



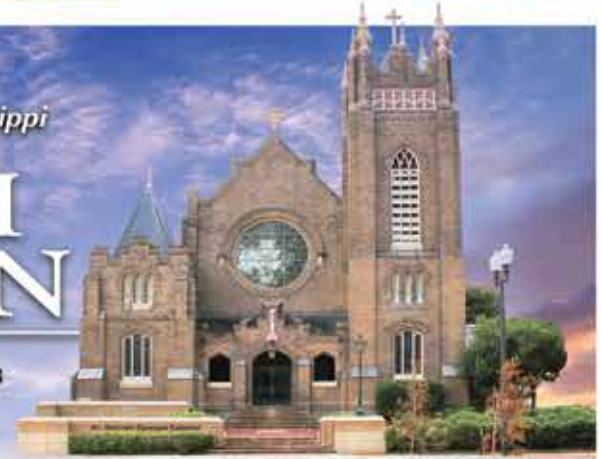
Mark 16:15



The Official Publication of The Episcopal Diocese of Mississippi

# THE MISSISSIPPI EPISCOPALIAN

VOLUME 148, ISSUE NO. 9 SEPTEMBER, 2023



## NECW board meets in Syracuse, NY

The National Board of Episcopal Church Women recently met in Syracuse, NY. Mira J. Washington, president of Church Women United, was guest speaker and a gift of \$1,000 was given to Watertown Urban Mission of Watertown, NY. As usual, our province was represented by Mary Beth Welch. Pictured from left to right are Karen Patterson (NECW President), Mira Washington (Church Women United president), Mary Beth Welch (Province IV representative). For more information, email [info@ECWnational.org](mailto:info@ECWnational.org).

## Bishop search update

### An update from the Diocese of Mississippi Bishop Search Committee

The Bishop Search Committee has reached an important milestone. Nominations are closed, Zoom interviews with the nominees have been completed, and we are now planning a discernment retreat with the nominees we invited to continue to discern a call to be our next bishop. Those nominees will join the committee at a discernment retreat in October for more conversation. We are thankful for the outstanding nominees and for your prayers as we continue our mutual discernment with them.

Below is the second in a series of articles written by the Rev. Jennifer Southall, senior associate at St. Peter's/Oxford that we will share with you during our time of discernment.

#### What is the role of bishops today?

(From the Diocese of Mississippi Bishop Search Committee)

There are many roles that a contemporary Episcopal bishop must fulfill, either directly or by delegation and oversight. These roles and responsibilities are incarnated first of all in our worship. How we pray, as Anglicans, reveals and forms what we believe. Or as this principle is summarized in the ancient Latin maxim, *lex orandi, lex credendi*. Every Mississippi Episcopalian, especially those who will be voting in the election of a new bishop, should read "The Ordination of a Bishop,"

in *The Book of Common Prayer*, pages 511-523. In addition to the ordinal, certain roles and duties are specified in the national and diocesan canons of our church. Some of the roles are as follows.

**THE BISHOP IS AN APOSTLE.** The word "apostle" literally means "one who is sent forth." Jesus created the first Apostles by sending forth his disciples to preach the kingdom and enact his ministry of compassion and justice. In this role the bishop is also the chief evangelist of the diocese.



**THE BISHOP HAS A PROPHETIC ROLE.** The role and office of prophet go back to ancient Israel, when God called people to speak out on God's behalf, to stand for the poor, and to decry injustice. In this same vein, our new bishop will commit to "enlighten the minds and stir the conscience of [God's] people" (BCP, 518) and "to show all compassion to the poor and stranger and defend those who have no helper" (BCP, 518). The role of the prophet is to trouble our Christian conscience and motivate us to act in love.

**THE BISHOP IS THE CHIEF PRIEST.** A priest is one called to mediate the grace of God to the people in word, sacrament, and

service. As chief priest, the bishop is called to safeguard the faith, unity, and discipline of the church, to celebrate and provide for the ministry of the sacraments, to ordain priests and deacons, to join in the ordination of other bishops, and to set a wholesome example.

**THE BISHOP IS A PASTOR.** The bishop's role as pastor is to encourage, nourish, strengthen, and challenge the ministry of all the baptized and to support them in their Christian life with sound teaching and with a pastor's heart for their difficulties. The bishop of Mississippi, like all bishops, has a special pastoral responsibility for all the priests and deacons who labor in the vineyard of our diocese.

Through faithfully pastoring the clergy, the bishop can indirectly have the greatest effect on the lives of the laity of the diocese.

**THE BISHOP IS A TEACHER.** As a steward for the message and teaching of the Apostles, the bishop is joined to them not only in the proclamation of Christ's resurrection, but in manifesting it. As leader of the diocesan community, the bishop functions as an apostolic teacher whose job is to bring his people to maturity in their Christian faith. In addition to pastoral letters, sermons, articles in the Mississippi Episcopalian, many informal encounters are opportunities for incarnating the apostolic witness and passing it on.



(BCP 818)

## A Prayer FOR THE ELECTION OF A Bishop



Almighty God, giver of every good gift: Look graciously on your Church, and so guide the minds of those who shall choose a bishop for this Diocese, that we may receive a faithful pastor, who will care for your people and equip us for our ministries; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## ORDINARY CONCERNS

**Aug. 1** – I left Gallup early and enjoyed a beautiful sunrise in the desert. After dealing with rush-hour Dallas traffic, I stopped in Shreveport to spend the night.

**Aug. 2** – I departed Shreveport early and arrived in Jackson with plenty of time to spare before my first meeting at Allin House. I brought Sophie (our dog) to work with me. After finishing my afternoon meetings, I picked up the keys to my apartment at Capital Towers. I spent a couple of hours in the early evening moving things from storage into the apartment.

**Aug. 3** – I enjoyed the short (1-block) walk to work. The morning was quite full with staff meetings and check-ins. In the afternoon, I met with several trustees and a prospective buyer for the conference center. In the afternoon, Andy Andrews and Will Andrews met me at my storage unit to help move a couple large items including my bed into my apartment. No more air mattress!

**Aug. 4** – An early morning workout was followed by breakfast at home. I had a variety of meetings throughout the day, including a clergy annual consultation, meeting with wardens from a local parish, and a clergy pastoral visit. In the evening, I got word from Betsy that her final project at Duke was completed and she would be on her way home the next day.

**Aug. 5** – I spent most of the day setting up the apartment and buying some necessary things. In the afternoon, I went to the pool for a workout.

**Aug. 6** – On the way to my visitation in Rolling Fork, I picked up the Rev. Deacon Cathy Halford. We officiated the service held at Cary UMC and met with the vestry and members. After the service and fellowship, we made the short drive to Rolling Fork to see the progress around the Chapel of the Cross. They have done so much work! It is hoped that the parish hall might be able to hold services before the end of the year. Betsy arrived in Jackson in the afternoon!

**Aug. 7** – I rose early for a workout. I took most of the day off except for some phone calls in the morning.

**Aug. 8** – The weekly “all-staff meeting” started my day. The rest of the day included a meeting with the trustees from All Saints School/Vicksburg and a couple clergy pastoral calls.

**Aug. 9** – My day started early with a workout at the GRIT pool. The schedule for the day was full with meetings with aspirants for holy orders. Meetings started at 9 a.m. and ended around 5 p.m.

**Aug. 10** – I spent a considerable amount of time catching up on paperwork and reports. In the afternoon, I kept several meetings.

**Aug. 11** – After an early workout, I enjoyed a quiet breakfast at home with Betsy. During the morning hours, I met with the standing committee and our mis-



sioner for Beloved Community. The afternoon was taken up with a couple projects with the Recovery Ministry of the Episcopal Church.

**Aug. 12** – I left early in the morning and drove to Gulfport. I had several pastoral visits with area clergy. In the evening, I listened to music offered by the Rev. Patrick Sanders at a noodle bar in Long Beach. Stephen and Mel Kidd joined me for music and supper.

**Aug. 13** – I officiated, preached, confirmed ten, received three, reaffirmed two, and baptized two at St. Peter's/Gulfport. The parish had a lovely meal and fellowship after the service in honor of the confirmands and in thanksgiving for my visit.

**Aug. 14** – I rose early for a workout. After returning home, Betsy and I got started on preparing for her move to the campus at Birmingham Southern.

**Aug. 15** – The morning started with the “all-staff meeting.” The afternoon was loaded down with Zoom meetings.

**Aug. 16** – I took the morning off and drove in a caravan with Betsy to Birming-

ham for her move-in. After the move-in and a quick bite of lunch with Kyle's parents, I drove home for a vestry meeting in Jackson.

**Aug. 17** – In the morning, I met with our missioner for youth, Whitney Robinson. The afternoon included meetings with two different clergy persons.

**Aug. 18** – After my morning workout I headed home for breakfast and then to the office. The morning included a meeting with Andy Andrews followed by a schedule check with Peggy Jones. In the afternoon, I started putting together notes for a Sunday sermon.

**Aug. 19** – I did laundry. That's it!

**Aug. 20** – I departed Jackson early and drove to McComb for a visitation with Mediator/Redeemer. I confirmed four and received five new members. After the service, I enjoyed fellowship and a great meal with the parish.

**Aug. 21** – I worked out a little later in the morning than usual. After enjoying a couple hours of quiet, I drove to Gautier for a meeting with their wardens, vestry, and

clergy.

**Aug. 22** – The morning was taken up by our staff meeting and another meeting with the Church Insurance Corporation. In the afternoon, I worked on a variety of projects.

**Aug. 23** – I worked out early and then drove home for breakfast. The day started out at the dentist for a normal checkup. I went straight from dentist to work for back-to-back meetings before lunch. In the afternoon, I met with a member of the bishop search committee and, later, an aspirant for holy orders.

**Aug. 24** – It was a busy day that included several staff meetings. Later, I met with one of our seminarians and then a committee from the Seminary of the Southwest. Before finishing the day, I met with Julia Young regarding the Diocesan History Project.

**Aug. 25** – After morning workout I took the day off!

**Aug. 26** – A slow Saturday that ended with watching the USC football season begin with a win against San Jose State.

**Aug. 27** – I left early in the morning for my visitation in Ocean Springs. I officiated two services while baptizing one and receiving two new members. It was nice to be in this church that played such an important role in my priestly formation. After church, I enjoyed fellowship and lunch.

**Aug. 28** – My busy Sunday gave the excuse to sleep late and do a late morning workout!

**Aug. 29** – Staff meetings took most of the morning. In the afternoon, I met with CJ Meaders to discuss some issues relative to General Convention 2024.

**Aug. 30** – I worked out early and then inhaled some breakfast before heading to the office. Once in the office, I spent most of the day working on articles and my journal. In the afternoon, I met with the general convention deputation.

**Aug. 31** – My weekly meeting with Whitney Robinson took place in the morning. In the afternoon, I worked on a couple more articles and projects. During the evening hours, I met up with some old and new seminary friends for our annual alumni fantasy football draft.



## THE MISSISSIPPI EPISCOPALIAN

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## CHALLENGING IDEAS

# Spirituality and purpose in later life

By Sarah Moses

On the Feast of the Presentation of Our Lord (Candlemas), observed at the beginning of February, we encounter the faithful witness of Simeon and Anna, two older people who continue to be called to God's service and to nurturing the faith of younger generations (Luke 2:22-40). And yet, like our society at large, the church too often views older members through an ageist lens, associating "decline" with aging congregations and "vitality" with children and young families. But as Simeon and Anna (along with other older figures in the Bible!) remind us, God's call to discipleship is *lifelong*. And it is the church's job—as we do for other age groups and life stages—to equip and empower older adults to listen for and respond to God's call in their lives, while honoring the distinctive opportunities and challenges we experience in later life.

In order for the church to truly enable *lifelong* discipleship, we need more and better formation resources aimed at late life, which we now enjoy as a full and long life stage comparable to youth and middle adulthood. Thus I am delighted to share with the Diocese of Mississippi a unique formation program called *The Path Ahead: Spirituality and Purpose in Later Life*<sup>SM</sup>, developed by Seabury Resources for Aging<sup>®</sup> in partnership with the Episcopal Diocese of Washington. *The Path Ahead* explores the challenges and rewards of aging in a spiritual context. Beginning with how we understand the terms spirituality and ageism, the program considers how longevity has its own set of spiritual needs and examines the qualities of resilience and gratitude in the midst of loss and diminishment.

The program also invites participants to reflect on how retirement brings a shift from doing to being, yet the need for purpose and meaning in later life is no less important and

that desire for purpose is the spiritual work of aging. The theological anchor of *The Path Ahead* is the belief that God continues to engage and call us to new ways of being and acting in later life. *The Path Ahead* enables participants to deepen their understanding of God's presence and call in their lives through directed discussions, contemplative practices, poetry, videos, and visual arts participation.

What's exciting about *The Path Ahead* is that it provides a curriculum and facilitator guide which can be offered through the formation programming at any parish! And beginning on October 10 through October 31, on Tuesdays, 4:00-5:30 p.m. (EST), Elizabeth Boyd (Seabury Resources for Aging<sup>®</sup>) and Rev. Susan Walker will offer online training for lay or clergy facilitators through the School for Christian Faith and Leadership of the Diocese of Washington. You can get details about the curriculum and register for the training at the school's site: <https://learn.edow.org/library/the-path-ahead-spirituality-purpose-in-later-life-202922/516336/about/>.

*The Path Ahead* is an accessible, spiritually-grounded opportunity for parishes to affirm and support older adults to live into late life as a blessing, and as an opportunity to continue in service to God and love of neighbor. As retired Methodist Bishop Will Willimon observed in his book *Aging: Growing Old in Church*: "As I moved toward retirement, I received invitations from my bank and my employer to participate in preretirement planning. All these seminars focused on financial management. Why didn't my church gather some of us to think like Christians about this life transition?" I hope you will consider bringing *The Path Ahead* to your congregation's formation program as a meaningful way to gather people together to explore what it means to live as Christians in late life and to become communities that truly enable discipleship at every age.

## The sacred order of the baptized

In the Diocese of Mississippi, ordination invitations specify not only the names of those being ordained, but also the "sacred order" to which they are being ordained: the sacred order of deacons, priests, or bishops. In Christian usage, the principle of ordination does exactly what it claims to do—it provides *order* to the community, specifying roles of service and leadership. While there are churches that have a low threshold for ordination, meaning that one's sense of call is sufficient to validate ordination, Episcopalians and many others have insisted on theological education and communal participation when validating vocational calls to these orders. Given the frailty of human nature, this seems wise.

Interestingly, the Episcopal Church (and the wider Anglican tradition) continues to practice the tradition of sequential ordination (one must be ordained a deacon before becoming a priest, and one must be ordained a deacon and a priest before becoming a bishop). This tradition goes back to about the fourth century and has its well-reasoned critics, many of whom would prefer to see a return to the earliest tradition of direct ordination (ordination directly to

the sacred order to which one is called).

For obvious reasons, Anglican theology places great emphasis on these three sacred orders. But there is another: the sacred order of the baptized. I would argue that of the four, it's the most important, and it is certainly foundational to the other three. After all, one cannot be ordained without first being baptized. And the church itself is not constituted by the ordained; it is constituted (formed into a reality) by the baptized. If all the clergy disappear tomorrow, the church will remain. But if all the baptized disappear, then the church disappears. Remembering this fact is a great way to avoid clericalism (excessive emphasis on clergy).

My purpose in pointing this out is certainly not to downplay the importance of clergy (I am an ordained priest). But I do want to emphasize the profound and distinct importance of the laity and their

role in the church's ministry. In the church, there are only a few duties that are limited to ordained persons. There are many other forms of service and ministry open to all the baptized. It's no wonder that *The Book of Common Prayer* mentions the laity first when listing "the ministers of the church" (BCP 855).

Ministry can be communal or individual. It can be more or less organized. Any type of service or self-sacrifice can be properly understood as a form of Christian ministry. There simply is no limit to the many ways that Christians can provide ministry to one another and to wider society, from remembering others in prayer, gently correcting a child, helping the poor, serving in the altar guild, being an active licensed lay minister, and protecting the environment (just to name a few). There was a time when Christian theologians spoke

often of "virtues," habits of doing good that often qualified as forms of ministry.

As scripture explains, every Christian is called to be a member of a holy priesthood in which we "offer spiritual sacrifices to God in Jesus Christ" (1 Peter 2:5). This is what makes baptism not just an event, but the entryway into a sacred order. Just as every church order has its duties and obligations, the baptized have their ministerial duties as well. One of their primary duties is to embrace their baptismal priesthood (as distinct from the ordained priesthood) and to offer the spiritual sacrifices (ministries) described in 1 Peter.

Done in the name of Christ, every act of selflessness and sacrifice is a form of ministry. In Christ's name, the desk where we do our work can be our altar. The classroom where we teach, the place where we change a baby's diaper, and the bed on which spouses show loving affection—all of these can be the altars on which members of the sacred order of the baptized exercise their baptismal priesthood.

*The Rev. Dr. John Switzer is professor emeritus of theology at Spring Hill College and editor of The Mississippi Episcopalian. Your ideas for future columns are eagerly invited. Send him your suggestions: MissEpiscopal@gmail.com.*



LEARN TO LEAD

## The Path Ahead

Spirituality & Purpose in Later Life<sup>SM</sup>

The groundbreaking curriculum that is reframing aging for persons of faith

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four-session workshop  
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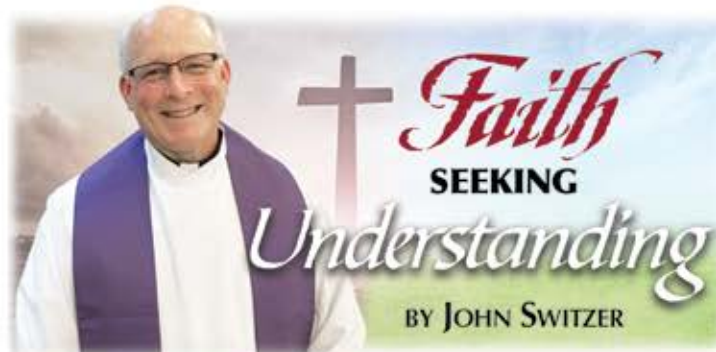
Tuesdays  
October 10-31  
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on Zoom



Seabury Resources for Aging



*The Rev. Dr. Sarah Moses served at St. Peter's/Oxford and Christ Episcopal/Holly Springs. She taught in the Department of Philosophy & Religion at the University of Mississippi and now teaches in Georgetown University's Aging & Health program, serving on the Congregational Resources Advisory Group at Seabury Resources for Aging. She is the author of Ethics & the Elderly: The Challenge of Long-Term Care (Orbis Books, 2015). Please contact her with any questions about The Path Ahead at sarahmoses2012@gmail.com.*



## AROUND THE DIOCESE



## Diocesan Altar Guild convocations

By Annie Oeth

In July and August, Diocesan Altar Guild convocations were held around the state, offering great opportunities for fellowship and the exchange of ideas. The Tombigbee Convocation, hosted by the Altar Guild of the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation/West Point July 15, featured a talk by Scott Reed of Petal Pushers Flowers and Gifts.

Sowashee Convocation was hosted by Trinity Episcopal Church/Hattiesburg on July 22. Ideas were shared on topics including floral arrangements and preparing the elements to be shared by a lay eucharistic minister with those who are unable to attend services.

Coast Convocation was hosted by St. Mark's Episcopal Church/Gulfport July 29. In addition to fellowship, an exchange of ideas and a keynote address by L. J. Hunt on "The Spiritual Gift of Altar Guild Service" were enjoyed by attendees.

Members of the Coldwater Convocation met at All Saints'/Grenada on August 5 and the Delta Convocation met at St. George's/Clarksdale on August 12.



Annie Oeth serves as publicity chair of the Diocesan Altar Guild. She is a parishioner of St. Philip's/Jackson.



St. Luke's Episcopal Church/Brandon

## CREATION CARE



## Creation Care prepares for clergy conference

Your creation care team is preparing for next month's clergy conference to be held at St. Mark's/Gulfport. Two members of Presiding Bishop Curry's staff will make presentations by Zoom: from left to right are pictured the Rev. Melanie Mullen (director for reconciliation, justice, and creation care) and Phoebe Chatfield (program associate for creation care and justice). Meanwhile, the annual Season of Creation runs from September 1 - October 4. This year's theme is "Let Justice and Peace Flow." Resources may be found at [NewCreationLiturgies.org/SeasonofCreation/](http://NewCreationLiturgies.org/SeasonofCreation/).

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## St. Luke's/Brandon to celebrate 175th anniversary

Excitement is building at St. Luke's Episcopal Church/downtown Brandon in anticipation of celebrating its 175th anniversary on October 22.

Established in 1848, the church is located on North College Street one block north of the intersection with Government Street (Highway 80). St. Luke's is one of Mississippi's oldest continuously-worshipping Episcopal congregations and we are still going strong.

Bishop Seage will officiate for the celebration eucharist beginning at 10:30 a.m. where there will also be special music.

Current and former members and descendants of historical St. Luke's families will share memories of the parish's 175 years in Brandon. Following worship, a reception will be held on the grounds of St. Luke's or parishioners and friends throughout the Mississippi Episcopal community. The Madison Trio will be our entertainment.

For information about the event, contact Sr. Warden Jimmy Lee Hunter at (601) 906-5297 or via email: [stlukesbrandonms@gmail.com](mailto:stlukesbrandonms@gmail.com).

AROUND THE DIOCESE

# Switzer steps down as rector of St. Pierre's/Gautier

By Scott Lenoir

On Sunday, August 24, Fr. John Switzer announced to the congregation of St. Pierre's parish that he is taking long-term disability to continue his battle with cancer. In November of last year, he was diagnosed with multiple myeloma, and a month later, with intrahepatic cholangiocarcinoma of the liver. Switzer has undergone many cancer treatments over the last several months. His short-term disability lapsed near the end of August.

Bishop Brian Seage attended the August vestry meeting with John and helped work out the plans for his departure as rector.

"This is a very sad event for John and for St. Pierre's, which has thrived under John's leadership. He will be greatly missed, but he needs to take time for himself as he continues his treatments. The parish, and our diocese will do everything we can to assist John as prepares for the time ahead," said Bishop Seage.

For as long as possible, John will continue working as editor of *The Mississippi Episcopalian*, a part-time responsibility

which is allowed in the agreement with his long-term disability insurer. "Serving as a priest to the wonderful people of St. Pierre's has been one of the most cherished honors of my life," he said. "This cancer is expected to be terminal, so I hope to set aside lots of time in the coming months to spend with my wife, Patsy."

Senior Warden Tommye Dale Favre spoke to the congregation after John's announcement. She thanked the Rev. Scott Lenoir for his recent months of service as the primary supply priest to the parish. "He has agreed to continue this service through the end of the year," she said. "We are very grateful for Fr. John's service and look forward to seeing him at church as often as his health allows him to attend. Please continue to keep Fr. John in your prayers for healing, and Patsy too."



The Rev. Scott Lenoir is a retired Episcopal priest and former editor of *The Mississippi Episcopalian*.

# The Marble School has something for everyone

By Charles Hawkins

The Marble School for Theological Education (a diocesan educational institution) is not just for those preparing for ordination or licensing. It offers resources for congregational use and sponsors online chapel services. These resources are for everyone.

A wide array of topical video lectures is available for congregations to use. Topics include the area of biblical studies (such as how the gospels came to be or interesting characters from the Hebrew scriptures), church leadership (including meditations for vestries), spirituality and prayer (including the feminine and masculine spiritual journey), Anglicanism and worship (such as Anglican identity and what liturgy does), and several topics in a series known as "The Abundant Life" (lectures on people like Julian of Norwich and C. S. Lewis).

One of the foundational practices of the Marble School is prayer in community. We believe firmly that the way we pray shapes and forms us into who we become. If it takes a village to raise a child, the mantra of our work is "it takes a diocese to raise up a

deacon, priest, or lay leader."

If you feel called to this work of helping us raise up leaders, you can join the Marble School for online chapel services. We pray morning prayer, noon prayer, evening prayer, and compline (bedtime prayer) each day, 365 days a year. These gatherings online are the diocese praying together to raise up, form, and shape ourselves and each other through the daily office from *The Book of Common Prayer*. It is theological formation by prayer. You're invited to join in the forming and shaping of souls, to pray online at the chapel of the Marble School. We gather at 8:00 a.m., noon, 4:00 p.m., and 8:00 p.m. daily.

To know more about any of the resources, activities, or offerings of the diocesan Marble School, send an email to charles.hawkins@iona.ssw.edu.

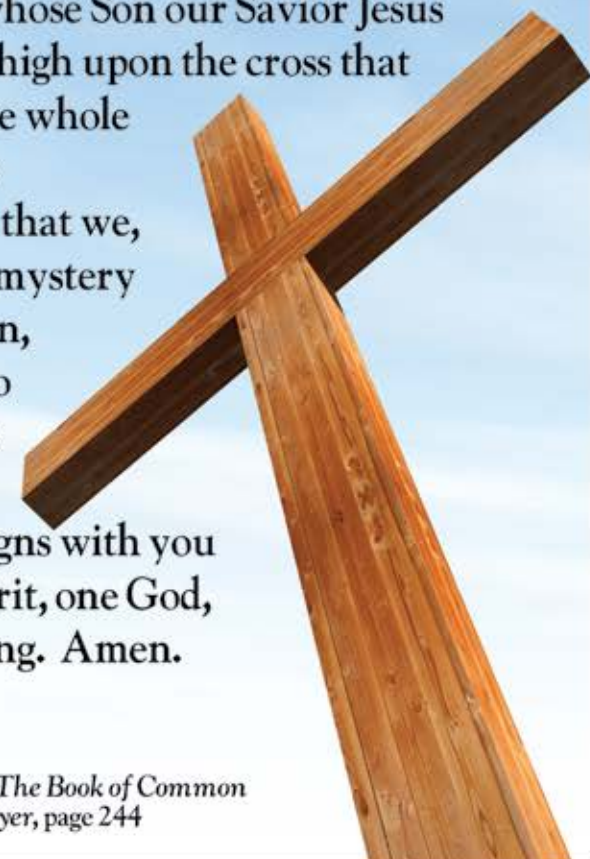


The Very Rev. Dr. Charles Hawkins is dean of the A. C. Marble School for Theological Formation and serves as rector of St. John's/Ocean Springs.



## COLLECT FOR HOLY CROSS DAY (September 14)

Almighty God, whose Son our Savior Jesus Christ was lifted high upon the cross that he might draw the whole world to himself: Mercifully grant that we, who glory in the mystery of our redemption, may have grace to take up our cross and follow him; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen.



-From *The Book of Common Prayer*, page 244



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## YOUTH

# Looking back on another summer at Camp Bratton-Green

By Abram Jones

At the end of July, Camp Bratton-Green completed another summer full of worship, community, and lots and lots of fun! This was our second summer back in action following a two-year hiatus due to COVID, and anyone who attended can tell you we are back in full swing once again. For the summer of 2023, we hosted 425 campers over 7 sessions, filling over 80% of our capacity. We had a large increase in participants as compared to last year, but we still have more room to grow and invite even more of our youth from our parishes, schools, and communities. We also have plans in the works for increases in our weekly capacity, which means the sessions that do fill will have more room for participants to enjoy all that camp has to offer.

On top of our large number of campers, we had a regular army of volunteers ready to serve campers: over 150 adults and youth offered their time and talent to spend a week sharing their love of Camp Bratton-Green with a new generation of campers. We cannot truly express the gratitude we have for our volunteers. They are the lifeblood of our ministry and are living proof that no matter what age you are or where you find yourself on your journey of faith, there is a place for you at

Camp Bratton-Green. We also want to thank our session directors, permanent staff alumni members, and Gray Center staff who work tirelessly to make sure our program is the best it can be.

A big change we implemented this year was separating sessions based on grades to separation based on age. This move proved a success on two fronts. First, the change allowed more flexibility for families to pick which session their camper attended, as most sessions had overlapping age options, and to minimize the conflicts families experience while planning summer activities and trips. The second benefit was eliminating confusion as to which session a camper was eligible for, as the old system of grades was less straightforward. We hope this change was beneficial to all; we will continue to improve our offerings so that anyone can be part of the life-changing community on Way



**WINTER SOLSTICE**  
at Camp Bratton-Green  
who?  
9-12TH GRADE  
when?  
DEC. 27- JAN. 1

**REGISTRATION OPENS OCTOBER 2**

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Road. Next year we'll offer a new session, one that spans multiple age groups who will attend camp at the same time. This will create a unique way to experience the kingdom of God and allow our youth the opportunity to live into Christian community in a way we have never attempted

before.

Be on the lookout for several exciting things coming soon. The first is our 2024 camp dates. We hope to have these out in the next few weeks so that families can begin to plan for next year. The second is registration for Winter Solstice, our winter camp for high school youth. Registration will open October 2, with the session taking place December 27- January 1. The last major date is permanent staff applications and interviews. The applications will go live in November, with interviews taking place at

Gray Center on January 13.

Finally, the summer of 2024 will mark a major milestone for our summer camping ministry. The first-ever iteration of a summer youth experience took place on the coast in 1924. While only a handful of participants took part in this first summer, it set in motion everything we know camp to be. This includes the eventual purchase and construction of what we now know as Gray Center, and the longtime home of Camp Bratton-Green. So next year we will be celebrating 100 years of summer youth sessions in the Diocese of Mississippi. This is a huge achievement, one that few other dioceses can match. We thank God for all that we have been given through Camp Bratton-Green, and for the generations of faithful who have brought us to this point.

Thank you to everyone for a great summer, and for your continued love and support for Gray Center and Camp Bratton-Green! We hope you will come see us soon and take part in the life-changing ministry on Way Road!



The Rev. Abram Jones is assistant director at Gray Center.



**Photos From Camp**



Summer  
**2023**  
425 Campers

## DIOMS YOUTH FALL EVENTS



**Sr. High DOY**  
at CBG  
9-12th grades

**SEPT 15-17**



**Jr. High DOY**  
at CBG  
5-8th grade

**OCT 13-15**



**Happening #95**  
St. Philip's, Jackson  
10-12th grades

**NOV 17-19**

**REGISTRATION NOW OPEN**  
**FOR STAFF & PARTICIPANTS**  
DIOMSYOUTH.ORG

UPDATES

Diocesan meetings continue by Zoom unless otherwise noted. Though the diocesan staff continues to work in a hybrid model (office and home), the Allin House is staffed daily. Summer hours are Monday-Thur, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Friday 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon.



SEPTEMBER

- 19-26 Bishop Seage at House of Bishops
- 20-22 Pilgrimage to the Equal Justice Initiative, Montgomery, Alabama
- 26 ECW Fall Board Meeting, onliny

OCTOBER

- 1 *The Mississippi Episcopalian* deadline; 12:00 noon
- Bishop Seage visits St Paul's/Woodville
- 3 Small Churches Collaborative, 10:00 a.m.
- 5 Executive Committee, St. Andrew's Cathedral/Jackson; 11:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
- Racial Reconciliation Task Force; 12:00 noon
- 6-7 Commission on Ministry/metro-Jackson area
- 8 Bishop Seage visits All Saints/Inverness
- 13-14 A.C. Marble School, online
- 13-15 Junior High DOY, Camp Bratton-Green
- 15 Bishop Seage visits Epiphany/Tunica
- 16-18 Clergy Conference, Gulf Coast
- 19 Trustee's Meeting, Allin House; 1:00 - 4:00 pm
- 21 ECW Fall/Annual Conference, Mediator-Redeemer/McComb; 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
- 22 Bishop Seage visits St. Luke's/Brandon
- 25 Standing Committee Meeting, location TBA; 11:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
- 29 Bishop visits St. Paul's/Corinth
- Candidates for XI Bishop of Mississippi announced
- 30 Bishop Search Petition Process Opens (runs through November 3, 5:00 p.m.)

NOVEMBER

- 1 *The Mississippi Episcopalian* deadline; 12:00 noon
- Bishop Seage visits All Saints'/Jackson
- 2 Racial Reconciliation Task Force; 12:00 noon
- 3 Bishop Search Petition Process Closes; 5:00 p.m.
- 3-5 Happening #95 Staff Training, St. Philip's/Jackson
- 5 Daylight Saving Time Ends - Fall back!
- Bishop Seage visits All Saints'/Tupelo
- 7 Small Churches Collaborative, 10:00 a.m.
- 10-11 A.C. Marble School, online
- 12 Bishop Seage visits St. Mary's/Enterprise
- 17-19 Happening #95, St. Philip's/Jackson
- 19 Bishop Seage visits St. Matthew's/Kosciusko
- 20 Deadline for Lay Leadership Relicensing
- 23 Thanksgiving Day
- 23-24 Allin House staff holiday in observance of Thanksgiving
- 29-Dec 1 Province IV Bishops & Spouses' Conference/Camp St. Christopher (Diocese of SC)

DECEMBER

- 1 *The Mississippi Episcopalian* deadline; 12:00 noon
- Deadline for Submission of Budget Requests/Reports to Annual Council
- 3 Bishop Seage visits Grace Church/Carrollton
- 5 Small Churches Collaborative, 10:00 a.m.
- Standing Committee Meeting, location TBA; 11:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
- 7 Racial Reconciliation Task Force; 12:00 noon
- Finance Committee Meeting, St. Andrew's Cathedral/Jackson, 11:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
- 8 Petition Candidates for XI Bishop of Mississippi announced, if any (tentative)
- 8-9 A.C. Marble School, Solomon Center
- 10 Bishop Seage visits Mediator/Meridian
- 15 Deadline for Submission of Resolutions/Deadline for Pre-filed Nominations
- 16 Ordination of Transitional Deacons
- 17 Bishop visits Christ Church/Bay St. Louis
- 19 Executive Committee Meeting, St. Andrew's Cathedral/Jackson, 11:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
- 22 - 26 Allin House staff holiday in observance of Christmas
- 24 Christmas Eve
- 25 THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST: Christmas Day
- 27-Jan 1 Winter Solstice/Camp Bratton-Green



Submit Faithful Departed notices to your church for publication

- Frank Henry Flautt, Sr., 89, communicant of Church of the Nativity, Greenwood, died July 2, 2023.
- Catherine Louise High Stegall, 44, communicant of All Saints', Tupelo, died July 27, 2023.
- Dr. Ronald Bruce Newell, 77, communicant of Nativity, Greenwood, died August 9, 2023.



DEPLOYMENT REPORT AUGUST, 2023



NEW CALLS AND TRANSITIONS

The Rev. Katie Bradshaw has accepted the call to be the next rector of Emmanuel/ Athens, Georgia (Diocese of Atlanta) and concluded her ministry as canon vicar (formerly canon for lifelong formation and mission) of St. Andrew's Cathedral/Jackson on August 27.

Having concluded her curacy, the Rev. Jenny Newman has been called by the vestry of Ascension/Hattiesburg, as rector of the parish and chaplain to The University of Southern Mississippi, effective September 1.

Having concluded her curacy, the Rev. Marie Smith has been called by the vestry of Incarnation/West Point, as rector, effective September 1.

CHURCHES / CHAPLAINCIES IN TRANSITION

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| St. John's, Aberdeen  | St. Mark's/Jackson                                    |
| St. Luke's/Brandon  | St. Philip's/Jackson - interviewing candidates        |
| Good Shepherd/Columbus  | Chapel of the Cross/Madison - interviewing candidates |
| St. Paul's/Columbus - interviewing candidates                   | Mediator/Meridian                                     |
| St. Andrew's/Jackson (canon position) - interviewing candidates | St. John's/Pascagoula - engaged in self-study         |



Music Continued From Page 8

Conference staff rose to the occasion. Many thanks to Derrick Ian Meador (Cathedral of St. Mark/Shreveport, LA) and Jeff McLelland (Independent Presbyterian Church/Birmingham, AL), our staff accompanists for bringing their good spirits and fine musicianship. Thanks also to David O'Steen (St. Philip's/Jackson), our treasurer and registrar. Dinetia Newman (All Saints/Tupelo), Dr. Debra Atkinson, (All Saints/Tupelo), Jo Benson (St. Paul's/Meridian), Dr. Susan Lee (St. Stephen's/Indianola), and Cynthia Horn

(St. John's/Laurel). A special word of thanks is due to Mr. Adam Stringer, organist and choir-master at St. Peter's/Oxford, for constantly ferrying faculty and staff to and from the airport, local restaurants, and of course making unscheduled Walmart runs. As the new director of the conference, I am grateful for all their help and hard work. I hope that more of our musicians throughout the diocese and our environs will join us next year for another unforgettable time together.



Mr. Matthew M. Woods is director of the Annual Mississippi Conference on Church Music and Liturgy and serves as organist and choirmaster at St. John's/Laurel.



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## BELOVED COMMUNITY

## The more we get together

By Andy Andrews

There is a growing abundance of Mississippi Episcopalians striving faithfully for racial reconciliation and renewal. It was evident in Starkville where over 57 gathered on August 12 for "A Day of Dialogue for Racial Healing and Relationship Building." This is an eight-hour spiritual renewal workshop enhancing loving speech, compassionate listening, deepening understanding, and fostering tenderness. The Episcopal Church of the Resurrection was a wonderful host. This was another awesome event sponsored by the Racial Reconciliation Task Force.

The nursery rhyme still sings true, "the more we get together the happier we will be." These workshops build relationships for the future. They are facilitated by talented Episcopalians with the gift to create a

prayerful, Christian, shame-free environment where healthy conversations about racial healing can best happen. The curriculum helps participants further become beloved community by honest inspiration and delight. It shows that what divides us is imaginary and in Christ we are becoming a family. "Your friends and my friends, my friends and your friends, the more we get together, the happier we will be."

Mark your calendars for Saturday, January 13, 2024, for the next workshop at St. Philip's/Jackson. For more information, please contact Andy Andrews at (901) 275-4514 or [andrews@dioms.org](mailto:andrews@dioms.org).



The Rev. Andy Andrews is missioner for Beloved Community and congregational vitality for the Diocese of Mississippi, and he serves as vicar of St. Christopher's Church of the Ascension/Jackson.



Participants enter dialogue at the Starkville "Day of Dialogue." Photo by Katy Pacelli.

## St. Christopher's/Jackson to host Advent retreat

By Andy Andrews

"Making Good Room," an Advent retreat, will be Saturday, December 9, 9-11:30 a.m. at St. Christopher's, 643 Beasley Road, Jackson. All are welcome. This event is sponsored by the Racial Reconciliation Taskforce of the Diocese of Mississippi.



Gloria Carter Dickerson

Gloria Carter Dickerson is the retreat leader. Gloria is a community leader in the Mississippi Delta. She is founder and CEO of We2gether Creating Change, a not-for-profit organization, whose mission is to be a catalyst in transforming poor communities into a culture of positive possibilities and a place where there are many opportunities. The organization began its work in September 2009. For more information, visit [www.we2gether.org](http://www.we2gether.org).

Advent is a wonderful time of year to discover more purpose and to further develop inner strength. It is a season that enjoys profound love, hope, and anticipation, a time of making room for the Holy Spirit to do a new thing.

Please let them know you are coming by email or phone: [andrews@dioms.org](mailto:andrews@dioms.org), (901) 275-4514.



The Rev. Andy Andrews is missioner for Beloved Community and congregational vitality for the Diocese of Mississippi, and he serves as vicar of St. Christopher's Church of the Ascension/Jackson.



**Greater love hath no man than this.**

JOHN 15:13



Participants at the 48th Annual Mississippi Conference on Church Music and Liturgy.

## Another successful conference on music and liturgy

By Matthew M. Woods

On Tuesday, July 18, 2023, the 48th Annual Mississippi Conference on Church Music and Liturgy convened on the campus of Millsaps College/Jackson. Choristers, choir directors, and organists from all over the Diocese of Mississippi and colleagues from further away met in the heat and humidity of Jackson. During this intense week of singing, prayer, worship, music study, and fellowship, our conferees once again exchanged ideas, became a choir together, and refreshed each other for another season of ministry. What started years ago as a choir retreat at St. Philip's/Jackson, has become a vital resource for those in music ministry. We are grateful for the steadfast support of Bishop Seage, and the Diocese of Mississippi. We couldn't do this work without you.

Our theme "Where is this stupendous stranger?" was an examination of the liturgies of the Incarnation of Our Lord, or "Christmas in July." All of us have Christmas to prepare for each year, and this year presents the challenge of Advent IV falling on Christmas Eve.

Our outstanding faculty members each brought passion and vision for how we might learn and embrace aspects of the Incarnation. Cynthia DeDakis, a retired choirmaster from Baltimore, and a fellow of the Royal School of Church Music, led rehearsals and shared her knowledge about chorister programs and recruitment. She taught us "Hope for Resolution: A Song for Mandela and de Klerk" arranged by Paul Caldwell & Sean Ivory. It fused the Christmas hymn "Of the Father's Love Begotten" with a South African freedom song *Thula sizwe* or "Nation, do not cry."

Janet Yieh, organist and choirmaster at the Church of the Heavenly Rest/New York, shared her passion for the music of lesser-known women composers, gave us resources to find their works, and encouraged us to seek them out.

The Rev. Greg L. Millikin, rector of Grace Church/New Lenox, IL was our conference preacher. He had the unenviable task of preaching the themes of Incarnation while the church calendar brought us lesser feasts like Macrina, Elizabeth Cady Stanton,



and Sojourner Truth. Greg broke us out of our comfort zones to show us the diversity of our beliefs and backgrounds, demonstrating that the church is large and fluid enough that we are all welcome and necessary. His sermon at our concluding eucharist was a masterful bridging of the conference themes.

In addition to our faculty, the Rev. Jennifer M. Deaton, who was conference preacher last year, became our new chaplain. A paragon of pastoral care and kindness, Jennifer made herself available to meet with conferees during the week and served as officiant at many of our liturgies. She also helped lead a round table discussion of self-care techniques for musicians and clergy during our busy seasons.

The conference was overwhelmed by the hospitality of the parishioners, staff, and clergy of the Chapel of the Cross/Madison, as they hosted our closing eucharist and provided a luncheon for the conference that is still buzzing all over Facebook. The appearance of the famous "63 egg cake" on the dessert table made everyone sit up and take notice.

See **Music** on Page 7