Spencer to serve as MRLC President

By Scott Lenoir, Editor

The Mississippi Religious Leadership Conference (MRLC) tapped the Rev. Carol Borne Spencer as its next President at the group’s annual banquet at Galloway Memorial United Methodist Church in Jackson on Feb. 23rd.

Spencer is on staff at St. Andrew’s Cathedral as the Deacon for Outreach. She has fostered the development of several ecumenical outreach ministries in the Diocese of Mississippi such as Congregations for Children, the Hallelujah Housing Project, and Anti-Racism workshops.

The MRLC was founded three days after the June, 1964 deaths of three civil rights workers in Mississippi. The white and black clergy who formed the organization saw its function as being a vehicle to speak out against racial injustice. Today the group is an interfaith, interracial organization which seeks to bring justice and healing to those who were scarred by the violence of the past as well as to build the foundation of a peaceful working relationship between peoples of faith.

As incoming President, Spencer stated that the MRLC cannot rely on its outstanding history for sustainability. If we are to continue with renewed energy, we must speak out for current issues of injustice which are not only racial in nature, but now include current issues of economic and social injustice and oppression. I have enjoyed a broad affiliation with several Christian and interfaith communities as an adult in Mississippi. I hope to bring those networks to the table so that new relationships can be fostered and broader and louder voices can be raised from the Mississippi religious communities. MRLC provides a wonderful avenue for advocacy and support for the many initiatives for justice in the works and those yet to be envisioned.

This year’s MRLC banquet theme was Pursuing Justice with the Pen and Clarion Ledger investigative reporter Jerry Mitchell gave the keynote address. The MRLC honored Mitchell by presenting him with the annual Founders’ Memorial Award for the journalist’s involvement with and reporting on civil rights struggles. Mitchell is the 22nd person to be given the award by the MRLC.

Now elected Mississippi Religious Leadership Conference President, the Rev. Carol Borne Spencer stands with investigative reporter Jerry Mitchell at MRLC’s annual banquet where Mitchell received the Founder’s Memorial Award.

Spencer is on staff at St. Andrew’s Cathedral as the Deacon for Outreach. She has fostered the development of several ecumenical outreach ministries in the Diocese of Mississippi such as Congregations for Children, the Hallelujah Housing Project, and Anti-Racism workshops.

Chapel cookbook garners regional award

By Scott Lenoir, Editor

Chapel of the Cross, Madison received a regional award for its Day in the Country cookbook published in 2009 from the McIlhenny Company in Louisiana.

In 1989, the McIlhenny Company established the Tabasco Community Cookbook Awards, a program dedicated to honoring non-profit organizations and the outstanding cookbooks they create to raise money for local charities and causes. Since the program’s inception, almost 275 exceptional books - which play a pivotal role in chronicling and preserving local culinary traditions - have been honored, and nearly $100,000 been awarded to assist these organizations in their fundraising efforts.

The latest awards were announced in January and Day in the Country is the south regional winner.

The full-color book offers a generous slice of Chapel history as well as culinary delights passed through the generations.

Named after the parish’s annual festival, A Day in the Country, the book has over 100 photographs and 169 recipes gathered from the Chapel’s fine cooks along with stories of bygone ages.

The cookbook features some closely guarded recipes which have never been written down as well as some award winning recipes of the Chapel’s own Heavenly Hogs Barbeque Team.

Half of the profits from the first printing of 3,000 books will be donated to Our Daily Bread in Canton, an outreach ministry serving the poor in Madison County.

Says Sloan McKeller, the literary editor for the cookbook, “This book feeds the body as well as the spirit. You couldn’t hope for a better combination than that and we’re so pleased that the McIlhenny Company recognized our efforts in this year’s round of Tabasco Awards.”

The book is on sale at St. Andrew’s Bookstore in Jackson and can be purchased at the Chapel of the Cross office for $28.95 plus tax. An order form may be downloaded at www.chapelofthecross.org.

On line registration means instant notification of camp enrollment

By Sarah Shelby

Beginning March 1st this year, Camp Bratton-Green is offering secure online registration for both camper and staff applications. We are excited to offer this new service and we hope to improve availability to all who wish to come to Camp.

No more procuring an application from your church or waiting to have it signed. As we are a ministry of the Diocese of Mississippi to both Episcopalians and non-Episcopalians, we hope to make the camp experience more welcoming to all.

Featuring immediate acceptance, parents need only to visit our website, select a session and sign up!

There will be no more waiting until mid-April before hearing if your child has been accepted as a Camper. No more procuring an application from your church or waiting to have it signed. As we are a ministry of the Diocese of Mississippi to both Episcopalians and non-Episcopalians, we hope to make the camp experience more welcoming to all.

Featuring immediate acceptance, parents need only to visit our website, select a session and sign up!

Our site’s secure servers will take your credit card or bank account information and your summer is as good as scheduled. We are also looking forward to the increased organizational aspects of this process, as we enjoy playing host to over 700 campers each year.

Sarah Shelby is the CBG Camp Coordinator and a communicant of St. Columb’s, Ridgeland.
Notes & Quotes
By Maria Watson

Yesterday, February 27, I drove down the Beach toward Waveland, remembering as I went that the Beach Road in Bay St. Louis is newly repaired and, I thought, open all the way to its end. It isn’t, but that didn’t deter me; I was determined to see what was going on at Christ Church, so I braved some ruts and bumps in order to get a photo. Returning, I stopped in Pass Christian and shot a pic of Trinity. Both structures are nearing completion and it is exciting, especially in Bay St. Louis, to see the rebuilding efforts. Homes and businesses are returning along the Beach. What courage and faith these people have!

If, as the saying goes, one picture is worth a thousand words, I shouldn’t have to write much this month. I’m including photos of both Christ Church and Trinity, along with a note from Redeemer, Biloxi. When I saw the Rev. Harold Roberts, rector, on Thursday and asked how things were going, he said, “We’re building.” Actually, they were clearing land, but I keep getting their building permit the next day. Exciting times indeed!

We have gotten past (but not over!) the realization of which leads to the Lenten dis-

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

The Rev. Scott Lenoir
Editor

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The Bishop’s Journal

February 1 – Day off. Spend much of the day getting repairs on the car completed.

February 2 – Staff meetings in the morning - final countdown to Diocesan Council. Afternoon appointment with the Rev. Ann Whittaker for her annual consultation.

February 3 – At home in morning working on my sermon for Diocesan Council. Afternoon appointments with the Very Rev. Edward O’Connor and the Rev. Christopher Powell to discuss plans for further mission trips to Haiti. Mid afternoon session with an aspirant for holy orders.

Meet with vestry at the Chapel of the Cross, Madison, in the evening.

February 4 – Finish Council sermon in the morning. In the afternoon Kathy and I drive to Tupelo for a good night sleep before Council begins tomorrow.

February 5 – Made final changes in Council address in the morning, then get moved into the space we will use for Council. This is a wonderful facility and the people of All Saints’, Tupelo have spent much time and energy preparing for the 183rd Diocesan Council.

In the afternoon, I meet with the local press and, later, participate in an orientation for new delegates to Council.

Opening worship and first business session is the major activity of the evening. My address centers on our Council theme, “The Challenge of Mission.”

A good beginning.

February 6 – Full day of reports, elections, reflections and business. Very positive spirit throughout. We are able to conclude all of our business by 5:00 p.m. so none will need to be carried over tomorrow. I join the clergy spouses for a special luncheon in their honor.

Dinner and dance in evening. Music by the Rubrixtol highlighted by a special guest appearance by Canon David Johnson singing, “Born to Be Wild.”

February 7 – Closing eucharist moved up an hour in order to give sufficient time for all to return home to watch the Super Bowl. Great music, large crowd and a special sense of family that is a charism of this diocese.

After lunch in Tupelo, Kathy and I return home tired, but grateful to be a part of this special church in this special diocese.

Arrive home in time to enjoy the historic Super Bowl.

February 8 – Drive to Gray Center for meeting with Gray Center Executive Director, Bill Horne in the morning.

Afternoon free.

February 9 – Spend much of the day with Kelly Butler touring several schools that are Barksdale Reading Institute sites. Very informative day.

February 10 – In office through the morning digging out from Diocesan Council. In the afternoon, I leave for Greenville to officiate at the Renewal of Ministry and welcoming of the New Rector at St. James. Returning to the place where I began my ordained ministry thirty-five years ago is always a special time and the joy of this occasion was particularly meaningful. The Rev. Susan Crawford is the ninth rector of St. James.

Reception follows the service, then home late to Jackson.

February 11 – In office all day. Morning session with Mr. Mike Huesth. Afternoon appointment with Dr. Kathy Knight and, later, an aspirant for holy orders.

February 12 – Snow accumulating early in morning. An unsuccessful effort to get into office allows me the time to receive a call from my parents telling me they lost their power. They move into our house in the afternoon.

The snow is beautiful.

February 13 – At home most of the day. My parents move out as our grandchildren come for a visit.

February 14 – Up early to drive to the coast for visitation to St. Thomas, Diamondhead. At St. Thomas, I preach, celebrate, baptize one, confirm 2, receive 2 and license 2 worship leaders. Good visit with the congregation in a reception following the service. Lunch with clergy and spouses as well as the newly confirmed and licensed.

This congregation is showing a very healthy recovery post-Katrina. I am very happy with the spirit of this place under the leadership of their rector, The Rev. Bill White.

Afternoon appointment with the Rev. David Lemburg. Additional appointment with a member of another coast congregation.

Finishing up with the personal appointments, I return home to Jackson.

February 15 – Day off. Lots of odd jobs around the house.

February 16 – Early morning breakfast with Chancellor Granville Tate and staff. Staff meetings throughout morning. In the office the rest of the day.

February 17 – Morning Ash Wednesday worship at St. Andrews Lower School in Jackson. Return to office for appointment with Mr. Marvin Jones from Piney Woods School. Leave the office in the afternoon to travel to Newton for an Ash Wednesday service and eucharist at Trinity Church. A very special moment with a very small group.

Dinner afterwards, then return to Jackson.

February 18 – In office most of the day. Morning appointment with Rob Townes, a capital campaign consultant. Lunch meeting with the Mississippi Religious Leadership Conference. Afternoon appointment with an aspirant for holy orders. Late afternoon session with Susan and Richard Price.

February 19 – Attended visitation with family of Tom Scott, Jr., long-time diocesan and Cathedral leader. Spent the afternoon at Gray Center with staff on planning retreat. Stayed over to welcome participants to the Junior High division of Youth Weekend event. Large and enthusiastic gathering.

February 20 – Spent the morning with Kathy and the staff of Catholic Charities being recertified in one of our roles as foster parents.

February 21 – Drive to Natchez early for annual visitation to Trinity Church. This is my first visitation to Trinity since the departure of their long-time rector, The Rev. Chip Davis.

At the morning eucharist, I preach, celebrate and confirm eight. Following a reception in the parish hall, I join the wardens and the chair of the Search Committee for lunch to discuss the status of the parish as it moves toward the call of a new rector.

In the afternoon, I participate in a liturgy that has become a tradition at Trinity School - the blessing of the junior class. It was good to see the faces that I had just confirmed in the morning.

Reception followed the liturgy, then home to Jackson.

February 22 – Sabbath time

February 23 – Staff meetings in the morning. Afternoon session with Mr. Jim Barksdale. In the evening, I take my mother and father to the annual banquet of the Mississippi Religious Leadership Council. Extraordinary address by Clarion-Ledger reporter Jerry Mitchell.

February 24 – Morning appointments with Mr. Raphael ashford and Ms. Lyn Stabler. Leave early afternoon for visit to Holy Cross Church in Olive Branch.

I am given a tour of the construction underway for the new addition at the church. Much of the work is being done by the members of Holy Cross. Afternoon meetings with the vicar, the Rev. Bruce Cheney, and the mission’s treasurer. Dinner in the parish house with the Mission Committee followed by the blessing of the new rooms. I also use the occasion to revisit the diocesan vision - One Church in Mission: Inviting, Transforming, Reconciling.

Overnight in Olive Branch.

February 25 – Up early to return to Jackson with a meeting of several youth ministry workers recently returned from an invited visit to the Virgin Islands. We discuss various initiatives arising out of the desire of the Bishop of the Virgin Islands to use adults and youth from Mississippi to support the renewal of youth ministry in this unique diocese.

Afternoon session with the Rev. Deacon Bill Hana. Unexpected event causes me to miss an afternoon session with the board of the Center for Formation and Mission.

February 26 – Breakfast with Bishop Latino (Roman Catholic) and Bishop Ward (United Methodist). It is good to return to this regular gathering of my bishop colleagues from the other churches.

In office during the morning, then drive to Gray Center for an extended session with our Delta Missioners, the Reverends Betty Baumgarten and Robert Wetherington. Canon Johnson joins me as we reflect on their time in the five congregations committed to their charge - what we have learned in this new model and what additional assistance and support is needed from the diocesan ministries. Very positive meeting.

In the late afternoon, I welcome participants to the New Vestry Conference - a training resource that is proving to be increasingly valuable over these past six years. Linda Nelson, Canons Johnson and McCormick and I are leaders for the conference.

February 27 – New Vestry Conference continues through mid-afternoon. Many new faces and a good spirit throughout this conference.

February 28 – Drive to Vicksburg for visitation to St. Mary’s and Christ Church. Before work- shop, I meet with the Mission Committee of St. Mary’s. They have recently completed a significant renovation project in their parish house and the finished product looks wonderful!

At the traditional combined service of the two congregations, I preach, celebrate and reaffirm one. Lots of good food follows the service as we all enjoy a wonderful sit down lunch. Home to Jackson in the afternoon.

Our Diocese

Mary Elizabeth Moore, 93, a founding member of Ascension, Hattiesburg, died February 9, 2010.

James (Skip) Carlton Smith, 73, communicant of St. James’ Jackson, died February 15th, 2010.

Tom Burkett Scott, Jr., 87, communicant of St. Andrew’s, Jackson, died February 16, 2010.

Gwen Hogan Wheat, 83, Communicant of St. Columba’s, Biloxi and longtime member of Christ Church, Bay St. Louis, died February 27, 2010.

Faithful Departed

The Mississippi Episcopalian

March 2010
Fifth Annual Spiritual Renewal Retreat planned for Aug.

By John Lever

The Episcopal Diocese of Mississippi and the Diocesan Committee on Ministry with LGBT Persons are pleased to announce their fifth annual spiritual renewal retreat. The retreat will take place at Gray Center on 27-29 August and is open to any person who wishes to attend.

The leader of this year’s retreat is the Rev. Dr. Sam Portaro. He is a graduate of Virginia Theological Seminary and earned a Doctor of Ministry from Princeton Theological Seminary. During his ministry, from 1976 to 1982, he served as Episcopal Chaplain to the College of William and Mary and Associate to the Rector of Bruton Parish Church in Williamsburg, Virginia. From 1982 to 2004 he was the Episcopal Chaplain to The University of Chicago and Director of Brent House. While there he oversaw the restoration and modernization of this historic property and its program as a vibrant center on its own campus and a national resource for student and young adult ministry.

Fr. Portaro regularly conducts quiet days, retreats and has served as a consultant and preacher nationwide and in the United Kingdom. He has also served interim posts on the faculties of both Seabury Western Theological Seminary and The University of Chicago Divinity School. He is a prolific author; among his works are: Brightest and Best: A Companion to Lesser Feasts and Fasts (1997); Crossing the Jordan: Meditations on Vocation (1999), Darspring: Meditations for the Weekdays of Advent, Lent and Easter (2000); Sheer Christianity: Conjectures on a Catechism (2004) and Transforming Vocation (2008).

Fr. Portaro has chosen as the theme for this year’s retreat, THUS FAR, BY FAITH: Conversation on Partnering with God. Each person’s life journey is unique, but not solitary. The LGBT person, in particular, and others as well, may be especially sensitive to trusted partners on life’s journey; to whom and with whom they can be their true selves. Choosing one’s traveling companions is personal and always a risk. Fr. Portaro has chosen to share his journey with God, and through his story and those of the participants we will explore partnership with God.

In the near future a mail out with registration forms and information will be sent to each parish and mission. Also there will be email notification and registration instructions. Lastly please check The Mississippi Episcopalian for updated information.

For additional information please contact: John Lever at jalever@live.com or 601-362-2792 and Emily Everett in the Diocesan Office at eeveter@dioms.org or 601-948-5954.

The Rev. Dr. Sam Portaro

Ring Around the Collar

By Denny Allman

As you are reading this we are in the final half of Lent. Holy Week looms. Yet, these final weeks of Lent are just as important as the first ones. We ask ourselves ‘have we done all that we ought to have done to have a Holy Lent?’ Do we spend too much time craving that which we gave up? There is still work to be done. This following essay was written a few years ago by the Rev. Sam Godfrey, Vicar of the Church of the Holy Innocents, Como.

Not Quite, and Before You Know It

As I said early in March, there is still work to be done. Easter beckons, but the work of Lent is not complete. There are still prayers to be said, times to be silent, words to be read, steps to walk with our Lord, before we come to find the tomb empty. We need to remember, at any point, something new can happen, there may be some new insight, a new lesson to learn. Each season of the church year, with its differences, is rich in its own way, and prepares us for the next.

At this point in Lent, we approach the richest time of the church year in our liturgical calendar. Even as we take stock of our spiritual lives in the quiet of Lent, we are preparing for the events of Holy Week.

The Palm Sunday service begins with the collect, “Assist us mercifully with your help, O Lord God of our salvation, that we may enter with joy upon the contemplation of those mighty acts, whereby you have given, us life and immortality; through Jesus Christ our Lord.” BCP 270.

The services of Holy Week serve to carry us through and remind us of the events in our Lord’s life leading to the Resurrection. They lead us into Jerusalem, to the Upper Room, the Garden, to the Cross, and to the tomb where he lay, then empty on the Sunday of the Resurrection. These services bring us to the heart of the Gospel message. Details about each service follow in this newsletter. Please come, as we continue the journey. Christ’s peace to us and to the world.

Blessings and Peace

Sam G. +

Creator Theatre Presents Beloved Drama

“The Diary of Anne Frank”, a true story, is a moving glimpse into the lives of two families forced into hiding during the Holocaust. Clinton native Morgan Philley, a sophomore at CHS, portrays Anne - a 13 year old trying to experience the normal joys and challenges of adolescence even as her world shatters around her. “Morgan has amazed me in her portrayal of Anne”, says director Jolyne Shirley, “She is a natural talent - she will blow you away.”

Local actors from Clinton, Madison, Jackson and Bolton round out the cast. “I hope a good number of teachers and their students will attend this play - it’s a great window into the mindset of World War II-era Europe,” says Shirley.

The Episcopal Church of the Creator, 1445 Clinton-Raymond Road, will present “The Diary of Anne Frank” March 11th, 12th and 13th at 7:00pm. Tickets are $7.00 at the door.

Fostering Independence

Bridgeway Apartments in Picayune, Mississippi, provide assisted-living and supported-employment services for young men and women with developmental disabilities, while allowing the maximum level of independence for each individual.

- Fully accessible, custom-designed apartments
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- A safe location in a pleasant neighborhood
- Staff on duty 24 hours a day, 365 days a year

For more information about the Bridgeway Apartments contact: John Hoskins, Senior Philanthropic Advisor, at 888-439-5116 or via e-mail at john.hoskins@st-francis.org.

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THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH RESPONDS

Churches to respond to Chilean earthquake

By Matthew Davies, March 01, 2010

[Episcopal News Service] Churches throughout the world are poised to respond to the devastating magnitude-8.8 earthquake that hit Chile on Saturday, Feb. 27, killing at least 700 people and causing some 1.5 million homes.

Episcopal Relief & Development said in a Feb. 28 press release that it is “reaching out to dioceses in the affected areas to determine the best course of action,” and asked for continued prayers. Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori said that the Episcopal Church “is saddened by the death and destruction in Chile, and holds our brothers and sisters in prayer.”

The strongest quake to hit Chile in 50 years struck off the Pacific coast at 2:34 a.m. local time at a depth of nearly 22 miles, sparking fears of tsunamis. The epicenter was approximately 60 miles northwest of Chillan, and 220 miles southeast of Chile’s capital, Santiago. Some 90 aftershocks have also been reported, including a 6.3-magnitude quake in Argentina.

The quake has affected an estimated 2 million people and President Michelle Bachelet has declared a state of catastrophe in central Chile.

Diocese of Chile Bishop Héctor Zavala Muoóz, speaking by telephone on March 1 with the Rev. Glenda McQueen, the Episcopal Church’s program officer for the Anglican Provinces in Latin America and the Caribbean, confirmed that all Anglicans in Santiago were safe and that electricity had started to return to parts of the capital.

Muoóz said that communication had been more challenging with those in Concepción, Chile’s second largest city located 71 miles from the earthquake’s epicenter.

He was able to speak briefly with clergy in Concepción — where there are three Anglican congregations — to verify that they and their families were safe and to learn that many of their parishioners are currently living in makeshift camps. Muoóz said he and other diocesan officials will make a 10-hour round trip to Concepción on March 2 to deliver much-needed supplies.

The Anglican Church in Chile (Iglesia Anglicana de Chile) is located in the province of the Southern Cone of America, which also includes dioceses in Argentina, Bolivia, Paraguay, Peru, and Uruguay.

South American Missionary Society Ireland heard on March 1 from Samuel Lago, a lay member of the Diocese of Chile, who recently completed a one-year parish placement in Belfast, Northern Ireland.

According to a post on the SAMS Ireland website, Lago also acknowledged there was no news about the state of Anglican churches in Concepción.

“We’re having a hard time getting any information and what we’re getting is generally not good,” he said. “In Santiago, there are still several places without the basic services (including the building where I live) but other than that, things are alright, with intact infrastructure and local small businesses selling water and goods.”

The society asked prayers, especially for social order, as news of looting began to emerge. On March 1, Bachelet imposed a dusk-to-dawn curfew in the two provinces closest to the earthquake’s epicenter.

“The news we’re now getting is quite disturbing: riots, looting, people trapped under buildings and even hundreds of people having escaped a few of the local prisons,” said Lago.

In Canada, Archbishop Fred Hiltz immediately called fellow Anglicans to join him in prayer for those affected. “As with the disaster in Haiti, there is no doubt that a great many people will be homeless and have their lives disrupted,” he said.

Chile is located along the Pacific Rim’s “Ring of Fire,” where the Nazca and South American tectonic plates cross. Although Chile’s earthquake was almost a 1,000 times stronger than the one that hit Haiti on Jan. 12, the South American country is better prepared for such disasters due to the frequency of quakes in the region and the resistance with which buildings are constructed.

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America has initiated a response and will be working with its longstanding companions: the Iglesia Evangelica Luterana en Chile (Evangelical Lutheran Church in Chile), a member of the Lutheran World Federation; and Educación Popular en Salud (Popular Education in Health Foundation).

The ELCA News Service reported that their Lutheran church buildings in Santiago had sustained some structural damage, according to the Rev. Martin Junge, LWF general secretary-elect. Junge, a Chilean, said that communication with congregations in Concepción has been “extremely difficult,” and it has not been possible to reach some Lutheran pastors in the area by telephone, the news service reported.

Although tsunami warnings for the entire Pacific region have been called off, “residents of many affected nations are still waiting to return to their homes around coastal areas,” Episcopal Relief & Development reported. “Caution has been advised as changes in sea level and unusual currents may characterize Pacific waters in the coming days.”

Matthew Davies is editor and international correspondent of the Episcopal News Service.
Snow photo contest has many contributions

By Scott Lenoir, Editor

With the advent of an unexpected snow fall across much of Mississippi last month, this editor put out the word via the internet to all diocesan priests and Facebook friends to participate in the Almost Annual Snow Church Photo Contest.

The photography was judged by Jackson professional photographer and artist, Josh Hailey. I wish we had room to print all of the fantastic submissions. Thank you to all who sent in photographs. The 2010 winners are:

Snow Church Landscape 1st Place, Leigh Ann Adams for Strawberry Chapel. Leigh Ann is a communicant of Holy Trinity, Vicksburg. 2nd place for Snow Church Landscape goes to Robert Pooley for his shot of the Chapel of the Cross, Madison where is a communicant and verger.

Snow People 1st Place, Susan Dressler with a shot of her twin boys Roger and William. Susan is a communicant of Chapel of the Cross, Madison. 2nd Place Snow People goes to Kyle Seage with a picture of her children, Betsy and Katie. Kyle is the Priest in Charge of All Saints, Inverness.

Snow Still Life is dominated by the Seage family. 1st Place goes Brian Seage with his Saint’s Snowman. Brian is the Rector of St. Columba’s, Ridgeland. 2nd place, and a second award, to Brian’s wife, Kyle Seage with a shot of frozen trees.

The winners will be sent the YouTube video of the Rev. David Johnson singing “Born to be Wild” at the 183rd Annual Council and a gift of appreciation from The Editor.

Thank you all who contributed photos to the contest. The winning photos are below and some honorable mentions are pictured as well.
About our judge, Josh Hailey

Josh Hailey is a professional photographer and artist with a studio on the third floor of the Fondren Building on North State Street in Jackson. He is also a member of St. Alexis, Jackson, and works to coordinate events and help with the advertising and marketing of the mission church.

Hailey, 28, is a 2005 graduate of Mississippi State University with a major in photography, ceramics, and Spanish.

The latest show he is planning will be in late April. The theme of the new show is a nature series. Hailey recently left for a trip to Argentina. The young artist says he “works like crazy to afford really nice trips.”

To view Hailey’s photography and art, log on to www.joshhaileystudio.com.

“I invite everyone to come to visit me at the studio, I love company and maybe we can go down to Rooster’s for a burger.”

Always mindful of his St. Alexis home, Hailey reminded Episcopal friends to head down to the church after the St. Paddie’s Day parade on March 21st. There will be bands and the best karoke to be found in town.

Honorable Mention, St. Andrew’s Cathedral, Dean Edward O’Connor shot this beautiful view of tower at St. Andrew’s.

Honorable Mention, Maddie and Cassie Ann, by Christy Howell, St. Columb’s, Ridgeland.

Honorable Mention, Tucker Manning by Shannon Manning, St. James’ Jackson.

Honorable Mention, Canton tracks, by Jud Meador’s, Grace Canton.

Honorable Mention, View from Cabin 3, by Bill Horne, Chapel of the Cross, Madison.
“Gatherings” begin at LESM: For the Love of Children

By the Rev. Molly M. Wade

LESM has expanded its ministry to children of incarcerated parents. It has also begun a new program of mediation between non-violent youth offenders and the victims. Sally Fran Ross and Catherine Sullivan are a “dynamic duo” who have passion about restoring hope in lives that otherwise seem hopeless. In February we had our first Gathering: “For the Love of Children” and invited people from the Metro-area who are also passionate about serving at-risk children. It was a great success in many ways. The information about our ministries was well received and the discussion was lively. Hills County Sheriff Malcolm McMillin was there to lend wisdom, perspective, and good humor. Twenty five community leaders attended and each person signed up to be a part of one or more of the ministries.

Mentoring Children for Tomorrow (MCP) was introduced as a relationship between an adult and a child which offers improvement in the child’s confidence, behavior, attendance at school, and relationships with other adults and peers. The goal is to match one-on-one mentors with 225 children of prisoners. A grant from the Department of Health and Human Services was given to LESM to meet the needs of children of incarcerated parents in the greater Jackson area. Through our work in the Storybook Project and Double Time, we have identified more than enough children who are waiting for the nurture and support of reliable, committed mentors.

JUMP is LESM’s Juvenile Mediation Program. This program offers an alternative to juvenile incarceration for first time non-violent offenders. Through JUMP wrongdoers are directed by a Youth Court Judge to this ministry. The offenders, their families, victim’s and the victim’s families come together with a trained mediator to restore the relationship. Everyone is heard. The impact of the offense on everyone is explored. The wrongdoer is held accountable.

As we stated to those who attended the Gathering, “We firmly believe that these programs individually and as a combined approach are a model for making a real and lasting difference in the lives of these children, allowing them and succeeding generations to be contributing members of our community who are making the most of their potential”.

If you would like learn more about our Restorative Justice Ministries or if you would like to become an (MCP) Mentor or be trained as a (JUMP) Mediator or serve on the Mentoring Advisory Board or be a Storybook Volunteer, please call me at 601-352-7125. We would be so happy to receive your gifts of love and care here at LESM! My e-mail address is: mwade@lesm.org

Gray Jr. wins Friendship Ball award

By Scott Lenoir, Editor

Retired Bishop Duncan Gray Jr. received the Friendship Ball Award Saturday night March 6th at the organization’s annual event held this year at Hal and Mal’s in Jackson.

The annual Friendship Award honors persons who have provided leadership to promote racial harmony and address the socio-economic problems in Mississippi.

Gray receives the honor for his work to end racial injustice during his priesthood and throughout his tenure as Bishop of Mississippi. Gray helped found the Mississippi Religious Leadership Council (see page 1); he served as the first chairman of the Mississippi Council on Human Relations, and was a member of the Mississippi Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights.

Also receiving a Friendship Award this year was Dr. Aaron Shirley who founded the Jackson Medical Mall in 1995 which provides health care to Mississippi’s poorest citizens. One of Shirley’s current projects is to open fourteen health houses in the Mississippi Delta which will function in the same way as the medical mall in Jackson.

This year, the Friendship Award Banquet raised money for the Mississippi Youth Media Project, 100 Black Men of Jackson, and Parents for Public Schools.

Six-year-old sparks Haitian outreach at Coast Episcopal School

By Liz Jones

When Michael Burns heard about the disaster in Haiti, he was determined to do something to help others. His cousin, Elissa Kergosian is a volunteer in Haiti, in a school called Louverture Cleary. So, Michael came to the chapel at Coast Episcopal School and asked what could we do? It turned out that Coast Episcopal School could do a lot. Louverture Cleary School was formed by a group called The Haitian Project, which is a Catholic school started by Patrick Moynihan. Louverture Cleary already had an ongoing project which Coast Episcopal knew it could join.

You see, Louverture Cleary school has a very special motto from Matthew 10:8, “What you receive as gift, you must give as gift.”

The students who attend L-C school are given free tuition and boarding. In return, each afternoon when they finish school, they go out into the surrounding village and teach the children who didn’t get in, how to read and write. In addition, each child is given a back-pack chock full of all the best school supplies one could need.

That is where Coast Episcopal School came in. We remembered this project because when Hurricane Katrina hit us and we lost our homes and everything else, but our school, we too received a gift. The first day back, a month after the storm hit us, there was a back-pack waiting for every child at Coast Episcopal. Many of Coast students didn’t have a house, but we had a back-pack, which is why we couldn’t wait to fulfill this outreach project with Louverture Cleary.

Each back-pack costs approximately $50.00 to fill. Parents, students and faculty went to work in conjunction with Target stores and a big assist from The Nurturing Place, a local church. During early March, sixty-three back-packs will begin their journey to Louverture Cleary School, Haiti!

Coast Episcopal School is honored to be able to help others and thankful for Michael Burns and his parents who started this amazing project. By the way, Michael is 6 years old.

Truly “What you receive as gift, you must give as gift.”

If you wish to make a donation to the Haitian Project, here is the following information:
Haitianproject.org or call 815-484-8603

The Rev. Liz Jones is Chaplain at Coast Episcopal School.

O ALMIGHTY God, look mercifully upon the world which thou hast redeemed by the blood of thy dear Son, and incline the hearts of many to dedicate themselves to the sacred Ministry of thy Church; through the same thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

1928 BCP, pg 39

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BISHOP’S BARBEQUE
MAY 29, 2010
By Janet C. Nail

Who are “They”? You know, those anonymous people whose existence is responsible for all that is wrong in the world. If “they” would disappear, all would be well.

“They” have been many people. “They” are Black, Native American, Mexican, Chinese, Irish, even Southerners; remember the commentator in the early sixties who was quoted as saying that if the state of Mississippi and all the people there were bulldozed into the Gulf of Mexico, the country would be much better off.

I realized who this amorphous group included many years ago.

We were on our way from California to visit our family in Mississippi. We decided to stop in Albuquerque this time, and we found our way to the Old Town. After sightseeing for a while, we went into a museum/gift shop featuring Native American history and crafts.

We split up, the Eldest zeroing in on the art, the Spouse and the Youngest seeking out the weapons. The Daughter and I were drawn to the jewelry.

As we admired the silver and the turquoise jewelry, I noticed that the security guard was never more than two steps away from us. Well, I was kind of hippie-looking at the time so I was used to that. But then we stopped to watch a demonstration of Navajo rug weaving. The docent was explaining what the elderly woman was doing, when the Daughter pushed to the front and leaned over to see the raw yarn; as she reached out to touch it, the docent exploded.

“You! Get away from that! Who said you could come in here?” and she turned to the group, who were stunned; “Those damn Indians. You have to watch them every minute or they will steal you blind.”

“Then I guess I had better take my daughter out of here then.” And we left. (If you know me at all, you realize that that was as assertive as I can get.) We sat outside, both of us crying. She was eight years old.

She was one of Them; and by association, so was I.

Even though such prejudice occurs every day, we are most aware of the most horrific example of getting rid of Them, the Final Solution. We are still learning to use my cell phone.

The Mississippi Episcopalian

The A-V Center has archives and digital programs to draw closer.

Finally, BONHOEFFER: AGENT OF GRACE is a moving story, we see Bonhoeffer tending his broken and ill brother-in-law, who has been left to die in his own filth. During an air raid the guards fled to the bomb shelter, but Bonhoeffer went to Dohnanyi’s cell, and began to clean his wounds, finally stripping his own clothes so that he could hold him up in the shower. He bathed him, shaved him, dressed him in clean clothes, washed his filthy clothes, and finally gave him the sacrament.

On April 9, 1945, the Nazis took Dietrich Bonhoeffer to Flossenburg Concentration Camp and hanged him.

Sebrell Funeral Home
Honduras Medical Mission
2010 reflection

By Catherine Tatem Rickett

February 21, 2010, 2:00 a.m.

The supplies that you need, if you did not bring them with you, will not arrive until nighttime in the middle of your trip. Some of the supplies that you did bring with you will be held up by a foreign customs bureau with whom you cannot communicate and who cares nothing about your plight. The bureau is, of course, just following the rules.

Your trip’s leader, who is trying in every way that he can to get the supplies out of the port in which they have been detained, has a serious family crisis and must leave the country.

Rain will cover dirt streets, making local foot transportation muddy, slippery and treacherous at all times. The rain will make the roads, such as they are, impassable for vehicular traffic.

You will be without a cell phone, newspaper, television, or any news of the outside world. You will not be able to contact the people who you think are trying to get your supplies. Any information you receive will be delayed and inaccurate.

The transportation that will get you out of this remote area will break down. You will be stranded, wet and stuck in a third world country.

Oh, and did I mention? Sixteen people will share one primitive bathroom; the toilet will be one in name only, the sink one in which you cannot drink the water. The shower will be a concrete space with a “sometimes” spray of impotent water.

So, can I sign you up for this trip? Who would go on this trip knowing these facts? I suspect that few of us would go. And yet we did.

Talented people from MS, Texas, and Alabama went to Honduras, to a remote village named San Joaquin. The MS Medical Mission has been going there for over 20 years. If you knew only the facts from this year’s trip, it would sound like a terrible place to go. It is. Who knew that one could be excited to find a sink in a bathroom? Who knew what a joy it would be to stand under a cold shower and to climb into a damp bed, listening to roosters, well... all night long?

If you only heard the facts as presented above you might not only stay home, but might run away from any mention of Honduras or medical missions or roosters. (The roosters really are THAT raucous, all night long.) If you were to say “no” to going on this mission you would miss the opportunity to:

Operate medical, dental, eye, veterinary clinics and a pharmacy - anyway.

You would not know the teamwork and excitement of the villagers joining in to unload and reload an entire truckload of supplies on a rainy night in order that you can get them in place for the next day early. Nor would you know the exhaustion and thrill of the pharmacy catching up and handing out essentially three days’ worth of medicines in one day.

You would not see the dirty feet and thankful faces of over a thousand people to whom you bring health and hope.

You would not see strangers and foreigners gather around in order to help a sick person or animal, mixing languages and techniques, words and motions, in order to provide appropriate care.

You would miss seeing more sickness than your mind can absorb, more sorrow than your heart can hold.

You would miss the little boy who reaches out and makes a cross of pretend ashes on your head, giving you a reminder in Spanish that you are but dust. And to dust you shall return.

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The Rev. Catherine Richett is Vicar of St. Stephen’s, Columbus and St. Elizabeth’s, Collins.

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By Polly Marshall

Polly Marshall is a communicant of the Church of the Creator, Clinton.

By Jason Woodcock

Happening 71 planned for spring

By Polly Marshall

Bishop Gray to attend April Diocesan Altar Guild meeting

By Polly Marshall

Polly Marshall is a communicant of the Church of the Creator, Clinton.
EVENTS

DIOCESAN CALENDAR

MARCH
10  •  Deacons’ Council - 11:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m., Allin House, Jackson

11  •  Cursillo #118, Gray Center, Canton

11-14  •  Fresh Start North - 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m., All Saints’, Tupelo

12  •  Standing Committee - 10:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m., Allin House, Jackson

12-13  •  Gray Center Work Weekend, Gray Center, Canton

14  •  Bishop Gray visits:  Chapel of the Cross, Madison - 8:45 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

15-16  •  Bishop Gray visits:  St. Peter’s by-the-Lake, Brandon - 6:00 p.m.

16-18  •  Standing Committee - 11:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m., Allin House, Jackson

19  •  Bishop Gray visits:  Episcopal Church at Ole Miss (ECOM), Oxford - 5:30 p.m.

20  •  Deacons’ Retreat, Gray Center, Canton

21  •  Deacon Discernment Committee, Gray Center, Canton

22  •  Diocesan Finance Committee - 11:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m., St. Andrew’s Cathedral, Jackson

23  •  Diocesan Trustees - 2:00 p.m., Allin House, Jackson

24  •  Fresh Start South - 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m., Trinity, Hattiesburg

25  •  Bishop Gray visits:  Trinity, Pass Christian - 10:30 a.m.

29  •  Bishop Gray visits:  St. Andrew’s Cathedral, Jackson - 8:45 a.m. & 11:05 a.m.

30  •  Deacon Post-Ordination Consultation - 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m., Gray Center, Canton

APRIL
1  •  Maundy Thursday

2  •  Good Friday

2-5  •  Allin House closed for Easter holidays

3  •  Bishop Gray visits:  St. Philip’s, Jackson - 6:00 p.m.

4  •  Easter Sunday

6  •  Deadline for submission to The Mississippi Episcopalian - 12:00 noon

9-10  •  Episcopal Church at Ole Miss (ECOM), Oxford - 5:30 p.m.

11  •  Bishop Gray visits:  St. Mark’s, Gulfport - 9:30 a.m.

12  •  Bishop Gray visits:  St. Stephen’s, Columbia - 5:00 p.m.

14  •  Bishop Gray visits:  Trinity, Pass Christian - 10:30 a.m.

14-15  •  Standing Committee - 11:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m., Allin House, Jackson

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16-18  •  Bishop Gray visits:  Episcopal Church at Ole Miss (ECOM), Oxford - 5:30 p.m.

19-21  •  Presbyter Post-Ordination Consultation, Gray Center, Canton

21-23  •  Presbyter Post-Ordination Consultation, Gray Center, Canton

23-24  •  Progoff Intensive Journal(r) Retreat & Workshop, Gray Center, Canton

24-25  •  Fresh Start South - 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m., Trinity, Hattiesburg

25  •  Bishop Gray visits:  Christ Church, Bay St. Louis - 5:00 p.m.

26  •  Bishop Gray visits:  Episcopal Church at Ole Miss (ECOM), Oxford - 5:30 p.m.

27  •  Bishop Gray visits:  St. Thomas’, Jackson - 6:00 p.m.

28  •  Bishop Gray visits:  St. Andrew’s Cathedral, Jackson - 8:45 a.m. & 11:05 a.m.

29-30  •  Bishop Gray visits:  Episcopal Church at Ole Miss (ECOM), Oxford - 5:30 p.m.

MAY
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The Camp Musicians’ Weekend
The Camp Musicians’ Weekend will be April 9-11 at St. James in Jackson. This weekend is for musicians of all types - singers, guitar players, kazoo enthusiasts, floutists, etc. You do not have to be an experienced musician to attend — come to learn and play great music!

Applications are available on the youth page of the diocesan website. CJ Meaders is the coordinator for this event, and he is the youth minister at St. John’s in Laurel. Please call him at St. John’s if you have any questions.

The Bishop’s Barbeque
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Saints’ Brew feeds Tupelo’s hungry

By Lloyd Gray

When All Saints’ Episcopal Church in Tupelo moved into new facilities in 2007, finding ways to use its greatly expanded space to serve the wider community was a top priority.

The capital campaign that preceded construction emphasized that while everyone in the church would benefit from the new parish hall, kitchen, classrooms and offices, the building would be as much or more about outwardly focused ministries.

One of the first such ministries began as an Advent/Christmas project in December 2007. “Saints’ Brew” was designed to provide coffee and pastries on weekday mornings to anyone who came. It began with a handful of volunteers and small donations.

It wasn’t long before it became obvious that the need was great. The program was extended through Lent of 2008 and eventually featured a full hot breakfast. This “temporary” ministry has never ceased, and by February 2010 it had served more than 27,000 meals.

In the early days of Saints’ Brew, five or six folks might show up on a typical morning. Today, the average is around 50, and often there are more.

They range from the chronically homeless and destitute to the temporarily unemployed, from individuals to large families, including all races and ages. Everyone gets a full breakfast, juice and coffee supplied by a core of volunteers and paid for through cash and in-kind donations by All Saints’ members and others in the community.

“Our original mission was to feed the hungry,” said volunteer Yvette Slocum. “With time we recognized we had the opportunity to do more. In addition to serving food came the opportunity to provide a safe gathering place, companionship, a smile, a hug and a sense that someone cares.”

The ministry eventually extended to other needs of Saints’ Brew guests, such as transportation, clothing and a place to wash up and use the phone.

“The mission is not glamorous, nor is it easy,” said Slocum. “At times it can be painful. It hurts to see hungry children, people in need, or those who can’t beat an addiction to drugs or alcohol. But every morning of the week we open not only our doors, but our hearts to all who come.”

Saints’ Brew has a strong supporter in the Rev. Paul Stephens, All Saints’ rector, who came to Tupelo in January of 2009, a year after the ministry began.

Stephens, whose recurring theme at All Saints’ has been a call to members to look outward to “transform lives” in the wider community, sees Saints’ Brew as an exemplar of that mission.

“I have realized first hand what a difference Saints’ Brew is making in people’s lives,” Stephens said. That includes the lives of the volunteers, he emphasized, and that’s affirmed by Slocum. “All Saints’ saw an opportunity and challenged ourselves to develop a mission,” she said, “and in the end all that have participated agree that we have received so much more than we have given.”

Lloyd Gray is a communicant at All Saints’ Episcopal Church in Tupelo.