

# THE MISSISSIPPI EPISCOPALIAN

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## Disaster relief agencies coordinate services in wake of tornadoes

By Scott Lenoir, Editor

The storm systems that moved through Mississippi in April and May produced the strongest tornadoes in decades. According to the National Weather Service one tornado was tracked for 149 miles as it cut a path of destruction between Tallulah, Louisiana to Eagle Lake, Yazoo City and Starkville, Mississippi killing 10 people on April 24th.



Gov. Hailey Barbour helps serves lunch to volunteer workers in the Ebenezer area with St. Mary's, Lexington parishioners Arlene Easterling and Robert Easterling (background).



This home was crushed by several trees in Yazoo County when the EF4 tornado passed through the countryside.

Another round of storms produced tornadoes on Sunday, May 2 and took the lives of 6 more people and destroying property in eight northern Mississippi counties along with flooding.

Flood waters were also especially heavy in Tennessee where 18 people lost their lives in storm related deaths.

The April 24th storms in Mississippi destroyed 249 homes and another 141 houses received major damage according to the

Mississippi Emergency Management Agency. Property loss is estimated by Insurance Commissioner Mike Chaney (a communicant of Christ Church, Vicksburg) to be more than fifty million dollars. Warren, Holmes, Yazoo, Attala and Choctaw counties were declared Federal Disaster Areas and five northern Mississippi counties have applied for the designation.

Disaster relief organizations like Lutheran Episcopal Services in Mississippi began their work immediately following the April 24th storms. An emergency volunteer

reception center was established in Yazoo County by the Mississippi Commission for Volunteer Service (MCVS) which is the lead organization in Mississippi for volunteer management.

Sandra Braasch, the Director of Disaster Preparedness and Response with LESM said the coordinated effort helped streamline the ability to put volunteers where they are needed.

Braasch, who is also the President of Mississippi Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD), is holding daily conference calls of state and national VOAD member organizations to collaborate and coordinate response efforts.



Sandra Braasch

Yazoo City," she said.

LESM is prepared to deploy case management, construction teams and other related resources when funding becomes available for such aid.

Parishes respond directly St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Lexington began working in the relief effort to support those affected by the tornadoes in Holmes County. Robert and Arlene Easterling, communicants of St. Mary's who were relief workers in the initial months of Camp Coast Care, are working at a support center at the Ebenezer fire station. Tornado victims and relief workers come to the



A view from Hwy 49 in Yazoo City of an obliterated large building, probably a church. Note the devastation to the trees behind it.

station to have daily meals and receive other support.

Also, Craig Carter, the chair of the Servanthood Ministry at Chapel of the Cross, Madison has been to Yazoo County and Choctaw County to help with the relief effort. Carter and other members of Chapel of the Cross have made several trips to the tornado damaged areas with food and other items collected from the parish. The first trip was made on Sunday, the day after April 24th tornado.

If you would like to volunteer to aid in the relief effort, please contact Mississippi Commission for Volunteer Services by calling 888-353-1793, or register to volunteer at [www.volunteermisissippi.org](http://www.volunteermisissippi.org).

Visit the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) website at [www.msema.org](http://www.msema.org) for current information on the relief efforts.



An LESM team works with an AmeriCorps NCCC team to erect a Quonset Hut at "Camp Swayze" in Yazoo City in order to provide volunteer housing to help with the clean up and rebuilding efforts.

## Deepwater oil spill still unplugged

By Scott Lenoir, Editor

The oil spill from the wrecked Deepwater Horizon Rig in the Gulf of Mexico has not hit the Mississippi Coast as of Monday, May 10th. Recreational and commercial fishing in Mississippi waters remain open, but the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) restricted fishing in federal waters off the Mississippi Sound until May 17th. Monitoring and testing of Mississippi's water quality continues daily according to the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency (MEMA).

British Petroleum owns the off shore oil rig which exploded April 20th. The resulting leaks are coming from three places in a 5,000 foot riser pipe that collapsed when the 560 million dollar floating oil rig sank. The latest reports say the oil spill now covers over 4,000 square miles of the Gulf and continues to leak an estimated 5,000 barrels a day which is 210,000 gallons.

BP has been unsuccessful in its efforts to plug the leaking well. The latest hope failed when a four story cofferdam placed over the major leak at the well head clogged due to the formation of crystallized gas on May 8th.

"Tar balls" suspected of coming from the leak washed up on the shores of Dauphin Island, Alabama on May 8th.

Coast Guard Admiral Thad Allen says that a second well near the original is being drilled which will plug the well. The idea is to plug the original well through the second shaft which will join with the first one. This effort will take about 90 days to complete.

Many people are interested in volunteering to help with the clean up, but unlike Hurricane Katrina, all volunteers working with the oil spill must have special training dealing with hazardous materials before being allowed to help.

A volunteer beach clean-up was held across the Coast from Hancock County to Jackson County on May 8th. The Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality and the Department of Marine Resources organized the effort.

The Rev. Elizabeth Wheatley-Jones, the director of Mission on the Bay, one of two construction camps on the Coast, located in Bay St. Louis, said that Mission on the Bay and Camp Victor in Ocean Springs are both ready to help house trained persons assisting with the clean up. See more of Elizabeth's thoughts on the recent disaster on page 10 of this issue.

For more information on oil spill related trainings, volunteering to aid in the on-going post-Katrina recovery and rebuilding efforts on the Coast, log on to a new Coast recovery website: [www.futuresforfamilies.org](http://www.futuresforfamilies.org).

For the latest news on the spill, check out [www.msema.org](http://www.msema.org), MEMA's official website.



This image from NOAA on May 3rd shows the oil slick in the Gulf of Mexico.

# Notes & Quotes

By Maria Watson



I missed you all last month. Didn't get to write about all those great Holy Week and Easter events and celebrations you had planned. The "crud" had me in bed from Palm Sunday until Maundy Thursday and still a bit shaky on Easter Day. So, consequently, most of the newsletters I'd carefully saved, hoping to find something still timely for this month's Notes & Quotes, went packing. This story, however, from **St. George's, Clarksdale's**, "The Word," remains imprinted on my brain.

Down here on the Coast, we sort of take space (as in "outer") for granted. We are the proud home of Stennis Space Center where the rockets that sent the Apollo missions upward were tested. As a reporter, I covered Stennis Space Center, though long after the Apollo program had ended. Still this story seems almost surreal to me. It is the story of the Holy Eucharist on the moon. On July 20, 1969, lunar module pilot Buzz Aldrin read from the surface of the moon: "I'd like...to ask every person listening...to pause for a moment and contemplate the events of the past few hours and to give thanks in his or her own way." Radio communication was then suspended as Aldrin read to himself a passage from the Gospel of John and took Communion. Afterward, he said: "In the radio blackout, I opened the little plastic packages which contained the bread and wine. I poured the wine into the chalice our church had given me. In the one-sixth gravity of the moon, the wine slowly curled and gracefully came up the side of the cup. Then I read the Scripture, 'I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever abides in me will bring forth much fruit. Apart from me you can do nothing.' I ate the tiny Host and swallowed the wine. I gave thanks for the

intelligence and spirit that had brought two young pilots to the Sea of Tranquility. It was interesting for me to think: the very first liquid ever poured on the moon, and the very first food eaten there, were the Communion elements." Is that not a story that brings goose bumps to your skin and hope to your heart? It is one I'll not soon forget!

In this 41st year since that first lunar landing, here's what's going on around the Diocese of Mississippi. **Nativity, Greenwood**, has a very elegant new newsletter and is preparing for June 2 when Bishop Gray visits the parish for a festive service of Evensong and the dedication of its new Parish Center as a center of ministry for the entire community. Several weeks earlier, Nativity's ECW planned a festive evening with dinner and a movie, "Julie and Julia," and an elegant meal prepared from the one and only *Mastering the Art of French Cooking*. **St. Mark's, Gulfport's**, ECW held its annual Spring Luncheon and Market on May 7. Still thinking of food, **Grace, Canton**, planned to follow its morning Eucharist in the courtyard with a crawfish boil, and **All Saints, Tupelo**, planned a single service on Pentecost, followed by a crawfish boil. **Holy Innocents, Como**, will hold its annual Parish Picnic June 6. **St. John's, Ocean Springs**, planned a Cinco de Mayo Fiesta to celebrate the culture of our Mexican neighbors with Mexican food and mariachi music. And still more food cometh from **St. James', Greenville**, which will hold its 5th Annual Lobsterfest May 22. We Episcopalians love to eat, don't we! St. James's new newsletter, *The Wayfarer*, is so named because St. James is known for his evangelism in Spain where people still make pilgrimages to Santiago de Compostella where his remains are said to be laid.

Vacation Bible School is right around the corner with **St. Peter's, Oxford**, planning the Very Big Story: tricks, LIES & holy scrapes (Genesis 24-50) June 21-25. At **St. Paul's, Columbus**, the VBS theme will be the Egyptian Marketplace, June 7-11. They will study the journey of Joseph while experiencing the market-

place with vendors set up in the parish hall to "sell" their crafts, goods and - guess what - Food! At **St. James', Jackson**, Vacation Church School will C.R.E.A.T.E. Prayer (Children Reflecting and Exploring All of Their Experience) June 7-10. At **St. Andrew's Cathedral**, VBS will convene at 5:30 p.m. each day of the week of July 11-15, studying a different liturgical season of the church year each night, beginning with Advent and ending with Pentecost. VBS 2010 at **Holy Trinity, Vicksburg**, will be "Down by the Creek Bank." **St. Paul's, Columbus's**, Summer Youth Mission Trip will be June 13-18 when the youth and chaperones will go to Pensacola. There they will stay at Trinity Presbyterian Church and do their mission work at Manna and Loaves and Fishes food kitchens.

St. Andrew's Cathedral is sponsoring a Bach-Oberammergau Tour in September, directed by former parishioner William Fulton, assisted by organist/choirmaster Dr. John Paul and violinist/singer Tom Lowe. The tour will include cities where J.S. Bach lived, performed and composed his immortal music. For more information, go to [www.bach-oberammergau-2010.com](http://www.bach-oberammergau-2010.com). **Trinity, Natchez**, is hosting two of the major concerts for the 2010 Natchez Festival of Music: Opera, Broadway, Jazz May 7 and May 22.

## NOTABLE QUOTES...

"Live your life in ways that this world is better because you passed through it. Shine in whatever you do. Bring light into the world in which you live." (**St. Stephen's, Indianola**)..."In the early church there were no altar rails. In the fifth century, they were chest high. In the 17th century, they were used to keep dogs from entering the altar area. In the 18th century the celebrants moved out among the people to distribute the bread and wine." (St. Matthew's, Kosciusko)

And finally, wit or wisdom?  
"Middle age is when broadness of the mind and narrowness of the waist change places...Junk is something you've kept for years and throw away three weeks before you need it...Experience is a wonderful thing. It enables you to recognize a mistake when you make it again." (**Epiphany, Tunica**)



## FAITHFUL DEPARTED

**Linda Bowman Jenkins**, 72, communicant of St. Andrew's Cathedral, Jackson, died December 6, 2009.

**Richard Dale Sims**, 84, communicant of St. Andrew's Cathedral, Jackson, died January 8, 2010.

**Willa Bea Bohannon Koonce**, 86, communicant of St. Andrew's Cathedral, Jackson, died January 22, 2010.

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

**Florence Foster Turner**, 88, communicant of Redeemer, Greenville, died February 21, 2010.

**Robert H. (Bob) Tanner, Sr.**, 67, communicant and former Junior Warden of St. Timothy's, Southaven, died March 22, 2010.

**Linda Powers Terney**, 68, communicant of St. James', Greenville, died March 30, 2010.

**James Alfred Sweeney**, 64, communicant of St. Andrew's Cathedral, Jackson, died March 31, 2010.

**Samuel Davis Barnwell**, 75, communicant of Nativity, Greenwood, died April 2, 2010.

**Daniel Watt Wilkes, Sr.**, 64, communicant of Holy Trinity, Vicksburg, (Jr. Warden & Vestry member), died April 1, 2010.

**Sybil Andersen Herr Bledsoe**, 74, communicant of Nativity, Greenwood, died April 7, 2010.

**Judy Hector**, 64, communicant of St. Timothy's, Southaven, died April 18, 2010.

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## The Bishop's Journal

**March 15** - Sabbath time. My granddaughters come over to play with Kathy and me.

**March 16** - Monthly breakfast with Chancellor and staff. Staff meetings the rest of the morning. Afternoon appointments with Ricky Garrett, the Rev. Cal Calhoun, the Rev. Molly Wade and Ms. Catherine Sullivan. Late afternoon and evening session with the Gray Center Executive Committee.

**March 17** - Very early drive to Gray Center to finish planting trees left from Saturday's work weekend. Return to shower and arrive in office in time for annual consultation with the Rev. Jason Shelby. Afternoon appointment with Ms. Dawn Flannes as we discuss the shape of the Panama Medical Mission.

Leave for coast in the early afternoon in order to celebrate St. Patrick's Church in Long Beach. My visitation on this day has become a tradition that I look forward to each year. During my time there I dedicate the new labyrinth and chapel crucifix. I also preach, celebrate confirm 7 and receive 2. A joyous St. Patty's Day party follows.

I return home late in the evening in order to fly to the House of Bishops meeting early tomorrow.

**March 18** - Fly to Houston where I am met by a priest from the Diocese of Texas who takes me to Camp Allen. My driver/priest is interviewing for a couple of positions in Mississippi and I requested this time for introduction and conversation.

Arriving at Camp Allen, I move immediately into my training session for bishop coaches and mentors. This pre-meeting training is a valuable ministry tool for my work as a coach/mentor for new bishops. Our training concludes late in the evening.

**March 19** - Morning is free so several colleagues and I take in a round of early morning golf. We return in time for our opening session of the House of Bishops in the early evening. Despite our differences on some matters, the House of Bishops has over these 10 years of my episcopacy been a very important resource of health and support for me. I am glad to be here.

**March 20** - House of Bishops - Camp Allen, Diocese of Texas.

**March 21** - House of Bishops

**March 22** - House of Bishops

**March 23** - House of Bishops

**March 24** - House of Bishops

Our closing eucharist with a poignant sermon by the Vice President of the House of Bishops, The Right Rev. Dean Wolfe of Kansas, and the renewal of our vows led by the Presiding Bishop, was especially moving for me this evening.

**March 25** - Fly out of Houston in the morning in time to return to the office around noon. Annual consultation with the Rev. Laura Gettys. Late afternoon session with the board of the Center for Formation and Mission as we try to further refine the identity of this diocesan ministry.

**March 26** - Breakfast with my United Methodist and Roman Catholic bishop colleagues. Spend time with the Hinds County Health Department continuing my series of vaccines in preparation for my trips to the Dominican Republic and the Sudan.

Afternoon appointments with Ms Lynn Phillips Gaines, Ms. Patricia Cantrell, and C.J. Meaders. Annual consultation with the Rev. Deacon Cathy Halford.

**March 27** - All day training session for Wardens and Treasurers at St. Andrew's Cathedral. Large and appreciative crowd for these two sessions. I so very much appreciate the offering of time and leadership by so many lay persons around this diocese.

**March 28** - Palm Sunday at the Cathedral. I am trying to adjust my schedule, incrementally each year, so that I will be present in the Cathedral throughout Holy Week.

Canon Johnson and I drive to Vicksburg in the afternoon to meet with the Vestry of Christ Church. Their rector, the Rev. Chan Osborne deAnaya, has tendered her resignation and we are there to discuss next steps for the congregation.

**March 29** - Sabbath time.

**March 30** - Breakfast with Major General James Poss. Staff meetings throughout the morning. Beginning with lunch, I host an extensive evaluation of this year's Diocesan Council in the presence of those charged with hosting next year's Council in Jackson.

Annual consultation later with the Rev. Michael Nation. Leave the office early in order to attend Tabitha's first track meet. She is a winner in both the 1600 and 3200-meter events!

**March 31** - Morning appointment with the Rev. Kyle Seage. During the noon hour I am the officiant at the Music and Meditation offering at the Cathedral. Extraordinary music led by the choir of St. Andrew's.

Afternoon appointments with Ms. Josie Williams and Ms. Deborah Hansen.

**April 1** - At home in the morning working on sermon and newsletter article. Office in the afternoon. In the evening, I participate in the Maundy Thursday eucharist and foot-washing liturgy at St. Andrew's. Very powerful service.

**April 2** - Morning work at home. Afternoon spent at Gray Center taking care of some of my plantings. Good Friday liturgy at St. Andrew's in the evening.

**April 3** - Most of the day at home. Participate in the Easter Vigil of St. Philip's where I preach, celebrate, baptize three and confirm eight in this magnificent liturgy. The traditional vigil party follows the service and is full of joy (and resurrection!)

**April 4** - Easter Sunday at St Andrew's Cathedral. At the later service, I am the celebrant on this day of resurrection. Afternoon with family.

**April 5** - Spend much of the morning with the Rev. George Woodliff in the hospital as he undergoes surgery. Catholic Charities foster par-

ent responsibilities in the afternoon.

**April 6** - Breakfast with Granville Tate, Chancellor, and Canon Johnson. Staff meetings in the morning. Phone appointments with several people, including the Right Rev. Shannon Johnston in the afternoon.

**April 7** - Fly to Washington, D.C. for a meeting of the Board of Directors of the College for Bishops. This semi-autonomous group has made enormous strides in the last 3-4 years in the training of new bishops and providing services and high quality continuing education for all other bishops.

College for Bishops meets at Virginia Theological Seminary through the afternoon and evening. Overnight at VTS.

**April 8** - At Virginia Theological Seminary

Breakfast with seminarian Seth Walley. Morning session with the College for Bishops directors. Lunch with senior seminarian Chris Robinson. We conclude our directors meeting in the afternoon. Drive to Silver Spring, Maryland to have dinner with Kathy's father, Alan Whittlesey

Overnight at VTS.

**April 9** - Fly back to Jackson. Stop by office to pick up various materials for this weekend, then drive to Gray Center for annual spring gathering of the Episcopal Church Women. I am the featured speaker for this event and have been invited to speak on our traditional and emerging relationships with overseas diocese in Panama, Honduras, Sudan, Uganda, Virgin Islands and Haiti.

**April 10** - At ECW Conference at Gray Center. After finishing at lunch I rush home to help Kathy with a pre-Senior Prom dinner party for many of Tabitha's friends and dates. Being the father of a teenage girl is hard work, but very rewarding.

**April 11** - Up very early to drive to the coast for my annual visitation at St. Mark's, Gulfport. Very quick visit, but during the mid morning eucharist, I preach, celebrate, confirm 10 and receive 2. Full lunch follows the service. Spend too short a time visiting with this fully rebuilt and revitalized congregation.

After lunch, I return north to Brandon when I ordain to the priesthood, the Rev. Judy Morris at St. Peter's by the Lake, Brandon. Judy is a great blessing to this church and St. Peter's has been a wonderful, welcoming community. It is a very joy-filled event.

**April 12** - Sabbath time. In the evening, I attend a reception at the home of the Reverends Janet and Luther Ott highlighting the work on

Episcopal Relief and Development.

**April 13** - In office throughout the day. Staff meetings throughout the morning. Annual consultation with the Rev. Chuck Culpepper. Later appointment with clergyman from another denomination expressing interest in the Episcopal Church, something that is happening with increasing frequency in the past year.

**April 14** - Morning appointment with Ms. Dorothy Byrd our diocesan coordinator for the Education for Ministry (EfM) program. Afternoon appointment with the executive director of LESM then travel to Collins for a meeting with the Mission Committee of St. Elizabeth's. Preach and celebrate at the Wednesday evening worship, then enjoy a relaxing dinner with the congregation. Return to Jackson late.

**April 15** - Up early for a flight to the Dominican Republic where I will be attending a meeting of the Standing Commission on Evangelism and Domestic mission. We will be meeting at the Diocesan Conference Center in San Pedro de Macoris to engage the ministries of the Diocese of the Dominican Republic, a church that has had tremendous growth in the last 10 years.

Serious plane delays in Atlanta causes me to miss my connecting flights. Forced to spend the night in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

**April 16** - Fly to Santo Domingo, D.R. and connect with the commission that began its work yesterday. Late in the day, we are taken to a local Episcopal community that includes a school, medical clinic and parish church. Very impressive work in the midst of extraordinarily poor section of the city.

**April 17** - Continue our work with the Standing Commission on Evangelism and Domestic mission at the Conference Center.

**April 18** - Attend church at St. Stephen's, San Pedro de Macoris, the parish associated with the Conference Center. Wonderful and exciting worship.

After lunch we are taken to Santo Domingo where we visit the Episcopal seminary, the oldest Episcopal church in the country and, at our last stop, the oldest church (of any kind) in the western hemisphere (circa 1502).

Overnight in Santo Domingo.

**April 19** - Return home to Jackson, arriving late in the evening.



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## 18 Scholarships awarded to outstanding students

By Peggy Jones

Our Diocesan Scholarship Committee is happy to announce that seventeen outstanding young students have been chosen to receive Scholarships for the 2010-2011 academic year. Selections for a variety of scholarships are made each year by the Scholarship Committee composed of the Bishop of the Diocese of Mississippi, the Dean and Wardens of St. Andrew's Cathedral along with members of the Executive Committee and Trustees of the Diocese.

### The Okolona Scholarship:

The Trustees of the Okolona College Endowment established annual scholarships to be awarded to specifically African American college students. Preference is given to Episcopalians but members of all churches may apply. The Willie Mae Raspberry Scholarship is awarded to the most outstanding female student among those applying for the Okolona Scholarship. This year the Willie Mae Raspberry Scholarship goes to Krystal Taylor, a member of Ebenezer Baptist Church. Krystal is working on a degree in Mass Media Arts/Public Relations at Clark Atlanta University. The James L. Raspberry Scholarship, presented to the most outstanding male student among those applying for the Okolona Scholarship, is presented to Edusei Kafui. Edusei is majoring in Biology at Jackson State University and is a member of All Saints' Episcopal Church, Jackson.

Also receiving Okolona Scholarships are: Doreen and Dorothy Ndishabandi, daughters of the Rev. and Mrs. William Ndishabandi. Both young ladies are members of All Saints' Church in Jackson. Doreen, attending Tufts University, would like to work in international relations and foreign policy. Dorothy is majoring in Biology at Jackson State University. Also receiving an Okolona Scholarship is Lemnyuy Nyuykongi, majoring in Computer Engineering. Lemnyuy attends All Saints' Episcopal Church in Jackson. Okolona recipient, Timothy Umeofia, son of the Rev. and Mrs. Christian Umeofia, attends East Carolina University, majoring in Bio-Chemistry and is a member of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Washington, NC.

### The Capers Scholarship

The Charlotte Capers Scholarships are presented to those who are pursuing a liberal arts degree. This year we have six Capers Scholars: Rachel Alexander, majoring in Music-Vocal Performance at Millsaps, attends All Saints' Episcopal Church, Tupelo; Adam Blackwell, majoring in Public Policy Leadership at the University of Mississippi, attends Trinity Episcopal Church, Natchez; Kessler Brown, majoring in Psychology at MSU, attends St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Columbus; Ann Burrell, majoring in Biology or Philosophy at Columbia University, attends St. Andrew's Cathedral, Jackson; Eli Kerby, majoring in Law (Pre-legal) at Millsaps, attends St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Columbus; and Mary Katherine Kitchings, majoring in Liberal Arts/Journalism at the University of Mississippi, attends St. Andrew's Cathedral, Jackson.

### The Misticos Scholarship

Misticos Scholarships are awarded annually to girls and boys of either the Greek Orthodox or Episcopal Faiths. The late Alexander Misticos established these scholarships as memorials to members of his family. This year's recipients are Charles 'Wyatt' Craven and Cody Alan McClanahan. Wyatt, son of Charles Craven and Julie Martin is majoring in Business at Mississippi State University with interest in insurance and attends the Church of the Mediator, Meridian. Cody, son of Robert McClanahan and the late Cindi Fullerton, attending Mississippi State University plans a future as an information technology analyst and attends St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Columbus.

### The Warren Scholarship

The late Robert Warren of St. Andrew's Episcopal Cathedral established the Warren Trust Scholarships. The three Warren Scholarships are given to Elizabeth Avant, Taylor Cottingham, and Meghan Lind. Elizabeth, daughter of Michael and Ann Claire Avant, majoring in Accounting and the University of Mississippi, attends the Episcopal Church of the Nativity, Greenwood. Taylor Cottingham, daughter of Carl and Amanda Cottingham, is majoring in Medicine at Washington and Lee University and attends St. James' Episcopal Church, Greenville. Meghan, daughter of Michael and Diane Lind, hopes to major in Political Science at one of the state's universities and attends Christ Episcopal Church, Bay St. Louis.

### The Maroon Scholarship

This scholarship is awarded annually to an undergraduate student who is an active member of a congregation of The Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Mississippi who attends the engineering college or business college of Mississippi State University. This year's recipient is Charles 'Wyatt' Craven, son of Charles Craven and Julie Martin, majoring in Business at Mississippi State University with interest in insurance and attends the Church of the Mediator, Meridian.

Peggy Jones is the Assistant to the Bishop.

*Sebrell*

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## Addictions recovery weekend planned for August near Hammond

By Lance Armstrong

The Addictions Recovery Ministry of the Diocese of Louisiana announces its 27th annual weekend for women and men who are, or who wish to be in, recovery. The weekend will begin on August 6th at the Solomon Episcopal Conference Center in Robert, Louisiana, near Hammond.

Brian Nordwick, the facilitator for the 2010 Mixed Weekend, is an ordained vocational deacon in the Episcopal Church and the Canon to the Ordinary for Finance, Administration and Deployment for the Diocese of El Camino Real in Central California.

The theme of the weekend is "Dealing With Life on Life's Terms in Difficult Times - How to Calm the Storm". How do we find the calm within the storm?

■ Where do we get that special peace that passes human understanding?

■ How do we live a life in God's grace?

■ How do we stay, "up and in" instead of being "down and out"?

Come and find out how to use a 12 step program of recovery to, "Deal with Life on Life's Terms" using the "Wonder Key" to live a life in Grace as a Christian in recovery. The weekend will consist of large group sessions mixed with small group discussions relating to the presentation material.

The weekend begins at 6:00 p.m. Friday, August 6th, and concludes at noon on Sunday, August 8th. Check in is on Friday after 3:00 p.m.; however, participants may arrive at the Conference Center as early as 1:00 p.m. The

cost is \$152 per person and includes a room for two nights, Friday night supper, three full meals on Saturday, and breakfast on Sunday. Sunday lunch is not provided.

The weekend will also include the following opportunities for attendees:

- Time to meet with experienced Spiritual Directors
- Time for a private Sacrament of Reconciliation
- Time to walk a Labyrinth
- A dream group
- Reiki treatment
- Personal quiet time
- Bible study
- 12 Step meetings
- Taizé healing service
- Eucharist incorporating the 12 Steps

The Addictions Recovery Ministry is a part of the Diocese of Louisiana's outreach to the community. If you or a loved one have a problem with addiction, or if you just want to learn more and experience the fellowship of recovery, you are invited to attend the Mixed Weekend.

For more Information call Leah Eskine at 504-455-0087; or call the Solomon Conference Center at 985.748.6634. Logon to [www.solomoncenter.org](http://www.solomoncenter.org) to learn more about the facilities and directions to the center.

The Brother James Mark Eddy and The Rev. Daryl Canfill Memorial Scholarship Fund can help defray up to 50 percent of the cost of a double occupancy room. Contact Lance Armstrong at 225-216-9083 to apply.

*Lance Armstrong is a member of the Diocese of Louisiana's Addictions Recovery Ministry.*



Resurrection Chapter of Daughters of the King in Starkville admitted 3 new members on April 25, 2010. Pictured are left to right: Susan Cook, Chapter President; Gretchen Passons, trainer; and new daughters: Leslie Wolford, Charlotte Long, and Brenda Jackson.

## Coast workshop for Licensed Lay Worship Leaders coming in June

Saint Pierre's Episcopal Church in Gautier is hosting its 18th Annual Workshop for Licensed Lay Worship Leaders, lay readers, lectors and vergers on Saturday, June 26th, 2010. The workshop counts for relicensing for seasoned lay readers and worship leaders, and is also a good place to start for beginners.

Special guest this year is James Anderson of St. Andrew's Cathedral. He will provide a program on the dynamics of effective interpretive reading in the context of our liturgy. There will also be a directed Bible study and a festive Holy Eucharist. Those attending will be treated to a lunch of St. Pierre's famous gumbo.

Registration will be from 8 a.m. until 9 a.m. in Fuller Hall; and the registration fee is \$25.00, payable at the door. The day begins with Holy Eucharist at 9:05 and concludes after lunch at 1:30 p.m.

St. Pierre's Church is located at 4412 Gautier-Vancleave Road. The Rev'd. Hunter Issacs is Vicar.

For more information, contact Deacon James Henry LeBatard at 228-497-3515 or email him [james-henry@earthlink.net](mailto:james-henry@earthlink.net).



## Diocesan Altar Guild elects new officers

At a meeting last month at Chapel of the Cross in Madison, the Diocesan Altar Guild reorganized and elected new offices for its executive committee.

*The list of new officers and other representatives are:*

**President:** Mary Alice Bailey, St. Peter's, Gulfport.

**Secretary:** Polly Marshall, Creator, Clinton

**Membership Chair:** Judy Ketchens, Creator, Clinton

**Flower Guild:** Alice Lancaster, St. Paul's Columbus

**Historian:** Kitty MacCullagh, St. Patrick's, Long Beach

**Central Rep.:** Lucette Bennett and Liz Brandon, St. Philip's, Jackson

**Tombigbee Rep.:** Rachael George, St. Paul's, Columbus

**Coast Rep.:** Ann Heidelberg, St. Patrick's, Long Beach

**Sowashee Rep:** Ann Milsted, Mediator, Meridian

**Ex officio members are:** Cassandra Price, Holy Trinity, Vicksburg and Linda Tolliver, St. Mary's, Vicksburg.

O God of peace, who hast taught us that in  
returning and rest we shall be saved, in  
quietness and in confidence shall be our  
strength: By the might of thy Spirit lift us, we  
pray thee, to thy presence, where we may be still  
and know that thou art God; through Jesus  
Christ our Lord.

Amen  
BCP pg. 832

  
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## Rose Hill Rumble raises funds for CBG Alumni Association

*By Scott Lenoir, Editor*

Twenty competitors vied for the victory on the disc golf course at the first Rose Hill Rumble sponsored by the Camp Bratton- Green Alumni Association.

The event raised over \$500.00 and will be used by the CBG Alumni Association for special projects at the camp.

"This spring people worked to upgrade the course by soliciting donations for modern baskets, painting tee pads, and trimming brush all in preparation for the fund raising tournament we had," said Duncan Gray IV, the coordinator of the event.

The 18 hole disc golf course is one of the first, if not the oldest one in the state, although Gray says that there is no real documentation to support that claim.

"A lot about the course has changed over the last 20-25 years and now it's completely different from the original course. There really hasn't been any upkeep other than periodically buying an old basket or putting together a homemade basket," said Gray.

There is no green fee to play Bratton-Green's course, it is free of charge. As long as there is no group at the Camp or Conference Center using the course, it is open to play at any time.

"It's good to call ahead to check with Gray Center to let them know you're coming. Once a group gets there, just drop in the office and let the staff know."

Winners of the Rose Hill Rumble were Gray Center staffer, John Dreyfus and Oxford photographer Mike Stanton.

Spring is a great time to enjoy Gray Center. Bring the family out for boating, fishing and the disc golf course is in fine shape, just waiting for your first hole in one.



*Henry Horne of Nashville, the son of Bill and Trudy Horne, takes aim on a basket at the Rose Hill Rumble at Camp Bratton-Green, a fund raising sponsored by the CBG Alumni Association.*



*Bishop Gray III confirmed seven at the Church of the Epiphany in Tunica recently. Pictured are from the front, left to right, George Perry, Thomas Perry, Pamela Jean Townsend, Allie Puris; Berry Blennis, Kathbryn Gregory, David Hale (Holy Innocents, Como), Jerry Harris. Not pictured: Molly Grehan who was baptized.*



*The Rev. Jud Meaders talks with Jim and Barb Ladner about a photograph of a Nova Scotia scene at Meaders' first photography exhibition held at Union Street Books in Canton.*

## Canton priest's photo exhibit on display

*By Scott Lenoir, Editor*

The Rev. Jud Meaders, rector of Grace Church in Canton, opened his first photo exhibit on April 22nd at Union Street Books on the square in Canton. The exhibition will be on display throughout the month of May at the bookstore that is located on the west side of the square.

Meaders is an amateur photographer whose work has appeared in several newspapers over the years as well as in the Mississippi Episcopalian from time to time.

Most of the photographs in the exhibition were taken while Meaders and his wife, Nancy, were on a two week vacation in Nova Scotia in October of 2009. There are also some local images of Canton in the show as well.

Meaders is one of a few clergy selected to be a recipient of a 2010 sabbatical grant from the Eli Lilly Endowment. The highly competitive grant will pay for all travel expenses for Jud and Nancy as they tour England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales. Meaders' interest in Celtic spirituality will be captured through both digital and video photography.

"I've been a shutter bug all my life and this grant from the Lilly Endowment is a dream come true," said Meaders who leaves on his sabbatical in September. He hopes to build another exhibition from his sabbatical travels when he returns in December.

## Holy Fish won again by Mediator-Redeemer

By Betsy Enochs

Every year the parish that has the most women attending the annual ECW Spring Conference is awarded "The Holy Fish." The conference, held last month at Gray Center, presented Mediator-Redeemer, McComb, Magnolia with the Holy Fish which is a prize catch that happens often to the southwest Mississippi parish.

There have been two "Holy Fish" awarded since 1987. The first one was retired in 2000 when it was given a permanent home at Mediator-Redeemer Church which won the award nine out thirteen times. One year a tie breaker happened when the ashes of a deceased member, Betty Brumfield, was counted as being present. At Brumfield's request, her ashes were scattered on the grounds of Gray Center.

The second Holy Fish award has been swimming since 2001. Since that time the Church of the Mediator-Redeemer has caught the heavenly trophy nine times. In total since 1987, Mediator-Redeemer received the award 18 out of 23 years.

The Annual ECW Conference is an event where women from across the diocese may come together for fun and fellowship as well as to learn more effective ways of serving the church through the important ministry provided by the ECW.

For more information on how your church may develop a strong ECW, log on to [www.ecw.dioms.org](http://www.ecw.dioms.org).

*Betsy Enochs is a member of Mediator-Redeemer, McComb, Magnolia.*



*McComb Magnolia ECW members pose with Holy Fish: seated are Betsy Enochs Robichaux and Mickie Hall; standing, Kathy Holmes, Virginia Pope, Noel Anders and Dana Lamar. Not pictured is Frankie Glennis.*



*The Rev. Brian Seage speaks with Fox 40 weatherman, Mike MacGown, last month during the TV station's initial visit to churches and other community groups in its viewing area.*

## St. Columb's selected for first "Backyard BBQ" by Jackson TV station

By Jim Woodrick

Every Wednesday night through the summer WDBD-TV, the Fox affiliate in Jackson, will broadcast a portion of their 6:00 newscast from churches, other community organizations and even private homes.

St. Columb's, Ridgeland was chosen to kick off the new community initiative. Weatherman Mike MacGown, a communicant at St. Columb's, said Fox 40's Backyard Barbeque hopes to capture the community spirit of the television station's viewing area.

St. Columb's has a regular Wednesday night dinner and program and the focus for the Fox Backyard Barbecue feature was to promote IONA House, the long-time food bank run by St. Columb's in west Jackson. The evening included home cooked chicken wings and brownies, complete with a competition for the best in each category. A bluegrass band was also on hand, and the festivities were highlighted several times as part of Fox's local news broadcast.

"We're happy that Fox 40 chose us to begin the summer program. I got a chance to tell a little about our church and IONA House. It was a good way to put St. Columb's name out in front of the public and perhaps we might reach someone who will come visit," said the Rev. Brian Seage, rector of St. Columb's. "It was nice to get a little air time on TV and it'd be great if other parishes could land a spot too."

Marc Jaromin, the President of Roundtable Broadcasting which owns WDBD and a communicant of St. Columb's, encourages other churches in the viewing area to send in an invitation to the station and tell them about an event or organization and why it would be a good place for the Backyard Barbecue cameras to come and visit. The address is WDBD-TV, One Jackson Place, Jackson, MS 39209.

*Jim Woodrick is a communicant of St. Columb's, Ridgeland.*



Joe Green/photo

*The Rev. Patrick Sanders led a retreat for young adults at the Big House in April. Participants picture from (L-R sitting) - Olivia Feeney, Charlie Marsalis, Kirby Barkley, Andrew McLarty, Emily Everett, the Rev. Patrick Sanders, C.J. Meaders, Audrey Feeney, (L-R standing) - Skye Sanders, Jennifer Sanders, the Rev. Rich Clark - New Orleans, Alice Whitaker.*



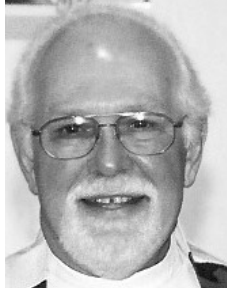
*Bishop Gray enjoyed a fabulous dinner at All Saints' Church in Jackson last month. A crowd from all over the diocese attended the gourmet dinner event to help raise money for the Bishop's discretionary fund which he'll use on his trip to the Sudan May 11th - 21st.*



*Snake handling was optional at The Chapel of the Cross, Madison in April; however, Theresa Johnson, Caroline Hill, Allie Wilcox, Katherine Ward and Drew Fox took a dare from Mr. Percy of the Jackson Zoo. The children are shown holding a rare albino boa constrictor. Percy brings reptiles of all sorts to churches which wish to schedule a program.*

## Ring Around the Collar

By Denny Allman



*Easter occurred this year in such a way that I have been able to publish three Easter columns. Although the same Gospel lessons have appeared every year since I have been ordained, I found that they spoke more loudly to me this year. God loves us. Is there any theme in our religious life which is more important or meaningful? God loves us. God loves us. Given our human frailty this is difficult for us to comprehend. God loves even me? Dean Edward O'Connor of St. Andrew's Cathedral had these thoughts in his April newsletter.*

I write this article near the end of our Lenten journey as we stand on the cusp of Holy Week. As I look back on this particular season of Lent, I remain grateful for all the very good things that happen in and around this Cathedral. In particular, I'm filled with joy and thanksgiving for this year's Lenten Book Study. As many of you know, we joined with Galloway United Methodist Church and studied Henri Nouwen's work, *The Return of the Prodigal Son*. This has become, yet another, outward and visible manifestation of a tender and growing friendship between our two downtown congregations. Indeed, the Covenant For Common Life signed between our Bishop Gray and Bishop Hope Morgan Ward last March and, our commitment, as the Cathedral, to that initiative continues to bear good fruit.

I've gone on record as saying that the parable of the prodigal son is one of, if not the, greatest stories in the New Testament. I think the Episcopal Church should adopt it as its official preferred parable. I believe this to be so because of the central and clear message of God's foolish, unconditional, relentless, extravagant and seemingly unfair Love. The prodigal son walks down the road, having squandered his father's hard-earned wealth, rendering him dead. The son rehearses a perhaps concocted and penitent speech. The father welcomes him home scarcely before he's able to speak and throws one of the biggest parties ever. The elder brother sees this as a ridiculous and inappropriate way to deal with a delinquent and spoiled son. Isn't it sometimes difficult to love God who seems to let everyone off? Doesn't it assault our notion of justice and fairness to think of God as consistently overgenerous with forgiveness and grace? But, my sisters and brother, that's the point. The French Easter Liturgy boldly proclaims - "L'amour de Dieu est Folie" - The love of God is folly or foolishness. It is not as we think it should be; it is not in keeping with our righteous agendas and expectations. The love of God in Christ Jesus, most perfectly expressed in Resurrection is an extravagant invitation to new life and joy. Scholars remind us that the noun "joy" and the verb "rejoice" occur over and over in the New Testament. But this is only the beginning. Many of the great Christian words are built up on the word for joy. The Greek for "joy" is chara and the Greek for "grace" is charis; you can hear the one word in the other. Basically "grace" means "that which causes joy" and in the Christian set-up, nothing causes joy like what God has done in Christ.

Henri Nouwen entitled a section in his book, *"An Invitation to Joy."* "This son of mine who was lost is now found," says the father. That is reason to celebrate. As we proclaim our own festal shout, "Alleluia! Christ is Risen!", may we do so knowing that the invitation to Resurrection Joy is unwavering and clear. Our repentance and God's forgiveness and grace are pure foolishness and frankly, I cannot imagine it any other way.

Wishing you Easter joy and peace.

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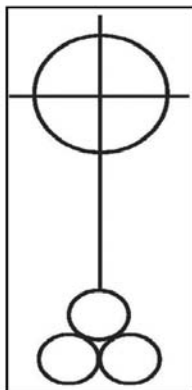


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## Intergenerational Formation is Life-giving at St. Peter's, Oxford

By Whitney Moore

In larger parishes it is challenging to feel like you know everyone. On Sunday mornings alone at St. Peter's we have three Eucharists. Not to mention two Sunday evening Eucharists and the one on Wednesday nights. Each service tends to have its own flavor and thus attracts different types of people, but yet we are one parish-one family. So when is it that we all come together "across services"? How do we know who we are outside of our little service and corner in the church? I think we do that best when we are marking our time together as Christians.

### Shrove Tuesday

This past Shrove Tuesday St. Peter's hosted the traditional parade around the Square and pancake supper, but this year we added a Variety Show. The show was open to all ages and we actively recruited "across services".

We had adults who sang, a couple who tap danced, three "silver"enes (like the Supremes, but just a tad older), a skit the children wrote and performed, a performance by the youth from Sister Act and much more. The parish hall was standing room only with young families, retired couples, college students and friends. It was the best of the church gathered.

### Palm Sunday

Palm Sunday creates a logistical challenge for our parish since the Eucharists tend to run longer on that day and Christian Formation is supposed to happen between two of them, but rarely is there more than twenty minutes to make that happen. So this year we decided to use this as an opportunity for us all to come together yet again.

St. Peter's hosted a parish-wide Palm Cross-Making class. Parishioners volunteered to teach this craft. Between the services we gathered in our parish hall and enjoyed refreshments while those who wanted to learn to fold crosses could and those who wanted to visit and catch their breath could, as well.

Children from 7 to 77 were teaching and learning from each other. As one learned, he or she helped another. Several dads really got into the project. Retired couples visited with young parents; clergy helped small children; choir members made crosses for their robes. It, also, was the best of the church gathered. (and not to mention the money we saved by making our own crosses instead of ordering pre-made ones)

Deacon Rev. Penny Sisson once explained to me our life as a parish in terms of the "church gathered" and the "church scattered". Each is just as important as the other. When we make the effort to gather everyone, we are able to be recharged in order to scatter out in the world and continue to do the good works we have been called to do. We know better who we are and can better reflect God's love to others.

*Whitney Moore is the Director of Children and Youth Ministry at St. Peter's, Oxford.*

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## Tornado inspires centering prayer



By Janet C. Nail

The story of my life could be entitled "The Woman Who Just Missed Everything-and Is Grateful for It."

I was in the hospital when the tornado that devastated the community where my family lived came through.

The earthquake in the California Bay Area just broke some dishes and left me sitting on the floor wondering what was happening.

I followed a tornado down Highway 49 on my way to the Children's Book Festival, seeing the damage but experiencing nothing.

Saturday, April 24, 2010, was no different.

We had gone to a dance recital, and since the second part of the recital was later, we did not go to the reception. Therefore, we were not at the Triangle when the tornado warning siren went off. The audience was herded to the basement; we were over at the church. I checked the internet, and saw that there was a tornado spotted and the track would move it into Yazoo City shortly after noon. Well, shortly after the estimated time of arrival, the sky was clearing, although the siren was still wailing. We decided to carry on with our errand.

Bad move.

We pulled into the parking lot of the feed store, and the sky opened. We call rains like that "frog stranglers," and any frog unwary enough to be out would definitely be in danger! I said, "This is like the rain that comes after a tornado."

We finished our errand and returned to the church to wait for the recital. And the news started drifting in.

The tornado had devastated the area we call Four Points. It had swept through the county, leveling trees and houses, picking up cars and hurling them off the road. Four people lost their lives. The county school district lost eleven school buses when the shop was hit. A man working in a church on the highway heard the roar and ducked under the Communion table; he was unhurt, but the church was totally destroyed.

I may be oblivious to the dangers of storms because I always seem to moving to the periphery. But I attribute my calmness to another power: prayer.

I spent the time we sat in that parking lot with the rain pouring down, the winds sweeping across, and transformers arcing, in prayer.

I am new to the practice of centering prayer. Being still is not easy for me; I am more comfortable with the Anglican rosary or with knitting while I pray. But it was centering prayer that enfolded me in the serenity that protected me from fear that afternoon.

I'm sure there are recent books on centering prayer, but my favorite is the classic by M. Basil Pennington, O.C.S.O.: *CENTERING PRAYER: RENEWING AN ANCIENT CHRISTIAN PRAYER FORM* (Doubleday, 1980).

What is centering prayer?

Father Basil describes it as going "beyond thought and image, beyond the senses and the

rational mind, to that center of our being where God is working a wonderful work." He goes further and quotes the book of Revelation, where God views mankind and says: I know all about you, and I'm not impressed; you are lukewarm about life, you go about your days scrabbling for money and neglecting your soul; you really make me want to throw up! But yet, he goes on, God-Jesus-says "I stand at the door and knock." Despite everything, He loves us and wants to be with us. If anyone opens the door and one has to open it by himself-He will come in and share a meal.

Centering prayer will help to open the door.

The "technique" of centering prayer is simple. Father Basil expresses it in three rules. First, take a minute or two to quiet down and then move in faith to God dwelling in our depths; and at the end of the prayer take several minutes to come out, mentally praying the Lord's Prayer or some other meaningful prayer. Secondly, after resting a bit in the center in faith filled love, take up a single, simple word that expresses this response and begin to let it repeat itself within. Third, whenever in the course of centering prayer you become aware of anything else, return gently to the Presence by the use of the prayer word.

Sounds easy, doesn't it? It is, and it is the hardest work you will ever do, to begin with. This is the essence of centering prayer; the rest of the book is encouragement and reassurance.

If you want to experience centering prayer, read this book!

The A-V Center has programs to assist you in establishing a centering prayer practice. THE SPIRITUAL JOURNEY SERIES offers two lectures by Thomas Keating on videocassette: "The Method of Centering Prayer," and "Progress in Centering Prayer." This is an excellent resource for beginners in contemplative prayer, as well for those who want to strengthen a current practice.

CENTERING PRAYER IN DAILY LIFE is a program of four dvds from Contemplative Outreach that guide viewers through the ways that centering prayer can enrich daily life. The first program focuses on intention/attention practice; the second guides us through the practice of lection divina. Forgiveness is an ongoing journey, and the third program offers the prayer of forgiveness, and finally, we close with the welcoming prayer. Each program is slightly longer than thirty minutes and would be easily used in a quiet day.

A final suggestion for individuals who are beginning centering prayer is the dvd INVITATION TO SILENCE; AN AID FOR CENTERING PRAYER. Centering prayer requires silence to rest in God, and this program will prepare you.

To borrow any of these programs you may call me at 662-998-2327, or e-mail me at grandmastruck1994@yahoo.com.

Centering prayer is not a panacea, but it may well be a tool for survival and recovery during a traumatic time. It certainly helps me. And as for Yazoo City, we're all here, working together and deeply appreciating all your prayers.

## "Do you wanta know a secret?"

Reminds me of an old song, but it's a lead into an exciting new service offering by the Gray Center - an on-line Vacancy Report for the Camp, Big House, Cottages 1 - 3 and the Inn at the Conference Center. That's right, just use this URL:

<http://graycenter.dioms.org/calendar/calendar.html> and it will take you to a hidden

page on our Gray Center website where you can look at the availability of any of the above properties in just about any month out for a year or two. That's all it will give you, just an idea of the vacancies. You will still need to call Gray Center (601-859-1556) or email them ([mail@graycenter.org](mailto:mail@graycenter.org)) for specifics like which rooms and how many may be available and the details for registration and deposits. Give it a try and let us know what you think.



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## Volunteers Make a Difference at Gray Center

By Grae Dickson

Gray Center has been blessed in 2010 by an abundance of volunteers. Through work weekends, parish donations, and support groups we have been able to accomplish projects that we could not accomplish on our own. It is said, "Those who can, do. Those who can do more, volunteer." The volunteers this year have given us the gift of over 400 labor hours of work. Gray Center would like to take time to thank each of those groups individually for their hard work.

### Thanks to the Work Weekend groups!

There have been two work weekends this year that have tackled projects such as roofing buildings at camp, spreading mulch, bringing equipment for dirt work, painting Inn room walls, and work on the Bishop's Cottage. Rain or shine these groups show up to support Gray Center. Bishop Gray joined us for the first weekend and planted trees at the Conference Center. Those volunteers were:

**Jackson area:** Corey Schneider, David Selby, Liz Weir, Jes Harrington, Kenny and Julie Goforth, Leigh Williams, Ben David, Duncan Gray IV

**Hattiesburg area:** Regiel and Pam Napier, Van Temple

**Vicksburg area:** Bobbie Marascalco, Tim Hunter, Betsy Selby, Faye Corson, Carol Horn

**Grenada area:** Girault Jones

These volunteers give their time and talents to help us beautify Gray Center and help us maintain our property.

### Thanks to the Camp Bratton-Green Alumni Association!

The Alumni Association has made it part of their mission to sustain Gray Center. They have a yearly project, voted on by the sustaining membership, to be completed and financed by Alumni members. This year it was voted to restore the camp outdoor chapel. We are happy to report that the outdoor chapel will be completed before summer camp begins. If you would like to join the Alumni Association go to [cbgalumni.dioms.org](http://cbgalumni.dioms.org).

### Thanks to St. Andrew's in Jackson!

St. Andrew's participated in the Adopt a Cabin Program at Bratton-Green. They have worked several weekends and financed improvements to Cabin 5 at camp including new flooring. Because of the hard work of their work team the kids will have more comfortable and safer cabin area for years to come. We still have needs in the Adopt a Program project if you or your church is interested.

### Thanks to St. Philip's in Jackson!

St. Philip's formed a team to help us build a fishing rod locker at Gray Center so our guests can further utilize the Conference Center lake.

Special thanks goes to Lee Lewis, the Gray Center "tree man". Lee spends countless volunteer hours at Gray Center planting trees, clearing brush, and maintaining our current landscape.

It was stated by one of our volunteers, "Working at Gray Center is a labor of love." The love is abundantly felt by everyone here at Gray Center. Volunteers do not necessarily have the time, they just have the heart. On behalf of our Executive Director, Bill Horne and our Property Manager, Bill Stilson I would like to thank all of our volunteers, named and unnamed, for helping make a difference at Gray Center.

If you would like information on the Work Weekends, Camp Bratton-Green Alumni Association, or the Adopt a Program project please contact me at [grae@graycenter.org](mailto:grae@graycenter.org).

*Grae Dickson is the Food & Beverage Director at The Gray Center.*

**A date to remember: Monday June 1**  
Deadline for the *Mississippi Episcopalian*.  
Send stories and photos to [slenoir1@comcast.net](mailto:slenoir1@comcast.net)

## Tornadoes, oil spills and flooding: *Oh my!*

By Elizabeth Wheatley-Jones

Once again, the people of Mississippi have endured and are enduring the discombobulation of being tossed to and fro by high winds, tornadoes and raging waters, with a massive oil spill in the Gulf to make things even more challenging. Unfortunately, we have not landed in Munchkinland with Glenda the Good Witch pointing the way to the yellow brick road.

No, there are no color-enhanced talking trees, no flying monkeys and no Emerald City on the journey ahead, but the trees and debris are being cleared, the floods are receding and the oil spill is being diminished, however slowly it may be. And per the caliber of our human community mixed with the glory of the divine, volunteers are pitching in to make a difference in whatever way they can.

Having learned so much from the trials and tribulations of Katrina, Lutheran Episcopal Services in Mississippi (LESM) is striving to provide an informed, skilled and compassionate presence on the ground in Yazoo City and still across the MS Gulf Coast thru Mission on the Bay (Bay St. Louis) and Camp Victor Ministries (Ocean Springs).

In particular, LESM, with the leadership of Robert "Butch" Jones, Director of Operations at Mission on the Bay, is working with the Mississippi Commission for Volunteers Services (MCVS) to collaborate with local individuals and organizations, as well as other statewide and national Volunteer Organizations Active in Disasters (VOAD), to coordinate volunteer efforts in the area. At present, LESM has set up a volunteer housing facility at Camp Swayze, the old Boy Scout camp and current bow-hunters club, on the edge of the devastation in Yazoo City.

To volunteer, volunteers are asked to register with MCVS via [www.volunteermississippi.org](http://www.volunteermississippi.org) or 888-353-1793; however, for volunteer housing, contact Butch Jones at 228-234-5169 or [bjones@lesm.org](mailto:bjones@lesm.org).

Please, be mindful that everyone is still searching for the yellow brick road and the way to health and wholeness amidst a lot of debris and devastating loss, so be patient with the process and God's people along the Way.

*Elizabeth Wheatley-Jones is the Mission Director and Chaplain at Mission on the Bay, a ministry of Lutheran Episcopal Services in Mississippi.*



**Lutheran  
Episcopal  
Services in  
Mississippi**

## Organ for sale on Coast

A 1902 Estey "Artist" Reed Organ served St. Pierre's Church from 1982 until 2008 when the parish purchased a new church organ. Deacon James Henry Lebatard helped raise funds for the new organ over several years through the parish's annual layreader conference and other fund raisers.

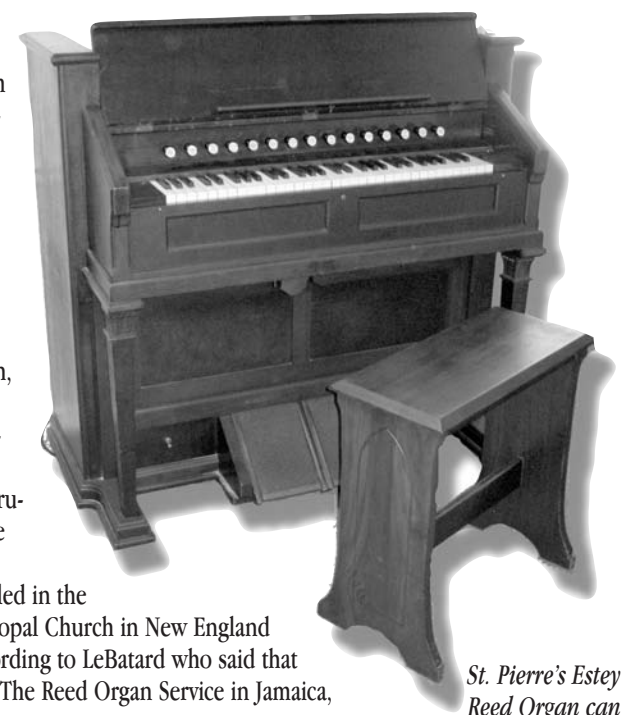
"This reed organ is in excellent condition and ideal for a small church, chapel or a home," said LaBatard.

The Organ was designed for students who did not have access to a pipe organ. It is a single manual instrument divided at middle C and has five ranks of reeds.

"An electronic blower was installed in the 1930s when it was played in an Episcopal Church in New England and has quite a bit of flexibility," according to LeBatard who said that the parish bought the organ through The Reed Organ Service in Jamaica, Vermont.

Since 2008 the reed organ has been in Bratton Hall at St. Pierre's and the parish is asking \$1,000 for it; however, "all serious offers will be considered."

If interested call James Henry LeBatard at 228-497-3515 or email to [james-henry@earthlink.net](mailto:james-henry@earthlink.net).



*St. Pierre's Estey  
Reed Organ can  
serve a small  
church or home.*

DIOCESAN CALENDAR

<b>MAY</b>			
11	● Bishop Gray visits: Christ Church, Bay St. Louis - 5:00 p.m.	14-19	● Camp Bratton Green Regular Session 2 (grades 3-4)
● Fresh Start, South - 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m., Trinity, Hattiesburg		20-25	● Camp Caritas, Gray Center, Canton
11-21	31	21-26	
● Bishop Gray in Sudan, Africa	● Allin House closed in observance of Memorial Day	● Camp Bratton Green Regular Session 3 (grades 5-6)	
13	31-June 5	22	
● Fresh Start, North - 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m., All Saints', Tupelo	● Camp Bratton Green Special Session 1 (age 40+)	● Gray Center Executive Committee - 5:00 p.m., Allin House, Jackson	
● Standing Committee - 11:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m., Allin House, Jackson		26-July 3	
● Center for Formation & Mission - 4:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m., Allin House, Jackson	<b>JUNE</b>	● Cooperative College for Congregational Development, Gray Center, Canton	
16 - 18	1	27	
● Presbyter Post-Ordination Consultation, Gray Center, Canton	● Convocational Deans - 11:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m., Allin House, Jackson	● Bishop Gray visits: All Saints', Inverness - 10:30 a.m.	
20	● Deadline for submittal to <i>The Mississippi Episcopalian</i> - 12:00 noon	● The Ordination of Mr. Chris Robinson to the Transitional Diaconate - 5:00 p.m., St. Andrew's Cathedral, Jackson	
● Diocesan Finance Committee - 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., conference call	2	28-July 3	
22	● Diocesan Executive Committee - 11:30 - 3:30 p.m., St. Andrew's Cathedral, Jackson	● Camp Bratton Green Regular Session 4 (grades 7-9)	
● Deacon Post-Ordination Consultation - 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m., Gray Center, Canton	3		
23	● Deacons' Council - 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m., Allin House, Jackson	<b>JULY</b>	
● Bishop Gray visits: Trinity, Hattiesburg - 10:30 a.m.	● Planned Giving Task Force - 2:30 p.m., Allin House, Jackson	5	
● Bishop Gray visits: St. Stephen's, Columbia - 5:00 p.m.	4	● Allin House closed in observance of Independence Day	
29	6-9	6	
● Bishop's BBQ, Gray Center, Canton	● Province IV ECW & Altar Guild Conferences, Kanuga, NC	● Deadline for submittal to <i>The Mississippi Episcopalian</i> - 12:00 noon	
30	7-12		
● Bishop Gray visits: Trinity, Pass Christian - 10:30 a.m.	● Camp Bratton Green Regular Session 1 (grades 7-9)		



# BISHOP'S BARBEQUE

## 2010

### MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND

### GRAY CENTER

### DELICIOUS FOOD!

Smoked catfish dinner Friday night by the St. Andrew's Cathedral Holy Smokers...BBQ plates with all the fixins on Saturday...  
Take home your own delicious Boston Butt:  
Jackson pickup location available if you can't make the BBQ!

### GREAT MUSIC!

Rubrixx...Passenger Jones...Ralph Miller and more!

### SILENT AUCTION!

Come bid on such terrific items as a 3-night stay at San Carlos Condo, Gulf Shores...3-night stay in Fairhope, AL cottage... Weekend stay in Oxford guest house for Sept. 18 Ole Miss/Vanderbilt game...Weekend stay in Sewanee...Lots of beautiful artwork...gift certificates...and much, much more!

### BISHOP'S HOG JOG 5K! CARDBOARD BOAT REGATTA! FIREWORKS! FUN! FELLOWSHIP!

[www.graycenter.org](http://www.graycenter.org)[thebishopsbarbeque@gmail.com](mailto:thebishopsbarbeque@gmail.com)

# St. John's annual Renaissance Faire and Celtic Festival held in Ocean Springs

By Scott Lenoir, Editor

It's been nominated three times as one of the "Top 20 Events in the Southeast" because St. John's Episcopal Church and the community of Ocean Springs put on a show that is second to none and draws thousands of people each year.

The two day event held on May 1st and 2nd featured action packed events like full contact dramatic jousting on horseback, and an aerial display of flying falconry. A Medieval Village is set up complete with a blacksmith shop and displays of authentic weapons and armor. For the children there is a petting zoo and the Faerie Garden attracts old and young alike.

"All profits we make from the festival are given to support local charities such as Samaritan Ministries and The Lord is my Help food kitchen in Ocean Springs," said the Rev. Wayne Ray, Rector of St. John's.

Ray said that he hopes the cumulative total of the donations this year will top \$100,000 dollars.

The 9th Annual Renaissance Faire has a king and queen to rule over the event. This year the King and Queen were Malcolm White of Jackson and Margaret Reynolds of Ocean Springs.

White is the Executive Director of the Mississippi Arts Commission and is highly respected in Ocean Springs for the cultural rebuilding of the Coast after Hurricane Katrina. White is also the part-owner of the well-known Jackson night spot Hal and Mal's.

Margaret Reynolds is a communicant of St. John's and a board member of the soon-to-open City of Ocean Springs Museum. She is an active member in many community affairs. Reynolds is a professional photographer and owner of Lagniappe Portraits in Ocean Springs.



Wayne Ray/Photo

Children pet the noble steeds at the Renaissance Festival.



Wayne Ray/Photo

The Royal Falconer with his predatory fowl readies for a show.



Denise Hastings/photo

Renaissance King Malcolm White of Jackson and Queen Margaret Reynolds of Ocean Springs are served by Squire Brent Gager of Moss Point. Gager is a member of the Knights of Valour, the Jousting Troupe that performs each year at the Renaissance Festival.



Denise Hastings/photo

Armored Knights of Valour dramatize jousting battles at the Renaissance Festival in Ocean Springs.

## A Weekend Retreat for Spiritual Renewal

August 27, 28, & 29, 2010

*Thus Far, By Faith: A Conversation on Partnering with God*

with retreat leader

**The Rev. Dr. Sam Portaro**

The Episcopal Diocese of Chicago

Register online at

[www.dioms.org/digital\\_faith/events/396](http://www.dioms.org/digital_faith/events/396)

For more information contact John Lever at [jalever@live.com](mailto:jalever@live.com)

or the Diocesan Office at [info@dioms.org](mailto:info@dioms.org)

presented by

The Committee on Ministry with LGBT Persons and  
the Center for Formation & Mission of  
The Episcopal Diocese of Mississippi