Mission on the Bay invites collaboration on new building projects

By Scott Lenoir

Beginning June 1st, volunteers at Mission on the Bay stepped into a collaborative partnership between Lutheran Episcopal Services in Mississippi (LESM) and the Hancock Housing Resource Center according to Mission on the Bay Director and Chaplain, the Rev. Elizabeth Wheatley-Jones. “We have begun work on 14 funded projects,” said Wheatley-Jones, “7 new builds and 7 major rehabs.”

These new projects are funded through the Coming Home Collaborative grant which has lingered for 2 years and is finally being administered, but Wheatley-Jones says that, outside of these projects, “the grant monies have dried up and there are still more than 5,000 families living in inadequate housing due to Hurricane Katrina.”

“Many of these families have fallen through the cracks and are experiencing a triple whammy: Katrina, the economic downturn, and finally the Deep Horizon oil well disaster which affects us all. More than anything, it is the emotional and psychological impact of this looming damage that may or may not hit us just knowing it’s out there,” said Wheatley-Jones. “You can smell it. We’ve been able to smell for weeks now depending on how the wind blows.”

June 1st Governor Haley Barbour’s office reported that oil from the Deep Horizon well hit Mississippi’s shores for the first time on Petit Bois Island south of Pascagoula. Oil is also reported washing up on the shores of Alabama, Florida and Louisiana; however, no oil has reached other Mississippi barrier islands. Barbour’s office reports that Petit Bois’s beach was cleaned up on June 5th.

Mission on the Bay will be full of volunteers for the months of June and July. However, many more volunteers are needed for August, September and beyond to continue and complete the Coming Home Collaborative homes.

“It’s an 18 month to 2 year effort that will keep us busy, doing the work God has given us to do,” said Wheatley-Jones noting that the camp will also be open to housing trained volunteers to work on any oil clean-up effort if that is necessary.

Groups wishing to volunteer for work should call Lindsay Asker, volunteer coordinator at Mission on the Bay, at 228-466-2900. Also, check the new website, www.futuresforfamilies.org, which covers both LESM Coast Recovery Camps: Mission on the Bay in Bay St. Louis and Camp Victor Ministries in Ocean Springs. Wheatley-Jones notes that volunteers are asked to come in groups of at least two or more people for 4 days or more, preferably weekdays. The minimum age to volunteer is 14 and no special skills are required. In addition, individuals and groups are urged to consider making financial donations to LESM’s on-going recovery and rebuilding efforts. With dwindling grants and other funding running dry, the challenge of maintaining a full-time staff to attend effectively to the needs through supervised construction, case-management and volunteer management is great. Individuals may check out the “Donate” tab on the website and make a donation to LESM’s on-going efforts. Individuals are encouraged to consider pooling donations to the Adopt-a-Family in need on the Coast.

“As Bishop Gray has pointed out on numerous occasions, Hurricane Katrina awakened a spirit of interconnectedness and hope amongst us, highlighting the reality that we are ONE church in MISSION,” said Wheatley-Jones. “Through volunteering, making donations and praying for the continued restoration of the Coast, may we collaborate one with another and strive to live into the fullness of that ONE-ness as a people of transformation and a community of hope.”

Lutheran Episcopal Services in Mississippi

By Scott Lenoir

Mission on the Bay volunteers from Church of the Holy Apostles, Collierville, TN and Holy Communion, Memphis, TN work on a “Coming Home Collaborative” new build in Kiln, Mississippi.

A.A. and the diocese: St. Alexis’, Jackson continues history of partnership

By Scott Lenoir

A large room attached to the warehouse that is St. Alexis’ on South Street was dedicated before a gathering of parishioners and members of the Central Alcoholics Anonymous Group in Jackson on Saturday, May 22nd. Bishop Duncan Gray III officiated at the service along with St. Alexis’ Rector Chuck Culpepper. Culpepper was pleased that the long-time A.A. group would be using St. Alexis’ as its meeting place.

“We’re happy to offer our church property to the Central A.A. Group,” said Culpepper. “It needed a place to meet and actually did most of the work renovating this room.”

The room is attached to the main worship area and will be used to hold 14 weekly meetings. The large meeting room has new walls, a new ceiling, and newly installed heat and air conditioning and insulation.

There’s a kitchenette area and an industrial roll up garage door was replaced with attractive double doors providing an entrance on Commerce Street.

A.A. and the diocese, Continued on page 2
Cain preaches at Calvary Church, New York

By Joanna Seibert

Calvary Church in New York celebrated the legacy of the Rev. Samuel Shoemaker and the 75th anniversary of Alcoholics Anonymous by a seminar May 7-9, 2010. The three-day seminar was designed to honor and demonstrate Sam Shoemaker’s profound contributions to healing and spiritual development in the 12-step program.


Highlights of the event included hearing Duke Cain, president of Recovery Ministries of the Episcopal Church, deliver the Recovery Sunday sermon from the pulpit that Sam Shoemaker had designed and preached from, attending a meeting in Sam Shoemaker’s office.

Bill Wilson often said that the Reverend Samuel Shoemaker was a well-spring of the principles and attitudes that came to full flower in A.A.’s Twelve Steps for Recovery, that Sam’s early teachings did much to inspire him and Dr. Bob, and that from Shoemaker, he and Dr. Bob in the beginning absorbed most of the Twelve Step principles.

At A.A.’s 1955 International Convention, Bill W. declared that early A.A. got its ideas of self-examination, acknowledgment of character defects, restitution for harm done, and working with others directly from Sam Shoemaker. Later, Bill added that early A.A. learned about moral inventory, amends for harm done, turning their wills and lives over to God, meditation and prayer “and all the rest of it” straight from the Oxford Group as it was “then led in America” by Dr. Shoemaker.

Bill wrote to Sam himself in 1963:

“The Twelve Steps of A.A. simply represented an attempt to state in more detail, breadth, and depth, what we had been taught—primarily by you” and said: “Without this, there could have been nothing-nothing at all.” Bill then added Sam Shoemaker’s name to his list of “co-founders” of A.A.

The Rev. Joanna Seibert, MD, is a pediatric radiologist at Arkansas Children’s Hospital and the University of Arkansas Medical Sciences and also an ordained deacon in the Diocese of Arkansas.

A date to remember: Monday, August 3
Deadline for The Mississippi Episcopalian.
Send stories and photos to slenoir1@comcast.net

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

The Rev. Scott Lenoir
Editor

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A.A. and the diocese

Continued from page 1

Long history of service

A.A.’s Central Group began in 1944 when a couple moved to Jackson from Washington D.C. according to Hugh T., one the group’s oldest members. “They started having meetings in their house and then moved to George Street Grocery,” said Hugh who has 32 years in the A.A. program. Hugh T., 84, has been a part of establishing many A.A. groups in the Jackson area and treatment centers as well.

The Central Group has called home to several places over the decades, including St. Columb’s Episcopal Church in West Jackson, St. Andrew’s Cathedral, and St. Alexis’ now welcomes the group back into the church.

“This a good match for St. Alexis’ and we look forward to Central Group’s presence here,” said Culpepper.

Recovery ministry in this Diocese

Priests who recently responded to an informal survey indicates that the Diocese of Mississippi has a long tradition of hosting A.A. groups and other 12 Step recovery programs such as Al-Anon and Narcotics Anonymous.

Of the Diocese’s 80 parishes and missions 31 churches report that they offer space to an array of 12 Step groups, primarily A.A. and Al-Anon.

Bruce McMillan, rector of Christ Church, Holly Springs, said that his parish has offered space to A.A. for forty years.

“Christ Church, Holly Springs has had a very long and happy relationship with the A.A. group that meets in our parish hall twice a week. While we have never charged them for meeting there, they make a quarterly contribution to the church. Through the years, communicants of the church have utilized this fellowship and I am always grateful to point people to the A.A. leadership when they need help. This is the only A.A. group that meets in Marshall County and is a great resource for people in neighboring counties as well,” McMillan said.

Recovery Ministry and TEC

In 1979 the 66th General Convention of TEC passed a resolution on alcoholism that committed the church’s support to those suffering from chemical dependency and raised the church’s consciousness at large about the dangers of alcohol and drug abuse.

In 2000 two additional resolutions were passed: one urging each parish to hold Recovery Sunday services each year, and a second that made the study of addiction and the 12 Step recovery a requirement for ordination.

Recovery Ministries of the Episcopal Church is an independent organization formed in response to the 1979 resolution. Led by a 12 member board of clergy and lay members, the group serves The Episcopal Church by offering educational programs, literature and practical guides for ministering to people who suffer from all forms of addiction.

Duke Cain, a communicant and vestry member at St. Andrew’s Cathedral, is the current President of the Board of Directors of Recovery Ministries of The Episcopal Church.

“We hope that Episcopalians will use Recovery Ministries as a resource center for networking and getting educational material about alcohol and drugs,” said Cain who recently spoke at the 75th Anniversary of A.A. celebrated at Calvary Episcopal Church in New York.

Cain says that many Episcopalians are unaware that the 12 Steps were written by Bill W. and the Rev. Sam Shoemaker who served at Calvary Church.

A.A. and the diocese

Continued on page 5

Beemon Drugs
Maywood Mart, Jackson
601-366-9431
Our Diocese

The Bishop’s Journal

April 20 - Staff meetings in the morning. Afternoon appointments with James Blauvelt and social worker from Catholic Charities.

April 21 - In office all day. Annual consultation with the Rev. Sandra DePriest in the morning. Afternoon session with Ms. Betsy Hocker. Late afternoon drive to All Saints’ Jackson for fund raising dinner for our global mission initiatives sponsored by the congregation of All Saints’. Good fellowship and spirit.

April 22 - Morning in office. Gather with the Racial Reconciliation Task Force for lunch at a Mission Mississippi event at the Convention Center in Jackson. After lunch, we adjourn to St. Andrew’s to plan for a renewal of our initiatives in this important part of our common life.

In the evening, I watch Tabitha participate in a track meet in Pearl and then drive her to Gulfport where she will serve on staff at Happening.

Overnight in Gulfport.

April 23 - Return to Jackson in the morning. Afternoon session with the Rev. Paul Pradat.

April 24 - Gather with the newly reorganized Diocesan Altar Guild at Chapel of the Cross, Madison. Install new officers in the context of the Eucharist.

Drive to Clinton for my granddaughter’s third birthday party.

April 25 - Leave early for Columbus. Early morning appointment with Taylor Smith. At later service, I preach, celebrate and confirm. Our worship is in the parish hall as renovation construction continues in the nave. Very good lunch under somewhat difficult logistical challenges. Meet briefly with the St. Paul’s vestry before driving to Oxford.

Visit with the Rev. Deacon Penny Sisson in her home before worship service for the Episcopal Church at Ole Miss, I preach, celebrate, baptize 4, confirm 10 and receive 2. Visit with students and parishioners at a reception before heading home to Jackson.

April 26 - Day off.

In the evening, I am the guest speaker at a banquet for a service organization at Tabitha’s school.

April 27 - Some car problems prevent me from gathering with my ecumenical bishop colleagues for breakfast. Staff meetings in the morning.

Afternoon appointments with the Rev. Kathryn Potts and Mrs. Gloria Walker and Mr. Wilson Carroll.

April 28 - Briefly in office in the morning before driving to the coast for the dedication of Trinity Church, Pass Christian, the fourth of six churches now rebuilt on the coast. Before the dedication event, Trinity’s Senior Warden, Mr. Steve McNair, arranged a golf game for me on a lovely course on the coast. Well done, good and faithful event!

Dedication and consecration of the newly rebuilt church is attended by many local school and government officials reflecting the symbolic importance of this moment for the community of Pass Christian.

Overnight on the Coast.

April 29 - Return to Jackson in the morning.

Afternoon appointments with an aspirant for holy orders, and later, with the Rev. Deacon Edie Warren. Drive to Gray Center to join with the deacons at the beginning of their annual retreat. The Rev. Ann Whitaker will be their leader over the next few days.

April 30 - In office during most of the day involved with a series of conference calls. Late afternoon appointment with the Rev. Dr. Ruth Black.

May 1 - At Gray Center, celebrate and preach at the concluding Eucharist of the deacons’ retreat.

Returning to Jackson in the afternoon, I meet with a group of the Sudanese leaders in Jackson to talk about my upcoming trip to the Sudan. Very good visit accompanied by very wise counsel.

May 2 - Full morning at St. James, Jackson where I preach and celebrate at both later services.

In the context of the worship, I also baptize 6 and confirm 52 and receive 7 - quite a workout! We enjoy a wonderful lunch in the brand new parson house that allows all the confirmands and families to have a sit-down luncheon together. Very exciting time.

May 3 - Fly out from Jackson to Delaware where I will be sitting as a member of the Court of Appeals for the Trial of a Bishop.

Returning with the Bishop, DE with my colleagues on the Court, along with our lawyer, Lee Davis Thames (Holy Trinity, Vicksburg) to prepare for tomorrow’s hearing.

May 4 - Hear pleadings from attorneys for the church and from Bishop Charles Bennison. Hearings conclude around noon. We work well into the night reflecting on what we have heard.

May 5 - Continue our work in the morning. By noon, we have begun to meet an agenda that is very much in our deliberations. We will gather again later in the summer to edit and finalize our decision.

Return home in the evening.

May 6 - Back in the office in the morning. Meet with Trustees of the Diocese most of the afternoon.

May 7 - Drive to New Orleans for the ordination and consecration of the Very Rev. Morris Thompson as the new bishop of Louisiana.

Morris is a native Mississippian and an old friend, so the gathering is a very special one. Good visit with son Peter and his wife, Guiuliana, before joining in a reception and dinner at the World War II museum.

Overnight with Peter and Giuliana.

May 8 - Consecration of Morris Thompson takes place at Christ Church Cathedral in New Orleans - a great and glorious event. I still have many old friends from my early years of ministry in New Orleans. It is great to see so many of them again.

Return home to Jackson late afternoon.

May 9 - Two services at St. Andrew’s Cathedral where I preach, celebrate, baptize 4, confirm 19 and receive 2. Between the services, I teach an adult class about the changing culture in which the church now operates in this country. Very happy and joy-filled visit.

Kathy and I host several mothers, grandmothers and great-grandmothers at our home on this Mother’s Day. Just as our festivities come to an end, I must leave for St. Peter’s by the Lake, Brandon for my annual visitation.

At St. Peter’s, I preach, celebrate, baptize 3 and confirm 10. Good fellowship and food after the service, but fatigue has set in and I must excuse myself early.

In the evening I meet with the vestry of St. James, Jackson as a part of my annual visitation 8 days before.

May 11 - Board plane for my long anticipated journey to Southern Sudan. However, my Dallas to London flight is delayed due to volcanic ash. The delay causes me to miss my connection to Kenya from London. So I spend ten hours in the London Heathrow airport.

May 12 - Catch a second “red eye” flight into Nairobi, Kenya, where I greet the members of my team traveling to Sudan. The rest of the team arrived a day earlier - no glitches in their flights - and were able to get to know each other and their distinctive backgrounds and stories. They are from Virginia, Kentucky, Ohio and Mississippi and all have a deep passion for the Sudanese people.

Not much time to visit as we relatively quickly board a flight to Juba, Sudan. May 15 - Return to Khartoum, Sudan a bit disoriented. My body will take a while to adjust.

I have lost track of the days. For some reason it is now May 13 and I am in the Juba airport.

We are welcomed with open arms by my friend and partner bishop, the Rev. Ezekiel Dieng Allah, Bishop of the Diocese of Twic East. They take us to the Episcopal Church of Sudan’s Guest House on the grounds of the Cathedral in Juba where we will stay the night before pushing further on into Sudan tomorrow.

Dinner at a local restaurant - simple and modest - but at great expense to our hosts. They want us to feel welcome allowing us to pay for our own meals. Such would be an extraordinary violation of their gift of hospitality.

As we return to the Guest House we receive word that British Airways is dealing with a strike that will affect our team’s return flights home. The evening is spent working on various “Plan B’s” before a late evening “tea” with the Dean of Bishops Gwynne College and his wife who allow us the use of a computer to make our alternate plans.

In the evening I meet with the vestry of St. James’, Jackson as a part of my annual visitation 8 days before.

May 14 - Dr. Greg Miller from St. Andrew’s Cathedral will be my travel companion for the next few days.

Leave for the city of Bor, a key community in the 30 year civil war. Very hard drive over roads that we would come to appreciate as high quality for Sudan. Distinct vegetation change as we left Juba and headed north to Bor. Would learn later that this road, in very isolated area, was a favorite target for bandits. It becomes clear to me that there is some danger involved in my trip when I am introduced to my driver and my personal guard - both in military fatigue and the guard armed with an automatic weapon. Military has a high visibility along the highway to Bor, again owning to activity of bandits.

As we approach Bor, the road takes us alongside the Nile River where we note a very modern and well furnished Russian Oil company situated on the river. Oil is a major source of conflict between northern and southern Sudan.

After checking in at our quarters for the night, we travel to the office of the governor of Jonglei State to pay a courtesy call. He is not there, but we are able to have a very instructive conversation with the deputy governor. Southern Sudan is in the very early stages of nation building, but the conversation is both informative and hopeful.

Travel next to the residence of Bishop Nathaniel Garang, bishop of the Diocese of Bor and the bishop of most of the Sudanese who have settled in Mississippi. Kathy and I hosted him in our home in 2002 when he came to the United States to visit the Sudanese diaspora.

Back at the guest house in Bor, we have dinner with the brother of the dynamic military and political figure of Southern Sudan, John Garang, who died in a mysterious helicopter accident shortly after the peace accord was signed in 2005.

May 15 - Leave Bor to travel to the oulying region of Twic East. Roads are extraordinarily difficult to negotiate as the rainy season has begun. Enroute to Twic East we stop at a hospital built by contributions from the Lost Boys (and Girls) of Sudan now living in the U.S.

Arrive in Maari in the Diocese of Twic East. This flat, black land with few trees reminds me a great deal of the Mississippi Delta. One of Bishop Dieng’s dreams is to develop agriculture to support the clergy of the diocese. We are staying at an inn which is a testament to the people have made as comfortable as humanly possible for us.

We are met at the compound by the Archdeacon of the region, some clergy and church members singing and praying in Thanksgiving for our arrival. Very special moment.

After eating a simple, but delicious meal, we drive further into the region to a village called Wungule. “This,” says Bishop Ezekiel, “is your daughter’s home.” Sure enough after extended conversation with two elders of the village, we are able to make the family connections. The village, destroyed in the war, is being rebuilt by contributions from the Lost Boys and Girls resettled in Jackson come from Wungule. Another extraordinarily poignant moment. Visit a school being built by the Diocese of Nebraska.

We drive on to Kongor, the location of the diocesan Cathedral. There is much church conflict in this area and Bishop Ezekiel has a great challenge to be a voice of reconciliation.

Our last stop of the day is Pangagar, where we meet briefly with a local official. He urges us back on the road as the rain begins again warning us that the road will soon be unusable. We slip and slide all the way back to Maar.

Sunday, May 16 - Sunday worship at Maar begins with “wake-up” singing by a youth choir that has walked 5 miles to sing at the service. Worship is very spirited, long and full. Church is overflowing. I am the preacher, but I feel woefully inadequate. I am touched by the faith that has sustained these people through the horrors of what seemed to be a never ending war.

The Bishops Journal, Continued on page 4
**The Mississippi Episcopalian**

**The Bishop's Journal**

*Continued from page 5*

Afternoon in the compound with dozens of people coming and going. Bishop Ezekiel has brought a box of prayer books and Sunday School materials. Many clergy have no prayer books, hymnals or bibles, even for personal use. Their hunger for that printed word in their own Dinka language was clearly evident. Clouds begin to form late in the afternoon raising my anxiety about our return to Bor tomorrow.

Overnight in Maar.

May 17 - Rain during the night will make the roads very difficult. We have a prayer and a blessing of the vehicle before departing. The 28 mile return trip takes us 6 1/2 hours. Our driver will have a special place in heaven.

Bishop Ezekiel stays in Maar, so Dr. Miller and I are in the care of Deng Bu, our driver, and Jacob, our guard. They are wonderful companions.

Overnight in Bor after a 28-mile road trip I will never forget!

May 18 - Hard rain the night before poses new challenges, but road is much better to Juba. Many more military personnel along the road, owing to the fact that there had been reports of attacks the day before. I am glad I did not receive that information until we were safe in Juba.

Reconnect with other members of our team who had traveled to other parts of Sudan during the week. Story telling was wonderfully renewing.

Evening meal was the gift of our team organizer, Ms. Jennifer Ernst, of the Diocese of Virginia.

Oversight in the Guest House in Juba.

May 19-20 - After simple breakfast, I attend an English language Eucharist in the Cathedral. Opening hymn was "When the Saints Go Marching In." I felt a "Who Dat" welling up inside halfway around the world.

My flight back to Kenya, then on to London and Dallas was uneventful; however, the Dallas flight is cancelled, so I spend the night in Dallas. May 21 - Arrive back in Jackson in time to meet with the Rev. Deacon Lynn Hough. In office during most of the day. Appointment with Dr. Anita George.

Late afternoon session with Gray Center staff to help me understand my role as the director of this year’s First Camp.

My transition from Sudan to Mississippi has been seamless, but I am a bit tired.

May 22 - Drive to All Saints’, Jackson to meet with the new deacons in their post ordination program.

Around noon, I drive to St. Alexis to bless an expansion of their new space and a new relationship with the Central Jackson AA community.

May 23 - Up early to drive to Hattiesburg, where I preach and celebrate at both services of Trinity Church. Between the services, I reflect on my recent trip to the Sudan.

At the late service, I also baptize 5, confirm 6 and receive 1. After a wonderful picnic lunch, I have a good visit with Trinity’s rector, the Rev. Marian Fortner in her home.

Later drive to Columbia, where I preach, celebrate and confirm 4 in a very happy celebration. This congregation has now grown to a point that they can call their priest, the Rev. Catherine Rickett, as their full-time rector. Good fellowship over dinner, then return late to Jackson.

**A bit of History**

By John Fontaine

The first Bishop Gray began his episcopate in January 1943. Many military-related activities brought an influx of new money to Mississippi. People from all over the U.S. and the world brought other way of thinking and attitudes into the midst of a small, ingrown populace. The seeds of change were planted.

Dutch fliers trained at their base in Jackson. Many veterans trace their training to camps and bases scattered throughout the state. The bishop’s journal for 1943 records visits to military bases: “I confirm one candidate (a soldier) at Camp Van Dorn... Confirmed three Japanese soldiers (Americans) at Camp Shelby... At Camp McCain, I celebrate Holy Communion and confirm one, Norfleet Craig... Confirmed a soldier at Gulfport Air Base.”

Four Mississippi priests served as military chaplains: Elnathan Tartt, William Mercer Green, Jr.; Richard T. Middleton, Jr. and Thomas S. Clarkson. Dorothy Stout of Christ Church Vicksburg offered herself to the church for overseas service. From 1950 until her retirement in 1977, Stout was a missionary-teacher at St. Margaret’s School in Tokyo where an annual student scholarship is still provided by Mississippi’s ECW.

John Fontaine is a nonagenarian member of St. Andrew’s Cathedral.

**Deployment Report**

*For the Mississippi Episcopalian*

**June 1, 2010**

**NEW CALLS/APPOINTMENTS**

- The Reverend Gates Elliott, to be Curate, Chapel of the Cross, Madison
- The Reverend Liz Jones, to be Head of School, Coast Episcopal School, Long Beach
- The Reverend Anne Matthews, to be Priest-in-Charge, Church of the Redeemer, Brookhaven
- The Very Reverend Julia Moore, to be Priest Associate, Calvary Church, Cleveland
- The Reverend Catherine Rickett, to be full-time Vicar, St. Stephen’s Church, Columbia
- Chris Robinson, to be Deacon-in-Charge, Church of the Mediator-Redeemer, McComb-Magnolia

(to be ordained on June 27, 2010)

**OTHER CHANGES**

- The Reverend Dr. Lynn K. Barker, retired, as Rector, All Saints’ Church, Grenada
- The Reverend Chan Osborn de Anaya, resigned, as Rector, Christ Church, Vicksburg

**IN TRANSITION**

- St. Elizabeth’s, Collins
- St. George’s Church, Clarksdale
- All Saints’ Church, Grenada
- Trinity Church, Natchez
- Christ Church, Vicksburg

**Team arrives safely home from Sudan**

By Scott Lenoir

Bishop Duncan Gray arrived safely home from Sudan last month after a tour of the African country’s interior.

Gray and Millsaps professor Gregg Miller, who volunteers with the Sudanese community in Mississippi, traveled with a large group to Sudan at the invitation of Archbishop Daniel Beng Bul. Gray and Miller visited Twic East with the Rev. Canon Judi Yeates and her husband, Jim, from the Diocese of Nebraska. Both Mississippi and Nebraska have been active in supporting the establishment of the new diocese of Twic East.

The Mississippi Episcopalian will run a series of articles beginning in July about the visit to Sudan and what our diocese’s involvement might look like with the Diocese of Twic East in the future.

Read this month’s Bishop’s Journal for an initial look at impressions of the trip.

**A date to remember: July 20-25**

The Mississippi Church Music and Liturgy Conference

Gray Center, Canton

**O heavenly Father, who hast filled thy world with beauty: Open our eyes to behold thy gracious hand in all thy works; that, rejoicing in thy whole creation, we may learn to serve thee with gladness; for the sake of him through whom all things were made, thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord.**

*Amen*

**BCP 391: 814**

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**June 2010**
Ring Around the Collar

By Denny Allman

During the years our three children lived at home we always went to Sunday School and Church. One day, in a fit of teen-age pique, one of them said "you MAKE us go to church?" My reply was "No, I don't make you go. It is something we DO as a family. It is like brushing teeth, making beds and flushing the toilet; it is something that is a part of us." All families have such customs and, hopefully, church attendance is one of them. Now, it is not only good for our immortal soul, but also good for our health. The following essay was written for the St. James, Greenville newsletter by the Rev. Susan Crawford, Rector.

Spring has definitely come to the Delta and we are all feeling the need for summer vacations, camps and lazy days. Easter was glorious and we celebrated with the best of them and now there is that temptation to roll over and sleep in on Sundays.

Sleepers beware!

It may sound too good to be true, but research from such institutions of higher learning as Duke University, Indiana University, and the University of Michigan, support the fact that active church participation has profound lifelong benefits. All parents would love to have a program for their children that on average can:

❖ increase the life expectancy by eight years,
❖ significantly reduce your child's use and risk due to alcohol, tobacco and drugs,
❖ dramatically lower their risk of suicide, -help them rebound from depression 70 percent faster - improve their school attitude and increase school participation, -provide a lifelong moral compass, - provide a caring extended family.

The good news is there is such a program and it's called regular church attendance and participation.

According to Neil MacQueen, a Presbyterian minister and lifelong Christian educator, study after study suggests that children who actively engage in a faith community on a regular basis are rewarded with SIGNIFICANTLY reduced likelihood of life problems and risky behaviors, and stand to improve their odds of a happier, healthier and longer life.

The same results are true for ADULTS as well. Many studies show a profound connection between being active in the church as a child and staying active as an adult. But there is a catch, if a child is not regularly active by the age of 12, the odds of their becoming active drops dramatically in their teen years and beyond. Research indicates that adults who attended church regularly as children are nearly three times as likely to be attending a church as an adult.

Turns out Proverbs 22:6 is right, "Raise up a child in the way that he should go" and odds are she or he will stay with it, resulting in a good life all their years. "What we've learned," says MacQueen, "is that many supervised activities, such as baseball teams and dance classes, are helpful, and they are poor substitutes for parents and family. And, as 'extended families' teams and clubs often lack many of the long-term nurturing qualities that extended families provide to children."

Looks like it is true. It takes a caring village to raise a child.

See you Sunday.

Susan+

A.A. and the diocese

Continued from page 2

"The spiritual, biblically based approach to recovery embodied in the 12 Steps has proven to be the most effective method of treating addictions, which are all chronic and progressive physical diseases," said Cain.

Studies indicate that 10 percent of the population suffers from addictive diseases. "Of course, this means that every parish has many members who are struggling with addictions. Without help," Cain says, "it's a struggle they will inevitably lose."

Cain encourages parishes and missions who do not have an active ministry for additions to look into forming one.

"All 12 Step groups are modeled on the early Christian church. They always contribute to the places that host their meetings. Tradition 7 of AA states that groups are self-supporting, don't accept outside gifts, don't own property, and don't allow members to charge for 12 Step work. It's an approach that's worked pretty well for the last 75 years."

If you have questions about inviting an AA group to use your parish facilities, or about starting an AA group, call your local Alcoholics Anonymous District Office or contact Duke Cain at dcain@cain-libo.com.

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FAITHFUL DEPARTED

Naomi Waller, 88, communicant of St. John's, Ocean Springs, died March 9, 2010.
Betty Parlin, 86, communicant of St. John's, Ocean Springs, died April 13, 2010.
Anne Ashman, 90, communicant of Christ Church, Bay St. Louis, and member of the Ruth Guild, Sr. Warden and Vestry, died April 18, 2010.
Henrietta Hutchins LeBoutard, 80, communicant of St. Pierre's, Gautier, since 1947, officer in the ECW, and a Daughter of the King, died May 2, 2010.
James L. Atkins, 92, communicant of St. John's, Ocean Springs, died May 6, 2010.
Ann Sanders Holladay, 73, communicant of St. Paul's, Meridian, died May 16, 2010.
Delta missions gather to celebrate rogation day

By Betsy Baumgarten

On Sunday, May 9th three Episcopal Missions in the Delta gathered at LeRoy Percy State Park to celebrate Rogation Sunday. 55 Parishioners and visitors from St. Paul’s Hollandale, St. John’s, Leland, and Church of the Redeemer, Greenville gathered as a community to offer up prayers for God’s creation and the right and prosperous use of it.

As part of the service plants, seeds, and dirt were blessed. After the service of Eucharist everyone was invited to a picnic at the park provided by the generosity of parishioners. The service offered an opportunity for the three missions to gather as a community to not only celebrate Rogation but to also grow deeper in relationship with each other.

Because of the good fellowship, food, and weather there is already talk of having another joint service with all three churches at LeRoy Percy State Park to celebrate the harvest in the fall.

The Rev. Betsy Baumgarten is the vicar of St. John’s, Redeemer and St. Paul’s in the Delta.

Walk receives Seidule Award

Coast Episcopal School is pleased to announce Mitchell Walk as the winner of the 2009-2010 James M. Seidule Award. The Seidule Award is endowed by former headmaster of CES, James M. Seidule, and is awarded to the graduating sixth grader who has achieved the highest overall academic average from their fourth, fifth and sixth grade years at Coast Episcopal School.

Mitchell Walk stands with James Seidule after winning the award highest academic average over three years at Coast Episcopal School.

The Rev. Fred Bush, former Canon to the Ordinary in the Diocese of Mississippi, traveled from his Florida home to help welcome his niece, The Rev. Anne Matthews, to the Diocese of Mississippi as the rector of Redeemer Church, Brookhaven on Sunday, May 30th. Matthews’s grandfather, the Rev. Homer Bush, was rector of Redeemer from 1926-1947.

June 17th marks the tenth anniversary of Bishop Duncan Gray III’s consecration. Pictured is the Gray family just after the consecration in Jackson’s Thalia Mara Hall.

Bishop Gray takes granddaughter Harper on a canoe ride at the barbeque. This year’s barbeque had most activities by the lake.
Runners take off on the Bishop’s Hog Jog 5 K Trail run.

Led by the able guitar and vocals of Will Shelton, the Wisteria Queens — as opposed to the no-show Kudzu Kings of 2009 — delighted the crowd with fine harmony playing folkrock favorites.

Captain Andrew McClarty prepares to go down with the Titanic after hitting a suspicious Mississippi iceberg piloted by St. Andrew’s EYCer Austin Parker. During the action, Lee Schmidt’s voice drifted sadly across the waters singing “My Heart Will Go On” — a moment now frozen in Gray Center history.

A look at the USS Hail Mary’s attention to detail! All Saints’, Grenada won the Cardboard Regatta with The Bishop’s Barge piloted by Lloyd Gray and Chris Welbourne.

St. Paul’s, Meridian’s USS Hail Mary cuts through the water with a fabulous aircraft carrier design piloted by Rick Entrekine.
Presiding bishop issues pastoral letter to the church

Jefferts Schori cites Canterbury’s Pentecost letter, hopes for continued dialogue

June 02, 2010

[Episcopal News Service] Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori has issued a pastoral letter to the Episcopal Church, in which she refers to the Pentecost letter from Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams and urges continued dialogue with those who disagree with recent actions “for we believe that the Spirit is always calling us to greater understanding.”

In his May 28 letter, Williams acknowledged the tensions caused in some parts of the Anglican Communion by the consecration of Los Angeles Bishop Suffragan Mary Douglas Glasspool and the ongoing unauthorized incursions by Anglican leaders into other provinces. Glasspool is the Episcopal Church’s second openly gay, partnered bishop.

Jefferts Schori acknowledged in her letter that “the Spirit does seem to be saying to many within the Episcopal Church that gay and lesbian persons are God’s good creation, that an aspect of good creation is the possibility of lifelong, faithful partnership, and that such persons may indeed be good and healthy exemplars of gifted leadership within the Church, as baptized leaders and ordained ones. The Spirit also seems to be saying the same thing in other parts of the Anglican Communion, and among some of our Christian partners, including Lutheran churches in North America and Europe, the Old Catholic churches of Europe, and a number of others.

“That growing awareness does not deny the reality that many Anglicans and not a few Episcopalians still fervently hold traditional views about human sexuality. This Episcopal Church is a broad and inclusive enough tent to hold that variety.”

The letter is available as audio on the homepage of the Episcopal Church website.

Anglicans express hopes for global Christianity in Edinburgh

By Matthew Davies

[Episcopal News Service, Edinburgh] Anglicans attending the World Missionary Conference in Edinburgh say that the June 2-6 gathering is a pivotal moment for the global Christian community in discerning its future and exploring how different denominations can work together in partnership.

“I expect we will begin to see a Christian identity emerge out of this conference that will transcend what we’ve been before ... This is really building the relationships that will carry the worldwide church to a new level,” said the Rt. Rev. Mark MacDonald, national indigenous bishop for the Anglican Church of Canada and one of nine official Anglican delegates attending the gathering.

MacDonald is among 300 delegates from more than 60 countries who have traveled to Edinburgh for the global summit that marks the centenary of the 1910 World Missionary Conference, an event that is widely regarded as a major milestone in the modern ecumenical movement.

The 2010 conference has made a conscientious effort to be more representative denominationally, geographically and ethnically, said the Rev. John Kafwanka of the Anglican Communion Office’s mission department, the delegation leader and a member of the general council that has overseen the organization of the conference.

“Each part of the Christian tradition has as much to give as to receive from the other,” he said.

“With your support, we are happy to report:
- 475 Barbeque Plates were served
- 70 Smoked Boston Butts were purchased
- All Saints, Grenada won the Cardboard Regatta
- 62 Hoy Joggers finished the race
- The Silent Auction raised over $7,500
- Great music and activities were ENJOYED BY ALL!”

The Bishop’s Barbeque Steering Committee would like to say...
It takes all four gospels
to present Jesus

By Janet Nail

Remember the fifteen
minute television show?

My mother found
Perry Como perfect for
a relaxing cup of coffee
and a cigarette. My
paternal grandmother lived with us, and her pas
sion was Liberace. Again, a cup of coffee, a ciga
rette, and Liberace made her evening.

My favorite was “Life is Worth Living,” with
Bishop Fulton J. Sheen.

You must remember, I was a pretty nerdy
kid who marched to a different drummer, or
rather, heard a separate orchestra altogether.

I have always remembered one program in
which he told the story of an agnostic friend
who asked (in a rather condescending manner)
how he could believe such an outrageous story
as the crucifixion and resurrection.

“You are living your whole life based on
this being true,” he chided the bishop. “What if
you’re wrong?” “Oh, I’ll be all right,” said Bishop Sheen.

“But suppose you’re wrong?”

This was my first dim recognition that belief
in Christ is not based on factual evidence, but
rather on faith. (This is hindsight, you under
stand?)

Who is this man Jesus who is our Saviour,
our God? How can we know Him? How can we
have faith in Him?

Well, we know Him, we have faith in Him
because of the Gospels. Yet, what do we really
know about the Gospels?

ONE TO WATCH, ONE TO PRAY by Minka
Shura Sprague (Seabury Classics, 2004) is an
excellent introduction to the Gospels.

Dr. Sprague opens with a child’s prayer:
Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John
Guard the bed I lie upon.
Four pillars round my bed.
Four angels round my head.
One to watch, one to pray.
And two to keep me till the day.

Amen

These angels, these evangelists are the ones
who gave us the four stories of Jesus, and this
book is the story of these four stories that the
early church found most valuable, valuable
enough to name and claim as “Holy Scripture.”
It is also the story of the authors, the anonymous
men we call Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.
Here are the similarities and the differences,
the approaches taken by each story. This is a rich
and learned guide to these four angels, the evan
gelists.

First of all, Dr. Sprague clarifies the mean
ing of “angels”—not the glowing, gold-haired
beings in long gowns who float around and
intervene in miraculous ways in our daily lives.
Instead, “angel” is the Greek word that means
“one who is sent” or “messenger.” Surely our
four evangelists then are angels who sharpen the
communication between God and the People of
God. They offer their hands to bring the Creator
and the Creation together.

Although John is the fourth gospel, Dr.
Sprague considers it first. This is the “one to
pray,” the one who bears the Word. It is John’s
bold claim that Jesus is the logos, the word
made flesh. He presents us with signs and the
controversy they cause, the controversy that
divides the people and causes the religious
establishment to determine to kill Jesus.

The shape of the Gospel of John is almost
perfectly balanced between the story of Jesus’
ministry and the story of his passion. The out
line would show the Prologue (the Logos Hymn,
1:1-18); the Ministry (the Gospel of Signs,
1:19=11:54); the Passion (Farewell Discourses,
11:55-20:31); and the Conclusion (21:1-25). In
John, Jesus pours out his love for his followers,
his prayers that they may all be one.

Then there is the “one to watch”: this can
only be Mark. Mark has a sense of urgency that
demands that we pay attention. Indeed, I have
often said that I can almost here the panting as
he rushes to tell the story. Sprague calls our
attention to the word “immediately” which is
used forty-two times in this, our shortest gospel.
Mark’s gospel always carries the shadow of the
cross.

Matthew the teacher is our bridge between
our Jewish roots and Christian identity. He
seeks always to keep the reader aware that Jesus
is the fulfillment of the Scripture. He also sees
that the message of the fulfillment is that we are
commissioned as a community to represent him
and God on earth.

Finally, we have Luke the Healer. To
understand Luke, we should read the gospel and
the Acts of the Apostles together. Luke is the
gospel of the Holy Spirit. From the angel’s visit
to Zechariah to Paul’s imprisonment at the end
of Acts, the Holy Spirit is active in the gospel.

And here is the message of healing, not curing,
healing, or making whole, making right. Luke is
very clear on the difference. He tells of curing,
using the appropriate Greek word, but he uses a
different Greek word when he speaks of healing.

Luke calls upon us to bring wholeness to the
world through our witness to Jesus, through the
teaching of the apostles, the prayers and the
breaking of bread.

This would be an excellent source for a
Sunday school class. It is accessible, non-threat
ening (I know how people look at a thick book
and say, “Oh, no. I’m not that
smart; I can’t read that!). It includes questions
to guide you, and it inspires you to read the Gospels.

If, after studying this book, you are hungry
for more, the AV Center has the program THE
GOSPELS: FOUR STORIES, ONE JESUS by N.T.
Wright, which also presents the Gospels in the
ways they are alike and the ways they are differ
ent. In the end, Wright says that it takes all four
stories to present Jesus.

To borrow the program or the book (I have
only one copy; you will have to order others for
a class), call me at 662-998-2327 or e-mail me at
grandmastruck1994@yahoo.com.

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

Liz Jones appointed as head of school in Long Beach

By Anne Betz

The Rev. Elizabeth Goodyear Jones accepted a call by the Board of
Trustees to be head of school at Coast Episcopal School for the 2010-2011
school year.

Liz brings 25 years of experience as an Episcopal priest, most recently
as Chaplain at C.E.S. for the last year. Her duties will be to head up a team
of experienced educators and administration, most notable among them,
Christine Ladner, assistant head of school.

Jones’ skills and training in leadership and systems theory make her an
ideal choice for this position, coupled with Mrs. Ladner’s clear and forth
right daily leadership of C.E.S. The team is looking forward to a wonderful
fall.

Coast Episcopal’s new year promises much in the way of expansion and development. Shortly
they will break ground on a new building that will house the music, Spanish, art departments, as well
as an art gallery.

The C.E.S. family offers congratulations to the Liz Jones, or, as she is fondly called by the students
at Coast Episcopal, “Miss Reverend Liz.”

Anne Betz is the Director of Admissions at Coast Episcopal School.

Liz Jones
Center for Formation and Mission:
Rooted in Prayer

By Jennifer Deaton

The Mission of the Center for Formation and Mission of the Episcopal Diocese of Mississippi is to be a vibrant center for forming disciples of Jesus Christ, and for shaping them to be missionaries to the world by providing educational and vocational programming, rooted in prayer, contemplation, transformation, and reconciliation. Programs are designed to deepen our relationships with God by exploring issues of faith and practice rooted in the Christian tradition.

The Center for Formation and Mission (CFM) was conceived almost five years ago out of Bishop Gray’s vision of One Church in Mission: Inviting, Transforming, Reconciling. Since then, many diverse programs have been offered. Perhaps you and your children attended “A Crozier Look at the Bishop,” an overnight event for young children to get to know Bishop Gray and learn what a bishop does; or you engaged in rich theological discussion at one of the Trinity Institute webcasts, exploring “The Anatomy of Reconciliation” or “God’s Unfinished Future.” Perhaps you participated in the centering prayer conference with the Reverend Tom Ward, behavior and the enneagram with the Reverend Charles Floyd, or compassionate communication with Lucy Perry; or you came to a silent retreat, or a knitting retreat, or a lay leadership retreat...

Perhaps you have not yet had the opportunity to be part of a CFM event. The Program Committee of the CFM would like to welcome old and new friends out to Gray Center, and is pleased to announce the following offerings for Fall 2010, each especially attentive to unique ways we are called to be rooted in prayer. For more information about these events, or to share your ideas for other future events, please contact the Reverend Jennifer Deaton at deatonj@gosaints.org

Crossing Thresholds, co-sponsored with Journey Partners
September 23-25

The Episcopal Diocese of Mississippi and the Center for Ministry at Millsaps College have partnered in offering Journey Partners, a two-year course of study in spiritual direction. The CFM is delighted to join Journey Partners in sponsoring a silent retreat for men and women. Entitled “Crossing Thresholds,” the retreat will invite participants into a rhythm of prayer and meditation and holy silence, exploring the ways in which God is inviting them across thresholds in their lives. Jane Watts and Gay Yerger will serve as spiritual directors for the weekend.

Benedict’s Sacred Reading
December 3-4 [Friday evening - Saturday evening]

Join us for study and conversation about the history and spiritual foundations of Benedictine thought and practice. We will look at early Eastern Christian sources of Benedict’s rule. We will discuss the links between prayer, theology, and scriptural study that are the root of Christian faith. We will look closely at the four “moments” of Lectio Divina - Lectio, Meditatio, Oratio, Contemplatio - as a way to better understand the movements of our own hearts and minds as we learn to pray deeply and move into new spiritual country with Christ. Having some sense of a roadmap or template by which we might negotiate our efforts in prayer is often helpful, and the ancient method of Sacred Reading has been passed down for centuries - both for absolute beginners as well as those seasoned in the religious life. Our time together will be both didactic and devotional - prayerful study. Some preliminary reading in the work of Michael Casey, prior of Tarrawara Abbey in Victoria, Australia, might be helpful, but is not necessary. All curious pilgrims are encouraged to join. Blessings. The Rev. Alston Johnson.

Accommodations - The Cottages. Meeting Space - The Chapel.

Knitting and Crocheting
December 3-5

The CFM has offered knitters and crocheters and needle-workers of all threads the opportunity to gather during Holy Week in years past. Participants have shared their work, learned new techniques, and woven a rich fabric of prayer, reflection, and fellowship. This year the retreat will shift from Lent to Advent, and as we stitch merrily away we will, again through prayer and reflection to the rhythm of our needlework, marvel with Mary over God’s promise to become Emmanuel, God-with-us. In addition to the prayer and reflection times, optional workshops will be offered Saturday morning and early afternoon on such topics as lace knitting and ideas for stitching last-minute gifts. These workshops will be open not only to retreat participants but to those that might like to join us for the day as well. Susan Nix and Jennifer Deaton will serve as coordinators.

The Rev. Jennifer Deaton is the Chaplain at St. Andrew’s School, Ridgeland and the Director of the Center for Formation and Ministry.

The Center for Formation and Mission of the Episcopal Diocese of Mississippi offers

A Pilgrimage to Israel and Jordan
February 14-24, 2011

Hosted by the Reverend Canon David H. Johnson

For more information, contact canonjohnson@gmail.com
**Fifth Annual Spiritual Renewal Retreat planned for August**

By John Lever

The Episcopal Diocese of Mississippi and the Diocesan Committee on Ministry with LGBT Persons are holding the fifth annual spiritual renewal retreat at Gray Center on August 27-29. The retreat is open to anyone who wishes to attend.

The Rev. Dr. Sam Portaro is the retreat leader, a graduate of Virginia Theological Seminary who earned a Doctor of Ministry from Princeton Theological Seminary. Portaro 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); Dayspring: 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: **THIS 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 eeverett@dioms.org or 601-948-5954.

John Lever is a communicate of St. Andrew’s Cathedral and president of the Committee on Ministry with LGBT Persons.
Christ Church consecrated

By Scott Lenoir

Five years after Hurricane Katrina made landfall and destroyed Christ Episcopal Church in Bay St. Louis, Bishop Duncan Gray III consecrated a newly constructed church and parish hall at a joyful celebration on Sunday, May 30th.

The 2.7 million dollar development was paid for in part due to the good fortune of the parish’s purchase of flood insurance just months before Katrina hit according to Kathryn Larson, the Clerk of the Vesti.

“We also received donations from across the country, some churches became partner parishes, and we had some individuals who took us on as a personal project. One woman alone has raised several thousand dollars for us, Donna Kell from Wellesley, Massachusetts. There were many individuals who helped, but she was with us on the slab, under the tent, in the hut and with us yesterday,” said Larson.

The church has 5,200 square feet and will seat over 200 people. Larson says that the parish hall has 3,700 square feet.

A Rebuilding/Revisioning Committee guided Christ Church through the building process. Corky Hadden was the chairman-foreman; Susan Stevens, Diane Lind, Vernon Bourdette, Sandra Bagley and Malin Chamberlain all served on the committee. Three rectors also served on the committee at different times: Elizabeth Wheatley-Jones, Ted Dawson, and Patrick Skutch, the current Rector of Christ Church.

To learn more about the new Christ Church in Bay St. Louis, log on to www.christchurchbsl.org.