

# THE MISSISSIPPI EPISCOPALIAN

The Official Publication of the Episcopal Diocese of Mississippi



Volume 149

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March

# 2024



## Listening answering

The Rev. Dr. Dorothy Sanders Wells prepares for a new chapter in the Diocese of Mississippi

# THE MISSISSIPPI EPISCOPALIAN

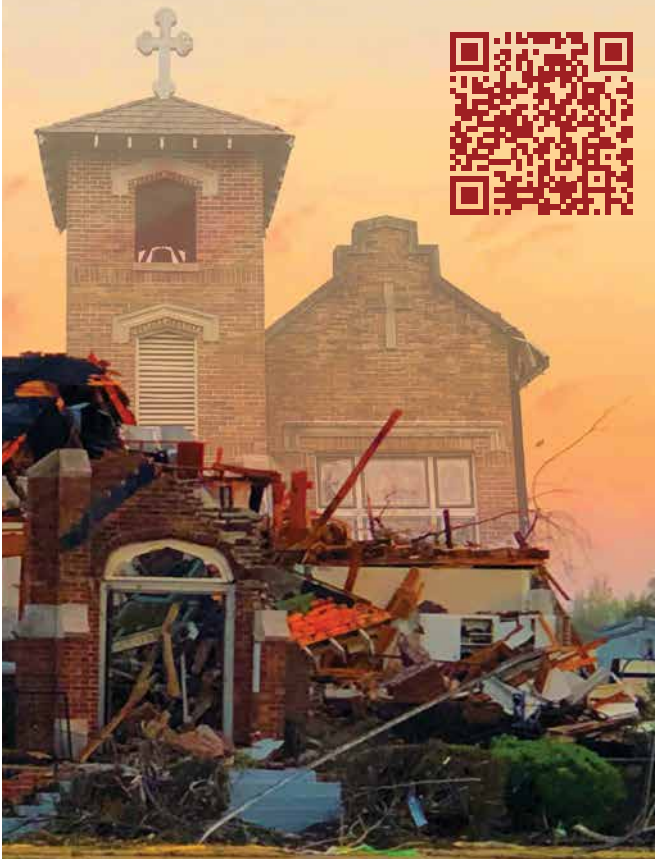
The Official Publication of the Episcopal Diocese of Mississippi



**On the cover:** The Rev. Dr. Dorothy Sanders Wells with her dog, Lily, in her neighborhood in Memphis. Wells will be the next bishop of the Diocese of Mississippi,

and is in the process of moving her family, including her husband Herb and her other dog Maggie, to Jackson. *Photo by Lisa Buser.*

**Bishop Seage has designated the 197th Council Offering and all Palm Sunday loose plate offerings to the rebuilding of Chapel of the Cross, Rolling Fork. To support the rebuilding of Chapel of the Cross, make a donation here.**



## 2 ECW Spring Conference

Hosted by the Episcopal Church Women of St. Peter's by-the-Sea in Gulfport

## 3 Truckin'

Bishop Seage visits Brandon, Raymond, Greenwood, Indianola, Greenville, and more...

## 5 Listening & Answering

The Rev. Dr. Dorothy Sanders Wells prepares for a new chapter in the Diocese of Mississippi

## 9 Book Review

*Good Enough: 40ish Devotionals for a Life of Imperfection* by Kate Bowler and Jessica Richie.

## 11 Central Convocation EYC Groups

## 12 Diocesan Calendar

Everything that's going on around the diocese in the coming months

## 13 Faithful Departed Deployment Report

# Episcopal Church Women of St. Peter's by-the-Sea to Host ECW Spring Conference

The Episcopal Church Women (ECW) of St. Peter's by-the-Sea in Gulfport will host the annual Spring Conference on Saturday, April 6, 2024.

The event will feature a keynote address by The Reverend Patrick Sanders, Rector of St. Peter's by-the-Sea, on the topic of "How Faith Becomes Joy." Attendees will also enjoy a continental breakfast, luncheon, and fellowship with other women of faith. A few "extras" along the way including some successful "FUN"d raising ideas.

The registration fee for the event is \$20 and includes lunch. The RSVP deadline is Sunday, March 17th.

A limited number of rooms have been blocked for Friday, April 5 at the Courtyard Gulfport Beachfront (1600 E. Beach Blvd Gulfport, MS) for attendees at a reduced rate of \$166.88 per night. Use Group Code ECWS. Reservations must be made by Sunday, March 17th to receive the discounted rate.

Located just two blocks from St. Peter's by-the-Sea, enjoy the view overlooking the beautiful Mississippi Sound

and walking distance from a variety of local restaurants.

So Ladies C'mon Down to the beautiful Mississippi Gulf Coast... Significant others accompanying you and need something to do while we gather?

Gulfport offers a number of attractions for all including: The Mississippi Aquarium, TrainTastic (World's largest model railroad museum), and the Mississippi Aviation Heritage Museum. 🏰

**WHO:** All ladies of the Diocese of Mississippi

**WHAT:** ECW Spring Conference

**WHEN:** Saturday April 6, 9:00a.m.

**WHERE:** St. Peter's by-the-Sea Episcopal Church, 1909 15th Street Gulfport, Mississippi

**CONTACT:** Ann Milsted, Conference Coordinator, by email at [eamlstd@yahoo.com](mailto:eamlstd@yahoo.com) or phone at 601-479-7477

**ACCOMMODATIONS:** [mariott.com/GPTCY](http://mariott.com/GPTCY) 228-864-4310

Diocese of Mississippi  
ECW  
Spring Conference  
2024  
Saturday, April 6, 2024



**Feb. 1** → I spent most of the morning in the office preparing for Council. My time was split between reviewing my address and looking over notes for the Sunday sermon. I enjoyed lunch with Kyle before returning to the office. I spent the afternoon on the phone addressing several pastoral issues.

**Feb. 2** → I had a very calm morning before collecting my stuff and heading to St. Andrew's School for the 197th Annual Council of our Diocese. Our evening worship went well as did my address to Council. We accomplished a great deal of business during the first business session! I was sorry, however, that we got so much accomplished that I made people late for their dinner reservations! On the way home, Kyle joined me for one of my "Council customs" dinner at Waffle House. I love breakfast for dinner!

**Feb. 3** → I arrived at Council early for a breakfast with our clergy spouses. The morning business moved quickly and we turned to the election of the 11th Bishop of Mississippi. Unfortunately, some confusion with check-ins put our numbers out of whack. After clearing up the confusion, we were able to cast ballots. An election was accomplished on the 4th ballot producing an incredible Holy Spirit moment when the Rev. Dr. Dorothy Sanders Wells was called by Council to be the next Bishop of Mississippi. It was a beautiful and incredible moment. Dorothy joined us by Zoom to accept her call and address Council. She will be great. I'm grateful for her willingness to serve. Likewise, I'm grateful for our candidates, Jason, Jennifer, Rob and Walton for their willingness to be vulnerable in this process is quite a gift to the Church. Following the election the business was taken up with signing testimonials and then followed by a party on site.

**Feb. 4** → My morning started early with a breakfast offered by my seminary, The Seminary of the Southwest. It was attended by other alumni. We completed a great deal of business including courtesy resolutions and the conferring of Honorary Canons on Granville Tate,

David Elliot, and David Langdon. This council marks the last council for Canon Tate who served as Diocesan Chancellor or Vice-Chancellor for more than 25 years! The closing service of the Council was beautiful and featured an all-star choir from around the Diocese. This service was another beautiful holy spirit moment. Presiding over the Council for the past ten years has been an incredible honor. Thank you.

**Feb. 5** → I rested and spent the day with Kyle.

**Feb. 6** → I kept an early Zoom meeting with my colleagues from Province IV. Later in the morning, I found time for a workout in the Grit pool. In the afternoon, I kept several phone calls relating to a Diocesan matter.

**Feb. 7** → The morning started early with a breakfast meeting with Bishop Kopacz (Catholic), Bishop Lewis (Methodist) and me. I enjoyed telling them about Bishop-elect Wells. After a variety of staff meetings, I kept a phone appointment with our Bishop-elect. Later in the afternoon, I had a phone meeting with a local clergy person.

**Feb. 8** → What a busy day! My Zoom app was open nearly all day with hourly meetings starting at 9 a.m. with aspirants for Holy Orders. I finished up with aspirant meetings around 5 p.m. After a quick dinner, I had another Zoom meeting to plan the Ordination and Consecration of Bishop-elect Wells.

**Feb. 9** → The day started early with a staff meeting, over breakfast, with Andy Andrews. I spent the rest of the morning at Allin House catching up on paperwork. After lunch, I returned to the office for Zoom calls with the Recovery Ministry of the Episcopal Church and later with Working Together Mississippi. Before heading home, I kept a telephone appointment with one of our rectors.

# TRUCKIN'

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



**Feb. 10** → I spent the morning on the phone with Chancellor Ireland. Over lunch, I made time for a workout in the Grit pool. The rest of the afternoon was taken up with preparation for tomorrow's visitation at St. Peter's in Brandon.

**Feb. 11** → My Sunday visit was at St. Peter's in Brandon. I officiated at the 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. services. Between the two services, I confirmed nine and received two. After the 10:30 service, the congregation and I enjoyed fellowship and lunch. In the afternoon, I watched the Super Bowl.

**Feb. 12** → I rose early and enjoyed a workout at the Grit pool. The rest of the day was spent in restful relaxation.

**Feb. 13** → Staff meetings occupied most of my morning. After lunch, I had phone calls with several parish leaders and clergy. In the afternoon, I met with Mr. Perry Perkins from Working Together Mississippi.

**Feb. 14** → Ash Wednesday always begins early with a trip to St. Andrew's School for the imposition of Ashes with the Lower School. I have appreciated that time with students, teachers, and many parents. After a couple of hours in the office, I drove to St. Mark's in Raymond for the imposition of Ashes and Holy Eucharist. I left St. Mark's and after returning to the office for various duties, I drove to St. Luke's in Brandon for an evening service of imposition of Ashes and Holy Eucharist. After church, we shared a meal and fellowship.

**Feb. 15** → In the morning, I met with Senator Lydia Chassaniol and Mr. Dan Smith regarding a project involving St. Clement's in Vaiden. Before lunch, I met with Whitney Robinson for an update on our Youth Ministry. The afternoon was packed with meetings including an in-person meeting with lay leaders from a local parish followed by a meeting with your Standing Committee president, Buck Cooper. In the evening, I had supper with a couple of old friends.

**Feb. 16** → The morning was taken up with staff meetings. In the afternoon, I met, via Zoom, with a clergy person interested in relocating to our Diocese. Before finishing

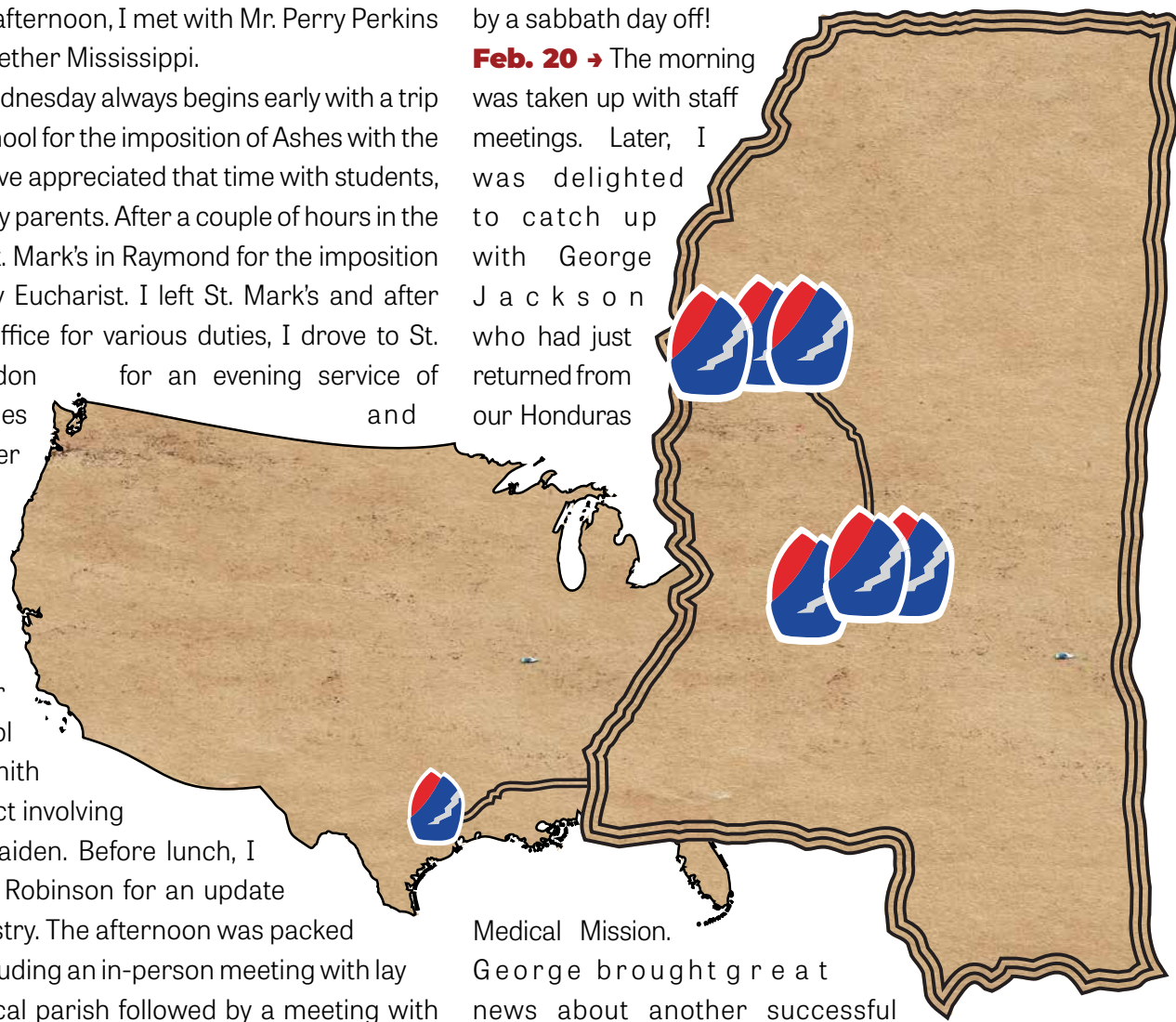
my day, I met with a leader in our recovery community.

**Feb. 17** → In the morning, I met with Chip Davis regarding ministry at Gray Center. After doing laundry I drove to Greenwood for supper with congregants from the Church of the Nativity.

**Feb. 18** → Visitation was at the Church of the Nativity in Greenwood. I preached and presided at both services and confirmed thirteen at the 10:30 service! Between services, I led an adult forum and discussed the Bishop Transition that will lead to the ordination and consecration of Bishop-Elect Wells on July 20. In the afternoon, I drove home and enjoyed supper with Katie and Jacob.

**Feb. 19** → Early morning workout followed by a sabbath day off!

**Feb. 20** → The morning was taken up with staff meetings. Later, I was delighted to catch up with George Jackson who had just returned from our Honduras



Medical Mission. George brought great news about another successful mission! Over lunch, I met with an aspirant for Holy Orders.

**Feb. 21** → An early morning preceded a busy day in the office! I had one appointment after another until 2:30

**"TRUCKIN'" CONTINUED ON PAGE 8** →

# Listening answering

## The Rev. Dr. Dorothy Sanders Wells prepares for a new chapter in the Diocese of Mississippi

**P**reparation is a big part of life for the Rev. Dr. Dorothy Sanders Wells. Starting when her two daughters were young, she established a habit of cooking once a week—for the entire week—that she maintains to this day.

Cooking is a hobby, not just a chore for Wells. Now that her daughters are adults, she loves trying new recipes from various cuisines—Middle Eastern, Italian, Indian, to name a few—and always cooks healthy meals for herself and her husband, Herb. During the pandemic, she and her oldest daughter held informal competitions with each other over Zoom, each preparing the same dish to see whose would turn out better.

“Everybody was laughing because we’d share on social media—the meal of the day and what it looked like in my kitchen versus hers,” says Wells. “Who made the better presentation of this meal today?”

The past ten years of her ministry at St. George’s Episcopal Church in Germantown, Tennessee, just outside of Memphis, have similarly been a period of preparation, as were her 18 years practicing law before being ordained to the priesthood. There is a deliberate patience to the way she approaches things, large and small, that has served her well through a fascinating journey.

Growing up in Mobile, Alabama, Wells felt drawn to something spiritually that she couldn’t quite seem to find in her parents’ religious tradition. They were die-hard Baptists (her maternal grandfather had even been a pastor), but the young Wells felt out of place in their church. She didn’t have words for what she was looking for—she’d never actually seen it, after all—until she attended church with her Great Aunt Ella, by Wells’ account a “high church Methodist,” and discovered something that clicked.



"That was the first time I learned the Gloria Patri, and I memorized the Apostles Creed," says Wells. "And we went to the communion rail every Sunday for communion. Even then, I had a sense of that love of liturgy, just the love of tradition that I seemed to feel there."

She wanted to find her way into a tradition like that on a more permanent basis, but wasn't sure how. As it happened, a tradition found her.

Wells decided as a senior in high school that she wanted to attend Rhodes College in Memphis. The architecture, the academics, and the small community appealed to her after her four years at a 3,000-student high school in Mobile. After a weekend visit to the campus, she called her parents and told them "this is it."

She enrolled and became a music major, studying vocal performance, and quickly learned a truism of that discipline.

"Music majors make money working for churches," says Wells. "That's what music majors do: we go out and find church jobs, and that's how we make money."

She found more than a paycheck when she eventually got offered a job at Calvary Episcopal Church in downtown Memphis, knowing nothing about the Episcopal Church. The choirmaster suggested she attend a service before taking the job to make sure it was a good fit.

To say the fit was good would be an understatement.

"I climbed into a pew and picked up something that I'd never seen before called a *Book of Common Prayer*," says Wells, "and I thought, where's this been all my life? This is me, this is me. I can't believe I've never experienced this

before, but these prayers feel like prayers that someone just reached inside of my heart and wrote down."

She was soon confirmed and became a parishioner, first at Calvary and later at St. George's, while she attended law school and then built a career in law with three years of private practice and 15 working for FedEx.

She can't pinpoint the exact moment the pull toward ordained ministry emerged, but guesses it was present within her for at least a decade before she finally spoke her call out loud.

"It seemed like such an incredible call for God to place on your life," says Wells. "I wondered, am I really ready for that? Am I really equipped for that? And I had to step back and realize, God wouldn't call you if God didn't trust that all will be well, and that you are truly equipped for what God needs you to do. And once I could wrap my head around that a bit better, then I could say, 'Yes, Lord, I'm listening and I'm answering.'"

After serving a curacy at The Church of the Holy Apostles in Collierville, Tennessee, and then returning to St. George's to serve as rector for over a decade, Wells received another call—one that surely would've been incomprehensible to that little girl back in Mobile—to become the eleventh bishop of the Diocese of Mississippi.

As that transition approaches, Wells is preparing once again.

"I've got a lot of listening to do and a lot to learn and I'm looking forward to walking journeys with folks and getting to know better how all of us can be part of a new story of God at work."

That work will likely include racial healing, a subject she studied while earning a Doctor of Ministry degree from Candler School of Theology at Emory University. She's explored the topic in writing by publishing articles

**CONTINUED →**

*Wells is ordained to the priesthood by then-Bishop of West Tennessee, The Rt. Rev. Don Edward Johnson in 2012. She 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.*



in *The Christian Century*, *Episcopal Café*, and *Patheos*, among many others.


Wells has also put theory into practice through her ministry at St. George's. The church has been heavily involved in programs, mostly to the west in the denser, less affluent Memphis, promoting things like education and food security. Involvement in those programs has not only provided much-needed services to the city but has benefitted her Germantown parishioners by providing them a greater understanding of the interconnectedness of urban and suburban communities.

Wells sees that kind of community engagement as having been relinquished to secular interests over time, and advocates the church's return to that work.

"I think it's time for us to reclaim our voice at the table and say, 'God wants God's people to be well. God wants God's people to be reconciled within their communities. God wants God's people to be whole. God doesn't want God's people to be broken.' So what is our job here? While we're walking around the Earth, our job is hopefully to help that kingdom come so that people can experience healing and peace and hope. The church should be part of that conversation."

As Wells, her husband, and their two dogs (Maggie & Lily) make their way south from Memphis to Jackson, they'll bring that conversation to a new landscape. She relishes the opportunity to learn what makes the Diocese of Mississippi such a special place.

"I have to believe that God has some incredible things ahead for all of us," she says. "And I'm looking forward to being able to explore those to just see, okay, what different things am I going to learn on the coast versus in the Delta, versus around the colleges? What different things am I going to learn about this new place and how God calls all of us together to do God's work, and to help bring healing to God's people."

The Wells family lands in Mississippi in May, where they will surely find God's people ready to embrace them. 



## Diocesan Altar Guild Annual Meeting

April 20, 2024

St. John's Episcopal Church  
541 North 5th Avenue  
Laurel, MS



ESTABLISHED A.D. 1981

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9:00 - 10:00	Registration / Light Refreshments
10:00 - 11:45	Welcome  Business Meeting  Program:  The Rev. Dr. Karl C. Schaffenburg, Priest Associate Elements of an Instructed Eucharist <i>The origins of particular altar vessels, linens, accoutrements and practices.</i>
12:00 - 1:00	Holy Eucharist The Very Rt. Brian Seage, Bishop of Mississippi The Very Rev. Fr. Jeffery W. Reich, Rector Matthew Woods, Organist and Choirmaster
1:00 - 2:00	Luncheon and Fellowship

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Cost: \$30.00 and will be collected at the door

Please R.S.V.P. by Friday, April 12th to  
Jennifer Myrick - [thepotterswife@gmail.com](mailto:thepotterswife@gmail.com)



## “TRUCKIN’” CONTINUED

when I drove to the Orchard to Celebrate the Eucharist with residents. Immediately after the service, I drove to St. Catherine for a service with that community.

**Feb. 22** → In the morning, I met with Whitney Robinson for our regular update on Youth Ministry in the Diocese. I spent the rest of the day catching up on email and phone calls. In the evening, I enjoyed dinner with friends.

**Feb. 23** → After an early workout in the Grit pool, I returned home to prepare for work. After several staff meetings (catch-ups) I met with the Rev. Deacon Cathy Halford regarding several Diocesan servant ministries. Later in the morning, I joined an ordination/consecration planning meeting on Zoom. In the afternoon, I met with a lay leader regarding camping ministry.

**Feb. 24** → I spent the morning attending a Lent retreat at St. Andrew's Cathedral. The event was led by Dr. Beth Sarah-Wright from Atlanta.


**Feb. 25** → My morning visitation was at St. Stephen's in Indianola. I preached and presided at their service which

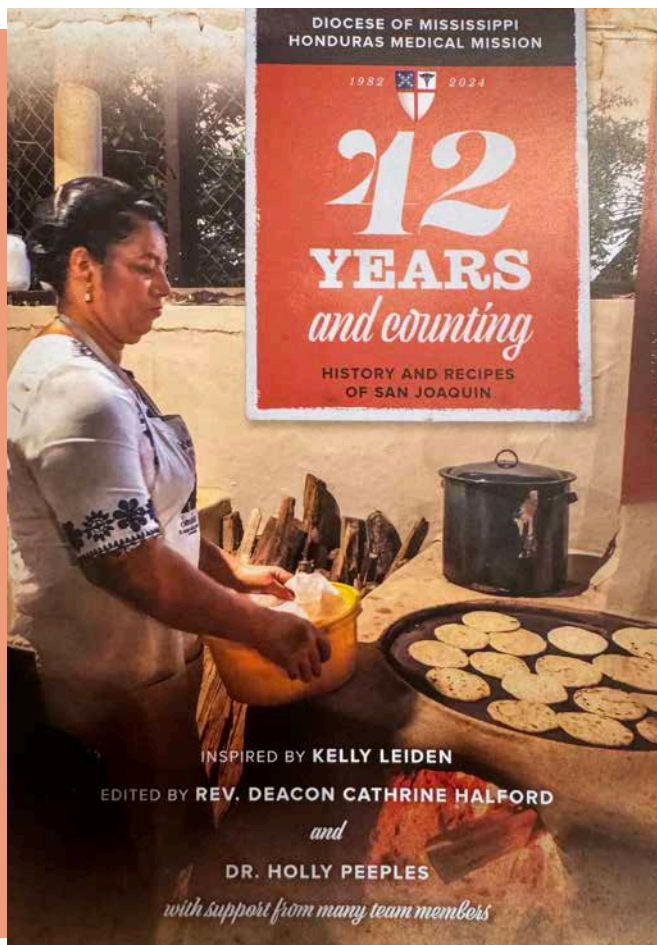
was followed by lunch and fellowship. I left Indianola and drove to Greenville for an afternoon visitation at the Church of the Redeemer in Greenville. I confirmed one at the service and enjoyed fellowship and food before driving home.

**Feb. 26** → An early morning workout was followed by my sabbath day. I spent my day off getting ready for the next day's drive to the House of Bishops at Camp Allen in Texas. In the evening, I celebrated Katie's 24th Birthday with Jacob and her.

**Feb. 27** → I found time for a workout before driving to Navasota for my meeting with the House of Bishops. I arrived at Camp Allen around 9 p.m.

**Feb. 28** → The first meetings and worship at HoB started after breakfast. It's good to catch up with colleagues!

**Feb. 29** → This full day included Lectio Divina, Table Discussions and dinner out with our classmates. My classmates, Rob Skirving (East Carolina) and Alan Gates (Massachusetts) called it the Last Supper since Alan and I are both attending our final HoB as Diocesan Bishops. We celebrated the occasion with BBQ. 



## 42 Years and Counting

(about the Diocese of Mississippi's Honduras Medical Mission)

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# Book Review

*Good Enough: 40ish Devotionals for a Life of Imperfection* by Kate Bowler and Jessica Richie.

Convergent Books, Feb. 2022. 251 pages.

**Review by Staff Reviewer Carol Mead**

I found the book *Good Enough* in the spiritual section of my favorite bookstore, but it looked curiously like it belonged in the self-help section. And if we Christians have established anything over the millennia, it is that we cannot help ourselves.

But *Good Enough*, by Kate Bowler and Jessica Richie, holds plenty of grounding in the Christian tradition to justify its role in deepening spirituality. The book weaves lessons from the Bible and from Jesus' life into strength to resist the dominant and misguided lessons of our culture.

For instance, the book references the Biblical story of the golden calf, saying that we “are much more likely to do exactly what the Israelites have done: not to have a false image of a false God, but a false image of the true God.” It continues, “We are not apostates. We are idolaters. We fall in love with the things that are almost true. We start taking our gold and pouring it into a cast that we can shape with our own hands, one that inspires us and challenges us, but is not, necessarily, given to us by the one true God. After all, what is idolatry except beautiful things that do not transform us?”

*Good Enough* questions the “Perfectibility Paradigm,” the American myth that we can solve all of our problems by trying harder and using proper methods and products. The authors say, “Those who drink deeply from the wells of modern self-help culture...take a very precious truth about faith—that we can grow closer to God and become more fully human—and transform it into a capitalistic imperative.”

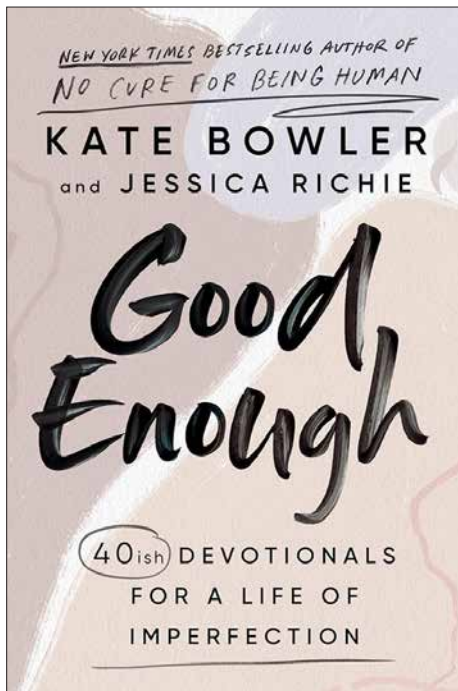
The authors cut to the heart of our frustrated efforts to save and perfect ourselves. They hit home with my insecure self by writing, “When life goes off the rails, we often believe we are the problem.” But they then push for deeper thought: “What is a core truth of your life, the straightest arrow you can imagine finding there? Now ask yourself: Is it aimed too low?”

The book continually pushes us gently to resist the impossible perfectibility quest, turning instead to spiritual points of reference. Each observation is followed by a blessing and then a “Good enough step”—a small place to start. That approach is particularly highlighted by the story of the St. Therese. *Good Enough* says of the lesson of her life, “We are often taught that our lives must be big to be remembered. But what if it was enough to scatter flowers? To make small sacrifices? Instead

of mythologizing the rich and famous, let's pause to celebrate all those of us who walk the little way. Blessed are you who show up because you're on the schedule.” The section concludes with a blessing: “God, bless me in this Little Way, to be able to do small things with great love. One small action at a time, until it's a bridge...from my little life to Yours with each act of love.”

*Good Enough* offers excellent spiritual nourishment in a package that is funny on the surface but incisive and serious at its core. Its pages hold too many lessons—about God, about resisting the culture, about our very selves—to describe adequately in a short review. I will say simply that I love this book.

As is often the case in my life, I couldn't get 'enough.' 🙏



*The Very Rev. Carol Mead is rector of St. Peter's-by-the-Lake/Brandon and serves as dean of the Central Convocation.*

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**



## SUMMER 2024

**GRAYCENTER.ORG**

Primary: June 5-8, ages 6-9

Special 1: June 10-15, ages 40+

Junior: June 17-22, ages 13-16

Middler: June 24-29, ages 11-13

Elementary: July 1-6, ages 9-11

Mixed Ages: July 8-13, ages 8-14

Special 2: July 15-20, ages 18-39



## 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.

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# Central Convocation EYC Groups (EY2nds)

The Central Convocation EYC groups, EY2nds, meet on the 2nd Sunday of each month. The group is led by Lisa Saucier, Director of Christian Education at St. Philip's, Jackson, who works with other youth leaders in the convocation to plan events. So far, events have

included holiday parties, lock-ins, a trivia night, a game night, a tour of the MS Civil Rights Museum, and a Super Bowl watch party. All churches and youth in the central convocation are welcome to participate—Contact Lisa at [lisas@stphilipsjackson.com](mailto:lisas@stphilipsjackson.com) for more information or to join. 

# 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.

## March

- 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, Grace, Canton
- 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
- 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, Jackson
- 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, 11:30 am - 3:30 pm
- 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
- 25** Culpepper Cookout, Camp Bratton-Green
- 27** Memorial Day
- 27** Allin House staff holiday in observance of Memorial Day

## June

- 2** Bishop Seage visits Creator, Clinton
- 3** The Mississippi Episcopalian deadline; 12:00 noon
- 4** Small Churches Collaborative, online
- 5-8** Primary Camp, Camp Bratton-Green
- 6** Racial Reconciliation Task Force; 12:00 noon
- 9** Bishop Seage visits Good Shepherd, Columbus
- 10-15** Special Session 1, Camp Bratton-Green
- 13** Executive Committee, 11:30 - 3:30 p.m., St. Andrew's Cathedral, Jackson
- 15** Ordination to the Sacred Order of Priests, St. Andrew's Cathedral (tentative)
- 17-22** Junior Camp, Camp Bratton-Green
- 19** Juneteenth
- 19** Allin House staff holiday in observance of Juneteenth
- 21-28** 81st General Convention, Louisville, KY
- 24-29** Middler Camp, Camp Bratton-Green
- 30** Bishop Seage visits St. Christopher's, Jackson

# 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.

**The Rev. Giulianna Cappelletti Gray** has been called as Canon to the Ordinary for Congregational Development and Leadership in the Diocese of Indianapolis and begins ministry there this month. Giulianna has been serving most recently as director of the Sewanee Ministry Collaborative at The University of the South.

**The Rev. Canon David Johnson** will be serving as pastor and priest at Resurrection, Starkville while the Very Rev. Walton Jones is on sabbatical this spring.

**The Rev. Marie Smith** has announced her intention to leave Incarnation, West Point, where she has been serving as rector. Marie will be relocating to explore ministry opportunities in Minnesota, and her last Sunday at Incarnation will be April 28.

**The Rev. Les Hegwood** has accepted the call to serve as rector of St. Philip's, Jackson, beginning July 1. Les will round his ministry as rector of Calvary, Cleveland and vicar of Grace, Rosedale in May.

## Churches/Chaplaincies in Transition

**St. Luke's, Brandon**

**Redeemer, Brookhaven**

**Good Shepherd, Columbus**

**St. Andrew's, Jackson** (Associate Rector position) – accepting inquiries

**Mediator, Meridian** – receiving names until 4/16/2024

**Canterbury: Mississippi State University / Resurrection, Starkville**

**St. John's, Pascagoula** – reviewing applications

# 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.

**Betty Rowland**, 98, communicant of St. James', Jackson, died March 15, 2023.

**Charles Otho Williams, M.D.**, 83, communicant of Creator, Clinton, died September 3, 2023.

**Charles Ted Kelly**, 88, communicant of St. George's Clarksdale, died September 30, 2023.

**McWillie Mitchell Robinson, Jr.**, 89, communicant of St. James', Jackson, died October 8, 2023.

**Damon "Tyler" Crumb**, 60, communicant of St. Luke's, Brandon, died November 17, 2023.

**Mary Beverly Noble**, 80, communicant of St. James, Jackson, died January 11, 2024.

**Walter Van "PI" Williams**, 83, communicant of St. Mark's, Gulfport, died January 20, 2024.

**Wilson Harris, Jr.**, 83, communicant of St. Mary's, Vicksburg, died January 22, 2024.

**Don O'Neal Lassetter**, 90, communicant of St. George's Clarksdale, died January 22, 2024.

**Paula Gayle Chaffin**, 75, communicant of St. George's Clarksdale, died January 28, 2024.

**Ron Bankston, Jr.**, 72, communicant of Mediator/Redeemer, McComb/Magnolia, died February 17, 2024.

**Jo Anne Walker**, 89, communicant of Trinity, Hattiesburg, died February 20, 2024

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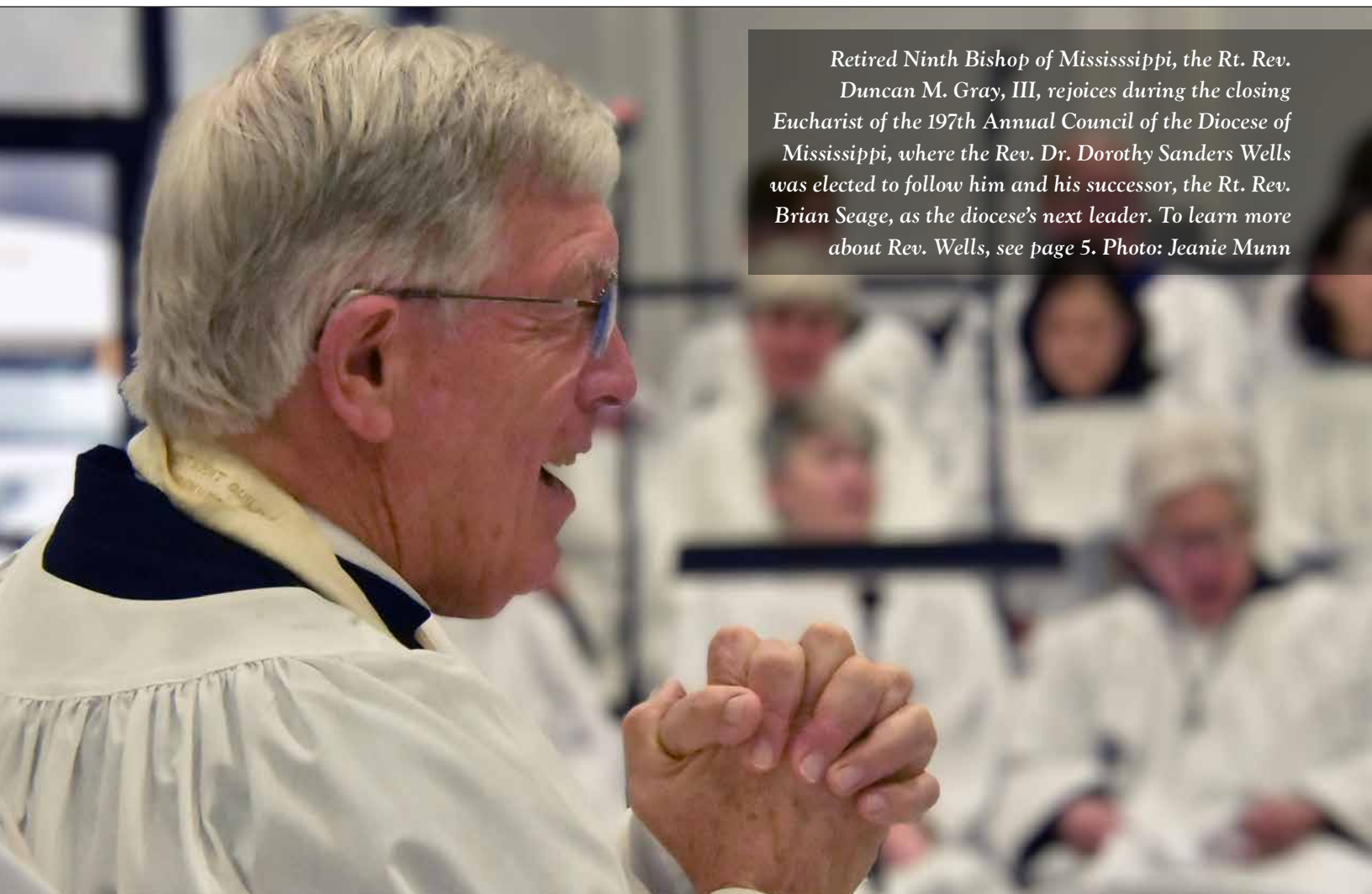
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*Retired Ninth Bishop of Mississippi, the Rt. Rev. Duncan M. Gray, III, rejoices during the closing Eucharist of the 197th Annual Council of the Diocese of Mississippi, where the Rev. Dr. Dorothy Sanders Wells was elected to follow him and his successor, the Rt. Rev. Brian Seage, as the diocese's next leader. To learn more about Rev. Wells, see page 5. Photo: Jeanie Munn*