

THE MISSISSIPPI EPISCOPALIAN

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2024 Annual Council Issue

An Easter People



In the wake of a deadly tornado,
Chapel of the Cross, Rolling Fork, forges a
path from destruction to resurrection

The Episcopal Diocese of MS
YOUNG ADULT COMMISSION
Faithful: Work, Play, Life.

MARCH 1-3
A RETREAT FOR YOUNG ADULTS AND CAMPUS MINISTRIES
AT GRAY CENTER!
AGES 18-30

Registration open!

DIOMSYAC@GMAIL.COM

We are excited to introduce a new committee in the Diocese formed last Fall called the Young Adult Commission. Our first event will be a spiritual retreat called Faithful: Work, Play, Life. We will have time for reflection, prayer and some fun!! The retreat will be located at Gray Center on Mar 1-3 for ages 18-30. The cost is \$25 which includes lodging, meals and a T-shirt. All are welcome!! Registrants will receive a poll that enables them to choose topics for discussions at the retreat. The weekend is staffed by plenty of adults, young adults and priests that are there to support you. We hope that this new ministry will continue to grow into more retreats, YAC sponsored events and trips.

If you would like more information or would like to support or staff Faithful: Work, Play, Life in March, please email us at diomsyac@gmail.com.

Young Adult Commission

Kristin Tompkins	Rev. Chip Davis
Gracey Belote	Rev. Jenny Newman
Matthew Aiken	Rev. Katie Sorey
Merritt Tompkins	
Rebecca Fish	
Cathy Davis	

THE MISSISSIPPI EPISCOPALIAN

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Welcome to the 197th Annual Council

Dear Beloved Diocesan Family,

Grace and peace from Central Mississippi, where a crew from St. James', Jackson, along with St. Christopher's, Jackson, and Grace, Canton, are preparing to host our 197th Annual Council on February 2-4, 2024. We are grateful for this first opportunity to gather at St. Andrew's Episcopal School on their North Campus, 370 Old Agency Road, Ridgeland, Mississippi 39157.

Amongst the glories of convening for worship, business sessions, reports and our "family reunion," we will elect the XI Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Mississippi. And it being our final Council presided over by the Rt. Rev. Brian Seage, how fitting that we should invoke the Holy Spirit with the prayer he introduced to the Diocese in 2014:

*Come Holy Spirit come
Come as Holy Fire and burn in us
Come as Holy Light and lead us
Come as Holy Truth and teach us
Convict us, Convert us, and Consecrate us
and make us wholly thine. Amen.*

With the election taking place on Saturday, we encourage folks to hit the town on FRIDAY EVENING for the wide array of local restaurants in Ridgeland, Madison, Jackson, and surrounding communities. Then, on SATURDAY EVENING, we invite delegations and visitors alike to celebrate in the Commons at St. Andrew's and enjoy an indoor/outdoor Dinner and Dance with food catered by Mangia Bene and live music by The RedHots.

As always, Council-goers and folks across the diocese are invited and encouraged to culminate our weekend on Sunday with our Council Eucharist at 10:00 am also at St. Andrew's School, North Campus. Childcare and children's church will be available.

Mark your calendars, review enclosed forms and register TODAY to attend the 197th Annual Council. To assist you with plans, we thank the good folks at Visit

Ridgeland for preparing this landing page with lodging opportunities in close proximity to the school:

visitridgeland.com/2024-episcopal-diocese-council

May the Holy Spirit come and descend upon us all—convicting, converting and consecrating—as we make plans to gather, to discern, to elect and to celebrate our life together!

Blessings and Peace,

Elizabeth Wheatley-Jones +

Rector, St. James' Episcopal Church

Sheri Cox, Leigh Grady & Angie Noble

Tri-Chairs for the 197th Annual Council

NOTICE

The One Hundred Ninety-seventh Annual Council of the Diocese of Mississippi

is appointed to convene on
February 2-4, 2024

at the

NORTH CAMPUS

St. Andrew's Episcopal School

370 Old Agency Road

Ridgeland, Mississippi

hosted by

St. James' Episcopal Church, Jackson

St. Christopher's Episcopal Church, Jackson, &

Grace Episcopal Church, Canton

Visit council.dioms.org for latest information
about the 197th Annual Council.

IMPORTANT NOTE:

As in 2023, in an effort to be more environmentally friendly and in response to ongoing, overwhelming feedback from previous Council participants, we will rely on use of the online Council Packet which can be found under the "Logistics/Events" tab at the above referenced website. The Council Packet will be updated regularly in advance of and during Council. Members of Council may wish to DOWNLOAD or PRINT hard copies of packet contents in advance of Council.

Dec. 1 → Our meetings at the Province IV Bishops and Spouses Conference concluded with a joint meeting with youth representatives from around Province IV. After a closing Eucharist, I made my way to the airport and back to Jackson. Once home, I walked on Capitol Street to attend a Jackson Christmas season celebration called "Capital City Lights."

Dec. 2 → I spent the whole day around the apartment watching football games!

Dec. 3 → After taking Sophie for a walk, I drove to Carrollton for my Sunday visitation at Grace Church. It was a wonderful First Sunday of Advent with great attendance and healthy Spirit. After church, I enjoyed lunch with the Williams family.

Dec. 4 → I had a couple phone appointments in the morning. Later in the morning, I made a swim workout.

Dec. 5 → My morning was pretty busy with staff meeting and Council of Advice with the Standing Committee. In the afternoon, I had a phone call with Granville Tate.

Dec. 6 → I rose early for a swim workout with friends. In the office, I was quite busy with appointments starting at 9:00 a.m. and not ending until after an evening dinner meeting.

Dec. 7 → This was another busy day that included a meeting with Finance Committee and the first look at a 2024 budget created by our CFO and Treasurer. In the evening, I met up with friends for supper.

Dec. 8 → After getting my early workout accomplished, I met with Andy Andrews for breakfast. Following breakfast, I met with Peggy Jones for a closer look at my year end calendar. The remainder of the morning was taken up with phone calls. In the afternoon, I met with one of our deacons for an annual consultation. Before finishing my day, I met with Katy Pacelli regarding the Bishop Transition. Betsy arrived in the afternoon to begin her Christmas break from Birmingham-Southern.

Dec. 9 → After a morning telephone meeting, I spent a relaxing day catching up with Betsy.

Dec. 10 → I left Jackson early for a visitation at Church of the Mediator in Meridian. I preached and presided at both services. Between services, I welcomed Bishop Nicholas of Myra who was visiting with the Sunday school. After meeting with +Nicholas, I met with the vestry. In the evening, I enjoyed supper out with family.

Dec. 11 → After an early-ish workout, I returned home for a Zoom meeting with a cohort from Neighborhood Economics. Later in the morning, I had a phone meeting with our chancellor, Granville Tate, regarding the sale of some acreage at Gray Center.

Dec. 12 → My morning was slammed with meetings, including staff meetings, a clergy consultation, and a chancellor meeting over lunch. In the afternoon, I met with our CFO, David Martin.

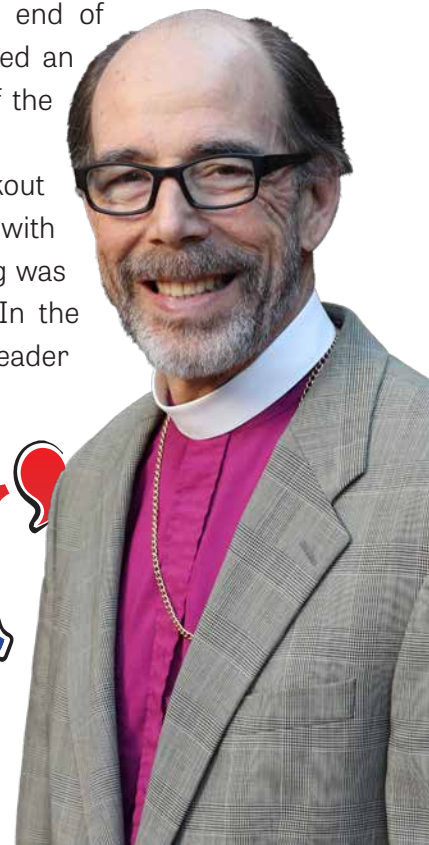
Dec. 13 → After an early workout, I got started on a really busy day. The morning was taken up with a phone call with a local lay leader, a meeting with an aspirant, and a phone call with another bishop. Over lunch, I met with Bishop Morris Thompson who resides in Jackson and serves two of our churches in retirement. In the afternoon, I met over Zoom with the Board for Recovery Ministries of the Episcopal Church. My daughters and I enjoyed dinner out.

Dec. 14 → Another busy day started out with a meeting with the Standing Committee. At midday, I met with the Finance Committee and then, in the afternoon, with the Convocation Deans. I was glad to find time for a short mental health break at the end of the day. In evening, I attended an Advent party at the home of the Rev. Andy and Ann Andrews.

Dec. 15 → Early morning workout was followed by meetings with staff. The rest of the morning was taken up with phone calls. In the afternoon, I met with a lay leader from a local congregation.

TRUCKIN'

The Journal of The Rt. Rev. Brian R. Seage



Dec. 16 → In spite of it being Saturday, I had two phone meetings during the morning hours. At lunch time, I attended an Advent luncheon at St. Mark's in Jackson.

Dec. 17 → After taking the dog for a walk, I departed for Inverness. At All Saints', I preached, presided, and confirmed 3. After church, I enjoyed fellowship with some old friends.

Dec. 18 → Betsy and I went for a long sabbath day walk. In the afternoon, I helped her pack for an afternoon flight to San Francisco.

Her scheduled arrival time in SFO and then Kyle's rectory is 11:00 p.m.!

Dec. 19 → After staff meetings, I spent the rest of the morning preparing for a meeting with the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee met over lunch and this year-end meeting ended around 3:30 p.m.

Dec. 20 → I rose early for a workout. The day's big event was our Diocesan Staff Advent Luncheon. It's been such an incredible blessing to work with these wonderful and holy people.

Dec. 21 → I had a bunch of appointments spread throughout the day beginning with a breakfast meeting. In the afternoon, I met with a lawyer to sign closing documents for sale of some acreage at Gray Center. Katie traveled to San Francisco in the afternoon, arriving after midnight.

Dec. 22 → I managed to wake early and make my workout. It was an easy morning with a couple staff meetings followed by several phone calls. The office closed at noon.

Dec. 23 → I spent most of the day getting ready for Sunday visits and travel on Christmas Day.

Dec. 24 → My day started early with a drive to Philadelphia for Fourth Advent at St. Francis'. It was a beautiful service with a warm wonderful spirit. From Philadelphia, I drove to Brookhaven for a Christmas Eve service at Redeemer. This was another well attended

service with awesome hospitality. After the service, I stuffed a couple cookies in my pocket and drove to St. Andrew's Cathedral for their 5:00 p.m. service. It was packed!

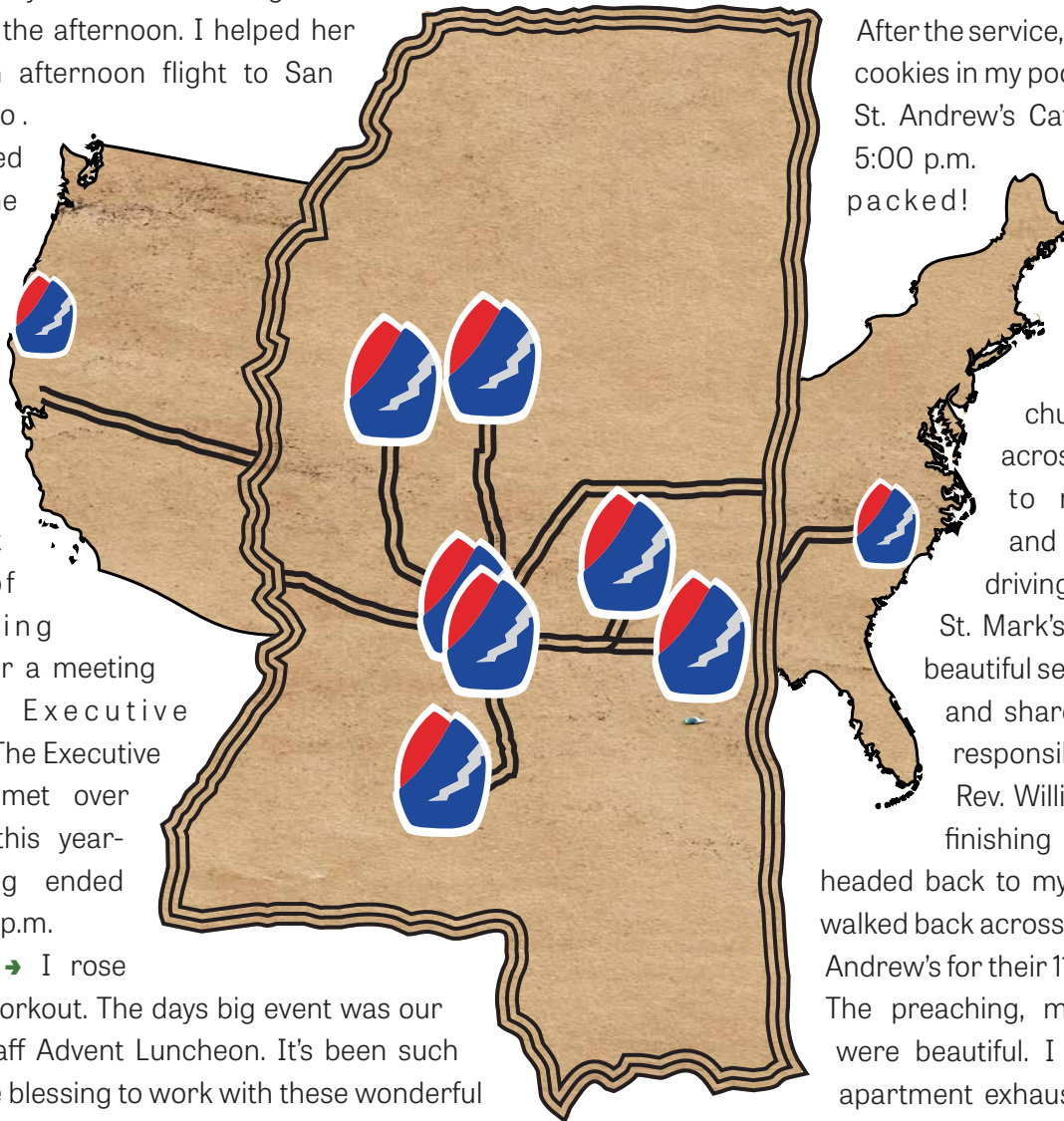
I celebrated and presided while Dean Maxwell preached. After church, I walked across the garage to my apartment and relaxed before driving up the street to St. Mark's. It was another beautiful service. I preached and shared the presiding responsibilities with the Rev. William Boyles. After finishing at St. Mark's, I headed back to my apartment and walked back across the garage to St. Andrew's for their 11:00 p.m. service. The preaching, music, and spirit were beautiful. I returned to my apartment exhausted but grateful for such a blessed Christmas.

Dec. 25 → I rose early and got an Uber to the airport for my early flight to San Francisco. Everything was on time! I arrived in San Francisco shortly after noon. Kyle, Katie, and Betsy picked me up and family Christmas started! At the rectory, I was surprised by two feline members of the family, Tacy and Tibs, who moved in a few days ago.

Dec. 26 → I slept late and spent the rest of the day relaxing.

Dec. 27-30 → Vacation.

Dec. 31 → Happy New Year! 🎉



An Easter People



In the wake of a deadly tornado, Chapel of the Cross, Rolling Fork, forges a path from destruction to resurrection

On the night of March 24, The Reverend Greg Proctor of Chapel of the Cross, Rolling Fork, got an unexpected call from the church's alarm company alerting him that a fire alarm had gone off in the building. Perplexed, he gave his Senior Warden, Charles Weissinger, a call.

"I called him and he said, 'I can't talk right now, there's a tornado going over my roof,'" says Proctor. "And I thought, my Lord in heaven, what is going on?"

What was going on was an extremely powerful EF-4 storm, the most destructive of an outbreak of tornadoes that did extensive damage in communities across central and northern Mississippi, including the towns of Midnight, Silver City, New Wren, and Amory.

Weissinger and his wife, Anne, had their 5-year-old grandson, Fisher, spending the night with them when they heard a freight train approaching their house. Knowing there were no tracks nearby, Weissinger grabbed the young boy and ran downstairs.

"I laid down on Fisher at the landing," he recalls. "Anne was at the bottom of the stairs. Glass and debris flew just over my head. Anne dove for the couch in the living room. The stairs to the attic blew down and insulation rained down on us. Fisher was about to graduate from kindergarten. I asked God to take me and spare him if

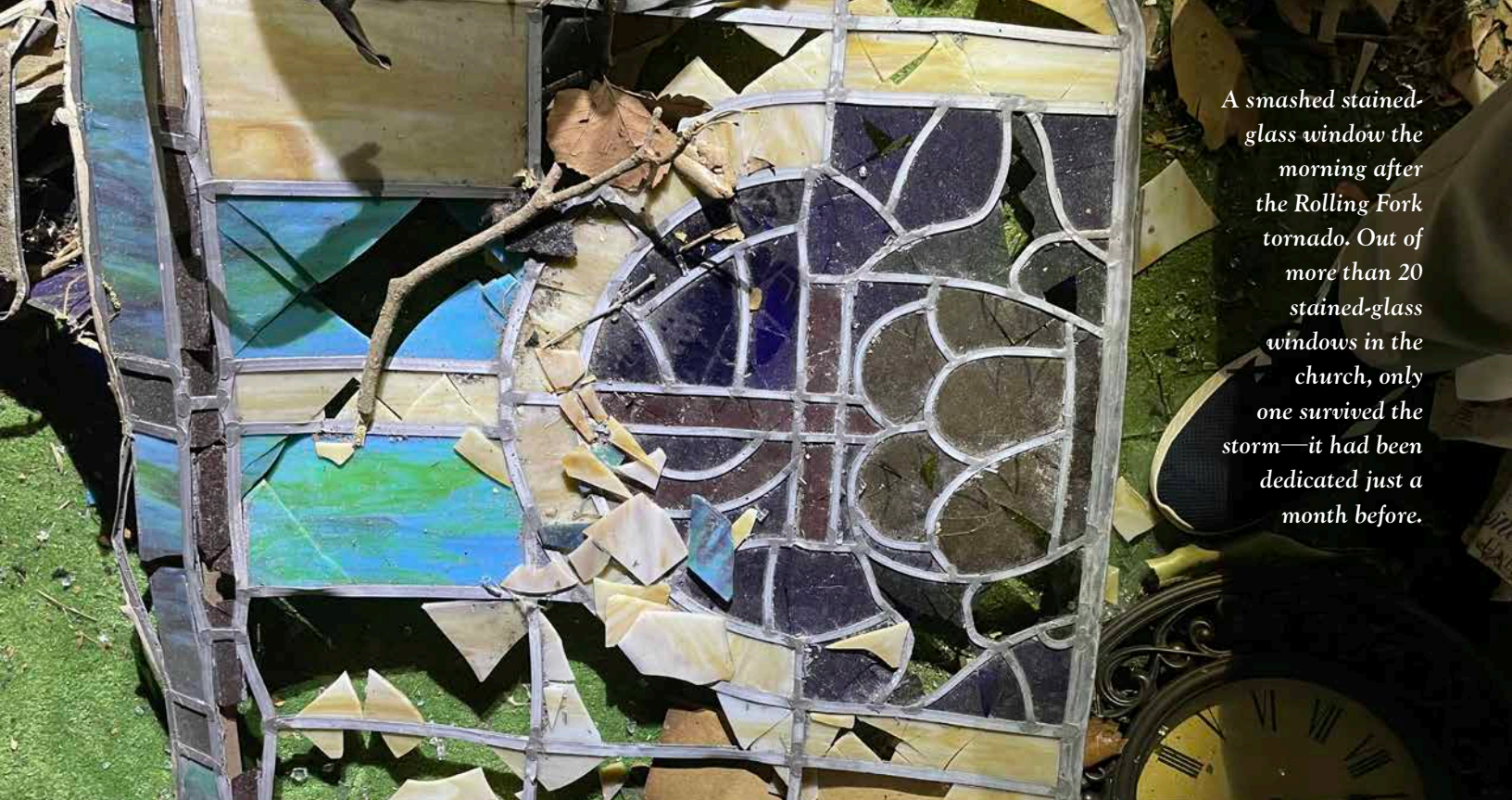
possible. Then it was gone. Three minutes from beginning to end."

In those three minutes, the storm had taken with it much of the town of Rolling Fork—78% of structures in the town were damaged and, even more tragically, 17 lives were lost. For many, including some who lost their own homes, the full gravity of what had transpired set in the next morning when they found that the Chapel of the Cross, having stood at the corner of Hicks and McLaurin Avenues since 1924, had been reduced to rubble.

"It brings tears even months gone by just thinking about that day," says parishioner Elise Cook. "The church being gone is like a death in the family—the hurt. The destruction was overwhelming; there was no way to take it all in. A kind of numbness set in for days."

As unprepared as Rolling Fork had been for the literal storm of the 24th, they were not much better prepared for the figurative storm that arrived on the 25th. Search and rescue crews, emergency management personnel, contractors, insurance adjusters, and 'disaster tourists' descended on the town.

In the midst of it all, parishioners and friends of Chapel of the Cross pitched in on a salvage mission. Proctor recalls arriving that morning to find people crawling over the rubble to get to the sacristy, where



A smashed stained-glass window the morning after the Rolling Fork tornado. Out of more than 20 stained-glass windows in the church, only one survived the storm—it had been dedicated just a month before.

they saved communion vessels, altar hangings, and candlesticks. The altar, organ, cross, and communion rail were recovered. Miraculously, the parish's banner survived.

"It was dangerous," says Proctor, "but I was grateful they were doing it."

But what was salvaged in Rolling Fork threw into sharp relief just how much had been lost—half-century old oak trees, Reconstruction-era buildings. Parts of Rolling Fork that had once been full of businesses and homes now offered half-mile views in every direction.

Amid the chaos, there were helpers—people and groups from near and far came to aid the cleanup effort. Local farmers used their equipment to move debris to curbs so it could be cleared by FEMA. Church groups from other states poured in, along with donations from around the country as tiny Rolling Fork was, for a brief moment, a national news story. Post-disaster attention fades quickly, however, so the challenge

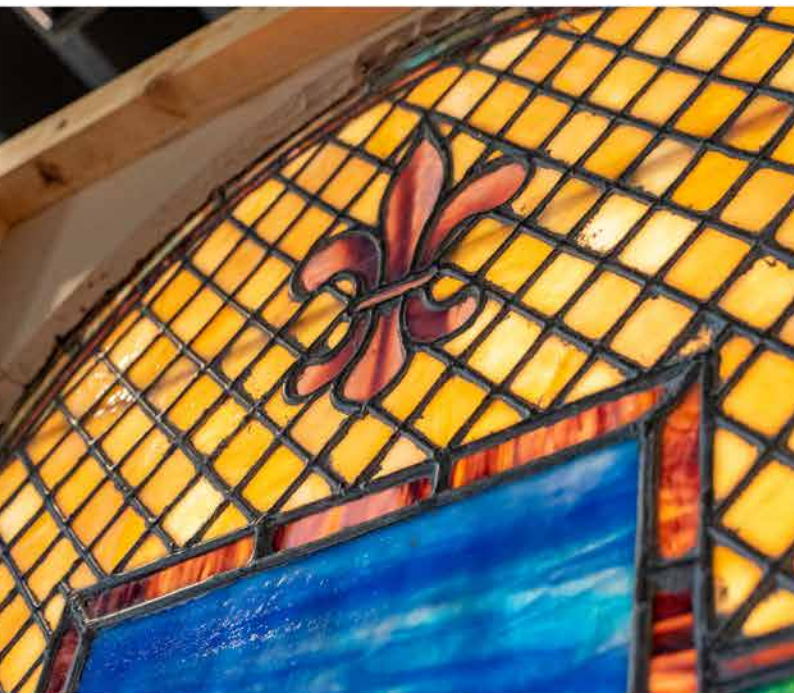
of rebuilding ultimately fell to the locals. The church has remained determined even as much of the press moved on.

To support the rebuilding of Chapel of the Cross, Rolling Fork, make a donation here!



CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE →





"I have faith," says Proctor. "We are an Easter people—we believe in the Resurrection, and Chapel of the Cross is going to move from destruction to resurrection."

Less than a year after that destruction, much progress has been made—after many months holding services at Goodman Memorial United Methodist Church in Cary, Mississippi, at the generous invitation of Pastor Mary Stewart, the Chapel parish held Christmas Eve services in their newly rebuilt Parish Hall. The rectory, which was also partially damaged, has been repaired.

Plans for the new sanctuary are in place, with an aim of recapturing as much as possible the feeling of the nearly century-old structure it will replace. After many phone calls to churches and dioceses around the region, Weissinger located some historic stained-glass windows owned by the Diocese of West Tennessee, which they agreed to sell.

The windows, which had been forgotten in storage for decades until they were found in 2020, were from the chapel of Church Home Orphanage, to which Chapel of the Cross has a meaningful historical connection. The church, as a newly-formed parish in the 1870s, were supporters of "Constance and her Companions," the group of nuns also known as the "Martyrs of Memphis," who worked to save the lives of children at the orphanage during the yellow fever epidemic of 1878.

Replacing buildings and material things, of course, will not immediately repair the rift that was cut through the Rolling Fork community on March 24th, but having a physical home, Proctor points out, gives the people of the church—God's true instrument in the world—a place from which to do God's work.

"I'd like for the larger state to know that Rolling Fork is not finished," he says. "We're still here, still worshipping. We're going to keep on working and rebuilding, helping people find housing, keeping people fed. We're still at it, and we can use all the help we can get." 🙏

Left: details from one of the windows acquired by Chapel of the Cross, Rolling Fork, from the Diocese of West Tennessee. This window is titled "The River."

Electing a Bishop


The Mississippi Episcopal Council meets on February 2-4, 2024 to elect the XI Bishop of Mississippi. Have you ever wondered, how do we Episcopalians actually elect a bishop? Is there white smoke billowing in the air when a bishop is elected?

At the Council meeting, electors are divided into two separate orders. Lay delegates, chosen by the parishes and missions of the diocese, along with one youth delegate from each convocation, comprise the lay order. Ordained priests and deacons canonically resident in the diocese comprise the clerical order. If a two-thirds majority of each order is present, the successful candidate must receive a simple majority vote from each order to be elected Bishop. Successive ballots will be conducted until the new Bishop is elected. If less than two-thirds of a particular order is present, then the successful candidate must receive a two-thirds vote from that order to be elected.

At this Council, electronic voting will replace the older, slower method of using paper ballots. Audience response keypads (clickers) will be issued to all delegates and clergy. This will allow the results to be tabulated almost instantaneously. There will be pauses between each ballot, allowing designated members of the Transition Committee to personally convey the results to each Candidate, who may or may not be present in the building. Candidates then have an opportunity to briefly reflect on the results and decide if they wish their candidacy to continue in future ballots. Following this consultation, the results of each ballot will be reported to the Council by Bishop Seage, who will preside. The next ballot will then begin.

Upon the election of a new Bishop by the Council, the President of the Standing Committee will speak to the successful candidate. If the candidate accepts election, the Bishop will then formally announce the selection of the new Bishop-elect. If the candidate is available, they will be introduced to the Council.

Following the voting, it is very important that all voting clergy and delegates wait to sign formal documents testifying to the election of the new Bishop. These

testamentary letters officially convey the results of the election to the Presiding Bishop and to other individuals and entities. Preserved for posterity, several hang on the walls of the Allin House. 



SAVE THE DATE

26 04 24
DAY MONTH YEAR

A FAREWELL TO
THE SEAGES

THE TWO MISSISSIPPI MUSEUMS
APRIL 26, 2024
6 - 9 P.M.



Diocesan Altar Guild plans active new year

The Diocesan Altar Guild met Nov. 10 at St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Bolton to discuss plans for 2024. From left are, front row, President Lee Aylward; Babs Fowler, membership chair; Beth Callahan; Lollie Everett, stoles and needlework chair; back row, Mary Jackson, supply closet chair; Judy Ketchens, past president; Ron Hudgens, Coast Convocation representative; Laurie Noble, Delta Convocation representative; Ann Milstead, secretary; Annie Oeth, publicity chair; and Harvey Smith, treasurer. The year will include a statewide meeting and multiple convocations around the state.

Reports to the 197th Annual Council

All Saints' Episcopal School

Again, this year's theme seemed to revolve around weather extremes. The prolonged sub-freezing temperatures in early winter, significant spring storms, and baking hot temperatures accompanied by several months of drought combined to cause major damage to the campus landscaping. Meteorologically speaking, the cool, wet autumn is this year's saving grace.

For all intents and purposes, the AmeriCorps and FEMACorps programs are back to normal having graduated two classes and inducting two full classes to replace them, over 300 participants in calendar year 2023. The teams have supported various community projects and vital recovery projects all over the United States as well as Guam and Puerto Rico.

Despite the high temperatures this summer, the lack of rain did allow us to make headway on building maintenance and take the first steps on repairing some of the worst of our erosion problems. And the drought has prompted us to look harder at rainwater harvesting and the damaged planting beds will give us the opportunity to increase and improve our pollinator habitats. When God shuts a door, He opens a window.

In addition to these projects, next year will see the completion of another round of security enhancements and the replacement of Green Hall's decades old chiller system. No doubt 2024 will present an array of unique challenges, some expected, but no matter what comes, the team we have here is up to the task.

Keeping Bishop Green's Dream,

Garrett & Dorothy Wallace, *Site Operations Director*

Archives and History

Interest in the diocesan Archives expanded in 2023. The twenty or more reference inquiries included many parishes asking about their history or how best to preserve their archival records (e.g., St. Stephen's, Columbia; St. Christopher's, Jackson; St. Philip's, Jackson; Chapel of the Cross, Rolling Fork; St. Mary's, Bolton; All Saints', Tupelo; Mediator, Meridian; St. James', Port Gibson; and St. James', Jackson). Information from the Archives was provided to the Transition Committee for the new bishop, and to individuals researching Richard Wilmer, the ordination of women, Dhurrie Hardin, voting rights of early African American parishes, and the extinct congregations of St. Philip's, Kirkwood (Madison County); St. Andrew's, Salem (Benton County); and St. Sylvanus', Pinckneyville (Wilkinson County).

After two well-attended sessions at annual council in Natchez on Collecting and Preserving Church Archives, I consulted onsite and at the Allin House about the archival records of Grace Canton. The Archives received several interesting donations during the year, including records from the Rev. Dr. David Langdon, who served as Parchman EPM Chaplain, 1994-2007; and architectural drawings of Gray Center.

Work continued throughout the year on the project, funded by the Historical Society of The Episcopal Church, to digitize video tapes. Events documented on the twenty-six tapes digitized by iMemories included the 100th year celebration of Resurrection, Starkville; consecration of Bishop Scantlebury in Panama; 90th anniversary celebration of St. Paul's, Meridian; dedication of the parish center at Chapel of the Cross, Madison; retirement of Bishop Duncan M Gray Jr.; ordination of the Rev. Canon David Johnson; statewide celebration of Black Church Ministries in 2003; diaconate training; and St. Michael's Farm in the 1990s.

The primary work during 2023 focused on researching and beginning to plan initiatives relating to the 2026 celebration of the Diocese's 200th anniversary. Considerable time was spent reading annual council journals, 1826-1954, searching for information about the treatment of enslaved individuals before the Civil War and African American parishes in the post-war period, and identifying topics that might warrant additional examination or reconsideration.

An advisory committee comprised of individuals throughout the diocese was convened and met via Zoom. I drafted a brief history of the diocese, which will be added to the website in 2024; and compiled an initial draft of a two-page timeline for use by facilitators in racial reconciliation and healing training. I participated on a racial reconciliation panel at annual council, talking about the role of diocesan history in truth-telling; served as facilitator at racial reconciliation training for the Bishop Search Committee, and attended the two-day Equal Justice Initiative Pilgrimage to Alabama in September. I also coordinated an effort to apply for an historical marker commemorating Holy Trinity Episcopal Church in Mound Bayou. Lastly, I readied the Archives for the arrival of the 11th Bishop of Mississippi, attending the listening session for the diocesan staff and moved more than 70 cubic feet of materials and preservation supplies to offsite storage.

Julia Young, *Archivist*

Bishop Search Committee

The search for the 11th Bishop of the Diocese of Mississippi began on December 27, 2022, when Bishop Seage issued a formal communication to the diocese calling for the election of his successor. The Standing Committee met with the Rt. Rev. Todd Ousley, Bishop of the Episcopal Church's Office of Pastoral Development, and the Chancellors of the diocese to chart a course for the election of the next diocesan bishop. Throughout January, they interviewed four search consultant candidates and then voted unanimously on January 28 to call the Rev. Ron Clingenpeel as search consultant.

The Standing Committee asked Alice Perry, St. James', Jackson to serve as chair of the Search Committee and solicited applications from people, both lay and ordained, who were willing to serve on the committee. Fifteen committee members were chosen from the different convocations to represent various sizes of churches and a broad spectrum of experiences in the church. The members from the

Clergy Order were: the Rev. CJ Meaders, St. Columb's, Ridgeland; the Rev. Tom Fanning, Chapel of the Cross, Madison; the Rev. Dcn. Betty Melton, St. Francis of Assisi, Philadelphia; the Rev. Dcn. Sarah Stripp, St. Andrew's Cathedral, Jackson; and the Rev. Morris Thompson, Mediator, Meridian. The members from the Lay Order were: B.W. Curry, Ascension, Hattiesburg; Rebecca Fish, Redeemer, Biloxi; Susan Lee, St. Stephen's, Indianola; Alice Perry, St. James', Jackson; Richard Price, St. Alban's, Bovina; Brian Pugh, Resurrection, Starkville; Goldia Revies, St. Christopher's, Jackson; John Samonds, St. Peter's, Oxford; Stephen Stray, St. Andrew's Cathedral, Jackson; and Paula Vaughan, All Saints', Grenada. The Rev. Thompson later resigned after accepting a call to be rector at a church in a different diocese.

The Search Committee was charged with gathering information about the diocese through prayerful listening and discernment, prepare a diocesan profile, educate the people of the diocese about the ministry of a bishop, and recruit and receive nominations to discern a slate of three to five candidates for the Standing Committee and the diocesan council to consider.

The Committee's first meeting was a joint session with the Standing Committee on March 31 followed by committee training on April 1. They began planning listening sessions and a diocesan survey. Listening sessions were held in May in Hattiesburg, Gulfport, Meridian, Tupelo, Greenwood, Southaven, and Ridgeland. The host churches offered warm hospitality and over 400 people attended. Several members of the Search Committee were at each of the sessions. There was also a listening session held for diocesan staff and a separate one for the clergy. Meanwhile, a subcommittee began working on a diocesan profile and negotiated with Holy Cow! Consulting to conduct the survey. Over 1,000 people completed the survey, and the results gave the committee a clearer picture of what people throughout the diocese thought about the church and their hopes for the future.

Within days of the training retreat, a dedicated website was created (msbishopsearch.com) and social media accounts were created to keep people informed about the search process. These were in addition to regular updates in *The Mississippi Episcopalian* coupled with articles about the role of bishops historically and today. The Rev. Jennifer Southall, St. Peter's, Oxford wrote the educational articles, and the committee appreciated her involvement.

The Diocesan Profile was released on June 28. It described Mississippi, the Diocese of Mississippi, and what the priorities are for diocese, which the committee learned from the listening sessions and the survey. Those priorities are strategic, leadership development, and congregational support. In addition to committee members working on the profile, other people played significant roles, including Jack Garner, St. Peter's, Oxford who helped with the writing and editing and Dominique Pugh, Resurrection, Starkville who was the graphic designer.

With the publication of the profile, the Committee began to solicit nominations and applications. In addition to diocesan-wide announcements in churches, emails, and social media, the search was advertised in the Episcopal News Service and emails were sent to seminary deans, bishops, and various Episcopal organizations. Applications were accepted through Friday, July 21, and the response far exceeded the Search Committee's expectations.

Prayerful discernment continued through August as the Search Committee interviewed the nominees, carefully studied their responses to written questions, and talked with the nominees'

references. It was an honor to get to know so many outstanding clergy who were willing to discern a call to be the next bishop of the Diocese of Mississippi. From the numerous nominees, the committee selected a small group to be invited to a discernment retreat.

The discernment retreat was an intense three-day gathering of the Search Committee and the semi-finalists. Each nominee was asked to give a presentation to the full committee and to participate in discussions with small groups of committee members. An entire morning was devoted to going into details about the diocesan survey and the diocesan finances and organization. There were also informal opportunities for the committee members and nominees to get to know each other better and several worship services, including a closing Eucharist.

Several days after the retreat, the Committee met for a morning prayer service and to make a decision about who the final five candidates would be. Those finalists were presented to the Standing Committee on Friday, October 20, and the slate was announced on November 1.

The members of the Search Committee were honored to serve and deeply appreciate the many people who completed the survey, attended the listening sessions, provided pictures for the profile, and offered insight and advice. We especially appreciated the many prayers for the search process, the committee, and the nominees.

Alice Perry, Chair

Canterbury: Delta State University

Spring and Fall semesters of 2023 saw the largest number of participants in Delta State University's Episcopal Ministry's history. Averaging a range of 22-24 regular attendees of our weekly noonday prayers on Mondays, plus other special gatherings, we had opportunity to introduce the Episcopal Church, share videos of Bishop Curry and other leaders who especially talked about The Way of Love, plus national and local ministries. Especially compelling was our collaborative program with students and staff from Mississippi Delta HBCUs (Coahoma Community College, Mississippi Valley State University, Mississippi Delta Community College and Tougaloo College), featuring a presentation, discussion and facilitation by the Rev. Canon Jayne Oasin. Our focus for this event was around racial healing and justice, as it relates to the Mississippi Delta college campuses. We centered considerable content on our complex, painful, and rich Civil Rights history, connecting it to the engagement of college students in the movement.

Robin Webb, Chaplain

Canterbury: Episcopal Church at Ole Miss

The ministry of the Episcopal Church at Ole Miss has been strong and growing over the past year. We have several opportunities for

worship, fellowship, and formation throughout the week, both on campus and at the church. We have also worked to integrate students into the larger life of the parish by fostering inter-generational connections and church-wide involvement. We are grateful for the leadership of Merrit Tompkins, our student chair, who has organized and facilitated multiple new offerings and recruited new members through the fall semester. We are grateful, also, for the prayers and support of the diocese!

The Very Rev. Jody Burnett, *Rector (St. Peter's, Oxford)*

Canterbury: Mississippi State University

Calendar year 2023 was a fun and meaningful year for Canterbury MSU. We gathered for game nights, movie nights, and numerous meals together and met regularly on Wednesday evenings for Compline and thought-provoking conversations. Our Wednesday evening conversations centered on various important topics, such as the spiritual foundations of happiness, how to cope with disappointment and loss, the nature of true friendship, discerning God's calling in your life, and making time for sabbath rest. In addition, Canterbury participated in a number of service projects, including helping to make homemade soft pretzels for a charity fundraiser, cooking a meal for 50 people and serving that meal at Casserole Kitchen (an ecumenical program that provides food for people in need), and purchasing items to help furnish an apartment for a Ukrainian refugee family in Starkville. Most importantly, in the last year, there were nearly 30 students who attended at least one Sunday service at the Church of the Resurrection.

Five of our core student members, including our intern, Ethan Blackwell, graduated in May. We are very grateful for Ethan's faithful service. He and the other graduates are definitely missed, but it's exciting to see the wonderful opportunities that God has set before them. This fall, we hired a new intern, Dinah Bray, who is eager to help Canterbury grow. We also reached out to nearly 40 incoming freshmen Episcopalians, four of whom have attended a number of our gatherings, bringing Canterbury's current number of active students to 15. This is a healthy and hopeful place for Canterbury to be and will help ensure that, with the departure of our chaplain, we will continue to thrive.

In October, the Rev. Dr. George Rambow accepted a call to serve as the rector of a parish in the Diocese of New Jersey, beginning his new ministry in December. A committee, consisting of our intern, another student, and several lay adult members of the Church of the Resurrection, has been formed, and it will work to keep Canterbury thriving in the spring and will participate in the search for a new chaplain. God has been faithful and, we trust, will continue to work in and through the Episcopal campus ministry at MSU.

The Rev. Dr. George Rambow, *Chaplain*

Canterbury: Episcopal Church at The University of Southern Mississippi

Canterbury: ECUSM is beginning to soar a little higher. A couple of us joined the Young Adult & Campus Ministries conference in San Diego this summer and had a fantastic time connecting with Episcopal campus ministries from across the country.

We left with many new friendships and some good ideas as well! In addition to our weekly fellowships and compline that are growing, we now host a Friday morning coffee hour. We also offer study halls and DoorDash support for midterms and finals. Our new tradition of Gumbo & Hymns for students continued this fall and expanded it to include a Gumbo & Beer event for new faculty and staff as well. This winter we shopped for gifts for Angel Tree children and sponsored an Anglican Christmas Carol concert to raise funds for our pilgrimage to Scotland in March of 2024. We are also excited to be setting up a new space for Canterbury to gather for fun and games at Ascension. A local student painted a mural on one wall featuring USM's black-eyed susans along with our favorite scripture: "Do justice, love kindness, walk humbly with your God."

This coming year, we are most excited about traveling to Scotland to learn more about our Episcopal heritage and to be inspired by the natural wonders. We have t-shirts, sweatshirts, and tote bags for sale to help raise funds. You can find more information on our Instagram page @ECUSM.

The Rev. Jenny Newman, *Chaplain*

Chancellor

The Chancellor of the Diocese attended the meetings of the Trustees of the Diocese and the Chancellor/Vice Chancellors attended meetings of the Executive Committee and assisted as requested.

Conducted research, rendered legal opinions and conferred with the Bishop, the Canon to the Ordinary, and the CFO and lay leaders on a variety of issues affecting or involving the Diocese.

Studied and reviewed Roberts Rules of Order, the Council Agenda, worked with both Vice Chancellors on related pre-Council issues, and attended the 196th Diocesan Council held at Trinity Episcopal Church in Natchez, Mississippi, and assisted as requested.

Reviewed the bi-monthly issues of Church Law and Tax Report regarding court decisions involving churches, parishes, dioceses, etc., and called to the attention of the Bishop and the CFO the matters of importance to this Diocese.

Studied, reviewed, conferred and met with the Bishop, the CFO, the Trustees and representatives of Merrill Lynch and Vector Money Management, Inc. and Trustmark National Bank involving the management of the Diocese's investment portfolio.

Conferred with the Bishop, Standing Committee, Presiding Bishop's Bishop for the Office of Pastoral Development, Canon to

the Ordinary and Chief of Staff, Search Committee, and Transition Committee and both Vice Chancellors on canonical considerations and preparations for the search for the 11th Bishop of the Diocese, including elements of a Letter of Agreement to be entered by the Standing Committee with the Bishop-Elect. The Chancellor and Vice Chancellor Ireland attended the Discernment Retreat hosted by the Search Committee and interviewed the candidates for Bishop.

The Chancellor and both Vice Chancellors attended planning meetings with the Bishop, Canon to the Ordinary and Chief of Staff and Chief Financial Officer.

Conferred with the Bishop and Canon to the Ordinary and Chief of Staff on vacancies in the General Convention deputation.

Conferred with the Bishop and Canon to the Ordinary and Chief of Staff and monitored numerous activities and developments for the Diocese of Mississippi, the Trustees of the Diocese, certain parishes, missions and other diocesan institutions in the case styled as In re: Boy Scouts of America, filed in the United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of Delaware. This matter is now concluded for all practical purposes.

With the assistance of both Vice Chancellors, conferred extensively with the Bishop, Canon to the Ordinary and Chief of Staff, the Executive Committee, Trustees, Chief Financial Officer and other Diocesan leaders on a wide variety of financial, contractual, real property, insurance, and related issues arising out of the cessation of operations at the Duncan M. Gray Camp and Conference Center. Worked extensively with the Bishop and Trustees on contract review and negotiations with multiple potential purchasers for the Conference Center property located on the north side of Way Road, resulting in signed contracts to sell the undeveloped land north of the Conference Center area to two separate purchasers. These two contracts are expected to close prior to year-end 2023.

Reviewed and conferred with the Canon to the Ordinary and Chief of Staff concerning the interpretation of the governing instrument of, and use of funds from, the Gray Center Special Maintenance Fund.

The Chancellor and both Vice Chancellors conferred with the Bishop, Canon to the Ordinary and Chief of Staff on arrangements to conduct the 2023 summer camp program at Camp Bratton Green, the physical improvements, policies and procedures for sickness and cabin protocols, contract reviews, licensure and permitting matters, training, and related logistical considerations.

Conferred with the Bishop, Trustees, Board of Directors and others, especially the former Canon for Administration and Finance, and worked with representatives of AmeriCorps/NCCC and their legal counsel and other representatives, on contract, leasehold, corporate governance matters, succession planning and related legal issues concerning the All Saints Episcopal School in Vicksburg. Vice Chancellor Ketner prepared and recorded a cancellation of an outstanding deed of trust for All Saints School. Attended a Board of Directors meeting to review operations and authorize the first distribution of funds to the four owning dioceses pursuant to a revenue sharing agreement previously approved by the Board of Directors.

Conferred with the Bishop, Canon to the Ordinary and Chief of Staff and legal counsel for an independent trustee concerning an ongoing trust matter involving All Saints Episcopal School.

Conferred with the Bishop, Trustees, the Canon to the Ordinary and Chief of Staff and representatives of Trustmark National Bank on financing matters involving the existing financing relationship between the Trustees and Trustmark National Bank involving the indebtedness incurred by the Trustees for congregations on the Gulf

Coast following Hurricane Katrina. Coordinated with the Trustees and Canon to the Ordinary on the payment in full of the outstanding deed of trust encumbering St. Mark, Gulfport.

With the assistance of both Vice Chancellors, worked on real property matters for Redeemer, Biloxi, including a review of a title examination and quiet title action covering the riparian beach front property owned by the Parish; coordinated with the Trustees of the Diocese, Rector, Vestry representatives and legal counsel to Redeemer, Biloxi on the sale of the property and related closing logistics; and worked on other property matters for St. Alban, Bovina; St. Christopher, Jackson; St. Timothy, Southaven, and a vacant parcel owned by the Trustees in Jackson.

The Chancellor and both Vice Chancellors conferred with the Canon to the Ordinary and Chief of Staff and parish leadership on a variety of employment matters involving Gray Center; Chapel of the Cross, Madison; and a Jackson Parish.

Vice Chancellor Ketner conferred with the Canon to the Ordinary and Chief of Staff on background check processes and prepared guidance regarding Fair Credit Reporting Act compliant background checks.

Worked with the Bishop, Canon to the Ordinary and Rector of Christ Church, Vicksburg to establish the governing document for a newly created endowment fund established by a former member of the Parish.

Conferred with the Bishop, Canon to the Ordinary and Chief of Staff and the Senior Warden of Chapel of the Cross, Rolling Fork, on insurance claims and property matters arising out of the March 2023 tornado that struck Rolling Fork and the Parish.

Conferred with the Bishop, former Bishop Gray, Canon to the Ordinary and Trustees and members of Nativity, Water Valley on (i) a lease of property by the Trustees of a building in Water Valley across the street from the Church, and (ii) a transfer to the Trustees by means of a charitable donation of a membership interest in a limited liability company that owns the leased premises.

Vice Chancellor Ireland worked with intake officers and the reference panel on Title IV matters.

Vice Chancellor Ireland attended the National Chancellors Conference held in Orlando, Florida and consulted with a Parish on a potential litigation matter.

Conferred with the Bishop and Canon to the Ordinary and Chief of Staff and provided advice regarding mitigation of risks to a Parish that may have experienced a business email compromise event.

Conferred with the Canon to the Ordinary and provided advice regarding a potential incident reporting inquiry from a rector in the Diocese.

Conferred with the Bishop and Trustees on strategies for addressing deferred maintenance and repair needs of small congregations across the Diocese.

After assisting previous Chancellor George Hewes for five years and serving as Chancellor for 22 years, the Chancellor has notified the Bishop of his plan to retire as Chancellor of the Diocese following the 197th Council. The Chancellor will continue to serve in an Emeritus capacity until the consecration of the 11th Bishop of the Diocese.

Granville Tate, Jr., *Chancellor*

Robert B. Ireland III, *Vice Chancellor*

Claire W. Ketner, *Vice Chancellor*

Congregational Vitality

The Diocese of Mississippi is one of six dioceses selected into a three-year Vitality Improvement Program (VIP) designed for small congregations. The program is designed specifically to provide reduced-cost resources, coaching, and consultation to small congregations that will assess their vigor and sustainability, then develop effective vitality and sustainability improvement strategies by better engaging the neighborhoods they serve.

Calendar year 2023 was the first year of this three-year VIP program. Eight congregations were selected and participated: Ascension, Hattiesburg; St. Timothy's, Southhaven; All Saints', Grenada; St. Christopher's, Jackson; Redemer, Brookhaven; St. Alban's, Bovina; and St. Mary's, Holy Trinity, and Christ Church, Vicksburg. Congregations each completed vitality assessments, reviewed neighborhood insights reports, and began working on a 90-day micro strategy for new missional opportunities.

The Rev. Andy Andrews, *Missioner for Beloved Community and Congregational Vitality*

Creation Care Ministry

It has been an active year. We have published 30 Creation Care newsletters to-date in 2023. These are posted on the diocesan website and in certain individual church newsletters. We have a total of 116 subscribers.

Four diocesan-wide Zoom presentations included: Julia Weaver - Plastic Free July; Bishop Seage - Thoughts on Creation Care in the Diocese of Mississippi; Deborah Baker - Sustaining Earth our Island Home (the Episcopal Carbon Tracker); and Katheryn Hayhoe - Third Act Faith General Meeting. Creation Care has participated in the last two clergy conferences (2022 & 2023). The Rev. Melanie Mullen and Phoebe Chatfield of Presiding Bishop Curry's office presented this year.

We have written a Creation Care Resolution (perhaps the first) for consideration at Annual Council in 2024.

Respectfully submitted,

Tracy Stebbins Arnett and **John Milner**, *Co-chairs*

Daughters of the King (DOK)

The Order of the Daughters of the King is an order for women who are communicants of The Episcopal Church, churches in communion with it, or churches in the historic episcopate but not in communion with it. The Order of the Daughters of the King in Mississippi is composed of 22 Chapters and seven Daughters at-large in parishes and missions throughout our state. We have approximately 303 members, and we are one of the nine states that constitute Province IV. Our National Office is in Woodstock, GA. The mission of The Order is the extension of God's Kingdom, especially among women and girls, through Prayer, Service, and Evangelism. The Order of The Daughters

of the King is organized as a religious order although not living in a confined community. Each Daughter takes a lifetime vow to live by the Rule of the Order which requires a spiritual discipline of daily prayer, service, and evangelism. We are an order, not an organization, and our bylaws preclude us from raising funds.

This year the Daughters worked together providing hygiene protection for young ladies where needed across the state which was our first statewide project. Daughters continue within their own orders providing meals to families in need, preparing meals for students to carry home on weekends and snacks for afterschool, providing food to the food pantries, providing gifts on holidays for residents in nursing facilities, knitting prayer shawls for the ill, knitting/crocheting hats, shawls, and mittens for the homeless. Daughters participate in altar guilds, choir, Vestry, flower guilds, Episcopal Church Women, and as LEMs. We send notes to congregants, clergy, and our bishop. Daughters host retreat days, clean clergy robes, albs, and altar linens. The Daughters provided scholarship assistance through the Education Equal Hope for students in Costa Rica, Haiti, Ecuador, and Rwanda. Daughters assisted in providing meals for congregations after services.

Our most recent Province IV Diocesan Presidents' Annual Report shows that in our chapters we study selected material of a spiritual nature. Chapters keep a confidential prayer list and read the Prayers of the People at the Sunday services. At the Service of Admission each new Daughter receives her cross which is a Fleury cross inscribed in Latin "Magnanimiter Crucem Sustine" which means "with heart, mind and spirit uphold and bear the cross." At the base of the cross are the letters "FHS" which stand for the motto of the Order "For His Sake."

We invite you to ask a Daughter about joining The Order of The Daughters of the King, reinstating a chapter that has closed at your church, or about creating a new chapter at your church. The website is: www.doknational.org. Ask your priest if you have questions or contact Linda Tolliver, Mississippi Daughters of the King, President: andlelia1954@yahoo.com.

Linda Tolliver, *President*

Diocesan Altar Guild (DAG)

After a hiatus due to COVID, the Diocesan Altar Guild is back! Under the leadership of our last president, Judy Ketchens, our convocations began meeting again, and we met in all convocations in 2023.

The purpose of the Diocesan Altar Guild is to assist the Bishop in the care of the altars in his Diocese. The purpose is carried out by: (1) providing a center for the exchange of reverent information among the altar guilds in the diocese; (2) providing workshops and training opportunities for improving skills; (3) accepting responsibility for the care of altars utilized at Diocesan-wide events and at the discretion of the bishop; and (4) furthering fellowship, inspirations, and cooperation among those who serve God in this ministry.

Two ongoing projects of the DAG are the Supply Closet and stoles for the new deacons. The Supply Closet is a means to recycle linens, vestments and vessels no longer needed by a parish. Dr. Mary Jackson chairs this project and regular posts are available on the

DAG website (dag.dioms.org) and on Facebook, The Diocesan Altar Guild. Lollie Everett chairs our Needlework and Stoles committee and Denise Brown is now making the beautiful red stoles presented by the DAG to newly ordained deacons and priests in the diocese.

All diocesan church altar guilds are encouraged to join the Diocesan Altar Guild. The annual dues are \$35 for parishes, \$25 for missions, and \$10 for mission stations. Your church Altar Guild dues are used to care for the diocesan Eucharist vessels, linens etc. and goes toward the rental fee to house these articles as well as the cost of the stoles and other materials that are needed to accomplish our responsibilities to the diocese. An updated list of your church's altar guild is asked for when dues are submitted. This helps the DAG with record keeping and serves as a means of communication throughout the diocese.

The 2023 Annual Meeting of the DAG was held at St. Andrew's Cathedral, Jackson in April. Jan Smith, Sowashee Convocation, St. John's, Laurel, gave an informative presentation on weddings. The meeting provided a springboard to our convocation meetings which were held in July and August. St. George's, Clarksdale was the site of the Delta Convocation; All Saint's, Grenada hosted the Coldwater Convocation; Incarnation, West Point hosted the Tombigbee Convocation.

The DAG will have a big year in 2024 with annual council, and the consecration of a new bishop, and we are pleased to announce that our annual meeting will be at St. John's, Laurel, on Saturday, April 20. Stay tuned.

Respectfully submitted,
Lee Aylward, President

Diocesan Formation for Children & Youth

Our congregations, most of which would be considered small, are finding that age-divided, weekly programs are not supporting our young people, or the adults who love them and take care of them, in their faith formation as much as they once did. The pattern of many households is to attend church less regularly. We do have a handful of congregations that are still functioning with weekly programs as their main formation support, but research and trends across The Episcopal Church are showing that even for larger congregations, program models are on the decline. Instead of programs, relationships are being emphasized in formation of all ages – relationships within households, with older and younger people in congregations, as well as others the same age.

A benefit of our diocesan structure is the natural, built-in opportunity for the church to gather outside of the congregation. Several of our convocations have found success by working together. Youth coordinators in each convocation were appointed to help keep track of who is organizing youth formation in congregations and to organize opportunities for youth within their convocations to gather. The Central Convocation EYCs meet once a month for larger events and the other Sundays of the month on their own. Five of the Coast Convocation churches are meeting weekly as a joint EYC. Working together has allowed these churches to share in the resources needed (money and people!) to provide a safe space for these youth

to explore and discover their faith. And after fall convocation youth events in other convocations, several are hoping to get together more than once a year! Central: Lisa Saucier; Coldwater: Hayden Hershfelt; Delta: Cyndi Saia; Old River: the Rev. Elisabeth Malphurs (interim); Coast: Whitney Robinson (interim); Sowashee: the Rev. Katie Sorey (interim); Tombigbee: Kamme Riddle.

The annual AWWY (adults working with young people) retreat was resurrected after a hiatus during the pandemic. Twelve adults across the diocese were in residence to share and learn from one another. By the time of Annual Council, AWWY will have gathered again in person on the Gulf Coast to attend the virtual continuing education conference offered by FORMA, the grassroots organization of formation practitioners within the church. It has been good to gather in person again!

Whitney Robinson, Missioner for Children and Youth Formation

Division of Youth (DOY)

As a member of the DOY Council 2023-2024 as well as the previous 2022-2023 DOY Council, and I was introduced to Council through my friends reaching out to me about joining. I was eager to be accepted because of the previous years that I had been a camper which were a one-of-a-kind experience that I hadn't gotten from other youth events.

DOY is meant to spread messages and lessons to the age groups of Junior High and Senior High that allow them to escape from the outside world for just a little bit so that they may carry on with a new perspective on life. These teachings have helped me express my thoughts and emotions which has allowed me to have a better understanding of who I am and how I can be better.

This year we have had one Senior High and one Junior High session that have run smoothly and have had an amazing result. The Senior High session -- planned by Brenna Alexander, Walker Saia, and Loyd Carter -- took place on September 15-17 that expressed the theme of finding peace outside of DOY and where you feel most at home. At the end of the weekend was an event that was very calm and peaceful which included a walk in the labyrinth by Carolyn Ray, yoga by Hollie Hull, making prayer beads by Jennifer Deaton, and finally stargazing. This tranquil ending was a very successful rap towards this theme of engaging in activities that bring you peace outside of specific places. The age group seems to have gotten closer to one another and learned values to bring forth outside of the weekend. The Junior High session -- planned by Aidan Schneider, Jake Hull, and Grant Duncan -- took place on October 12-14 and conveyed the theme of God's unconditional love and how being seen as moral and good is not from the deeds you have done but the humbleness of understanding your faults. Despite the age group, the kids left the weekend feeling overjoyed with some asking if they could stay longer. The weekend ended on a high note with a luau in the Recreation Hall of Camp Bratton-Green which was labeled a success by staff and campers alike. The campers had a blast watching the council enact the skits and were answering the questions in the small groups because they were easy to answer and were geared towards that age group.

DOY is such an important experience because not only does it give children an experience of expression and connection in their early

stages of life, but it introduces the concept of opening up and talking about who they are. Even for the older groups it's a place that they can continue to grow, especially in difficult times that they experience at their age.

Aidan Schneider, *Member, DOY Council*

Ecumenical- Interreligious Officer

The Ecumenical-Interreligious Officer serves at the pleasure of the Bishop Diocesan, providing research and advice on ecumenical and interreligious issues, and monitoring ecumenical and interfaith developments on a regional, national, and even international level. The Episcopal Church is in communion with several other churches and is engaged in bilateral dialogue with several others.

The Rev. John Switzer, ObSB, PhD, *Ecumenical-Interreligious Officer*

Episcopal Church Women (ECW)

The Episcopal Church Women of Mississippi had a very successful 2023 year. It has been a full year of Zoom Board meetings and two statewide conferences. Incarnation, West Point and Mediator-Redeemer, McComb-Magnolia (held McComb) were our gracious hosts. Our speakers were a creator of Icons and a former special monk now priest serving in Tupelo.

We welcomed new or reorganized ECW chapters at Chapel of the Cross, Madison; St. Alban's, Bovina/Vicksburg and Trinity, Pass Christian.

Lollie Everett of St Philip's, Jackson, was elected ECW Diocesan Woman of the Year for 2024. She will be presented at our National Convention-Triennial at Louisville, KY in June. Ann Milstead, of St. Peter's by-the-Sea, Gulfport, was installed as President-Elect for 2024. President Martha Morgan, Vice-president Cassandra Warren, Secretary Darcy Strickland, Assistant Treasurer Wava Peters, UTO chair Brenda Hawkins, CPC chair Doris Smith, Global Initiatives chair Lindsey Richard and five convocation coordinators will continue to serve through 2024. We are looking for a Children at Risk chair and a Tombigbee coordinator.

Our ECW Spring Conference will be held at St. Peter's by-the-Sea, Gulfport on Saturday,

April 6. Speaker TBA.

Please contact us if you would like to serve at episcopalchurchwomenms@gmail.com or see our information on the ECW diocesan web page & ECW of Ms Facebook page.

In His Name,

Martha E. Morgan, *President*

The Duncan M. Gray Center | Camp Bratton- Green

At the 2023 Annual Council we learned that the negotiations that had been pending since the summer of 2022 had been abandoned and that the Gray Center sale was once again off. During the months following the initial negotiations, the approved 2023 budget for Gray Center had been prepared assuming that the sale was a done thing and that the expenses for the North side would not be repeated.

COVID had an enormous impact on the North and South sides of Way Road. Both sides had been shut down and were mostly mothballed. A skeleton crew was left to oversee the maintenance and the basic operations. From August 2020 until the Spring of 2022, nothing much happened. An empty facility is a deteriorating facility. The decision had been made to wait until 2023 to reopen the camping program. Due to the hard work of many volunteers and staff and the partial success of the Seeds You Sow capital campaign to benefit Gray Center, Camp Bratton-Green did open for the 2022 camping season. While numbers were lower than they had historically been and, with a full complement of new Permanent Staff members, the directors and volunteers more than pulled it off! The program at Camp Bratton-Green proved to be resilient one more time. Thanks to the persistence of many members of the CBG Alumni Association and countless others, six cabins were refurbished and are now air conditioned, along with the south side dining hall. It is a new day!

Before 2023 ends, the CBG program will have served over 650 campers and staff. We have some room to grow that number. Two of the sessions had a combined total of over 58 campers on the waiting list. One of the many projects in the planning stage is the remodel of Cabin 4. With some repair and remodeling work yet to be done on the Rose Hill House, we will have added over 15 rooms to our capacity.

In addition to the CBG programs, we have been welcoming several Episcopal and other groups who are using two of the Cottages (Chalets) on the North side, Rose Hill and the cabins on the South side. Cathy Davis is our contact for reservations (cathy@graycenter.org). Many of the weekends and some entire weeks have been booked. DOY and the CBG Alumni Association have regularly scheduled work weeks and weekends. The South side is in better shape than it has

been for some time because of the care shown by staff and volunteers.

We are excited about 2024! A new registration/reservation/application system; improvements and repairs to the Lake House, Rose Hill, and Cabin 4; a revamped website; the continued support of the Bishop, the Executive Committee, Gray Center advisory board, and The Trustees of the Diocese; and, the recommitment and enthusiasm of those committed to the CBG program will insure that Gray Center will continue to fulfill its mission of transforming lives and providing inclusive hospitality.

The Rev. Canon Chip Davis, *Executive Director*

Happening in Mississippi

Happening is an amazing weekend of sharing the love of Christ with others.

March 2023, we held Happening #94 at Trinity, Hattiesburg. Our leaders were Lilly Riddle, Rector, and Skye Sanders, Head Gopher. We had a small group of 18 Happeners and tons of fun!

We started small after COVID-19 for safety reasons and because of the loss of our recruitment. Happening is so dependent upon previous Happeners sharing the good news of Happening and encouraging friends and youth to attend.

Happening #95 at St Philip's, Jackson was different! We had 24 High School Happeners and 6 college/adult Happeners. This was the first time since before COVID to have a college/adult group. Our leaders were Noah David, Rector, and Walker Saia, Head Gopher.

It can be challenging for a parish to let go of everything normal, cancel Sunday School, welcome teenagers, young adults, and seasoned adults from all over MS and other states too, to completely take over every inch of the property. We cannot express how much the parishes of Trinity, Hattiesburg and St Philip's, Jackson did for us, fed us, showered us, transported us, housed us; met every need!! Words are completely inadequate.

Many thanks to our wonderful leaders and staff, Happening cannot happen without you!!

A huge thank you to all of you who donated supplies, made/wrote Caritas, fed, showered, transported, and prayed for us. You are our unsung heroes!

We will be at St Peter's, Oxford for Happening #96 in March 2024. At the time of this reporting, we do not have a location for Happening #97 but hope to have that location planned soon.

May all your dreams bloom like daisies in the sun,
Deanna Alford and **The Rev Carrie Duncan**, *Co-coordinators*

Licensed Lay Ministry

During 2023, it is my pleasure to report that we have received 25 new applications in the process for Licensing as Diocesan Worship Leaders. Presently there are 14 persons that are in process of reaching that goal.

Five persons have completed the Licensed Worship Leader Education program and have been recommended for licensing. Three of these people have been licensed by the bishop as of September 1, 2023 and two more have been recommended for licensing as of November 15, 2023.

Calendar year 2023 has shown to continue a steady growth of Diocesan Worship Leaders, Eucharistic Ministers and Eucharistic Visitors within our Diocese.

David Benway, *Director*

Ministry with LGBT Persons

The mission of the Committee on Ministry with LGBT Persons is to continue Christ's work of reconciliation and unity among all persons by attaining full inclusion of LGBT persons, and their allies, in the life of the Church. As Episcopalians seeking to serve all persons and respect the dignity of every human being, the members of this Committee sought to create opportunities for engagement and advocacy for individuals and parishes throughout the Diocese. To that end, our goals are to educate Mississippi Episcopalians about sexual orientation and gender identity, to advocate for social justice and equity for LGBT people, with their allies, and to produce meaningful programs for clergy and laity. Substantial work toward these goals was accomplished, until COVID.

Gathering was not a possibility until this year. A modified one-day 15th Annual Spiritual Renewal Retreat was held at Trinity Episcopal Church in Hattiesburg in October and 52 people attended. This year's facilitator was our own the Rev. Susan Hrostowski. The theme of the retreat was "Took, Blessed, Broke, Gave", leading participants in meditations and activities on each of these acts of Jesus described in the gospels. At the opening of the retreat, Bishop Seage welcomed Episcopalians, Catholics, Presbyterians, Jews and Baptists, hailing from Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama. The retreat was attended by gay, lesbian, transgender, and bisexual persons as well as straight allies. The Rev. Carrie Duncan, Rector at Trinity, led the retreatants in art as a meditation on each step. This was truly a retreat where all found a "welcome" as we walked a path of love, grace, hope, joy and peace. Attendees for the retreat ranged in age from 16 to 85.

Because of the overwhelming response to the retreat, the Committee will be working to establish more one-day opportunities for gathering in 2024 as well as reestablishing the weekend retreat. Keep an eye on our Facebook page and the DIOMS website for additional information for 2024 spiritual renewal prospects.

Thank you to all committee members for their dedication, commitment and hard work which had enabled this important ministry to touch so many. We will also be seeking new members to the committee this year. So if you are interested, please let us know!

Respectfully submitted,
The Rev. Dcn. Betty Melton and **Kathy Garner**, *Co-chairs*

Mississippi Conference on Church Music and Liturgy

In late July of 2023, the 48th Annual Mississippi Conference on Church Music and Liturgy convened on the campus of Millsaps College in Jackson. We prayed, sang, and shared with each other while affirming our callings to church music ministry and sharpening our skills together under the leadership of a tremendous faculty. The Rev. Greg Millikin, Janet Yieh, and Cynthia DeDakis ministered and

taught us around the theme of "Where is this stupendous stranger-An examination of the liturgies of the Incarnation of Our Lord" (or simply, Christmas in July). Throughout the week, conferees exchanged ideas and learned music that helped us all focus on the liturgies of Christmas, that we all must face each year. The Rev. Jennifer M. Deaton was our conference chaplain, and facilitated a session in self-care. Janet Yieh taught us about her work in amplifying female composers--with an eye to composers from marginalized groups. Cynthia DeDakis led a discussion group about resources from the RSCM and about starting chorister programs in churches.

As we prepare for our 49th conference next summer, we have engaged Dr. Marilyn Keiser, (retired organ professor at I.U.) Mr. Matthew Brown (OCM at St. Luke's in Atlanta), Mr. Dwight Thomas (Canon for Music at the Cathedral of St. Peter in St. Petersburg, FL), and the Rev. Erika Takacs to be our faculty. Our theme will be: "With the Spirit's gifts empower us for the work of ministry." It is our hope that more musicians throughout the diocese will be encouraged and enabled to attend. We continue to strive in keeping costs low for attendees while providing "mountain top" experiences that will keep them inspired, and keep the music ministries of our diocese vital and thriving.

Matthew Woods, Director

The Mississippi Episcopalian

The diocesan newspaper has had another successful year in its ministry of providing diocesan news and official diocesan reports to its subscribers. This is a costly ministry but also an important one as it provides a social "glue" that ties the congregations and ministries of the diocese together and reminds all Episcopalians of the diocese that we are one body under the apostolic oversight of our diocesan bishop. As this ministry moves forward, serious reflection needs to be given to the need for creating a financially sustainable future for the newspaper, including the possibility of charging for print subscriptions while keeping the electronic version without charge. Beginning with the December 2023 edition, the new editor and designer of the paper is Mr. Wil Oakes, replacing the Rev. John Switzer, who retired due to health challenges.

The Rev. John Switzer, ObSB, PhD, Outgoing Editor

Racial Reconciliation Task Force

The mission of the Church as stated in the catechism is "to restore all people to unity with God and each other in Christ." The Racial Reconciliation Task Force of the Diocese of Mississippi takes the Church's mission seriously. This ministry of promoting racial healing is the crucial work God's people can do to further the Gospel. The task force serves to amplify the bishop's ministry of reconciliation in the Diocese.

The Episcopal Church's Becoming Beloved Community vision

frames a path to address racial injustice and all other forms of oppression. This has become TEC's never-ending, lifelong commitment to grow as communities of reconcilers, healers, and justice-makers. It upholds four spiritual disciplines: Telling the Truth, Proclaiming the Dream, Repairing the Breach, and Practicing the Way. Because this is the work of spiritual formation, and not simply a training or seasonal program, the diocesan task force is the most joyful cheerleader encouraging congregations to exercise these disciplines. This ministry inspires the diocese to embrace the multicultural future of the church.

The task force has members and leadership spread throughout the Diocese. Each month, there is a virtual gathering for an hour of networking, enrichment and organizing. Special guests joining for fellowship and wisdom sharing: John Ashworth and the Rev. Tom Momberg from the Lynching Site Project in Memphis; Von Gordon, Jennifer Heath, and Chauncey Spears from the Alluvial Collection; the Rev. Valerie Mayo from the Episcopal Seminary of the Southwest, Suzanne Edwards-Acton from My Work To Do; Dr. Robert Jones promoting his book, *The Hidden Roots of White Supremacy*; Dr. Mary Coleman promoting her book, *Land, Promise and Peril*; Superintendent Kathleen Bond with Natchez National Historical Park, NPS.

Day of Dialogue for Racial Healing and Relationship Building

- Over 200 participated in the diocesan sponsored anti-racism workshops in 2023. Thanks to St. James, Jackson (78); St. Peter's by-the-Sea, Gulfport (42); Resurrection, Starkville (57); the Bishop Search Committee (11); and the Transition Committee (14) for sponsoring workshops in 2023.

These day-long, shame free workshops have a compelling agenda filled with storytelling and faith-sharing, connections, and deepening understanding mainly about oneself. This spiritual formation is meant to enhance loving speech, compassionate listening, and strength skills for healthy conversations about sensitive issues. These sessions are facilitated by seasoned leaders competent in shaping a prayerful environment. When participants use the same vocabulary, new conversations for racial healing take place.

Sacred Ground - Sacred Ground is a film-based dialogue series on race and faith. Small groups walk prayerfully through the chapters of American history of race and racism. This year, circles met at St. Paul's, Corinth; Nativity, Water Valley; and St. Andrew's Cathedral, Jackson.

Retreats and Revivals - The Rev. Ed Bacon led the Lenten 2023 Retreat, Spiritual Formation furthering Beloved Community. Over 110 participated in this two-session workshop at St. Andrew's Cathedral. Gloria Carter Dickerson led the Advent 2023 Retreat, Making Good Room, at St. Christopher's, Jackson.

Support - Missioner for Beloved Community and Congregational Vitality: the Rev. Andy Andrews, DMin; Becoming Beloved Community Steering Team: the Rev. Marian Fortner (chair), Dr. Anita George, Theo Williams, Kirk Lovejoy, Loretta Hulin, Robbie Fisher, Ed Oliver, the Very Rev. Stephen Kidd, the Rev. Les Hegwood; Facilitators for Day of Dialogue workshops: Loretta Hulin, Theo Williams, Ellen Prewitt, Bernard Hulin, Katy Pacelli, Rebecca Kubler, Ray Hume, the Rev. Dcn. Josie Williams, the Rev. Dcn. Sandy Kimmelman, the Rev. Les Hegwood.

The Rev. Andy Andrews, Chair

Standing Committee

The Standing Committee plays several important roles in the life of the diocese. Canonically, Standing Committee approval is required for all purchase, sale, or lease of property, and any time a congregation undertakes any form of indebtedness. The Standing Committee oversees certain funds used for mission and ministry. Actions such as the admission of missions and parishes to the diocese and the ordination of persons to the Diaconate and Priesthood require the consent of Standing Committee. The election of a bishop in The Episcopal Church requires consent of both a majority of bishops and a majority of diocesan Standing Committees. If the diocese becomes vacant, the Standing Committee becomes the Ecclesiastical Authority. Finally, its most important role is to act as a formal Council of Advisors to the Bishop.

The Standing Committee consists of four Clergy and four lay members, each serving four-year terms. Current members are: the Very Rev. Jody Burnett (President, term ends 2024), Mrs. Tish Goodman (Secretary, term ends 2024), the Rev. Abram Jones (term ends 2025), Mr. Jim Woodrick (term ends 2025), the Rev. Les Hegwood (term ends 2026), Mr. Buck Cooper (term ends 2026), the Rev. Elizabeth Wheatley-Jones (term ends 2027), and Mrs. Barbara Hammer (term ends 2027).

The Standing Committee began 2023 meeting during the 196th Annual Council in Natchez on Saturday, January 28, 2023. The Very Rev. Jody Burnett was elected president, and Tish Goodman was elected secretary. The Rev. Elizabeth Wheatley-Jones and Mrs. Barbara Hammer were both elected to serve four-year terms ending in 2027. The Rev. Abram Jones was elected to fill an unexpired term ending in 2025. The Standing Committee recognized retiring president, Mr. Jim Woodrick, who will remain on the Committee, and expressed appreciation to the retiring members, the Rev. Carrie Duncan and Mr. Adam Gwin for their gifts and service to the diocese and to the Standing Committee.

The Standing Committee continued its work, both in person and on Zoom, for the remainder of the year including five regularly scheduled meetings, and fourteen special called meetings, pursuant to the Standing Committee's Rules of Procedure. Upon the announcement of Bishop Seage's intention to resign, the Standing Committee had the added responsibility this year of overseeing the search for a new Bishop. To assist with this holy and historic effort, the Standing Committee contracted with the Rev. Ron Clingenpeel as our search consultant and formed two sub-committees to ensure a smooth search and transition process.

The Standing Committee wishes to express special appreciation to the members of the Bishop Search Committee for their faithful and diligent work in the search for eleventh Bishop. Members are: Mrs. Alice Perry (Chair), Mr. B.W. Curry, Ms. Rebecca Fish, Dr. Susan Lee, Dr. Richard Price, Dr. Brian Pugh, Mrs. Goldia Revies, Dr. John Samonds, Dr. Stephen Stray, Mrs. Paula Vaughan, the Rev. CJ Meaders, the Rev. Tom Fanning, the Rev. Dcn. Betty Melton, the Rev. Dcn, Sarah Stripp, and the Rev. Morris Thompson (resigned).

The Standing Committee also wishes to express special appreciation to the members of the Bishop Transition Committee for their faithful and diligent work in preparing for the election and consecration of our next Bishop. Members are: Mrs. Katy Pacelli (Chair), Mrs. Jill Bullard, the Rev. Canon Chip Davis, Mrs. Grace Duckworth, Mr. Eric Eaton, Mrs. Jan F. Gadov, Mrs. Julie Goforth, Mrs. Stephania Jackson, Mrs. Barbara Jones, Dr. Susan Lee, Mr. Geoffrey Lewis, the Rev. Austin McGehee, Mr. Dan Smith, the Rev. Marie Smith, Mrs. Lakeisha Thompson, and the Rev. Dcn. Josie Williams.

Bishop's Council of Advice - The Standing Committee met regularly with Bishop Seage to discuss a wide range of issues in the life of the diocese. The Standing Committee appreciates the important working relationship we have with the bishop. We have also expressed a desire for greater communication and collaboration between the diocesan leadership bodies and the diocesan office.

Drennan and Development Funds - The Standing Committee is tasked with the management and oversight of these funds. Accordingly, we received and reviewed the quarterly investment statements from these accounts.

Consents to the Ordination of Bishops - The Standing Committee consented to the election of eight bishops: the Rev. Justin S. Holcomb, Diocese of Central Florida; the Rev. Sally French, Diocese of New Jersey; the Rev. David G. Read, Diocese of West Texas; the Rev. Ann Ritonja, Armed Forces and Federal Ministries; the Rev. Carrie Schofield-Broadbent, Diocese of Maryland; the Rev. John T. W. Harmon, Diocese of Arkansas; the Rev. Jeremiah Williamson, Diocese of Albany; and the Rev. Kristin Uffelman White, Diocese of Southern Ohio. The Standing Committee withheld consent to the election of the Rev. Charlie Holt, Diocese of Florida.

Consents for Holy Orders - The Standing Committee is thankful for its fruitful relationship with the Commission on Ministry as we coordinated our separate roles and shared responsibilities in nurturing postulants and candidates along the pathway to Holy Orders. As required by the Canons, we reviewed files, made recommendations, and interviewed three postulants for ordination: Katie Sorey and Rufus Van Horn to the Sacred Order of Priests, and Tina Frizzell to the Sacred Order of Deacons.

Real Estate Matters - Regarding our responsibilities for dealing with matters of real estate and church indebtedness, we considered five real-estate matters, and consented to the sale/alienation of all five (St. Matthew's, Forest; Redeemer, Biloxi; Holy Trinity, Vicksburg; and two parcels of property at the Gray Center).

As a reminder to any churches wanting to sell, lease, or purchase property, the process for engaging the Standing Committee for consent can be found in our Rules of Procedure, which are published online on the diocesan website. Particular attention should be paid to Section 9 on page 11, entitled Real Property and Debt Issues.

Respectfully Submitted,

The Very Rev. Jody Burnett, *President*

United Thank Offering (UTO)

UTO 2023 Collections sent to National: \$13,403.69; Savings Account at Trustmark National Bank: \$456.00

The 2024 United Thank Offering grant application materials are now available. Over a three-year period The United Thank Offering, in the spirit of Matthew 25:36, focuses on areas of ministry that serve those who society has left out and left behind. The UTO grant focus for 2024 will be on "the stranger" Jesus mentions, offering welcome and inclusivity.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 24, REPORT OF THE REGISTRAR ON NEXT PAGE →

Report of the Registrar 2023

Ordained to the Priesthood

Katie O'Neal Sorey, 6/17/2023, by The Rt. Rev. Brian R. Seage at St. Andrew's Cathedral, Jackson

Johnny Rufus Van Horn, 6/17/2023, by The Rt. Rev. Brian R. Seage at St. Andrew's Cathedral, Jackson

Ordained to Transitional Diaconate

None

Ordained to the Vocational Diaconate

Tina Marie Frizzell, 5/27/2023, by The Rt. Rev. Brian R. Seage at St. Peter's, Oxford.

Dimissory Received

H. Thomas Slawson, III, 1/1/2023, from the Diocese of Maryland

John Childress, 2/8/2023, from the Diocese of Arkansas

Richard "Rick" Roessler, 4/10/2023, from the Diocese of Albany

William Boyles, 6/5/2023, from the Diocese of Alabama

Christopher Powell, 6/1/2023, from the Diocese of Chicago

Tami Roessler, 6/15/2023, from the Diocese of Albany

Christine "Chris" Schaefer, 11/1/2023, from the Diocese of Arkansas

Dimissory Issued

Kyle Seage, 2/1/2023, to Diocese of California

Ben Robertson, 2/14/2023, to Diocese of Virginia

Alex Allain, 2/14/2023, to Diocese of Virginia

Jason Shelby, 2/25/2023, to Diocese of Los Angeles

Ann McLemore, 6/1/2023, to Diocese of Texas

Morris Thompson, 10/1/2023, to Diocese of North Carolina

Katie Bradshaw, 10/1/2023, to Diocese of Atlanta

Changes in the Diocese

Pam Rhea, 1/1/2023, to St. Paul's, Columbus

Marian Fortner, 1/1/2023, to St. Philip's, Jackson

Myron Lockey, 2/1/23, to Holy Innocents, Como

Tom Fanning, 3/1/2023, to Chapel of the Cross, Madison

Rick Roessler, 4/1/2023, to Holy Trinity, Vicksburg

Tami Roessler, 6/15/2023, to Holy Trinity, Vicksburg

Rufus Van Horn, 6/1/2023, to Gray Center, Chaplaincy

Katie Sorey, 7/1/2023, to St. Paul's, Meridian

Rick Devenport, 7/1/2023, to St. Patrick's, Long Beach

Elizabeth Graham, 7/15/23, to additionally serve St. John's, Pascagoula (part time)

Rufus Van Horn, 8/1/2023, to Epiphany, Tunica

Morris Thompson, 8/7/2023, to Southern Pines, North Carolina

Katie Bradshaw, 8/27/2023, to Athens, Georgia

Jan Moore, 9/10/23, to Ascension, Hattiesburg

William Boyles, 10/1/2023, to St. Mark's, Jackson

Elizabeth Graham, 10/15/23, to Non-parochial

John Switzer, 10/31/2023, to Non-parochial

Scott Lenoir, 10/31/2023, to St. Pierre's, Gautier

Andrew McLarty, 11/1/2023, to St. Paul's, Columbus

Died

The Rev. Dcn. James Mansell "Jim" Lancaster, 2/22/2023

Retired

Paul Stephens, 1/1/2023, to reside in Long Beach

Susan Hrostowski, 5/1/2023, to reside in Hattiesburg

Licensed

Jane Alexander (Western Louisiana)

Geoffrey Butcher (Kentucky)

Ted Dawson (Louisiana)

Sarah H. Gaede (Alabama)

Hugh 'Scoop' Jones (East Tennessee)

Ede Marie Plovanich (Central Gulf Coast)

Brad St. Romain (Texas)

Morris Thompson (House of Bishops)

Peggy Jones

Registrar

Deployment Report

New Calls and Transitions

The Rev. Joe Porter, formerly of the Diocese of West Tennessee lives in Clarksdale and is serving as long-term supply at Redeemer, Greenville. He is canonically resident as of January.

Churches/Chaplaincies in Transition

St. Luke's, Brandon

Redeemer, Brookhaven

Good Shepherd, Columbus

St. Andrew's, Jackson (two canon positions)—
accepting inquiries

St. Philip's, Jackson

Mediator, Meridian

Canterbury, Mississippi State University /
Resurrection, Starkville

St. John's, Pascagoula

Faithful Departed

Please submit Faithful Departed notices to your church for submission

Sandra S. "Sandy" Gunter, 70, communicant of Trinity, Hattiesburg died April 27, 2023.

George H. Gunter, 80, communicant of Trinity, Hattiesburg died May 29, 2023.

Audrey Marion Lechner Batia, 95, communicant of Redeemer, Biloxi, died December 2, 2023.

Peggy Williamson Jeanes, 81, communicant of St. James', Jackson, died December 3, 2023.

John Gordon Corlew, 80, communicant of St. James', Jackson, died December 6, 2023.

Jane Foster Matthews, 88, communicant of Calvary, Michigan City, December 29, 2023

Bishop Seage's 2023 Official Acts

71 Sermons and Addresses	427 Office Conferences and Appointments
23 Baptisms	94 Diocesan Conferences and Meetings
167 Confirmations	29 Other Conferences and Meetings (Univ. of South, All Saints' School, House of Bishops, etc.)
28 Received	7 Other Calls
12 Reaffirmed	27 Community and State Conferences and Meetings
1 Ordinations to the Transitional Diaconate	
2 Ordinations to the Priesthood	
0 Ordinations to the Vocational Diaconate	

we want stories . . .

about your church, your ministry, your school... or whatever is on your Episcopal mind! Send us fully realized stories, photos, or just ideas at msepiscopalian@dioms.org.

Nominations to the 197th Annual Council

TREASURER

Elect one layperson for a one-year term.



CALCOTE, Melissa
St. Paul's, Meridian; Sowashee Convocation

Bank manager, Citizens National Bank. Local Church Involvement: Current: parish treasurer; chorister; member, Altar Guild; Lector; Previous: member, Vestry; chair, Audit Committee; secretary, Finance Committee; member, Liturgical Committee; member, Bereavement Committee; teacher, Sunday School. Community and Civic Involvement:

Current: Board of directors, Meridian Museum of Art; Meridian Area Delta Gamma Alumnae Group; volunteer, LOVE's Kitchen; Previous: treasurer, Meridian Civitan Club; president, Career Women of Meridian; membership committee member, Meridian Navy League. Diocesan Involvement: Treasurer for the last five years, serving on the Executive and Finance Committees and the Trustees.

Special Gifts: With more than 30 years of banking experience and serving as treasurer in my parish for 15 years, I have the ability to interpret and understand information about the financial affairs of the Diocese.

Expectations: I expect to provide oversight to ensure sound stewardship of the property and financial resources entrusted to the Diocese. I expect to have conversations about spending, values, and mission to prayerfully discern how God is calling us to allocate funds for operations, projects, and programs. Lastly, I expect to work with clergy and lay leaders to equip this diocese, its parishes and missions, to share the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Elect two clergypersons for a three-year term.

Elect two laypersons for a three-year term.

CLERGY

[No nominations received]

LAY



LEE, Susan
St. Stephen's, Indianola; Delta Convocation

Retired, Education Administration; Church Musician, St. Stephen's, Indianola. Local Church Involvement: Church musician, planning music and playing for all services; chair, Hospitality Committee; former teacher, Christian Formation to children and youth; assistant teacher, adult Christian Formation;

Altar Guild; Lector; member, Vestry, currently serving as Clerk; accompanist, Children's Choir, Chapel of the Cross, Madison; Bible Study Group. Community and Civic Involvement: chair, Rotary Club, Scholarship Committee; United Daughters of the Confederacy; alumni member, Leadership Sunflower County Outstanding Fellow Award; Mississippi State University Alumni Association; Delta State University Alumni Association; former president, Garden Clubs of Mississippi; volunteer, Barksdale Reading Program; executive committee member, Ladies of Lake Caroline. Diocesan Involvement: member, Bishop Search Committee; member, Bishop Transition Committee; Cursillo; delegate, Annual Council.

Special Gifts: I bring gifts that I brought to and developed in my career profession and my service to the church. As former Associate Commissioner for Academic and Student Affairs for Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning, I gained extensive experience in management of large budgets, staff management, and service on local, state, and national boards. I am a good listener and problem solver, and have excellent communication skills, both oral and written. My service in the local church and the diocese has used my gifts of collaboration, creativity, and discernment.

Expectations: My expectations are to be an active participant of the Executive Committee, attending all meetings and using my gifts to help in every way I can as it pertains to the committee. I expect to be engaged in the work, the ministries, and the mission of the diocese, and to be able to assist the bishop and the diocesan staff.



PRICE, Richard
St. Alban's, Bovina; Old River Convocation

Retired Supervisory Research Scientist, Corps of Engineers. Local Church Involvement: Licensed Lay Reader since 1985; four-term Senior Warden; former member, Vestry; prior member, parish Search committees; member, Cemetery and Finance committees. Community and Civic Involvement: former member, Optimist Club; member, ERDC Alumni

Group (retired Corps of Engineers employees helping STEM activities within the organization.) Diocesan Involvement: Several-time delegate or alternate, Annual Council; attendee and staff member, Cursillo; former Director of Operations, All Saints School, serving nine years of operation with AmeriCorps and FEMACorps programs; former member, Stewardship Committee; member, Bishop Search Committee.

Special Gifts: I am a lifelong Episcopalian, other than college years remained a member of St. Alban's. I have experience dealing with diocesan level activities, served as Director of Operations for All Saints School during the first nine years of AmeriCorps operations on the campus. I have attended most Annual Councils since 1985, been a delegate to several councils, served on various parish committees and served as senior warden four times for St. Alban's. I was a member of the last Bishop Search Committee that just completed our tasks of bringing five candidates to the Standing Committee.

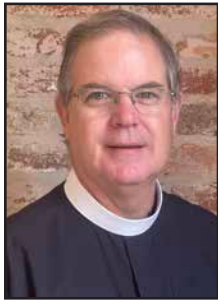
Expectations: I expect to be a part of helping the new bishop achieve his/her goals for the diocese as well as improving communication and operations of the diocese as a whole.

STANDING COMMITTEE

Elect one presbyter for a four-year term; then elect one presbyter for a one-year unexpired term.

Elect one layperson for a four-year term; then elect one layperson for a one-year unexpired term.

PRESBYTER



FANNING, The Rev. Tom
Chapel of the Cross, Madison; Central Convocation

Priest. Local Church Involvement: Assistant Rector. Diocesan Involvement: member, Examining Chaplain; former member, Gun Violence Task Force Committee; facilitator, Fresh Start; member, Diocesan Discernment Committee (COM); member, Bishop Search Committee; former director,

Camp Funshine at Camp Bratton-Green, session for children with burn injuries.

Special Gifts: For over seventeen years, I have served as an ordained minister in this diocese. During this time, I have served a mission congregation, a family-sized parish, a pastoral-sized parish, and now I am serving a corporate-sized parish. Prior to seminary, I worked as a corporate accountant for fifteen years. From my experience as a priest and corporate accountant I have developed a gift for organization and listening.

Expectations: To serve the Diocese of Mississippi as a member of this committee by discerning and voting on ecclesiastical matters that will have an effect on this diocese and the larger Episcopal Church.

LAY



LEWIS, Geoffrey
St. James's, Greenville; Delta Convocation

Right of Way Agent. Local Church Involvement: LEM; Lay Worship Leader; started a weekly parishwide Compline service that has become a once-a-month lay ministry. Community and Civic Involvement: Tour guide, Washington County tourism board (river cruise visitors). Diocesan Involvement: Cursillo; member, Bishop Transition Committee; EfM; Disaster Preparedness and Response Team (DPRT).

Special Gifts: My ability to listen, to the needs and wants of others. I genuinely care about people and will go out of my way to interact with them, or make one feel welcome, whether it be at church, or in the grocery store. I care so much about our diocese and its rich history. I would love for us to get back to the days where we did not have these small "mission" churches, that we make all these churches active and lively congregations again.

Expectations: To learn more about how our diocese works. No better way to learn, than to be involved.



PUGH, Brian
Resurrection, Starkville; Tombigbee Convocation

Executive Director, Stennis Center for Public Service (federal, Legislative Branch Agency of Government with offices in Starkville and Washington, D.C.) Local Church Involvement: former president, Men's Group (St. Mark's, Jackson); volunteer, Casserole Kitchen, also coordinating MSU student

volunteers. Community and Civic Involvement: Secretary-treasurer, Mississippi Home Corporation Board; advisory board member, Masters of Public Policy and Administration (MSU); former member, Board of Directors, MS Humanities Council; former member, Advisory Board, MS KIDS COUNT; former member, Board of Directors, MS Public Broadcasting Foundation; former member, Board of Directors, MS Historical Society; former vice-chair, Public Procurement Review Board (PPRB), State of Mississippi; former Revenue Estimating Group, State of Mississippi; former Investment Committee, State of Mississippi; former member, Executive Board, MS Heritage Trust, serving as president, vice-president, and treasurer. *Diocesan Involvement:* Member, Bishop Search Committee; shepherd, Meet & Greet Week (for one of the five bishop candidates.)

Special Gifts: One of my greatest gifts is a good understanding of finance. While I have never served on a finance committee for a church, I have experience in both public and personal finance. In regards to the former, I served as a budget analyst for the Mississippi Legislative Budget Office, as Finance Director for the Governor's Office, and as the Deputy Executive Director/Deputy State Fiscal Officer for the Mississippi Department of Finance & Administration. Additionally, I serve on the faculty for the Mississippi State University's Honors College and teach multiple public finance courses. I have a public finance book published by the University Press of Mississippi, and I am currently working on another. I was also selected as the Mississippi Business Journal's 50 Under 40 Top Person of the Year for 2020.

Expectations: My expectations are to be able to assist with electing new bishops as well as help with property matters and questions of incumbrance or indebtedness. While I understand that there is much more to the position, the expectations that I mentioned in the previous sentence is what I expect to be able to offer the most of my expertise in, since I have experience in those areas.



SAMONDS, John
St. Peter's, Oxford; Coldwater Convocation

Associate Dean, Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors College, University of Mississippi. Local Church Involvement: Lector; Lay Eucharistic Minister; Lay Eucharistic Visitor; member, Finance Committee; former member, parish Vestry; two-time Senior Warden; member, Brotherhood of St. Peter; outreach to Lafayette County Detention Center; former member,

Capital Campaign Committee; parish Library; outreach through parish Angel Tree ministry. *Community and Civic Involvement:* Member, Yoknapatawpha Arts Council. *Diocesan Involvement:* Bishop Search Committee; delegate or alternate, several Annual Councils.

Special Gifts: As a long-time parishioner of St. Peter's, Oxford, I have served on the Vestry twice, once for four-and-a-half years and once for four years. Both times, I ended my tenure as Senior Warden, including in 2016 when we were searching for a rector. In addition to having served on the vestry, I am a member of the finance committee. I also serve as a LEM/LEV and as a lector, and I participate in various prison ministries sponsored by St. Peter's, including annual visits to Parchman. Most recently, I had the honor of serving on the Bishop Search Committee. In this position, I learned much about the Diocese of Mississippi, the role of the bishop, and the candidates standing for this position. Professionally, I serve as an Associate Dean of the Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors College at the University of Mississippi. My duties include oversight of the annual budget for the Honors College, serving as chair of various search committees, and serving on university-wide committees.

Expectations: My expectations of this position are to help with the transition to a new bishop and to assist the new bishop as he or she implements their vision for the Diocese of Mississippi.



STRAY, Stephen
St. Andrew's Cathedral, Jackson; Central Convocation

Medical Research and Education. *Local Church Involvement:* St Andrew's Cathedral: Member, Vestry; chorister; Lector; Chalice Bearer; St Paul's Cathedral, Oklahoma City: former member, Vestry; chorister; Indian Ministries; Lector; served in similar liturgical roles at: University of Oklahoma

Canterbury Society, St. Mary's-on-the-Highlands, Birmingham, AL, and Birmingham Episcopal Campus Ministries. *Community and Civic Involvement:* Base Pair Mentor, UMMC/Murrah High School; volunteer, Habitat for Humanity; *Diocesan Involvement:* Bishop Search and Nominating Committee; former member, Standing Committee, serving as president and secretary; former member, Executive Committee; convenor, Diocesan Scholarship Committee. *Diocesan Involvement (previous dioceses):* former member, Standing Committee and College Ministries Task Force (Diocese of Oklahoma.) *National Church Involvement:* Executive Council Consultative Committee on Science, Technology, and Faith.

Special Gifts: I have been blessed to have had a broad range of leadership experience in a number of parishes, dioceses, and at the national level. This has led me to a deep knowledge and love of the Episcopal branch of the Jesus Movement. I know this church to be made up of brave and dedicated women and men, old, and young, black, brown and white, who are yearning to follow Christ's call to love one another. I believe I have been blessed with an enquiring and discerning heart. Due to my scientific training, I am very analytical, and have a deep desire to "get to the bottom" of issues. Above all, I have honed the ability to be a good listener, and hope to apply this to understanding the needs and concerns of the "people in the pews". I am excited by where God is leading us as we embark upon a new era in our ministry.

Expectations: I expect to work closely with other Standing Committee members and the new bishop, whomever she or he may be, to further the Jesus Movement here in the Diocese of Mississippi. I expect that there will be challenges, especially as we re-imagine the ministries of our camp and conference program, and as we seek

not only to re-energize ministries and congregations weakened by COVID and by economic challenges. I expect this work to require thoughtfulness and prayerfulness. Most of all, I expect to listen to the needs and dreams of people throughout the diocese, and for what the still, small voice of God is saying to us.

TRUSTEE

Elect one layperson for a four-year term.



BENNER, Lauren Sulser
St. Columb's, Ridgeland; Central Convocation

Realtor, Kennedy & Co.; former Executive Director, Mississippi Lumber Manufacturers Association. *Local Church Involvement:* Greeter. *Community and Civic Involvement:* 15-year member, Board of Directors, Canopy Children's Solutions (formerly The Mississippi Children's Home Services); vice-president

(upper school), JAA parent board. *Diocesan Involvement:* Trustees of the Diocese of Mississippi, serving currently as secretary.

Special Gifts: With an MBA and over 20 years of business, real estate, and professional industry experience, I have enjoyed the opportunity to serve as a Trustee of the Diocese and would be honored to continue service in this important capacity to and for the diocese.

Expectations: To serve, promote, and protect the assets, holdings, and interests of the Episcopal Church across the State and Diocese of Mississippi.

ALTERNATE DEPUTY TO GENERAL CONVENTION (2024)

Elect one layperson to serve as alternate.

[No nominations received]

DISCIPLINARY BOARD

Elect one clergyperson for a three-year term.

Elect one layperson for a three-year term.

CLERGY

[No nominations received]

LAY

[No nominations received]

TRUSTEE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF THE SOUTH

Elect one layperson for a three-year term.



BAGLEY, Scott
St. Matthew's, Kosciusko; Central Convocation

Retired United States Air Force Judge Advocate. *Local Church Involvement:* member, Vestry; Senior Warden; Junior Warden; Treasurer. *Community and Civic Involvement:* President, Hancock County Historical Society; secretary, Board of Directors, Helping Hands Ministries of Attala

County. *Diocesan Involvement:* Trustee, University of the South; member, Diocesan Disciplinary Board.

Special Gifts: I am a graduate of Sewanee (B.A. Political Science - 1973) and a current trustee of the university. I'm confident I have a solid understanding of what this special institution offers and can offer and what its challenges are in the years ahead.

Expectations: I expect to be able to support the new university administration in continuing Sewanee's one-of-a-kind university experience and in helping it meet the many challenges facing all liberal arts colleges as well as the unique challenges facing this university alone.

HONDURAS

MEDICAL MISSION

ADVANCE TEAM ARRIVES FEBRUARY 8

MAIN TEAM ARRIVES FEBRUARY 10

MISSION LASTS UNTIL FEBRUARY 17

YOUR PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED!

UTO Grant Criteria and Forms (also supplies) are found at www.episcopalchurch.org/uto. Completed grant forms will be accepted at the diocesan office until Friday, January 5, 2024 at 5:00 p.m. Please note this is an earlier date than usual. One grant from the Diocese and one from Companion can be submitted to National by Friday, January 14, 2024.

UTO Participating Parishes to date in 2023: Redeemer; Biloxi; St. Luke's, Brandon; Calvary, Cleveland; St. Elizabeth's, Collins; St. Paul's, Columbus; St. Thomas's, Diamondhead; St. Peters by-the-Sea, Gulfport; St. Stephen's, Indianola; St. Mark's, Jackson; St. Philip's, Jackson; Chapel of the Cross, Madison; Mediator, Meridian; Mediator-Redeemer, McComb-Magnolia; St. Peter's, Oxford; Trinity, Pass Christian; St. Paul's, Picayune; Chapel of the Cross, Rolling Fork; Good Shepherd, Terry; Christ Church, Vicksburg; Holy Trinity, Vicksburg; St. Alban's, Bovina/Vicksburg; St. Mary's, Vicksburg; and Incarnation, West Point.

Please send your UTO offerings in a check made payable to UTO by November 22, 2024, to: Brenda Hawkins, UTO Chair, ECW, Diocese of MS, c/o 330 Lakewood Rd., Vicksburg, MS 39180; 601-573-6962; brendadavishawkins@gmail.com

WHAT ARE YOU THANKFUL FOR?

With Thanksgiving and Appreciation,
Brenda Davis Hawkins, Coordinator

The University of the South: Sewanee

The University of the South is the only institute of higher education founded and governed by dioceses of the Episcopal Church. The bishops, clergy, and laity of more than two-dozen dioceses form the core of the University's Board of Trustees. These connections foster mutually beneficial relationships that make Sewanee a truly unique and special place. For more information or to view this report online, visit episcopal.sewanee.edu

2023-2024 SEWANEE ALMANAC: College of Arts & Sciences: Total enrollment in the College - 1,755; Total aid awarded to College students from Constituent Dioceses - \$41M; Total number of Episcopal College students from all 27 Constituent Dioceses - 319; **School of Theology:** Enrollment in the seminary - 57; 100% of seminarians who applied for financial aid received support; Constituent Dioceses represented by current seminary student body - 23; **How Your Diocese Supports Sewanee Financially** (Includes Sewanee Fund and capital project gifts for the fiscal year 7/1/2022 - 6/30/2023): Diocesan support in FY23 - \$500; Support from parishes in the diocese - \$30,238; Percentage of parishes in the diocese that made a gift to Sewanee - 19%; Sewanee is committed to meeting our students' full financial need. Your support helps us meet this goal; **How Your Diocese Engages with Sewanee:** College students from the diocesan area - 14; Seminarians from the diocese - 1; School of Theology alumni currently serving in the diocese - 24; EfM groups in the diocese - 8; **Your Trustees:** The Rt. Rev. Brian R. Seage; Scott Bagley, 2024; Harris Powers, 2025; The Rev. W. Andrew McLarty Jr., 2026

The Rev. Casey Perkins, Director
Mary Catherine Alexander, Assistant Director, Office of Church Relations

Proposed Budget 2024

12/31/23 Actual	2023 BUDGET	%	2024 PROPOSED BUDGET
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RECEIPTS

1	Parochial Pledges	1,522,664	1,426,171	107%	1,473,000
2	Prior Year Pledge Payments	47,683	75,000	64%	40,000
3	Pre-payments (actual)	-	-		-
4	PPP loan				
5	Phillips Trust	239,552	239,552	100%	216,207
6	Johnson Home Trust	8,250	8,250	100%	8,250
7	Beasley Trust	16,244	16,244	100%	14,186
8	Thompson Trust	34,780	34,780	100%	32,798
9	Thompson Aging Ministries	979	979	100%	854
10	Kenneth Wills Trust	13,250	17,500	76%	16,000
11	Wade Moore	3,539	3,539	100%	3,090
12	Robert Donnelly	5,042	5,042	100%	4,403
13	George Hewes Fund	1,403	1,403	100%	1,225
14	Virginia Smith Fund	3,327	3,327	100%	2,770
15	Thomas Blake Fund	10,000	10,000	100%	10,000
16	Epis Outreach Foundation	6,486	6,486	100%	5,664
17	Allin House Endowment	50,693	50,693	100%	47,900
18	Theological Education Trusts	6,534	6,534	100%	6,534
19	Edward A. DeMiller Fund	16,986	16,986	100%	14,854
20	Bonnie Vaught	5,152	5,152	100%	4,538
21	Walsh Family Fund	-	60,000	100%	-
22	Okolona Storybook		-		-
23	Small Church Fund - Venture		5,000		5,000
24	A C Marble School				
25	Gibbons for Marble School	4,465	10,000	45%	10,000
26	Virginia Smith for ACM School		-		-
27	Coast Loans - Gibbons	19,163	32,000	60%	24,000

28	Hispanic Ministry		-		-
29	A.C. Marble School Grants		-		-
30					
31	Battle Hill	2,283	2,000	114%	2,000
32	Trustee Book-keeping	6,000	6,000	100%	6,000
33	Miscellaneous Donations	46,430	500	9286%	500
34	Seage Discretionary Fund	321	-		-
35	Bishop's Annual Appeal	9,747	25,000	39%	25,000
36	Missioner for BC&CV Income - Jackson, St. Christopher	13,200	14,400	92%	14,400
37	Missioner for BC&CV Income - Donations & Grants	66,979	66,725	100%	66,725
38	Missioner for BC&CV Income - Trustees	7,979	-	100%	-
39					
40	Investment Interest				
41	Memorial Income				
42	Mississippi Episcopalian Ads	1,440	2,500	58%	2,500
43	Delta Tornado fund	29,678		100%	
44	Marble School 1% Giving				
45	Church Mutual Safety Dividends	27,496		100%	
46	Interest Income	30,195	-	100%	45,000
47	other	-			
48	Withdrawal from Principal				100,000
49	Pilgrimage Income	(505)			
50	TOTAL RECEIPTS	2,257,940	2,151,763	105%	2,203,398

SUPPORT OF THE BISHOP

51	Stipend	117,916	117,916	100%	71,750
52	Housing Allowance	42,000	42,000	100%	24,500
53	Pension Premium	31,183	28,785	108%	17,325
54	Travel	14,000	7,000	200%	4,083

55	Continuing Education	750	1,500	50%	1,500
56	Sabbatical Reserve	250	250	100%	250
57	Moving Expense		-		-
58	College for Bishops		-		-
59	Automobile Expense	5,103	4,020	127%	2,345
60	Medical, Life, Disability Insurance	31,252	31,252	100%	20,835
61	BISHOP SEAGE TOTAL	242,454	232,723	104%	142,588
62					
63	Stipend	-	-		82,000
64	Housing Allowance		-		28,000
65	Pension Premium		-		19,800
66	Travel		-		7,000
67	Continuing Education		-		3,500
68	Sabbatical Reserve		-		250
69	Moving Expense Paid by Trustee		-		-
70	College for Bishops		-		-
71	Automobile Expense		-		4,020
72	Medical, Life, Disability Insurance		-		20,835
73	TOTAL				165,405

CANON TO THE ORDINARY & CHIEF OF STAFF

74	Stipend	60,480	60,481	100%	62,900
75	Housing Allowance	50,000	50,000	100%	51,250
76	Pension Premium	19,887	19,887	100%	20,547
77	Travel	6,828	4,000	171%	4,000
78	Continuing Education	1,515	500	303%	500
79	Sabbatical Reserve	250	250	100%	250
80	Automobile Expense		-		-
81	Automobile Expense		-		-
82	Insurance Expense	11,568	11,568	100%	11,568
83	CANON PONDER TOTAL	150,528	146,686	103%	151,015

CANON FOR ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE

84	Stipend	64,166	70,000	92%	83,200
85	Housing Allowance	-	-		-
86	Pension Premium	5,250	-		7,488
87	Moving Expenses	13,755	11,500	120%	-

88	Travel & Continuing Education	2,990	4,500	66%	-
89	Sabbatical Reserve	-	-		2,886
90	Medical, Life, Disability Insurance	21,484	-		18,576
91	CANON MARTIN TOTAL	107,645	86,000	125%	112,150

EPISCOPAL COMMITMENTS

92	TEC Commitment	257,577	257,577	100%	267,796
93	Province IV Quota	2,163	2,163	100%	2,163
94					
95	EPISCOPAL COMMITMENTS TOTAL	259,740	259,740	100%	269,959

SUPPORT STAFF

96	Bookkeeper	64,146	64,146	100%	64,146
97	Controller		-		-
98	Assistant to the Canons	51,285	51,285	100%	53,336
99	Assistant to the Bishop	66,276	66,276	100%	68,928
100	Sexton	9,182	8,945	103%	8,945
101	Fundraiser Assistant		-		-
102	Cont Ed / Development	-	3,000	0%	3,000
103	Lay Sabbatical Reserve	2,250	2,250	100%	2,250
104	FICA Taxes	27,648	23,570	117%	23,570
105	Pension Premiums	15,797	28,000	56%	17,582
106	Life, Medical Insurance, Disability	33,144	65,635	50%	28,864
107	SUPPORT STAFF TOTAL	269,728	313,107	86%	270,621

GENERAL OFFICE

108	Merit Increases		-		-
109	General	1,887	2,000	94%	2,000
110	Parking - staff	6,888	6,000	115%	7,000
111	Parking - meetings	-	500	0%	500
112	Dues and Subscriptions	3,316	2,700	123%	2,700
113	Postage	5,928	6,250	95%	6,250
114	Supplies	5,902	6,000	98%	6,000
115	Printer toner, etc.		-		-
116	Bank Charges and Fees	2,560	900	284%	900
117	Telephone	17,943	19,700	91%	19,700
118	Maintenance - Computers & Software	6,632	5,000	133%	5,000
119	Equipment Reserve	3,319	1,000	332%	2,800
120	Equipment Maintenance	1,223	1,223	100%	1,223

121	Annual Council Reserve	10,000	10,000	100%	10,000
122	Automobile Reserve	4,999	5,000	100%	5,000
123	Staff Development	1,176	900	131%	900
124	Insurance	4,940	7,200	69%	7,200
125	Workers' Compensation	-	7,000	0%	7,000
126	Audit	18,500	24,000	77%	24,000
127	Miscellaneous	1,394	-	-	-
128	Duplicating - Copier	6,960	6,250	111%	6,250
129	Duplication - Supplies	-	-	-	-
130	PPP loan	-	-	-	-
131	GENERAL OFFICE TOTAL	103,567	111,623	93%	114,423

DEBT SERVICE FOR COAST PROPERTIES

132	Gulfport, St. Mark's	2,385	8,000	30%	-
133	Biloxi, Redeemer	-	-	-	-
134	Long Beach, St. Patrick's	16,777	24,000	70%	24,000
135	DEBT SERVICE FOR COAST PROPERTIES TOTAL	19,162	32,000	60%	24,000

THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION

136	Seminary Tuition and Fees	1,500	9,750	15%	9,750
137	Seminarian Travel Fund	-	-	0%	-
138	Seminarian Medical & Psychological Exams	-	4,000	0%	4,000
139	Seminarian Life & Medical Insurance	4,745	15,250	31%	15,250
140	Moving to Seminary	1,909	3,000	64%	3,000
141	THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION TOTAL	8,154	32,000	25%	32,000

CONGREGATIONS/COMMUNITIES

142	Olive Branch, Holy Cross	22,299	23,000	97%	21,000
143	Columbus, Good Shepherd	2,467	30,000	8%	20,000
144	Parchman, St. Vincent	-	1,000	0%	-
145	Southaven, St. Timothy's	89,999	90,000	100%	80,000
146	Congregation Support / Preserve & Protect	12,495	10,000	125%	10,000
147	PROPERTY MAINTENANCE	-	-	-	-

148	Itta Bena - insurance	-	1,500	0%	1,500
149	124 Price Street, Oxford - Maintenance	-	-	-	-
150	CONGREGATIONS TOTAL	127,260	155,500	82%	132,500

MISSIONER FOR BECOMING BLOVED & LOVED COMMUNITIES & CONG. VITALITY

151	Stipend	58,900	59,850	98%	59,850
152	Housing Allowance	36,020	35,150	102%	35,150
153	Pension Assessment	18,525	17,100	108%	17,100
154	Medical, Life & Disability Insurance	31,252	31,252	100%	31,252
155	Travel/Professional	4,412	4,000	110%	4,000
156	Continuing Education	528	500	106%	500
157	Sabbatical Reserve	250	-	-	-
158		-	-	-	-
159	MISSIONER FOR BBC&CVTOTAL	149,887	147,852	101%	147,852

GRAY CENTER

160	Gray Center Support	50,000	50,000	100%	50,000
161	GRAY CENTER TOTAL	50,000	50,000	100%	50,000

MISSIONER FOR CHILDREN & YOUTH FORMATION

162	Stipend	66,856	66,856	100%	69,530
163	Pension	4,512	4,750	95%	6,258
164	FICA Taxes	-	-	-	-
165	Life Disability	914	-	-	-
166	Continuing Education	50	400	13%	400
167	Travel & Professional Reimburs.	1,981	3,000	66%	3,000
168	MISSIONER FOR C&YF	74,313	75,006	99%	79,188

COMMISSION ON MINISTRY

169	COM Expenses	4,783	3,300	145%	3,300
170	Continuing Education for Clergy	500	1,500	33%	1,500
171	COMMISSION ON MINISTRY	5,283	4,800	110%	4,800

CURACY TRAINING

172	Curacy Support	43,917	39,000	113%	29,000
173	Moving from Seminary / Missions	3,973	5,000	79%	5,000
174	CURACY TRAINING	47,890	44,000	109%	34,000

RETIRED PRESBYTER SUPPORT

175	Retired Presbyter Life & Medical Insurance	23,763	26,000	91%	26,000
176	Retired Clergy Wellness				
177	Retired Bishop Travel & Honor	2,189	5,000	44%	6,500
178	Phillips Christmas	8,500	8,500	100%	8,500
179	RETIRED PRESBYTER SUPPORT TOTAL	34,452	39,500	87%	41,000

PLANNED GIVING AND DEVELOPMENT

180	Planned Giving Committee		-	-	-
181	PLANNED GIVING TOTAL				

YOUTH COMMISSION

182	Division of Youth (net)	6,677	10,000	67%	14,920
183	Happening (Net)	2,783	7,995	35%	7,995
184	New Initiatives		-		-
185	Continuing Education		-		-
186	Parish Development	913	3,350	27%	1,950
187	Adults Working with Youth	2,558	1,900	135%	1,900
188	Youth Commission Expenses	5,889	6,620	89%	6,620
189	Office Supplies & Printing				
190	YOUTH COMMISSION TOTAL	18,820	29,865	63%	33,385

CLERGY CONFERENCES

191	Clergy Conference	14,269	20,000	71%	20,000
192	Clergy Spouses' Retreat	1,000	5,000	20%	2,500
193	Post Ordination Consultation / Gathering of Rec. Ord.		1,500	0%	1,500
194	CLERGY CONFERENCES TOTAL	15,269	26,500	58%	24,000

ORDAINED MISCELLANEOUS

195	Clergy Consultation	204	750	27%	750
196	Ordinations	3,155	3,500	90%	3,500
197	ORDAINED MISCELLANEOUS TOTAL	3,359	4,250	79%	4,250

CONGREGATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

198	Venture Grants	-	5,000	0%	5,000
199	Resourcing Event		-		-

200	Congregational Vitality	278	10,000	3%	12,500
201	CONGREGATIONAL DEVELOPMENT TOTAL	278	15,000	2%	17,500

RECONCILING

202	Racial Reconciliation Task Force	5,795	5,800	100%	5,800
203	Ministry & Form - Diaconate	1	5,000	0%	5,000
204	Ministry with Gay & Lesbian Persons	761	4,000	19%	4,000
205	Disaster Preparedness		500	0%	500
206	Episcopal Relief and Development Representative		500	0%	500
207	RECONCILING TOTAL	6,557	15,800	42%	15,800

OUTREACH

208	MS Religious Leadership Conference		-	-	-
209	Community & Faith Commitments	1,500	1,000	150%	1,000
210	Panama: Overseas Mission Clergy	5,000	5,000	100%	5,000
211	University of the South	500	500	100%	500
212	Hospice Ministries, Inc.	-	1,000		-
213	OUTREACH TOTAL	7,000	7,500	93%	6,500

COMMUNICATIONS

214	Communications Coordinator	18,988	21,540	88%	17,544
215	The Mississippi Episcopalian	39,591	42,500	93%	40,500
216	Communications & Training				
217	Website support	5,843	7,620	77%	7,620
218	COMMUNICATIONS TOTAL	64,422	71,660	90%	65,664

ALLIN HOUSE

219	Utilities	8,448	7,000	121%	7,000
220	Maintenance Contracts	671	3,100	22%	3,100
221	Repairs and Maintenance Reserve	40,887	40,593	101%	40,593
222	ALLIN HOUSE TOTAL	50,006	50,693	99%	50,693

COLLEGE CHAPLAINS

223	Delta State University	11,660	11,660	100%	10,660
224	USM Chaplaincy	46,249	46,250	100%	55,250
225	Oxford, UM		-		-
226	Starkville, MSU	108,646	108,646	100%	55,000
227	Millsaps Canterbury	-	2,500	0%	2,500
228	Jackson State University -				2,500
229	Young Adult Ministry	-	6,000	0%	6,000
230	Campus Works and Ministries		-		-
231	COLLEGE TOTAL	166,555	175,056	95%	131,910

ONE CHURCH COMMITTEES / RESOURCES

232	Archives and History	1,774	2,500	71%	2,500
233	Safe Church Committee		2,000	0%	2,000
234	Safe Church Reserve Fund		-		-
235	Blanket Surety Bond	2,370	2,370	100%	2,370
236	Hispanic Ministry		-		-
237	Companion Diocese		500		500
238	Mission Trip to Uganda		-	-	-
239	Sudanese Ministry				
240	General Convention Deputies	15,000	15,000	100%	17,500
241	Province IV Synod Deputies	4,000	4,000	100%	5,000
242	Lambeth Reserve	2,500	2,500	100%	2,500
243	Diocesan Consultants				
244	Wardens Treasurer Conference				1,500
245	ONE CHURCH COMMITTEES TOTAL	25,644	28,870	89%	33,870

TRANSFORMING COMMITTEES / RESOURCES

246	Fresh Start - Transition Clergy	-	500	-	500
247	Small Church Conference		-		
248	Evangelism		-		
249	Lay Leadership Training Institute				
250	Journey Partners				
251	Mutual Ministry Review				
252	Southeastern Deployment Network				
253	General Convention Day				
254	Wellness Initiatives		500	-	500
255	Iona Partnership	7,500	7,500	100%	7,500

256	Marble School	(5,535)	10,000	-55%	10,000
257	Marble School 1%	4,707			
258	Cursillo	-	2,500	0%	2,500
259	Outreach Foundation				
260	EFM	2,750	2,750	100%	2,750
261	Theological Convocation				
262	TRANSFORMING COMMITTEES / RESOURCES TOTAL	9,422	23,750	0	23,750

PRISON MINISTRY

263	Parchman, Chaplain				
264	Storybook project				
265	PRISON MINISTRY TOTAL				

IN MISSION COMMITTEES / RESOURCES

266	Housing Equity Liquidation	4,339			
267	AIDS	624	1,750	36%	1,750
268	Lay Leadership Conference		-		
269	Committee Meetings	-			2,000
270	Standing Committee Meetings		500	0%	500
271	Diocesan Journal	2,500	2,500	100%	2,500
272	Bishops' and Chancellors' Conference	2,645	2,300	115%	2,300
273	Background Checks	776	500	155%	500
274	Bishop's Summit		2,000	0%	2,000
275	IN MISSION COMMITTEES TOTAL	10,884	9,550	114%	11,550

INVITING COMMITTEES / RESOURCES

276	Ecumenical & Interreligious Relations	481	439	110%	300
277	Mississippi Music Conference	12,500	12,500	100%	12,500
279	INVITING COMMITTEES TOTAL	12,981	12,939	100%	12,800

280	Miscellaneous	4,233	1,788	237%	-
281	PRIOR YEAR EXPENSES				
282					
283	TOTAL EXPENSES	2,045,493	2,203,758	93%	2,203,172
284	TOTAL RECEIPTS		2,203,758	1	2,203,398
285	Deficit		-	0	226

**VOLUNTARY PROPORTIONAL GIVING
REPORT ON PAGE 31 →**

Diocesan Calendar

Diocesan Meetings continue by Zoom unless otherwise noted. Though the Diocesan Staff works in a hybrid model (office and home), the Allin House is staffed daily, M-F, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

January

- 21** Bishop Seage visits Redeemer, Greenville
- 26** Sacred Ground Circle, online
- 28** Bishop Seage visits St. Paul's, Columbus

February

- 1** *The Mississippi Episcopalian* deadline; 12:00 noon
- 1** Racial Reconciliation Task Force; 12:00 noon
- 2-4** 197th Annual Council of the Diocese, St. Andrew's Episcopal School, North Campus, Ridgeland
- 5-6** Allin House staff holidays – Council Respite
- 6** Small Churches Collaborative, online
- 9** Sacred Ground Circle, online
- 9-10** A.C. Marble School, Solomon Center
- 11** Bishop Seage visits St. Peter's by-the-Lake, Brandon
- 14** ASH WEDNESDAY
- 14** Bishop Seage visits St. Andrew's Lower School, Jackson
- 14** Bishop Seage at St. Mark's, Raymond; Holy Trinity, Crystal Springs; and St. Luke's, Brandon
- 16-18** Junior High DOY, Camp Bratton-Green
- 18** Bishop Seage visits Nativity, Greenwood
- 23** Sacred Ground Circle, online
- 25** Bishop Seage visits St. Stephen's, Indianola
- 27-5** House of Bishops, Camp Allen

March

- 1** *The Mississippi Episcopalian* deadline; 12:00 noon
- 1** Annual Parochial Report Due
- 1** Credentials of Delegates/Alternates to Annual Council Due
- 7** Racial Reconciliation Task Force; 12:00 noon
- 8** Sacred Ground Circle, online
- 10** Daylight Saving Time begins - Spring forward!
- 10** Bishop Seage visits Christ Church, Vicksburg
- 15-16** A.C. Marble School, Solomon Center
- 17** Bishop Seage visits St. Patrick's, Long Beach

March (continued)

- 22** Sacred Ground Circle, online
- 24** THE SUNDAY OF THE PASSION: Palm Sunday
- 24** Bishop Seage visits St. Mary's, Lexington
- 28** MAUNDY THURSDAY
- 28** Bishop Seage at St. Mark's, Raymond
- 29** GOOD FRIDAY
- 29** Bishop Seage at Chapel of the Cross, Madison
- 29** Allin House staff holiday in observance of Good Friday
- 30** HOLY SATURDAY
- 30** Bishop Seage visits St. Philip's, Jackson (Easter Vigil)
- 31** THE SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION: Easter Day
- 31** Bishop Seage at St. Andrew's, Jackson

April

- 1** *The Mississippi Episcopalian* deadline; 12:00 noon
- 1** Allin House staff holiday in observance of Monday in Easter Week
- 3** Bishop Seage visits St. Andrew's Upper School, Ridgeland
- 3** Bishop Seage visits St. Andrew's Lower School, Jackson
- 4** Racial Reconciliation Task Force; 12:00 noon
- 5-7** Sr. High DOY, Camp Bratton-Green
- 6** ECW Spring Conference
- 7** Bishop Seage visits Trinity, Pass Christian
- 12-13** A.C. Marble School, online
- 14** Bishop Seage visits St. Peter's, Oxford, including Canterbury: The Episcopal Church at Ole Miss (ECOM) and the Hispanic Ministry's Santa Eucharistia
- 14** Bishop Seage visits St. Peter's, Oxford
- 16** Bishop Seage visits Canterbury: University of Southern Mississippi, Hattiesburg
- 21** Bishop Seage visits St. Stephen's, Batesville
- 21** Bishop Seage visits St. Timothy's, Southaven
- 26** Event Celebrating the Seages, The Two Mississippi Museums, details forthcoming
- 28** Bishop Seage visits St. Pierre's, Gautier

Voluntary Proportionate Giving Report 12/31/23

2023 as of 11.30.2023						2024 Pledged as of 12/31/23		
PARISH/MISSION	VPG %	Difference	\$\$\$ Estimate	\$\$\$ Actual	% of Pledge	VPG %	Difference	\$\$\$ Estimate
ABERDEEN, St. John's	0.40%		\$3,000	\$3,000	100.00%	0.40%		\$3,000
BAY ST. LOUIS, Christ		-1.00%		\$10,083	0.00%		0.00%	
BELZONI, St. Thomas'		0.00%					0.00%	
BILOXI, Redeemer		-8.50%		\$14,190	0.00%		0.00%	
BOLTON, St. Mary's	2.76%	2.76%	\$500	\$500	100.00%	2.76%	0.00%	\$-
BOVINA, St. Alban's	10.00%	-1.00%	\$24,406	\$24,108	98.78%	10.00%	0.00%	\$23,910
BRANDON, St. Luke's	2.50%		\$2,000	\$2,000	100.00%	2.50%		\$2,000
BRANDON, St. Peter's	12.00%	0.00%	\$39,027	\$35,772	91.66%	12.00%	0.00%	\$42,184
BROOKHAVEN, Redeemer		0.00%		\$822	0.00%		0.00%	
CANTON, Grace	4.00%	-2.00%	\$8,483	\$7,069	83.33%	4.00%	0.00%	\$7,557
CARROLLTON, Grace		0.00%			0.00%		0.00%	
CLARKSDALE, St. George's	11.00%	0.67%	\$26,950	\$17,998	66.78%	11.00%	0.00%	\$35,290
CLEVELAND, Calvary	9.20%	-1.88%	\$20,000	\$17,900	89.50%	9.20%	3715.00%	\$-
CLINTON, Creator	1.00%	1.00%	\$900	\$750	83.33%	1.00%	3715.00%	\$75
COLLINS, St. Elizabeth's	12.00%	2.00%	\$3,360	\$3,157	93.96%	12.00%	0.00%	\$3,715
COLUMBIA, St. Stephen's	8.00%	0.00%	\$6,400	\$4,951	77.36%	8.00%	0.00%	\$-
COLUMBUS, Good Shepherd	15.00%	3.00%	\$10,970	\$3,930	35.82%	15.00%	0.00%	\$5,145
COLUMBUS, St. Paul's	10.00%	-3.00%	\$40,157	\$36,810	91.67%	10.00%	0.00%	\$39,717
COMO, Holy Innocents'	2.60%	2.60%	\$2,040	\$1,700	83.33%	2.60%	0.00%	\$-
CORINTH, St. Paul's	3.50%	0.00%	\$5,355	\$5,355	100.00%	3.50%	0.00%	\$5,703
CRYSTAL SPRINGS, Holy Trinity		-14.00%		\$445	0.00%		0.00%	
DIAMONDHEAD, St. Thomas'	3.70%	0.70%	\$5,667	\$7,378	130.19%	6.70%	3.00%	\$10,000
ENTERPRISE, St. Mary's	8.00%	-3.00%	\$928	\$1,400	150.86%	8.00%	0.00%	\$-
GAUTIER, St. Pierre's	10.00%	-1.00%	\$10,000	\$9,163	91.63%	9.00%	-1.00%	\$11,400
GREENVILLE, Redeemer		-10.00%		\$3,600	0.00%	10.00%	10.00%	\$3,600
GREENVILLE, St. James'	6.00%	-2.00%	\$22,397	\$20,530	91.66%	6.00%	0.00%	\$19,719
GREENWOOD, Nativity	7.00%	-4.00%	\$27,727	\$26,065	94.01%	7.00%	0.00%	\$31,000
GRENADA, All Saints	5.00%	0.00%	\$11,807	\$8,987	76.12%	5.00%	0.00%	\$12,000
GULFPORT, St. Mark's		-10.00%	\$38,648	\$32,207	83.33%		0.00%	\$-
GULFPORT, St. Peter's		-10.00%		\$18,700	0.00%		0.00%	\$-
HATTIESBURG, Ascension	10.00%	1.50%	\$23,027	\$22,800	99.01%	10.00%	0.00%	\$26,724
HATTIESBURG, Trinity	10.00%	4.02%	\$34,487	\$28,700	83.22%	10.00%	0.00%	\$34,487
HOLLANDALE, St. Paul's	10.00%	0.00%	\$1,993	\$300	15.05%	10.00%	0.00%	\$-
HOLLY SPRINGS, Christ	6.32%	-3.68%	\$7,000	\$8,000	114.29%	6.32%	0.00%	\$9,000
INDIANOLA, St. Stephen's	14.00%	0.00%	\$31,308	\$28,699	91.67%	12.00%	-2.00%	\$30,504
INVERNESS, All Saints'		0.00%		\$2,250	0.00%		0.00%	
JACKSON, All Saints'	6.00%	0.00%	\$2,122	\$722	34.03%	6.00%	0.00%	\$-
JACKSON, St. Andrew's	11.00%	1.00%	\$151,826	\$126,520	83.33%	11.00%	0.00%	\$149,477
JACKSON, St. Christopher	11.00%	-1.00%	\$6,182	\$6,259	101.24%	13.00%	2.00%	\$7,784
JACKSON, St. James'	6.77%	-1.23%	\$120,000	\$95,000	79.17%	5.00%	-1.77%	\$114,000
JACKSON, St. Mark's	8.00%	-1.00%	\$8,871	\$8,871	100.00%	8.00%	0.00%	\$-

JACKSON, St. Philip's	15.00%	1.50%	\$89,421	\$81,969	91.67%	12.50%	-2.50%	\$77,868
KOSCIUSKO, St. Matthew's	12.00%	1.00%	\$13,333	\$12,219	91.65%	12.00%	0.00%	\$12,405
LAUREL, St. John's		-8.00%		\$16,947	0.00%		0.00%	\$22,000
LELAND, St. John's	12.00%	0.00%	\$9,039	\$8,286	91.67%	12.00%	0.00%	\$-
LEXINGTON, St. Mary's	22.19%	7.19%	\$3,450	\$2,331	67.57%	22.19%	0.00%	\$3,450
LONG BEACH, St. Patrick's		-1.00%	\$500	\$846	169.20%		0.00%	\$4,330
MADISON, Chapel of the Cross	5.59%	5.59%	\$65,000	\$59,583	91.67%	5.59%	0.00%	\$131,071
MCCOMB, Mediator/Redeemer	12.00%	-0.50%	\$23,184	\$20,413	88.05%	12.00%	0.00%	\$22,500
MERIDIAN, Mediator	12.00%	0.00%	\$53,102	\$48,676	91.66%	12.00%	0.00%	\$49,173
MERIDIAN, St. Paul's	12.50%	1.50%	\$73,212	\$67,110	91.67%	13.00%	0.50%	\$72,165
MICHIGAN CITY, Calvary	30.00%	30.00%	\$800	\$800	100.00%	30.00%	0.00%	\$1,040
NATCHEZ, Trinity	3.75%	-3.25%	\$15,000	\$14,100	94.00%	4.00%	0.25%	\$15,421
OCEAN SPRINGS, St. John's	8.50%	-0.50%	\$36,290	\$33,265	91.66%	11.00%	2.50%	\$34,205
OKOLONA, St. Bernard's		0.00%		\$-	0.00%		0.00%	
OLIVE BRANCH, Holy Cross	13.00%	1.00%	\$8,140	\$8,140	100.00%	13.00%	0.00%	\$6,463
OXFORD, St. Peter's	10.00%	0.00%	\$103,244	\$94,640	91.67%	10.00%	0.00%	\$105,735
PASCAGOULA, St. John's	10.00%	0.00%	\$27,000	\$24,750	91.67%	10.00%	0.00%	\$27,000
PASS CHRISTIAN, Trinity		-5.07%		\$5,027	0.00%	2.20%	2.20%	\$8,934
PERKINSTON, Annunciation		0.00%			0.00%		0.00%	
PHILADELPHIA, St. Francis'	13.00%	0.00%	\$8,400	\$8,000	95.24%	13.00%	0.00%	\$9,600
PICAYUNE, St. Paul's	10.00%	2.80%	\$11,616	\$10,648	91.67%	10.00%	0.00%	\$15,118
PORT GIBSON, St. James'	10.00%	-3.00%	\$5,000	\$5,404	108.08%	10.00%	0.00%	\$5,000
RAYMOND, St. Mark's		-6.34%	\$5,700	\$5,700	100.00%		0.00%	\$5,876
RIDGELAND, St. Columb's	2.00%	-1.38%	\$10,992	\$9,160	83.34%	2.00%	0.00%	\$12,500
ROLLING FORK, Chapel/Cross	7.90%	-5.10%	\$6,000	\$5,500	91.67%	7.90%	0.00%	\$-
ROSEDALE, Grace		-4.00%					0.00%	
SOUTHAVEN, St. Timothy's	5.57%	5.57%	\$18,000	\$12,000	66.67%	2.00%	-3.57%	\$6,222
STARKVILLE, Resurrection	15.00%	1.00%	\$50,557	\$54,178	107.16%	14.00%	-1.00%	\$53,307
SUMNER, Advent		-8.00%		\$4,068	0.00%		0.00%	\$5,632
TERRY, Good Shepherd	3.06%	3.06%	\$1,000	\$1,000	100.00%	3.06%	0.00%	\$1,000
TUNICA, Epiphany		-5.00%			0.00%		0.00%	\$1,000
TUPELO, All Saints'	10.00%	-4.50%	\$47,997	\$43,997	91.67%	10.00%	0.00%	\$53,971
VICKSBURG, Christ	10.60%	1.77%	\$15,600	\$13,000	83.33%	5.00%	-5.60%	\$7,800
VICKSBURG, Holy Trinity	5.00%	-2.16%	\$30,000	\$-	0.00%	5.00%	0.00%	\$30,000
VICKSBURG, St. Mary's		-8.00%		\$1,200	0.00%		0.00%	\$1,800
WATER VALLEY, Nativity	10.00%	10.00%	\$5,600	\$6,900		10.00%	0.00%	\$4,589
WEST POINT, Incarnation		-12.00%		\$20,871	0.00%	10.00%	10.00%	\$20,417
WOODVILLE, St. Paul's		0.00%		\$2,750	0.00%		0.00%	
YAZOO CITY, Trinity	10.00%	0.00%	\$700	\$159	22.71%	10.00%	0.00%	\$-
		0.00%	\$1,435,414	\$1,350,328	94.07%		0.00%	\$1,455,583

**In Support of Resolution A045
of the 76th General Convention
of The Episcopal Church**

Resolved, that the 197th Annual Council of the Episcopal Diocese of Mississippi embrace the spirit of Resolution 2009-A045 of the 76th General Convention of The Episcopal Church by restricting the use of bottled water at Annual Council and at other Church-sponsored activities where safe; and be it further

Resolved, that every baptized Christian be encouraged to practice simple energy and water conservation techniques, so that, by working together, we may restore the beauty of God’s creation and ensure that this resource may again be available to all God’s children in abundance.

Sponsors:

Creation Care Task Force Members

- **Tracy Stebbins**, *Co-Chair Creation Care Task Force*, Resurrection, Starkville
- **John E. Milner**, *Co-Chair Creation Care Task Force*, St. James’s, Jackson
- **Brian Arnett**, *Creation Care Task Force member*, Resurrection, Starkville
- **Gail Bishop**, *Creation Care Task Force member*, St John’s, Ocean Springs
- **Julia Weaver**, *Creation Care Task Force member*, St. John’s, Ocean Springs.
- **The Rev. Elisabeth Malphurs**, *Creation Care Task Force member*, St. Alban’s, Bovina
- **The Rev. Marian Dulaney Fortner**, *Creation Care Task Force member*, Hattiesburg
- **The Rev. Walton Jones**, *Creation Care Task Force member*, Resurrection, Starkville
- **Rex Buffington**, Resurrection, Starkville
- **The Rev. Josh Shipman**, St. Paul’s, Corinth
- **The Rev. Dr. Harold F. Roberts**, *Honorary Assistant*, St. John’s, Ocean Springs
- **The Rev. Andy Andrews**, *Missioner for Beloved Community and Congregational Vitality/Vicar*, St. Christopher’s

Explanation

The production of plastic bottles has an extreme negative impact on the environment.

The bottled water industry generated roughly 600 billion plastic bottles and containers in 2021. This resulted in around 25 million tons of plastic waste — most of which is not recycled and ends up in landfills.*

The waste pile is so gargantuan that it would be enough to fill a line of 40-ton trucks stretching from New York to Bangkok every year, according to the report.

Fossil fuels are the raw ingredient for the vast majority of plastics, which have a heavy carbon footprint from manufacturing through to disposal.

If the plastics industry were a country, it would be the fifth largest emitter of greenhouse gases in the world.

Around 85% of plastic water bottles, which can take up to 1,000 years to degrade, end up as waste. They also end up in the ocean, adding to a vast swirl of plastic waste that poses a serious threat to marine life.

The world’s oceans are polluted by a “plastic smog” made up of approximately 171 trillion plastic particles that, if gathered, would weigh around 2.3 million tons.

In the environment, plastic bottles can break down into minuscule particles, called microplastics, which make their way into our food water, posing a potential risk to human health.

Plastic can also leach toxic chemicals, affecting animals that ingest it, contaminating the animal and human food chains.

General Convention Resolution 2009-A045 originated from the House of Deputies Committee on National and International Concerns

Here is the resolution, as approved at General Convention in full.

2009 - A045 A Resolution to Restrict the Use of Bottled Water and Practice Conservation

Resolved, That the 76th General Convention ask the Church to restrict the use of bottled water at General Convention and at other Church-sponsored activities where safe, because of the extreme negative environmental impact that attends its production, and be it further

Resolved, that every baptized Christian be encouraged to practice simple energy and water conservation techniques so that, by working together, we may restore the beauty of God’s creation and ensure that this resource may again be available to all God’s children in abundance.

See [cnn.com/2022/09/16/us/plastic-recycling-climate-impact-lbg/index.html](https://www.cnn.com/2022/09/16/us/plastic-recycling-climate-impact-lbg/index.html)

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On the War in Ukraine

Resolved, that the 197th Annual Council of the Diocese of Mississippi reaffirms the 196th Annual Council's resolution on the War in Ukraine (2023-E); *and be it further*

Resolved, that this Council encourage individual and corporate prayer for justice and peace in Ukraine, *and be it further*

Resolved, that this Council commend local parish humanitarian initiatives such as Oxford, St. Peter's sleeping bag and stuffed animal drives (Wrap Them in Warmth); *and be it further*

Resolved, that the Secretary of this Council send copies of this resolution and Resolution 2023-E to the U.S. Senators and Representatives from Mississippi, to the Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives and President of the U.S. Senate, and to the Bishop of the Congregations in Europe.

Submitted by:

- Marybeth Marchbanks**, *St. Peter's, Oxford*
- The Rev. Deacon Penny R. Sisson**, *St. Peter's, Oxford*
- The Rev. Deacon Tina Frizzel**, *St. Peter's Oxford*
- Dr. Edward B. Sisson**, *St. Peter's, Oxford*

Explanation

This resolution asks the 197th Annual Council to reaffirm its support of Ukraine as expressed in the 196th Annual Council Resolution 2023-E; to commend local parish humanitarian efforts in support of the millions of displaced Ukrainians; and to send copies of this resolution and Resolution 2023-E to our leaders in Washington.

Resources

- Resolution 2023-E
- In Support of Ukraine

Resolved, that the 196th Annual Council of the Diocese of Mississippi join with the 80th General Convention of The Episcopal Church and His Holiness, Pope Francis in condemning the aggression launched by the Russian Federation on the sovereign and independent nation of Ukraine on February 24, 2022; *and be it further*

Resolved, that this Council call on the leaders of the Russian Federation and its supporters to cease their wanton aggression, especially that directed toward innocent civilians and infrastructure, to enter immediately into good-faith negotiations in which Ukraine's sovereignty and security are assured and call those among the nations of the world who may have the capacity to influence the choices made by those directing this war urgently to do so; *and be it further*

Resolved, that as faithful Christians we call upon our siblings in the churches of Russia and Ukraine to remind their leaders of Christ's commandment that we love our neighbors as we love ourselves—a commandment we believe provides no justification for violent conflict unless in the defense of the vulnerable and defenseless; *and be it further*

Resolved, that this Council strongly urge our national leaders to continue the economic, humanitarian, and military aid to Ukraine in order that their leaders may defend their sovereignty and vulnerable civilian population; *and be it further*

Resolved, that this Council commend the work of Episcopal Relief

and Development, and the Episcopal congregations in Europe, in their ongoing efforts to provide support and succor to all refugees seeking safety and shelter; and helping them rebuild shattered lives; *and be it further*

Resolved, that this Council urge local parishes and missions and individual Episcopalians to support the people of Ukraine through donations to such humanitarian organizations as Episcopal Relief and Development (Ukraine Crisis Response Fund - Episcopal Relief & Development) *, the American Red Cross ([https://www. https. redcross.org/about-us/our-work/international-services/ukraine-crisis.ht](https://www.redcross.org/about-us/our-work/international-services/ukraine-crisis.ht)), World Central Kitchen (<https://wck.org>); *and be it further*

Resolved, that this Council commend the ongoing work of diplomats and peacemakers, and call upon all those in authority to labor without ceasing to bring a swift and just end to this conflict, and a restoration of Ukraine's independence and autonomy under conditions of tranquility; *and be it further*

Resolved, that the Secretary of this Council send copies of this resolution to the U.S. Senators and Representatives from Mississippi and to the Bishop of the Congregations in Europe.

Wrap Ukraine in Warmth

Moved by images of Ukrainian women and children shivering in cold apartments without heat and light because of Russian missile and bomb attacks, Marybeth Marchbanks of St. Peter's parish, Oxford decided to organize a drive to collect sleeping bags for shipment to Ukraine. So, during a hot July in Mississippi, she collected 270 sleeping bags and arranged for their shipping to Ukraine. These sleeping bags are now in Ukraine providing warmth for those displaced even when Russian attacks knock out the power and heat. Marybeth then organized the collection of stuff animals (103). These await shipment to Ukraine where they may give comfort to children separated from their homes and in some cases their family.

See episcopalrelief.org/product/ukraine-crisis-response

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On War in the Holy Land

Resolved, that the 197th Annual Council of the Episcopal Diocese of Mississippi agrees and joins with our Presiding Bishop, the Most Rev. Michael Curry, in saying to the combatants in the Holy Land, “Stop the killing. Stop all of it. Stop today,,” *and be it further*

Resolved, that this Council condemns the atrocities committed by Hamas on October 7, 2023, and their taking of hostages, *and be it further*

Resolved, that this Council laments the loss of innocent civilian life caused by massive Israeli air and ground attacks in Gaza and the loss of life and suffering from forced relocation and inadequate food, potable water, fuel, and medical care caused by these same attacks and by the sealing of Gaza’s borders, *and be it further*

Resolved, that this Council encourages all members of the Diocese of Mississippi to pray for all those killed, wounded, held hostage, and affected by this conflict, *and be it further*

Resolved, that this Council encourages individual and corporate prayers for leaders throughout the world to work together for justice for both Israelis and the Palestinians of Gaza, the West Bank, and Lebanon to create the conditions for establishing a lasting peace, *and be it further*

Resolved, that this Council encourages prayers for the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem and support of the Diocese through the American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem and/or through Episcopal Relief and Development, *and be it further*

Resolved, that this Council sends prayers and assurances of solidarity to the Most Rev. Hosam Rafa Naoum, Archbishop of the Episcopal Church in Jerusalem and the Middle East and the Right Rev. Sani Ibrahim Azar, Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land, assuring them and all to whom they minister that we pray fervently for their strength, safety, comfort and peace, *and be it further*

Resolved, that the Secretary of this Council send copies of this resolution to Archbishop Naoum, Bishop Azar, the President of the United States, the Speaker of the U. S. House of Representatives, the President of the U. S. Senate, and all Mississippi members of the U. S. Congress.

Submitted by:

The Rev. Deacon Penny R. Sisson, *St. Peter’s, Oxford*

Dr. Edward B. Sisson, *St. Peter’s, Oxford*

Explanation

Drawing on an October 27th resolution by The Executive Council of The Episcopal Church and statements by The Most Rev. Michael Curry and The Right Rev. Brian Seage, this resolution condemns the attack by Hamas on 7 October 2023 and Israel’s massive, indiscriminate attacks and sealing of the Gaza border which have resulted in almost 20,000 civilian deaths. The resolution calls on Mississippi Episcopalians to pray for the innocents killed, wounded and displaced in Gaza, the West Bank, and Israel; to pray for the world leaders as they seek a solution that brings justice and peace; and to pray for and support our fellow Anglican and Lutheran brothers in the Holy Land and their leaders. Finally, the resolution calls for copies to be sent to our leaders in Washington.

Resources

Resolution of Executive Committee of The Episcopal Church
Resolution MB 011
Response to Conflict in the Holy Land
October 27, 2023

Resolved, The Executive Council of The Episcopal Church, meeting virtually October 24-27, 2023, manifestly condemns the atrocities committed by Hamas on October 7, 2023, *and be it further*

Resolved, The Executive Council laments the loss of life of innocents caused by Israeli airstrikes in Gaza, as well as the suffering from the lack of electricity, food, and safe water, and all of the violence that has occurred across Israel and Palestine, *and be it further*

Resolved, that the Executive Council encourages all members of The Episcopal Church to pray for all who have been killed, and all people affected by this conflict, *and be it further*

Resolved, that the Council encourages prayers for the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem and support of the Diocese through the American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem and Episcopal Relief and Development, *and be it further*

Resolved, that we send our prayers and assurances of solidarity to all faith leaders, including the Most Rev. Hosam Rafa Naoum, Archbishop of the Episcopal Church in Jerusalem and the Middle East, and the Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land, the Rt. Rev. Sani Ibrahim Azar, and all of the Heads of Churches in Jerusalem, assuring them and all to whom they minister our most fervent prayers for strength, safety, comfort and peace.

Statement

The Most Rev. Michael Curry
November 7, 2023

You may know me as the pastor who is always talking about love, and I am. But today I am mindful that the urgency of love—true, sacrificial love that respects all of humanity—is not just a good feeling, and it is not easy.

We are called to a love that demands much from us. We are called to a love that tells the truth.

Today I raise my voice for love because more than 10,000 people have died in Gaza,* including more than 4,000 children.

The violence is horrific, and the geopolitics are complex, but my call to love is simple: Stop the killing. Stop all of it. Stop it today.

We will not be silent while an entire population is denied food, water, electricity, and fuel needed to run hospitals. We cannot stand by while thousands of civilians die. Our partners in the region tell us they live in terror—that they feel they have died even while alive. They feel that the international community is tacitly sanctioning the killing of civilians and the bombing of schools, hospitals, and refugee camps.

Staying quiet in this moment would be a stain upon our souls and would deepen our complicity.

U.S. leadership must tell Israel to stop bombing civilian areas and allow access for full humanitarian aid to flow freely into Gaza.

Every human child of God—Palestinian and Israeli—deserves safety and security. We need to stop the killing. Today.

Vengeance will not bring back the dead. Retaliation will not repair the harm and the hurt. We are called to love, even and especially when it seems impossible.

We must stop the next 10,000 from being killed. As Episcopalians, we must call upon our leaders—President Biden, members of Congress, and others—to be unequivocal that we need to stop the killing. Today. This is clearly what love demands of us.

Statement

The Right Rev. Brian Seage
Statement on Crisis in Holy Land
October 12, 2023

The Episcopal Church in Mississippi joins our voice with people of other faiths, and no faith, to lament and denounce the violence in the Holy Land.

We condemn Hamas's heinous attack against Israel and innocent civilians

We pray for an end to this senseless and inhumane violence

We pray for leaders throughout the world to work together so that there is peace between Israel and Palestine

See ochaopt.org/content/hostilities-gaza-strip-and-israel-flash-update-31

RESOLUTION ON PROCEDURES FOR ELECTION OF THE ELEVENTH BISHOP OF MISSISSIPPI

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF MISSISSIPPI RESOLUTION ON PROCEDURES FOR ELECTION OF THE ELEVENTH BISHOP OF MISSISSIPPI

October 5, 2023

WHEREAS, on December 27, 2022, The Rt. Rev. Brian R. Seage, Tenth Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Mississippi ("Diocese"), issued a formal call for the election of his successor to serve as the Eleventh Bishop of the Diocese;

WHEREAS, the Standing Committee of the Diocese appointed a Chairperson and members to serve on a Search Committee to review the life and ministry of the Diocese through prayerful listening and discernment, prepare a diocesan profile for the search, educate the people of the Diocese on the election process and ministry of a bishop, and recruit and receive nominees to discern a slate of bishop candidates for the Standing Committee and diocesan Council to consider;

WHEREAS, the Standing Committee of the Diocese also appointed a Chairperson and members to serve on a Transition Committee to conduct the diocesan listening sessions (commonly called "Meet and Greets or walkabouts") with the slate of nominees; coordinate the Bishop election at Council, work with the diocesan staff, resigning Bishop, Bishop-Elect, Presiding Bishop, Commission on Liturgy and Music, and other appropriate groups around the Diocese to plan and carry out the consecration service and related activities; and arrange for the Bishop-Elect's transition into the Diocese;

WHEREAS, on September 20, 2023, the Standing Committee of the Diocese adopted a resolution setting forth the Petition Process for the election of a Bishop, which resolution is posted on the Bishop Search website and the diocesan website, and which Petition Process will be open beginning November 2, 2023 and end on November 8, 2023, whereby any petition candidates who successfully complete the same background check process required of other Search Committee candidates will be included in the Meet and Greets walkabouts and the names of candidates placed in nomination at Council;

WHEREAS, the Search Committee is completing its work and submitting to the Standing Committee a slate of nominees to serve as Bishop-Elect, which is anticipated to be announced on November 1, 2023;

WHEREAS, the work of the Transition Committee is ongoing and

will continue through the transition of the Bishop-Elect;

WHEREAS, the Executive Committee of the Diocese ("Committee"), acting under the authority of Canon 12, Section 1 of the Canons of the Diocese, shall have and exercise, in the interim between Councils, all the powers of Council, except as limited by Canon, and desires to adopt a resolution on procedures for the election of the Eleventh Bishop of Mississippi pursuant to Article XIII of the Constitution of the Diocese, which provides as follows:

THE CONSTITUTION ARTICLE XIII Election of a Bishop

SECTION 1. The election of a Bishop, a Bishop Coadjutor or a Suffragan Bishop, shall be made in the following manner:

(a) After nomination in open Council, the Clergy and Laity shall ballot by Orders, and a majority of each Order on the same ballot shall be necessary to elect, provided that two-thirds of each Order is present.

(b) If fewer than two-thirds of the members of an Order entitled to vote are present at the Council, the vote of two-thirds of those present in such Order shall be necessary for that purpose.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Committee does hereby adopt the following resolution and refers the same to the 197th Annual Council of the Diocese for consideration and adoption.

Resolution on Procedures for Election of the Eleventh Bishop of Mississippi

BE IT RESOLVED that the following procedures be adopted by the Annual Council, for the nomination and election of a Bishop for the Episcopal Diocese of Mississippi, at its 197th Annual Council to be held at St. Andrew's Episcopal School, Upper Campus, Ridgeland, Mississippi, on February 3, 2024. If there is no election on February 3, 2024, an additional reconvened Council will be held at St. Andrew's Episcopal Cathedral in Jackson, Mississippi on February 10, 2024.

A. At the beginning of the Saturday, February 3, 2024, business session of the 197th Council, the Standing Committee of the Episcopal Diocese of Mississippi will place in nomination all candidates selected by the Search Committee and all candidates processed through the Petition Process. No additional nominations for Bishop will be allowed.

B. Balloting shall be done in the following manner:

1. The voting members of Council (the clergy and lay delegates, or alternates substituting for delegates), shall sit in a section reserved for them. This will be open seating and not a reserved section for each church.

2. At the time a ballot is called, a ballot shall be electronically presented onscreen within sight of each voting member of Council; clerical and lay ballots will clearly be identified as such, or as announced by the Chair, a single unified ballot may be presented which can be divided by Order (clerical or lay) by means of the assigned electronic voting device.

3. The voting member shall mark the nominee of choice electronically as instructed; and remain seated.

4. Once the presentation of ballots to the voting members of Council begins, no voting member may leave the floor and no change can be made in the certification of lay delegates. At such time as all the ballots have been marked and submitted electronically and the Council awaits the results of the ballot, voting members may leave the floor but will have to present their credentials to re-enter the voting area.

5. The votes shall be tabulated by the Standing Committee of the Diocese of Mississippi and their appointees, who will report the results of the same to the Chair of Council, with a copy in writing, together with a record of the individual ballots, which shall be filed with the Secretary.

6. A Nominee may remove his or her name from the ballot at any time during the voting by advising the Secretary in writing, by telephone, text or by email message signed by the Nominee. A wet signature (for notification in writing) or unique, electronic signature (for notification via text or email) shall suffice in fulfillment of this requirement. Once a Nominee has withdrawn, his or her name may not be re-entered on the ballot.

C. At such time as there shall be a declaration of an election according to Article XIII of the Constitution of the Diocese of Mississippi, the Chair shall notify the elected person, obtain the elected person's acceptance of election, and shall make provision to notify the other candidates. All voting members of Council shall sign each of the six blank canonical Testimonials of Election and he or she shall ask that a motion be made from the floor that the Standing Committee of the Diocese be instructed to forward to the House of Bishops and to the Standing Committees of all dioceses in the Episcopal Church the canonical testimonials and certificates required by the Canons of General Convention evidencing the election, and to do all other things necessary to ensure the ordination of the Bishop Diocesan-Elect before Council shall be adjourned.

D. It is the express intent of the Council that any election of a nominee to be the Bishop Diocesan of the Diocese of Mississippi is made in reliance upon full, truthful and complete disclosures by that Nominee to the Search Committee, Transition Committee, Office of the Chancellor and the Council. If, after the election but prior to consecration, the Council concludes that the Bishop-Elect has failed in any material way to provide full, truthful and complete disclosures, or if the Council concludes that the Bishop-Elect has omitted to disclose material facts, then the Council, acting pursuant to a notice of Council called for such purpose, may take action to rescind such election.

E. A copy of this resolution shall be published in the November 2023, December 2023, and Council editions of The Mississippi Episcopalian.

LAY WORSHIP LEADERS

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

CENTRAL CONVOCATION

Brandon, St. Luke's: Mara Jean Johnson, Eleanor H. Smith.
Brandon, St. Peter's: Jerry M. Chambers, Ross Hartford, Diane Jackson, Cheryl Kirchner, Lisa Maisel, Harry Perdue.
Canton, Grace: Marian Durfey, Percy Durfey, Jr., Holly D. Wallace.
Jackson, St. Andrew's: Marilyn Beach, Ann Homer Cook, William Howard, Jr., Margaret McLarty.
Jackson, St. James': Charles Barlow, Lena Barlow, Mary Jane Duncan.
Jackson, St. Mark's: LaWanda Washington.
Madison, Chapel of the Cross: Ray Balentine, Bill Buhner, Margaret Buhner, Ellen Fisher Durst, Eric Eaton, Patricia Evans, Rebecca Herren, Stanley Herren, Sloan McKellar, Pamela Manor, Ruby

Medlin, Kenny Parker, Robert Pooley.
Raymond, St. Mark's: Judy Ketchens, Michael Milone, Cynthia Whittington,
Ridgeland, St. Columb's: Marion Gordon Stewart, III.
Terry, Good Shepherd: Kathryn Hardy, Anna Lee, Edward J. Peters, Wava Peters.

COAST CONVOCATION

Diamondhead, St. Thomas: Jean Garrison
Gautier, St. Pierre's: Adele Ledford, Nathan Dale Ledford, Ben Thornton.
Gulfport, St. Peter: Ann E. Milstead.
Long Beach, St. Patrick's: Laureli Latimer, Douglas MacCullagh, Kitty MacCullagh, Jason M. Trumble.
Pascagoula, St. John's: Chester Dobrowski, Jean Guentz, Robert McDonald.
Pass Christian, Trinity: David Goff.
Picayune, St. Paul's: Patrick M. Rutherford.

COLDWATER CONVOCATION

Holly Springs, Christ Church: John Stuber

Olive Branch, Holy Cross: Darlene Stanley.
 Oxford, St. Peter's: Barbara (Babs) B. Fowler, Donald Newlin, Kay Paris, Ed Sisson.
 Southaven, St. Timothy: Barbara H. Jones, John Clayton Karcher.

Indianola, St. Stephen's: David B. Allen, Frederick W. Barrier, Woods Eastland, Thomas G. Gresham, Walton Gresham III, Evan Griffin, Richard G. Noble, Joseph Seldon Van Cleve.
 Leland, St. John's: Dot Meeks.

DELTA CONVOCATION

Cleveland, Calvary: Lee Aylward, Evelyn "Bootsie" Lyon, Keith Pettway, Hilda Povall.
 Greenville, St. James': Ashley Hines, Geoffrey A. Lewis, Dotti Lowe, Ann McVaugh.
 Greenville, Redeemer: Charles F. Strange.
 Greenwood, Nativity: Jim Barrett, Pam Powers, Charlot Ray.

OLD RIVER CONVOCATION

Port Gibson, St. James: Kathryn Bilbro.
 Vicksburg, Christ Church: Brenda Benway, David Benway, Michael J. Chaney, Millicent Gasaway, Janie Harrison, Jim Miller, Sharon S. Miller, Corrine H. Stockton.
 Vicksburg, St. Alban's: Carolyn Gent, Richard Price, David Pruett, Elizabeth Selby, Thomas L. Skinner, Harvey, Smith, Jr., Sarah Ann Tompkins.

SOWASHEE CONVOCATION

Collins, St. Elizabeth's: Don Corban, Debbie Hux, Sandi Kegerreis.
 Columbia, St. Stephen's: John E. Hales, Ann Atkinson Simmons.
 Laurel, St. John's: Patricia Bailey, Eugene M. Harlow, Byron Myrick, Jennifer Jo Myrick, Ollis Keith Rushing.
 Meridian, Mediator: Nancy Boyd Boswell, Ann Glazar, Louise K. Rawson, James R. Smith, Michael Van Veckhoven, Katie Watkins.

TOMBIGBEE CONVOCATION

Aberdeen, St. John's: David Houston, III.
 Columbus, Good Shepherd: Geoffrey Fish.
 Columbus, St. Paul's: Douglas N. Crowe.
 Tupelo, All Saints': Nathan Duncan, Darcy Strickland, Albert F. White.
 West Point, Incarnation: Suzanne D Calvert, Rufus Ward, Jr.



**Bishop Election Lock-In
 Chapel of the Cross, Madison**

**Drop-Off 8pm Friday, February 2
 Pick-Up 8am Saturday, February 3**

Register @diomsyouth by Wednesday, January 31!

**THE MISSISSIPPI
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 A CHRISTIAN EXPERIENCE

MARCH 8-10
**ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL
 CHURCH, OXFORD**

OPEN NOW- DUE JANUARY 6
STAFF APPLICATIONS
 (ADULT & YOUTH STAFF)

HAPPENER REGISTRATIONS
 (10TH-12TH GRADES)- OPEN JANUARY 1



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The wrecked Chapel of the Cross in Rolling Fork after the March 24th tornado with volunteers pitching in to the cleanup effort. To support the Chapel's rebuilding efforts, use the QR code to the right.

