop's last Sunday with Trinity. He has answered a call to a parish in Florida.*



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**Come see my booth at  
the Bishop's BBQ!**



Twenty-three pilgrims stand atop the Mt. of Olives overlooking the ancient walled Old City of Jerusalem during the recent Lent in the Holy Land tour sponsored by the Diocese of Mississippi and led by Canon David Johnson



The Very Reverend Edward O'Connor rides a camel atop the Mt. of Olives in Jerusalem during the recent Lent in the Holy Land Pilgrimage sponsored by the Diocese of Mississippi.



Lilies adorned the altars of parishes and missions throughout the world on Easter Sunday such as the ones pictured here from Grace, Canton. He is Risen!

## WANTED: Pilgrim & Staff Applications!!

By Tom Welch

Applications are being sought for persons interested in attending a weekend full of laughter, fun, singing, eating, good talks, a glimpse at Eden-what we lost there and how to get back to it. If you've been to a Cursillo before, send in a staff application. We are in dire need of updating our eligible staff candidates. For those of you interested in attending a Cursillo please go to: [www.chapelofthecrossms.org/Cursillo](http://www.chapelofthecrossms.org/Cursillo) or contact your local priest. You may also contact Tom Welch at: [4tom@bell-south.net](mailto:4tom@bell-south.net).



Cursillo #117 is fast approaching. Robert Pooley (Chapel/Madison) and Barbara Hammar (Acension/Hattiesburg) are leading the weekend 4/30-5/3. The staff has been chosen and already met in preparation for the weekend. Please be in prayer for the pilgrims and staff.

We are in the process of developing a new Cursillo Directory, to be available on-line. Look for more news on that in the weeks to come. *Spiritual Refreshment & Beyond*, a workshop for those interested in learning more about Cursillo is May 30th at St. Philip's in Jackson.

**It's a Party for our Clergy!**

Cursillo loves our clergy. We want them to know how much they mean to us and how much we want to help them build parish leadership through participation in the Cursillo Movement. Be looking for a personal invitation to a party we will be having for the clergy soon!

## Lutheran Episcopal Services in Mississippi LESM has a New Ministry!

### New Life for Women, Inc.

"An EXCELLENT Place Providing EXCEPTIONAL Services for EXTRAORDINARY Women"

New Life for Women, Inc was established in 1988 to provide a comprehensive, quality, and holistic continuum of care to chemically dependent women, many of whom are homeless, regardless of ethnic or socioeconomic background, while maintaining an environment conducive to the nurture, education, and rehabilitation of the clients who are served.

**Primary Program** - consists of a full schedule of group and individual counseling in a 24-hour, 7-day a week monitored environment. This phase lasts for 30-45 days.

**Secondary Program** - consists of group and individual counseling support at a part-time level focusing on the continuation of recovery while finding gainful employment and re-entering society as a productive member. The phase last for approximately 60 days.

**Transitional Program** - allows individuals an opportunity to live rent free, having found gainful employment, and to save 30% of their income in order to eventually live independently, thereby ending their state of homelessness. This phase includes counseling twice a week and individual counseling as needed.

**Aftercare Program** - consists of meeting at the facility once or twice a week depending on the individual's needs. This phase assists those who have completed the other programs to maintain the skills they have gained and the foundation they have built for themselves, thus offering a permanent solution to the challenges of homelessness and chemical dependency.

*The Twelve Step Recovery Model is used throughout the programs of New Life for Woman.*



Please Save the Date!  
**Let's Eat Shrimp for Mississippi**  
Annual Celebration for Lutheran Episcopal Services in Mississippi  
Sunday August 30, 4:00-8:00  
The Cedars in Jackson



## Bishop's Barbeque

Continued from page 1

### Activities galore!

Between musical acts, the Activities Committee, headed by the Rev. Jason Shelby, St. Columb's, Ridgeland, will be hosting what has been dubbed The Bishop's Barbeque Renaissance Relay. Featuring twelve different sub-events (or, for the polysyllabic, a dodecathlon), this competition is not for the faint of heart. The Rev. Shelby's vision for the relay is nothing short of dramatic: teams should be organized beforehand and can have as many members as they want.

Members can be from the same church, the same Diocesan organization, or simply a group of friends who want to compete and have fun. The teams' spirit will also be judged: t-shirts, cheer squads, general affect, and bribing ability will be taken into account in declaring a winner. Teams should come prepared to register (turn in team name and individual members' names) upon arrival at the Barbeque.

If any individual is without a team, the Rev. Shelby will be organizing impromptu teams. According to Shelby, "the impromptu teams are an amazing way to meet your fellow Episcopalians and will undoubtedly forge lasting friendships." The events for the relay are: a canoe race, followed by a sack race, then a write-a-haiku competition, followed by a short blind-fold race that will lead into a Biblical-character-identification quiz; next comes a 3 legged race, followed by a race to solve a math problem; team members buddy up again for a piggy back race and then rack their brains as someone attempts to solve a science problem. The final

legs of the relay are an egg-and-spoon race, ending with a paint-a-picture-after-spinning-around competition. The English language has yet to develop an adjective that covers the enormity of this monstrously epic endeavor. The Rev. Shelby supposes that watching the event will be just as entertaining, if not more so, than participating in it.

For those who prefer less active competitions, the crowd favorite tent competition from previous Barbeques will make a comeback this year. Parishes or groups are encouraged to find a plot of ground on the Gray Center property and decorate it as their own. Since the Barbeque will be taking place on Memorial Day weekend, participants are encouraged to integrate this into their entries.

### Auctions (hush y'all)

Another quieter, but just as fierce, competition will be taking place in the form of a silent auction. Last year's auction saw goods and services from all corners of the Diocese distributed to lucky winners, and this year's will be no different. Artwork, clothing, condo weekends, anything worth having will be available. If individuals or groups wish to donate, there's still time: contact Beejee Dickson (Trinity, Hattiesburg) at beejeed@yahoo.com, or Deb Proctor (St. Paul's, Meridian) at yrdsale\_queen@hotmail.com.

Donation receipts are available. Last year's auction alone brought in \$12,000 for Gray Center's operating budget, and with your help, the committee hopes this years will be just as successful. In addition to the auction, various vendors will be able to rent space and peddle their goods. Interested vendors should send inquiries to [BBBQ@stalexisjackson.org](mailto:BBBQ@stalexisjackson.org). (That's three B's).

### Saturday night fireworks!

As things wind down on Saturday night, those who have reserved rooms (that number again is 601-859-1556) will have a light dinner of finger food and a lively group trivia competition hosted by Vera Hendon and Carey Price. This "Pub Quiz" style competition will consist of multiple themed rounds of questions and witty commentary from the emcees. Teams can be made ahead of time or on-the-spot.

Closing out Saturday will be a dazzling fireworks display over the conference center's placid lake. Not only can attendees witness the fireworks display, they can participate in it too.

Similar to monetary donations for Easter flowers, donations will be accepted for fireworks, too. This is a wonderful and jubilant opportunity to buy memorial recognition for a loved one. What more fitting way to honor and give thanks than in the visible, explosive prayers of a fireworks display? The memorial/thanksgiving roster will be posted lakeside for all to see and celebrate together.

### Memorial Day Eucharist Sunday morning

After overnight guests enjoy a Sunday Brunch, all Mississippians are invited to a special Memorial Day Eucharist. Not only will this service bring the Bishop's Barbeque weekend to a close, it will honor the men and women who have served and are serving in our Armed Forces. This somber but beautiful tribute will begin at 10:30, and all are invited to attend.



Charlie Deaton, Scott Lenoir, Alston Johnson and Bryan Owen of the all clergy band Rubrixx are scheduled to play at this year's Barbecue along with Ralph Miller, Will Skelton and Oxford's famed Kudzu Kings.

### A thought from the Bishop

When asked about his well-deserved sabbatical, Bishop Gray offers this poignant reflection: "Of all the things I'm going to be missing during my sabbatical, the Bishop's Barbeque is probably the thing that I'll miss the most." It can be assured that Bishop Gray's presence will be missed, but the planning committee wants you, dear reader, to be there.

While all are urged to come participate in the barbecue's myriad events, volunteers are also needed for a variety of tasks: food service, silent auction help, fireworks sponsorship, etc. Anyone interested should contact the appropriate committee person or, send any general inquiries to [BBBQ@stalexisjackson.org](mailto:BBBQ@stalexisjackson.org).

Converge on Gray Center this Memorial Day weekend and revel in God's love through fellowship and fun.

## Alternatives to Violence holds workshop in June

On June 26-28 Alternatives to Violence will hold a community Basic Workshop for 15-20 men and women who are interested in helping to reduce interpersonal violence in our society. The location for the workshop is unknown at this time but will take place in Jackson. The cost is \$50 which includes three meals. No materials are needed.

Alternatives to Violence is sponsored by the Diocesan Prison and Justice Committee. At this time, workshops have been held at the Hinds County Detention Center, specifically with the youth. However, this program can be offered to any group who is interested in conflict resolution.

If you are interested in participating in this Alternatives to Violence basic workshop and possibly becoming a facilitator, please call or email the Rev. Cathy Halford (601-672-7037, [chalford48@yahoo.com](mailto:chalford48@yahoo.com)) or Jim Henderson (601-594-2573, [JIMEHOME@aol.com](mailto:JIMEHOME@aol.com)).

## Holy Leisure silent retreats drawing diverse groups

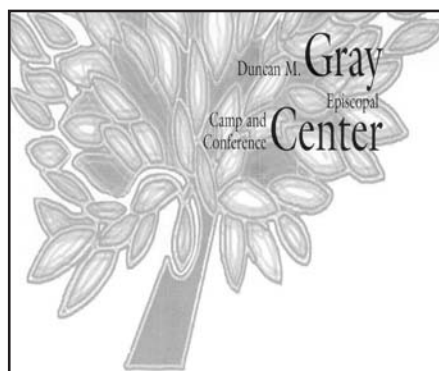
By Debo Dykes

Maybe it's a reaction to our hectic, media-driven new century, or perhaps it's just the logical progression for those who seek a life in Christ. Whatever the reason, our HOLY LEISURE silent retreats are attracting seekers of all ages. Be still, and know that I am God (Psalm 46:10) reminds us of the importance of quieting our minds and calming our spirits in order to hear God's presence in our lives. Under the guidance of licensed trained Spiritual Directors, participants will be given spiritual tools that will allow the "ambient noise" of our lives to diminish and be fully present with God.

Cost for the weekend is \$220.00. For registration information please contact The Rev. Debo Dykes, at 601-948-5954, or through email at [debo@dioms.org](mailto:debo@dioms.org).

The Holy Leisure Silent Retreat will begin with registration between 5:00 pm and 6:00 pm followed by dinner at 6:00 pm. The event will take place in Cottage #3 at The Duncan M. Gray Camp & Conference Center, Canton, MS. The retreat will conclude at 11:00 am on Sunday, May 3, 2009.

The Rev. Debo Dykes is the Director of the Center for Formation and Mission for the Diocese of Mississippi.



*Bet'cha didn't know that all Mississippi Episcopalians are authorized to fish at Gray Center lakes where 7 to 10 pounder bass are known to occupy both lakes!*

**Remember  
Gray Center Sunday is  
May 3, 2009**  
A special offering will be held in  
your church.  
Thank you for your support.



**Beemon Drugs**  
**Maywood Mart, Jackson**  
**601-366-9431**

# Someday You'll Thank Me for This: The Official Southern Ladies' Guide to Being a "Perfect" Mother.

by Gayden Metcalfe and Charlotte Hays  
\$21.99 hardcover published by Hyperion (April)

Review and interview by  
Mary Dayle McCormick

The Perfect Ladies of *Being Dead Is No Excuse* and *Somebody is Going to Die If Lilly Beth Doesn't Catch That Bouquet* are back.

Writing partners and lifelong friends, Greenville natives Gayden Metcalfe and Charlotte Hays have a new book of humor, restoratives and repasts. *Someday You'll Thank Me for This: The Official Southern Ladies' Guide to Being a "Perfect" Mother* is their third installment in what they term "The Pastel Trilogy."

As girls, both authors were confirmed at St. James' in Greenville, where Gayden remains a communicant and continues serving on the pastoral committee, despite publication of "Being Dead."

For all the richness of the flat alluvium, the Delta is even richer in eccentric real-life characters. Perhaps it's because survival has been serious work. Much of the nation is only now experiencing sad statistics the Delta is accustomed to shouldering. When crops rot, businesses fail and factories close, outwardly genteel but memorably eccentric Deltans balance propriety with radical individuality (well-mannered craziness). Tragedies and comedies alike are potentially good-natured amusement, rooted in universal truth. The proof is in Metcalfe and Hays' latest volume. Just try to read about the imminently Southern Mothers — and Daughters of Southern Mothers — in *Some Day You'll Thank Me for This*, without seeing flashes of familiar imprinting. In the truth-is-funnier-than-fiction category, this one is a winner.

The self-explanatory new title is another mouthful, but save room for dessert. There's abundant life beyond the "Eternal Pantry." *Some Day You'll Thank Me For This* may feature the most tempting cuisine in the trilogy. Here, the premature doyennes of perfection raid Mama's recipe files for delectable comfort foods and dishes with gourmet appeal.

Charlotte Hays lives in Washington D.C. with Ottoline, the feline reincarnation of her dear mother. Gayden Metcalfe is at home in Greenville, MS with dear husband Harley III and assorted canines. As always, the authors participate whenever possible in the relationships, restoratives, and repasts they share with readers.

The *Some Day You'll Thank Me for This*



Gayden Metcalfe

book tour launches Sunday, April 19 at Greenville's McCormick Book Inn. But before Gayden heads off for all creation, she answers a few questions.

**MDM:** Gayden, in 2004, when you told me you'd written a book, I was shocked - pleasantly, I might add.

**GCM:** No one was more surprised than I was. Of course, my husband Harley said it best, "I'd lots rather be lucky than smart."

**MDM:** With 3 books published, I think you might be both. Tell us about this "Pastel Trilogy."

**GCM:** Well, of course, one of Greenville's eminent writers was Shelby Foote, the Civil War historian and novelist. We love to tell people about how, when the first book came out, we sent Mr.

Foote an advance copy. He wrote back and said he enjoyed the book and that it made him homesick. He then asked why we'd changed

some names and not others. We, in turn, wrote him and said that if you had a recipe for something delicious, such as Hebe Crittenden's coconut cake, we didn't change the name. But, if you'd done something socially awkward, such as hack your mother to death with the garden shears, we did change the name. He wrote a Civil War trilogy - so, when we realized we'd have three books, too, we started calling ours a trilogy. It was sort of a joke, a way of noting that we aren't quite as serious as Shelby Foote. And then a friend from Texas referred to it as the "pastel trilogy" because the all covers are pastel. So ... our website is thepasteltrilogy.com.

**MDM:** Mr. Foote hated signing books. What's more challenging for you, writing or promoting your books?

**GCM:** For me it's the writing. None of these books would be possible without Charlotte, who likes to describe herself as a recovering gossip columnist. But I must tell you that Charlotte promised me in the beginning that, when we had to go out on the road to promote the first book, she could put on her stockings, she could wear lipstick, and she could even be nice to people...just not all in the same day! I suppose each of us gives in different ways. It's the old strengths and weaknesses program at its best.

**MDM:** Charlotte lost her mother some time ago and your mother passed while you were writing *Some Day You'll Thank Me for This: The Official Southern Ladies' Guide to Being a "Perfect" Mother*. Did it affect what you wrote?

**GCM:** Not really, though I think anybody who reads the book can tell we both had wonderful mothers. There's no way we could've done these books without them. The by-line for our first book should've gone to our mothers who loved going to funerals and always were great talkers, in the fine southern tradition of amusing conversationalists. I only wish that

we'd entitled a chapter, You'll Miss Me When I'm Gone. That was one of Mother's favorite sayings. Lord, she was right, one more time. Charlotte and I will never run out of things to write about our mothers. There's so much to tell about our own families and the Delta.



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## The Boy in the Striped Pajamas: A Review

By Janet Nail

*Editor's Note: Janet Nail is expanding her writing for the Mississippi Episcopalian. Janet will keep us posted on the latest Christian education available from the AV center as well as other books and resources churches and parishioners may use to aid spiritual formation.ing for the Mississippi Episcopalian.*

Many of you have had the EFM experience, whether for one year or for four. You know that the process enables you to encounter theological insights in everything you read.

I am a librarian and I read a lot.

I am a librarian because I like to share books. I have not yet begun to grab selected patrons and shove books in their hands, declaring "You simply MUST read this!" Quite simply, I am the Old Book Pusher, pushing pages of happiness.

But I am open to recommendations at any time. We were lining up to process into church one morning. I was the Licensed Worship Leader. The acolyte leaned over and whispered to me as the organist began the first verse of the processional:

"Miss Janet, have you read THE BOY IN

THE STRIPED PAJAMAS?"

"No, I haven't. What is it?"

"It's about a boy in Germany. His father brings the Fury home for dinner...."

We had to process then, so we attended to the service. But when we were passing the peace, he whispered again, "This boy is really young, he thinks the place where he lives now is called Out With!"

This young man is a reader, but not one of my "here's the book I checked out yesterday, what do you have for me today?" readers. When he is this excited about a book, I need to do something about it.

I ordered it for the library.

When it came down from cataloging, I read it, and by the end, I was hyperventilating. This book is powerful!

The story is simple. Bruno is nine years old, he lives in Nazi, Germany, his father is an officer in the German army. When the Fury comes to dinner, Bruno is not impressed; he thinks the man is rude. But the Fury is impressed with Bruno's father, so much so that he gives him a new, prestigious assignment, as commandant of Auschwitz (the Out With of my friend's comment).

The new place is a disappointment to the

family; it is dreary and dull; Bruno and his sister have no other children around. Gretel, however, is twelve years old and does not consider herself a child. She amuses herself by flirting with a young SS officer on her father's staff and being condescending to her brother for being nine.

There is no school; they have a tutor, who has accepted the Nazi dream and enthusiastically rewrites history, dismisses literature, and wants Bruno and Gretel to become good little Nazis.

But Bruno is a boy, and boys explore. He follows the fence he sees from his bedroom window and he finds a boy on the other side.

Bruno and the boy are wary, but they begin to talk. It is obvious that Shmuel can hardly comprehend Bruno's blindness, but he, too, is desperate for a friend.

As the friendship grows, the almost unbearable knowledge we have of the circumstances keeps us gasping for breath as Bruno encounters the propaganda, the half-truths, that the regime keeps putting out-and questions all, oh so innocently. We may see the ending, but we can't evade it.

Can it be a metaphor of the Christian story

if the protagonist is unaware of his role? I think that in this story, it is.

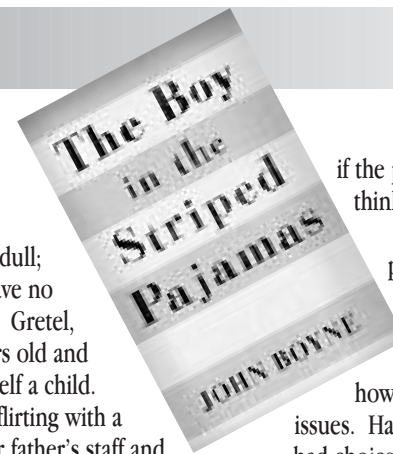
I envision a Sunday School class or perhaps an EYC group, studying this book. Everyone reads the book, maybe even watches the DVD.

Then comes the discussion of how small decisions can turn into massive issues. Have you ever been tempted to justify bad choices as obligation to duty? Have you seen small rationalizations grow into larger, damaging results? Who do you view as different? Would you still "hang out" with them or view them as potential friends?

This book (and movie) raise many of these kinds of questions. How can you be envious of others even as they are suffering? Have any of your prejudices been threatened by knowing someone who contradicts your beliefs?

In this digital age, we may forget that the visceral impact of a book may be greater than that of a movie.. The book engages your active participation, not your passive attention. As a reader since I was two years old, I revere the printed word, and I want to begin sharing some of my adventures with you. Watch for these.

Should you want to borrow THE BOY IN THE STRIPED PAJAMAS to preview or to borrow the DVD, call me at 662-746-5557 or e-mail me at grandmastruck1994@yahoo.com. I think you will be glad you did.



Students from Southwest Minnesota University worked at Camp Coast Care during their Spring Break with students from 6 other colleges. Pictured left to right: Emily Schauer, Kallie Tjernagel, Adam Voss, LaRae Kor, Ryan Welle, Stacey Kingery (seated).

## Camp Coast Care hosts legion of Spring Breakers

By Michael Magargel

The Alternative Spring Break phenomenon benefited Gulf Coast residents once again this year as students from seven colleges and universities from across the nation made Camp Coast Care (CCC) their holiday destination.

The students continued the ongoing building and refurbishing work that CCC has slated on its regular schedule.

During the departing day worship time, the group reflected on what it means to enter the communities and homes of people who know, through the presence of the volunteers, that they have not been left behind, forgotten, or brushed aside.

It was noted during the final worship that the work element and financial quality of the student's labor is more than matched by the spiritual gift the student's offered. Gulf Coast residents were given the affirmation that kindness, love, and God exists through their smiles, kind words, and listening ears.

There were 161 students who visited CCC during March and they were joined by 191 other volunteers.

Students attending were from Southwest Minnesota University (Marshall, MN), Lafayette College, (Easton, PA), Pennsylvania College of Technology (Williamsport, PA), Virginia Tech. (Blacksburg, VA), Kent State University (Kent, OH), Lock Haven University (Lock Haven, PA), and the University of Wyoming (Laramie, WY).

Michael Magargel is the Director for Volunteer Recruitment at Camp Coast Care

### Wanna do a weekend at the Big House?

The most popular spot at Gray Center is most often booked for weekends many months out at a time. However, plans can be changed at the last minute leaving it vacant for a weekend. If you are one of those folks who love the times you've had there – or wished you'd had – send us your email and we'll add your name to our Callout list for notices of those unplanned vacancies.



To have your name added to our Callout List, send us an email addressed to [mail@graycenter.org](mailto:mail@graycenter.org), with a Subject Line of "Big House." Or call us at 601-859-1556 with your email address.

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## DIOCESAN CALENDAR

*(Sabbatical Leave for Bishop Gray III is April 1 - July 31, 2009)*

### APRIL

- 17-18  
• ECW Spring Conference, Gray Center, Canton
- 19  
• Bishop A. C. Marble visits: Redeemer, Biloxi  
• Bishop Charles Duvall visits: Chapel of the Cross, Madison
- 21-23  
• Province IV Chaplains to the Retired Conference, North Carolina
- 24-26  
• Happening #69, St. John's, Laurel
- 26  
• Bishop Charles Duvall visits: St. John's, Pascagoula  
• Bishop Larry Maze visits: Episcopal Church at Ole Miss, Oxford - 5:30 p.m.
- 29 - May 3  
• Cursillo #117, Gray Center, Canton
- ### MAY
- 1-3  
• Center for Formation & Mission - Holy Leisure Silent Retreat, Cottage 3, Gray Center, Canton

- 3  
• Bishop Gray, Jr. visits: St. Matthew's, Kosciusko - 10:30 a.m.
- 4  
• Gray Center Executive Committee - 5:00 p.m., Allin House, Jackson
- 5  
• Fresh Start - 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m., St. John's, Laurel  
• Deadline for submittal to The Mississippi Episcopalian
- 7  
• Finance Committee - 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m., St. Andrew's Cathedral, Jackson
- 8-9  
• Gray Center Work Weekend, Gray Center, Canton
- 10  
• Bishop Gray, Jr. visits: St. Andrew's Cathedral - 8:45 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.
- 15  
• General Convention Deputation - 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m., St. Andrew's Cathedral, Jackson
- 17  
• Bishop Larry Maze visits: St. James', Jackson - 8:40 a.m. & 11:05 a.m.

- 17-19  
• Presbyter Post-Ordination Consultation
- 21  
• Mississippi Religious Leadership Conference - 12:00 noon  
• Bishop Gray, Jr. visits: Ascension, Hattiesburg - 6:00 p.m.
- 23  
• Bishop's BBQ, Gray Center, Canton
- 25  
• Allin House closed in observance of Memorial Day
- 26-June 1  
• Camp Bratton Green: Special Session I (ages 36+)
- 28  
• Standing Committee - 11:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m., Allin House, Jackson
- 30  
• The Ordination of Mr. Jody Burnett, Ms. Judy Morris & Ms. Carol Mead to the Transitional Diaconate - 10:30 a.m., St. Andrew's Cathedral, Jackson  
• MS Cursillo "Spiritual Refreshment & Beyond" workshop - 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m., St. Philip's, Jackson.
- 31  
• Pentecost

- 31-June 3  
• Province IV ECW and Altar Guild, Kanuga, NC
- ### JUNE
- 2-3  
• Province IV House of Bishops, Kanuga, NC
- 3-5  
• Province IV Synod, Kanuga, NC
- 4-10  
• Camp Bratton Green: Regular Session I (grades 7-9)
- 11  
• Executive Committee - 11:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m., St. Andrew's Cathedral, Jackson
- 12-17  
• Camp Bratton Green: Regular Session II (grades 3-4)
- 15-July 25  
• Bishop's Mission Corps, Gray Center, Canton
- 17  
• Diocesan Trustees - 2:00 p.m., Allin House, Jackson
- 19-21  
• Camp Bratton Green: First Camp (grades 1-2)

- 20  
• Gray Center Board - 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m., Gray Center, Canton
- 21  
• Bishop Shannon Johnston visits: St. Stephen's, Indianola
- 21-26  
• Camp Caritas, Gray Center, Canton
- 23-29  
• Camp Bratton Green: Regular Session III (grades 5-6)



Come for part, come for all! Festivities begin Friday evening with live music & food and end with a Diocesan Memorial Day Eucharist Sunday morning.

## Bishop Gray on sabbatical through August 1st

Bishop Gray is on sabbatical from April 1 until August 1 and, since he is taking a Sabbath break, will not be responding to calls or messages. During his absence, visiting Bishops will be making Episcopal visitations to Mississippi congregations. In the event of an emergency, please contact Canon Kathryn McCormick or Canon David Johnson at the diocesan office. If they are out of the office, diocesan staff will be able to reach them, as needed. The phone number for the Allin House is 601 948-5954.

## St. Clement's Episcopal Church celebrates 150th Anniversary

An ecumenical celebration service was held in Vaiden at St. Clement's Episcopal Church on March 29th. Bishop Gray preached at the service which was attended by many in the town of Vaiden. St. Clement's holds services infrequently, but the church is cared for by Clarence A. Pierce, Jr. The story of St. Clement's "is part of the story of Vaiden and of those sturdy old homes in winter with crackling fires and comfortable chairs, broad porches in summer and picket fences, winding walks and armies of squirrels and robins", "wrote Pierce regarding this church which he loves. Emily Barksdale Humphrey has recorded many interesting facts about St. Clement's which are available upon request.

*O God, you prepared your disciples for the coming of the Spirit through the teaching of your Son Jesus Christ: Make the hearts and minds of your servants ready to receive the blessing of the Holy Spirit, that they may be filled with the strength of his presence; through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

Amen

BCP pg. 819

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## A reflection on the 2009 Honduras Medical Mission

By George C Jackson

Folks, I AM A CHANGED MAN. And I owe it all to each of you for allowing me the privilege of working along side you. I only hope my meager contribution was enough. I could not speak much the other night due to my inherent emotions, but I do have a lot to say.

First to my friend Jason. Dude you rock. Your ability to continue to work and work and work like the energizer bunny is phenomenal. I love you like a brother.

Marion, your quiet determination to serve the poorest of the poor is one of the greatest examples of servanthood I have ever seen. I pray I can emulate you in the remainder of my life.

David, you are one of the coolest priests I have ever known. You have the ability to teach without preaching, and touched me. Thank you.

Lester, dang man, I failed to get you out of that room all week. You truly DO work too hard. You are a much stronger man than I, and believe me I don't say that about many people. And you should sell subscriptions to that playlist. Y'all, contact Lester and buy this from him, it is an amazing set of music.

What I witnessed as I wandered around the village was pure miracle working.

By stitching up people's hands, fingers and toes, as well as one butt, I believe, you folks in the medical clinic healed hearts. Showed them how true Christians behave. What an example; I am awed.

Every time I walked through the dental clinic I was extremely impressed with the mechanic like precision of this team. Y'all are the Mercedes Benz of the dental crowd, dentists and sealant team alike! If half the businesses around the world worked as hard as y'all did and as efficiently as you managed; we would all live in a world of comfort.

Kathy, Lauren and Andy, you vets had it rough, but never complained, never called it a day early, never hunted shade, never derided locals for arriving late with too many animals.... Y'all get my drift here? These folks worked their butts off, but unlike all the rest of us, did it OUTSIDE, in the dang sun. I left SJ with a new look toward our four legged friends. Thanks to y'all. You too Brian, I'll bet you will never have any trouble with ticks or fleas even walking the worst woods. Although I fully expect you to grow a new ear or something....

Vision clinic ladies, y'all had what I consider a very difficult task. Weeding out the trash from the treasure and determining how to apply

it for God's work. I am completely inspired by your ability to make that mess work. Y'all are diligent healers. Thank you.

Ed and Robert.... Similar to Brian I doubt you will ever have to actually ingest that worming medicine again.... Your ability to talk these folks into drinking that stuff and liking you afterward is really something. Perhaps a new career in politics would suit you two. And like others, you just plodded through the day, working continuously.

Matthew, how did you do all that with just one roll of duct tape?

Priestly folks, y'all hit the mark with all our services, starting and ending every day like that is very nice, just wish I could do it more. Thank you very much.

Finally Deborah, I hope you take some time off soon. Only now can I understand the sacrifice you made to make this team function as it did, and to eliminate all the headaches that surely have plagued others, and to make every part of the effort get completed successfully. I bow to your organization skills and determination. I can't come up with the proper word to describe it, but Jesus just keeps popping in my head. Miracle worker supreme, that's you....

My experience in SJ was truly life changing,



Dr. Chip Leggett, Mediator/Redeemer, McComb works on a young Honduran's teeth in San Joaquin.

and I will never forget it. I just hope to add new memories to it in the coming years.

Frances and Chris, just one more comment for y'all for next year.... PICK ME, PLEASE PICK ME.....

GOD'S PEACE TO YOU ALL...



### Thanks to everyone for a great mission! Stats: Honduras Medical Mission 2009

#### MEDICAL CLINIC

Families served= 636  
Total number of people= 2,061

PHARMACY PRESCRIPTIONS= 8,661

DENTAL PATIENTS= 395

Teeth extracted= 1067

SEALANT PATIENTS= 156

Teeth sealed= 1021

*(we were without power and had difficulties with water in the sealant lines and yet the sealant team continued!!)*

#### VETERINARY

Horses= 401  
Cows= 420  
Dogs= 116  
Sheep= 1  
3 surgeries, 12 treatments, 35 meds dispensed, one dog adoption (Cora)

#### EYE CLINIC

Single vision glasses= 527  
Bifocals= 321  
Readers= 173  
2nd Prescription= 2

#### CLERGY

Eucharist= 3  
Evening Prayer= 3  
Healing Service= 1  
Morning Prayer= 4

JOSH'S PHOTOS= 1500, 60 gigabytes,  
2 hours of video

Take a look at our website [www.hondurasmedicalmission.net](http://www.hondurasmedicalmission.net) for photos from this year's mission and an application for 2010.

Winner of the Briggs and Stratton Generator is Lynn Brown, Oxford, MS.

Deborah Hanson,  
HMM Team Leader 2008/09

To learn the story of the Honduras Medical Mission log on to [www.hondurasmedicalmission.net](http://www.hondurasmedicalmission.net).



## Gray Center Sunday May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2009

Just **one day** to focus on the blessings our diocese enjoys **all 365 days a year:**

Camp Bratton-Green, Center for Formation and Mission, miles of trails, Vocare, beautiful and unspoiled woodlands, Happening, wildlife in its natural setting, fishing, Bishop's BBQ, Cursillo, Boy Scouts, Winter Solstice, The National Music Conference, CREDO, Order of the Arrow, Mississippi Mainstreet, Mississippi Community Colleges, Millsaps University, & many other education groups, to name just a few of the people and organizations that gather at, and are transformed by, the Duncan M. Gray Episcopal Camp and Conference Center.

Go to [www.graycenter.org](http://www.graycenter.org)  
or  
call 601-859-1556