

THE MISSISSIPPI EPISCOPALIAN

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2024



A Holy Spirit moment

The 197th Annual Council elects
The Rev. Dr. Dorothy Sanders Wells
the eleventh Bishop of Mississippi

Letter from the editor

I hope that this issue of *The Mississippi Episcopalian* finds you well and that all have had time to recover from the joyous and tiring work that was Council 2024.

I don't plan to make a habit of including these letters in the magazine, so fear not, but I did think it appropriate to drop a note here as this will be the first 'online-only' issue of this publication in its nearly 150-year history. Hopefully, you will find the content as relevant and compelling as ever and, with the changes made to the method of delivery, I hope you'll find the online experience improved upon.

Going forward, certain articles and other pieces of the publication may get life in more than one issue to accommodate the now bimonthly printing schedule. This will include things like the Deployment Report and Faithful Departed, as I know that many readers treasure seeing such momentous events in print.

I hope you'll see the enhanced online experience, which will continue to expand and grow richer in the coming months, as an asset to our diocesan communications capacity. New types of media—audio and video, most prominently—will be able to grace the virtual pages of this magazine. Individual photos, articles, and issues will be shareable in a way they never were before. With a simple link, you'll be able to send friends, family, and acquaintances directly to what you want them to know about our beloved diocese. It's an opportunity to tell the same great story we've told for 150 years in an even better way, and I hope you'll join us for that.

As always, I'm grateful for your trust and glad to hear your thoughts,

William T. (Wil) Oakes, III



Editor and Art Director

msepiscopalian@dioms.org

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Creating authentic communities

Dr. Beth-Sarah Wright to anchor Lenten speaker series at St. Andrew's Episcopal Cathedral

On Saturday, February 24, Atlanta-based author and speaker Dr. Beth-Sarah Wright will lead a retreat at St. Andrew's Episcopal Cathedral in downtown Jackson. Wright's presentation will be based on her book *Dignity: Seven Strategies for Creating Authentic Community*. The retreat, which lasts from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. and includes lunch, is open to the public—the registration fee is \$50 and participants are encouraged to register at standrews.ms/lent. Wright will also give a shorter presentation on Sunday, February 25, at 9:30 a.m. as part of the free speaker series.

The retreat with Wright is the headlining event in a series during the season of Lent entitled *Creation Care as Care of the Soul*, which seeks to renew the connection between humanity and the rest of creation. In addition to Wright's retreat, the series will feature a speaker each Sunday morning at 9:30 a.m.:


- Sunday, February 18 | Dr. Michelle Petro Pharr, photographer, gardener, and medical doctor
- Sunday, February 25 | Sarah-Beth Wright, PhD, author of *Dignity: Seven Strategies for Creating Authentic Community*
- Sunday, March 3 | The Reverend Pete Nunnally, priest at St. David's Episcopal Church, Wilmington, Delaware
- Sunday, March 10 | Deborah Mann, PhD, retired professor of biology from Millsaps College

In conjunction with his presentation, Nunnally will lead a fishing retreat on Saturday, March 2.

"It is such an honor to have Dr. Wright join us," says The Very Rev. Anne M. Maxwell, Dean of the Cathedral. "I had the privilege to attend a retreat with her in the fall. It gave me both theological reflection and valuable insight into communities. It also challenged me personally to consider the authenticity of my life."

Authenticity is a core theme of Wright's books and her teaching.

"Authentic living means bridging the gap between who we aspire to be and who we are in reality," she says. "Authentic people make authentic communities which help to make a more authentic world."

Wright works nationwide, encouraging individuals, communities, and institutions to develop the capacity for change and transformation. She is the author of eight books, including fiction, nonfiction, meditations, and children's books. She currently serves as the Director of Enrollment Management at Holy Innocents' Episcopal School in Atlanta and an Adjunct Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychiatry at Emory School of Medicine. A former professor at NYU and Spelman College, she holds a PhD in Performance Studies from New York University, an MPhil in Anthropology from Cambridge University and a BA from Princeton University in Sociology and Afro-American studies. Originally from Jamaica, she has lived and studied worldwide, from Edinburgh, Scotland to San Juan, Puerto Rico. She is married to Robert C. Wright, the Episcopal Bishop of Atlanta. They are parents to 5 children. 

Jan. 1 → Happy New Year! I spent the day around the house with Kyle and Betsy. We watched lots of football.

Jan. 2 → After dropping Betsy off at the airport bus, I got busy with chores around the house.

Jan. 3 → I spent most of the day finishing chores and packing for tomorrow's trip home. In the afternoon we went for a walk at Blackie's Pasture.

Jan. 4 → I caught the airport bus around midday. My drop-off, flights, and arrival home were all on time. I arrived at my apartment around 11:30 p.m.

Jan. 5 → I went into the office around noon to deal with a couple things that came up that morning. In the afternoon, I met with Canon Ponder and Vice-Chancellor Ireland.

Jan. 6 → I rose very early and drove to Little Rock for the ordination of John Harmon as the Bishop of Arkansas. After the service, I drove home to Jackson. While driving, I kept several meetings via mobile phone.

Jan. 7 → It was another early morning drive, this time to Gulfport. I preached, presided, reaffirmed two, and confirmed four. I enjoyed fellowship and lunch following the service. The main course was their brisket! They sent me home with a large care package!

Jan. 8 → My normal sabbath day ended up being a very busy work day. It started with an early breakfast meeting with Granville Tate. Later in the morning, I met with the vice-chancellor and several officers of the diocese. After lunch, I drove to Raymond to meet with our Diocesan Discernment Committee. I'm grateful for their efforts and discernment by the aspirants. In the evening, I met with leadership from one of our Jackson churches.

Jan. 9 → With Canon Ponder involved in the discernment interviews, I convened the weekly staff meeting at Allin House. The rest of the day was quite busy with lots of phone calls and emails.

Jan. 10 → I spent most of the morning in Raymond with the Diocesan Discernment Committee. After our meetings, I drove back to my apartment for lunch before

walking to Allin House for afternoon meetings.

Jan. 11 → The morning was busy with phone calls and an annual consultation with the Rev. Deacon Tami Roessler. The rest of the day was slammed with phone calls and Zooms. In the early evening, I finally found time for a workout.

Jan. 12 → I met Andy Andrews at the Downtown Donut shop for our weekly Missioner meeting. In the office, I met with Peggy regarding my weekend schedule. I used the rest of the morning and early afternoon for phone calls. In the afternoon, I drove to one of our congregations for a meeting with their vestry.

Jan. 13 → I finally found time for a swim workout! It felt great. In the afternoon, I offered a prayer and blessing over the Honduran Medical Mission during their planning meeting at St. Columb's.

Jan. 14 → I woke to cold weather! My morning visit was at St. Alban in Bovina. It was a packed house where I confirmed three and received three more. After church we enjoyed fellowship and food. The parish gave me a lovely Wyatt Watters print of their Church. In the afternoon, I visited at St. Mary's in Bolton. In the service, I preached and presided and enjoyed fellowship after.

Jan. 15 → The cold weather really set in overnight. So much so that getting up early for swimming didn't happen! I took most of the day off until supper when I drove to the Manship for dinner with the bishop candidates.

Jan. 16 → In spite of the cold and ice it was a busy day. In the morning, there were a number of phone calls. In the afternoon, I drove to Ridgeland for individual meetings with the bishop candidates. We have a very impressive and faithful group of candidates in discernment with us! I watched the first Meet and Greet session on Facebook live.



TRUCKIN'

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

Jan. 17 → Given the winter conditions, most of my appointments were rescheduled. I enjoyed a fairly calm day.

Jan. 18 → I spent most of the morning catching up on telephone calls. In the afternoon, I started work on my address for Diocesan Annual Council.

Jan. 19 → The day started with an early meeting with the chancellor. Throughout the day I was busy with catch up phone calls and Zoom meetings.

Jan. 20 → In the morning, I found time for a swim workout. After returning home, I kept a phone appointment with a Senior Warden. In the afternoon, I rested.

Jan. 21 → My morning visitation to Redeemer in Greenville was canceled due to the ice and winter conditions. I read morning prayer and spent most of the day working on my Council address.

Jan. 22 → I rose early for a workout after which I enjoyed a sabbath day off!

Jan. 23 → My morning started at Allin House with an all-staff meeting. After staff meeting, I met with Canon Ponder regarding Diocesan Council and Convention. The afternoon was full with a lunch meeting followed by a meeting with Gray Center leadership followed by a dinner meeting.

Jan. 24 → First meeting of the day was with our CFO, David Martin. Subsequent meetings included a Postulant for Holy orders, participants in the Vitality Improvement Project, and the President of Tougaloo College. Before finishing my day, I met, via telephone, with a local clergy member and a bishop colleague.

Jan. 25 → An early morning started with a breakfast meeting the Chancellors and Canon. Immediately after the meeting, I drove through a terrible rain to All Saints in Vicksburg for the graduation of the recent FEMA corps class. After the event and a quick lunch, I drove back to Jackson for a meeting with one of our deacons.

Jan. 26 → I spent nearly the whole day sequestered at home finishing my Council address and beginning work on my sermon for the Sunday service at Council.

Jan. 27 → I enjoyed a free morning. In the afternoon, I worked on a Sermon.

Jan. 28 → I left early and drove to Columbus for visitation at St. Paul's. Before the service, I blessed and dedicated stained glass windows. During the service we confirmed eleven and received one. After fellowship and food in the parish hall, I drove home.

Jan. 29 → I worked out first thing in the morning. The rest of the day was spent looking over agenda and details for council.

Jan. 30 → I spent most of the day working on details for Council including contacting Clergy whose registrations were incomplete. Over lunch, I met with Churchwide Office for Government Relations.

Jan. 31 → It was a busy morning at Allin House. During the morning hours, I met with the parish leadership from one of our churches. Over lunch, I met with the diocesan staff for a full run through of the agenda for Council. After finishing my monthly journal, I finished work on my sermon. Kyle arrived on an evening flight. She'll be here through Tuesday. 🙏

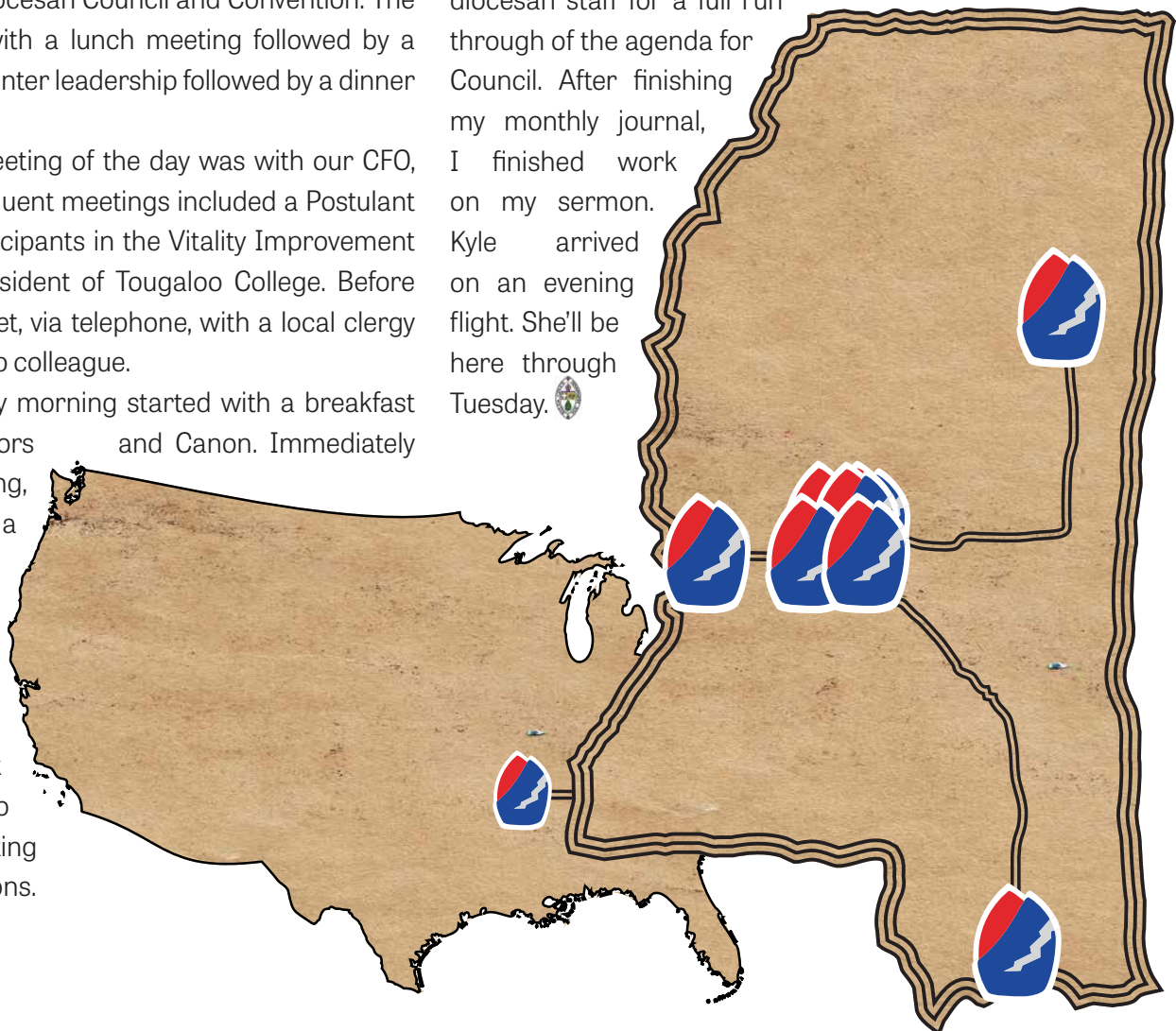




Photo: Jeanie Munn



Left, from top: Bishop Seage delivers his opening address to council; Liza Mallette and Merritt Tompkins, delegates from St. Peter's, Oxford; Rev. Chris Robinson and Rev. Gates Elliott; banners processing in. Right: The assembled delegates hear from their new bishop-elect for the first time via zoom.

Even after more than a year of searching, the post-lunch hours spent casting votes felt long and tested the patience of a council delegation eager to find out who would be its next bishop.

That patience was rewarded at 3:34 p.m., when, at long last, Bishop Brian Seage returned to the dais after the third successful ballot and addressed the packed gymnasium of St. Andrew's Episcopal School.

"Brothers and sisters, we have an election."

The crowd went from hushed to jubilant, and any weariness from a long day of resolutions and other council business was swept away by the hopeful energy of a momentous decision made. After a spirited singing of the doxology, Seage offered a prayer for the discernment of all the candidates and announced with a smile the election of The Rev. Dr. Dorothy Sanders Wells as the eleventh Bishop of Mississippi.

An even more boisterous cheer rose up as Wells' face appeared on the giant screen to the right of the dais to join Council virtually from her (soon to be former) office in Memphis.

"Thank you, Bishop Seage," she said. "Diocese of Mississippi, I am so humbled by the confidence that you have placed in me, and I am looking forward to being with you all, to growing in relationship with you all, to serving alongside you, and to walking alongside you in this tremendous journey with God. We are called to be lovers of one another and of our God, and together there is virtually nothing that we can't accomplish. And so, my heart is full, I can't wait to get to know you all, I cannot wait to see the work that God can bring us to doing together, and I look forward to growing with you in service and in relationship and in love. I just look forward to being with you, I can't wait!"

Wells' excitement was palpable as she seemed to veer between tears and laughter. Seage channeled the feelings of the room as he wished her well.


"God bless you and bless your family as you revel in this Holy Spirit moment."

As Wells prepared to sign off of the zoom call, the assembled delegates treated her to a standing ovation before lining up to sign testimonials and make it official.

The moment brought to a close an exhaustive and often exhausting—bet well worthwhile—process and set

A Holy Spirit moment

The 197th Annual Council elects The Rev. Dr. Dorothy Sanders Wells the eleventh Bishop of Mississippi

in motion a transition that will take place over the coming months. Wells will begin work at the diocesan offices at the Allin House in Jackson on May 1. She and Seage will work together to ensure a smooth transition until July. Wells will be consecrated as bishop on Saturday, July 20 at St. Andrew's School and seated as Bishop of Mississippi on Sunday, July 21 at St. Andrew's Cathedral in Jackson. 

A look ahead

The March 2024 issue of TME will feature a more in-depth introduction to our new bishop-elect in both the online and print editions

SAVE THE DATE

26 DAY 04 MONTH 24 YEAR

A FAREWELL TO THE SEAGES

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

Songs have souls



St. Columb's hosts second installment of Lenten singer-songwriter series

by **The Rev. C.J. Meaders**

Cary Hudson, of legendary Oxford rock band Blue Mountain, performs as part of the 2023 series. Hudson will also perform in this year's series on February 28.

*"Our love is all of God's money.
Everyone is a burning sun."
—"Jesus, Etc." by Jeff Tweedy*

*"It's not a cry that you hear at night.
It's not somebody who's seen the
light. It's a cold and it's a broken
hallelujah."
—"Hallelujah" by Leonard Cohen*

Songs have souls. Songs are vessels which contain the raw ingredients of human life. Their shape has enough depth and breadth to hold the vastness of human experience. As artist pours life into each song, the listener keeps the mixture stirring as words and music move the head and the heart. Songs thus become a reservoir of meaning and seeking which contains a whole spectrum of human emotions.

It's the power and soulfulness of songs that inspires St. Columb's to host its Lenten Singer-Songwriter series, "Songs have Souls." The inaugural series began last year, hosted 5 talented artists whose music gave listeners a deeper connection to Lent and raised funds for eight scholarships to help special needs campers get to Camp Bratton-Green. Listeners were treated to food from Strawberry Café in Madison and served by members of the vestry of St. Columb's. We were truly grateful for the artist's contributions and the people who turned out in support.

"Songs have Souls" 2024 performances

All shows begin at 6pm and cost \$15

Owen Beverly February 21
Cary Hudson February 28
Daniel Makin March 6
Tim Avalon and Brigid Ferguson . . . March 20



Other artists featured in 2023 included Rev. Patrick Sanders (left) and Jim Avett.

“We built a box together, filled it full of songs, and placed it on the mountain, beneath a pile of bones.”
—“Mountain Song” by Cary Hudson

This Lent, the series returns with new artists and renewed purpose. Featured artists include Owen Beverly (2/21), a native Mississippian with an indie folk-rock sound; Cary Hudson (2/28), a founding member of the alt-country group Blue Mountain; Daniel Makin (3/6), a West Texas songwriter with jazz and classical training; and Tim Avalon and Brigid Ferguson (3/20), a local duo with folk and Celtic influences.

“I feel her in the wind sometimes, blowing up the sheets on my clothesline, headed out of Jackson, looking for a new life.”
“Legs and Scars” by Owen Beverly

All ticket sales for the series will benefit special session at Camp Bratton-Green. Special session is a week-long camp program for special needs campers. This long-standing ministry of the diocese has offered a place of fun and refuge for campers and transformative

servant leadership for volunteer staff members. This year, the funds from our songwriter series will go toward installing a wheelchair lift at the camp pool.

“Lord my path has darkened, help me light my way. I’ll never ask for another favor if you’ll get me through today.”
—“Here and Here to Stay”
by Rev. Patrick Sanders

All shows are open to the public and begin with dinner at 6 p.m. Tickets will be sold at the door for \$15. Find out more information at stcolumbs.org.

Thanks be to God for our songs, into which we pour our souls. 🙏

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Saturday before Holy Week!!!

8:30 am - 3:30 pm

St. Philip's Episcopal Church

5400 Old Canton Road
Jackson, MS

8:30 am - Gather

3:30 pm - Close

\$3.00 offering for lunch



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Andy at 901-275-4514



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- Compassionate Listening
- Skills for Healthy Conversation
- Heart Space and Imagination
- Understanding around many Facets of Power
- Abilities for Change to Happen Successfully

ALL ARE WELCOME!

STAY FOR THE FULL WORKSHOP
LIMITED SPACE AVAILABLE

"For all of you are one in Christ Jesus."

Galatians 3:29



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EPISCOPAL
CHURCH
IN MISSISSIPPI

GRAY CENTER-CAMP
BRATTON-GREEN & THE
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
PRESENT THE

CULPEPPER COOKOUT

SATURDAY, MAY 25TH 2024

INDIVIDUAL TICKET

\$35 per person

FAMILY TICKET

\$110 per family

Lodging: \$20 PER BED

Tickets include:

- BBQ Plate & Nonalcoholic Beverages
- 5 tickets to sample ribs from 5 teams
- Silent Auction participation
- Vote in the People's Choice Competition

Follow @culpeppercookout on Instagram or the Facebook event page to purchase tickets!

**TICKET PRICES TO
INCREASE AFTER MAY 5TH**



A Holy Hike

A group of hardy souls enjoyed a Holy Hike at the Mississippi Sandhill Crane National Wildlife Refuge on Saturday, January 6, 2024. The attendees learned about the endangered Mississippi Sandhill Cranes and their habitat, the wet pine savannah. They meditated on awe, gratitude, and care of God's creation as they walked. The Holy Hike was followed by an outdoor Eucharist and a brown bag lunch. The event was sponsored by the Creation Care team at St. John's Ocean Springs.



Daughters of the King, Church of the Ascension, Hattiesburg held an installation service on Sunday, February 11th for Patricia Delancy and Elise Dickerson. Adelphe Chapter and Ascension parishioners welcomed our newest members to the Order of the Daughters of the King.

Pictured from right: the Rev Jenny Newman, Elise Dickerson (3rd), Patricia Delancy (4th).

To seek and serve

Two Gulf Coast churches honored for service to local schools

By **Skye Sanders**

The Episcopal Churches of the Mississippi Gulf Coast are interwoven—with one another as well as with the coastal communities they serve—and recently, two parishes—Saint Peter's By-the-Sea and St. Mark's, both of Gulfport, received special recognition from another crucial component of any community: the local schools.

Each year, the schools of the Gulfport School District honor outstanding contributions to education with Community Partner of the Year Awards. Saint Peter's "Casting Nets" program and St. Mark's "KidsConnect" initiative were among this year's honorees.

Superintendent Glen East has expressed the District's commitment "to providing educational excellence and a multitude of educational experiences for all of our students." Through programs such as Casting Nets and KidsConnect, the district is able to expand that commitment to experiences outside of the classroom.

St. Peter's Casting Nets program won its award from Central Elementary School, which serves students from kindergarten through fifth grade. The goal of this partnership is to enrich the lives of students by promoting involvement in their community. They take field trips to places such as the beach and aquarium where they learn about the local ecosystem and spend time fishing and playing together. They also get to learn about arts and culture with the help of volunteers and community members.

"[Casting Nets] is one of the best ways for children to learn new skills and open their eyes to uncharted territory," says program volunteer Justin Taylor, "all the while creating stronger relationships with schoolmates."

St. Mark's KidsConnect program was honored by 28th



Street Elementary School, also serving K-5 students. One of many programs hosted at the church's Community Arts Center, the KidsConnect mission is to "provide a space where people of all ages can create, discover, and experience their creative spirit through the arts." By the end of 2023, volunteers had dedicated their time to connecting 60 children with art. Crafting provides a fun way for kids to spend time after school and gives them the skills they need to work hard, learn their talents, and create masterpieces.

The awards highlight the importance of community partnerships on the Coast and throughout the diocese and serve as an outstanding example of parishes fulfilling the covenant to seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving their neighbors as themselves. 🌍

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.

February

- 23** Sacred Ground Circle, online
- 25** Bishop Seage visits St. Stephen's, Indianola
- 25** Bishop Seage visits Redeemer, Greenville
- 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
- 1-3** Young Adult Commission Retreat, Gray Center
- 5** Small Churches Collaborative, online
- 7** Executive Committee, St. Andrew's Cathedral, Jackson; 10:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
- 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
- 14** Trustees of the Diocese, Allin House; 1:00-4:00 p.m.
- 15-16** A.C. Marble School, Solomon Center
- 15-16** Commission on Ministry, Jackson-area (location TBA)
- 16** Standing Committee
- 17** Bishop Seage visits St. Patrick's, Long Beach
- 22** Sacred Ground Circle, online
- 23** A Day of Dialogue for Racial Healing, St. Philip's, Jackson
- 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 & Middle Schools, Ridgeland
- 4** Racial Reconciliation Task Force; 12:00 noon
- 5-7** Sr. High DOY, Camp Bratton-Green
- 6** ECW Spring Conference, St. Peter's by-the-Sea, Gulfport
- 7** Bishop Seage visits Trinity, Pass Christian
- 12-13** Small Church Conference, St. Mark's, Jackson
- 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
- 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
- 24** House of Bishops, St. Peter's, Charlotte, NC
- 26** Event Celebrating the Seages, The Two Mississippi Museums, details forthcoming
- 28** Bishop Seage visits St. Pierre's, Gautier

May

- 1** The Mississippi Episcopalian deadline; 12:00 noon
- 2** Racial Reconciliation Task Force; 12:00 noon
- 5** Bishop Seage visits St. James', Jackson
- 7** Small Churches Collaborative, online
- 8 - 10** Province IV Synod, Kanuga
- 9** Standing Committee
- 12** Bishop visits St. Andrew's, Jackson
- 16** Trustees of the Diocese, Allin House; 1:00-4:00 p.m.
- 17- 18** A.C. Marble, Solomon Center
- 19** Bishop visits Chapel of the Cross, Madison
- 27** Memorial Day
- 27** Allin House staff holiday in observance of Memorial Day

Deployment Report

New Calls and Transitions

The Rev. Canon Paul Stephens will serve as interim rector of St. John's, Pascagoula as of March 1.

The Rev. Becca Walton rounded her ministry at All Saints', Tupelo to accept a call at St. Luke's, Birmingham (Diocese of Alabama) as Associate Rector. Her last Sunday at All Saints' was February 11.

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 – receiving names until 4/1/2024

Canterbury: Mississippi State University /

Resurrection, Starkville

St. John's, Pascagoula – receiving names until 2/29/2024

Faithful Departed

Please submit Faithful Departed notices to your church for submission

Karen Lee Miller, 76, communicant of Ascension, Hattiesburg, died September 23, 2023.

Audrey Martin Lecher Batia, 95, communicant of Redeemer, Biloxi, died December 2, 2023.

Bart Holmes, 88, communicant of Ascension, Hattiesburg, died December 21, 2023.

Cheryl "Cheri" Merrit Barry, 68, communicant of St. Paul's, Meridian, died December 24, 2023.

Catherine Darcy Strickland, 89, communicant of All Saints', Tupelo, died January 18, 2024.

These Deployment Report and Faithful Departed entries will be republished in next month's (March) print edition of TME.

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.

The deadline for submissions to The Mississippi Episcopalian is noon on the first of the month for that month's issue (the following Monday if the first falls on a weekend). Next deadline (for the March issue) is Friday, March 1 at 12:00 noon.

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

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DIOCESAN YOUTH EVENTS SPRING 2024

FEBRUARY 2
Youth Lock-in

FEBRUARY 16-18
Jr. High DOY @ CBG

MARCH 8-10
ST. PETER'S, OXFORD
Happening #96

APRIL 5-7
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The Rev. Andrew McLarty of St. Paul's, Columbus, puts the thurible through its paces during the Closing Eucharist of the 197th Annual Council of the Diocese of Mississippi. To learn more about this historic Council, see page 5. Photo: Jeanie Munn