

THE MISSISSIPPI EPISCOPALIAN

The Official Publication of the Episcopal Diocese of Mississippi



Volume 149

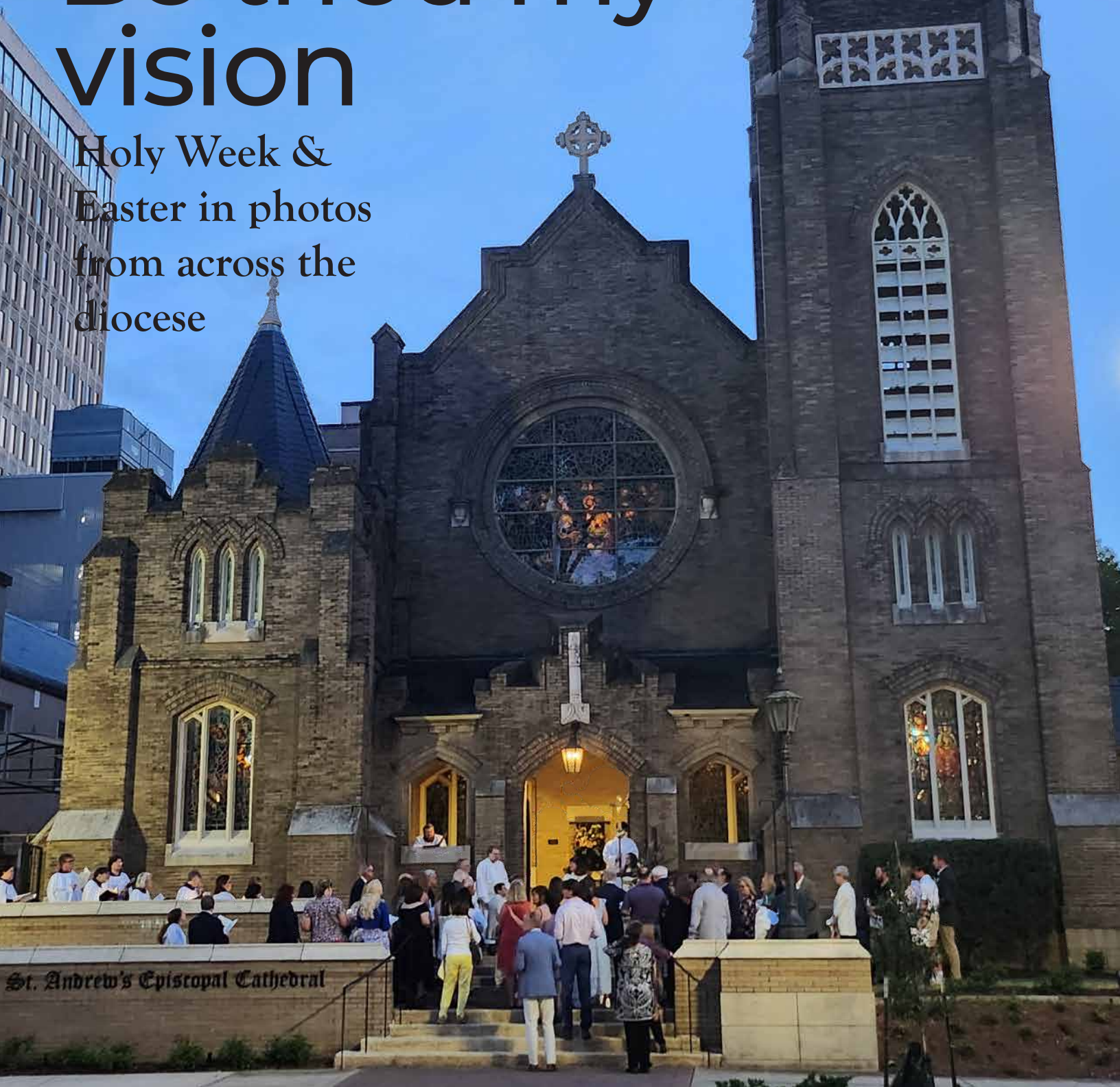
Issue No. 4

April

2024

Be thou my vision

Holy Week &
Easter in photos
from across the
diocese

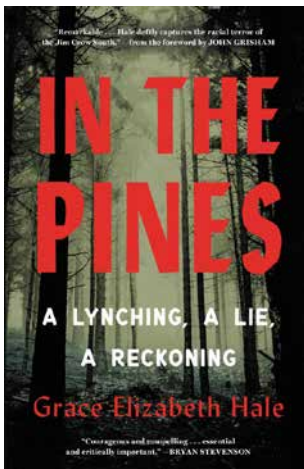


St. Andrew's Episcopal Cathedral

join the dazzling gathering
May 2, noon - 1PM

Dr. Grace Elizabeth Hale
shares about her new work,

In the Pines: A Lynching, A Lie, A Reckoning



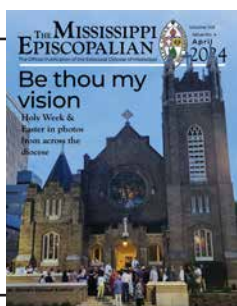
For the gathering, prayerfully read Dr. King's
Letter from Birmingham Jail.

Dr. King's moving, healing, and honest
1963 open letter to religious leaders is a
masterpiece and profoundly revelant today.
Many will recognize powerful words and
phrases that reflect Gospel love and truth.

more info at dioms.org



ON THE COVER: St.
Andrew's Cathedral
begins its Great Vigil
of Easter. *Photo by
Gracey Belote.*



THE MISSISSIPPI EPISCOPALIAN

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leaders over lunch.


Tools for the Journey

St. Andrew's Cathedral's *Journey Series* of retreats has welcomed to downtown Jackson such luminaries as Dr. Beth-Sarah Wright and Mark Nepo. In May, the Cathedral offers the opportunity for growth through reflection and storytelling with clinical psychologist Dr. John Allin.

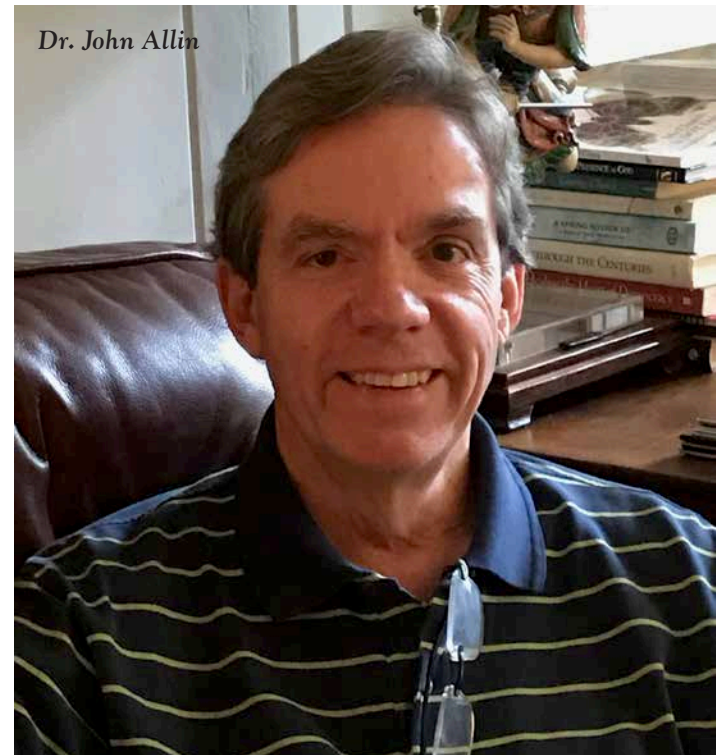
The retreat, which is open to all who are interested, will take place on May 11th from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Registration is \$50 and includes lunch. Registration is at standrews.ms/journeyseries. Those needing assistance registering should call St. Andrews at 601.354.1535.

In his writing, the Celtic poet, John O'Donohue, warns us that "While we seem to have progressed to become experts in so many things—multiplying and acquiring stuff we neither need nor truly want—we have unlearned the grace of presence and belonging." He goes on to advise, "With the demise of religion, many people are left stranded in a chasm of emptiness and doubt; without rituals to recognize, celebrate, or negotiate the vital thresholds of people's lives. The key crossings pass by, undistinguished from the mundane, everyday rituals of life... If we approach our decisive thresholds with reverence and attention, the crossing will bring us more than we could ever have hoped for." (*To Bless the Space Between Us*, O'Donohue, 2008).

This notion of approaching decisive thresholds with reverence and attention is the theme of the upcoming *Journey Series* session. *Tools for the Journey: Expanding Awareness through Meditation and Mottos* will present five essential messages, based on Allin's professional musings about healthy and purposeful living, accompanied by compelling stories, participants' reflections, and intermittent meditations, music, and silence. Storytellers include: **Dr. Dan Woodliff**, **Dr. Bob Blacklock**, **Dr. Keith Mansel**, and **Rev. Buddy Stallings**. Bring a journal and pen.

Join St. Andrew's for this day of retreat and refreshment to learn how a simple motto can prompt an expanded awareness for everyday thresholds. 

St. Andrew's Cathedral hosts clinical psychologist Dr. John Allin for the next iteration of its 'Journey Series' retreats



Dr. John Allin

WHO: All are welcome!

WHAT: The Journey Series | *Tools for the Journey: Expanding Awareness through Meditation and Mottos*

**WHEN: Saturday, May 11,
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.**

WHERE: St. Andrew's Cathedral, 305 E. Capitol St., Jackson, Mississippi

COST: \$50 (includes lunch)

**MORE INFO/REGISTRATION:
standrews.ms/journeyseries**



March 1 → We spent most of the day at House of Bishops in table groups. An afternoon program included a talk show hosted by Andy Doyle from the Diocese of Texas. Andy interviewed Craig Loya (Minnesota), Jennifer Baskerville-Burrows (Indianapolis), and Scott Mayer (Northwest Texas). It was fun and provided a great way to learn more about my bishop colleagues.

March 2 → Today was our Sabbath day with no meetings or business planned. I spent most of the day at a retreat led by Scott Barker (Nebraska). It was a wonderfully spiritual day with quiet, meditation, and discussion mixed in.

March 3 → Our Sunday began with a celebration of the Holy Eucharist. We had a variety of meetings throughout the day. In the afternoon, I was able to take a long walk with Jake Owensby (W. Louisiana). I enjoyed the walk and talk.

March 4 → The last full day of our meetings included the normal “pre-general convention” information session. In the evening, we celebrated our time together with the annual closing banquet. After the banquet, I started the drive home. While driving, I reflected on being part

of this community for the past ten years. I am grateful for the friendship, collegiality, support, and worshipping community.

March 5 → I arrived home around three a.m. Not surprisingly, I slept late into the morning. In the afternoon, I worked out and did laundry.

March 6 → I had a busy day playing ‘catchup’ in the office. The morning included several staff meetings. The afternoon included meetings with several church leaders from the diocese.

March 7 → Most of the morning was spent getting ready for the afternoon meeting of the Executive Committee. The meeting went well. The Rev. Will Compton was elected Vice-President. I had two online meetings that lasted into the evening.

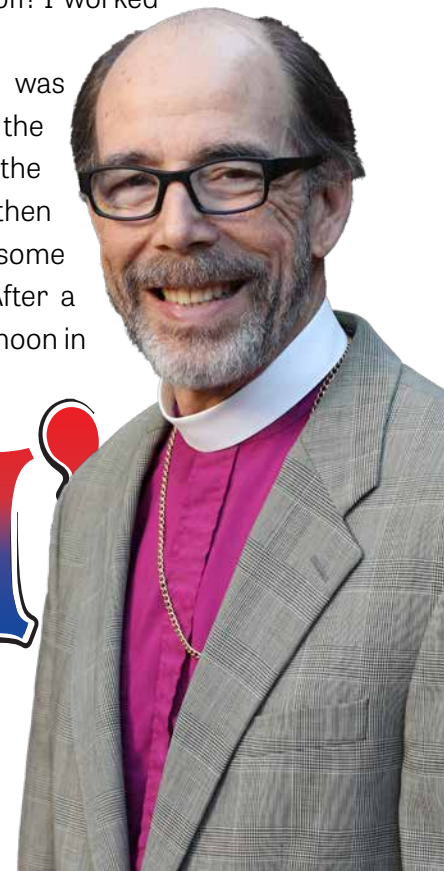
March 8 → I rose early for a workout. The rest of the day was filled up with meetings, online and in-person. In the evening, Kyle and I watched an online movie about the ordination of the Philadelphia Eleven. I hope we can arrange a showing of this movie to the diocese!

March 9 → I enjoyed a very quiet Saturday morning. In the afternoon, I went to the pool for a workout.

March 10 → My visitation was at Christ Church in Vicksburg. I celebrated and preached at two services. At the principal service, I confirmed one and received another. In the evening, I had supper with Katie.

March 11 → Sabbath day off! I worked out in the afternoon.

March 12 → My morning was spent at the Capitol in the Senate chamber. I opened the session with prayer and then stuck around to say hello to some parishioners and friends. After a bit of lunch, I spent the afternoon in the office.



TRUCKIN'

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

March 13 → I rose early for a workout. After workout, I stopped for a few minutes to remember my dad's birthday. He would've been 101 years old today. My time in the office consisted of staff meetings and then several phone meetings. I met later with the Rev. Katie Sorey for an annual consultation.

March 14 → I had a busy morning getting ready for a meeting with the Trustees of the Diocese. At 11 a.m., I walked to the Cathedral to preside at their noon eucharistic celebration. The rest of the day was taken up with the Trustees meeting.

March 15 → After a workout, I proceeded to the office for my normal meeting with Andy Andrews and later Peggy Jones. Over the lunch hour, I met with the Commission on Ministry.

March 16 → I joined the Standing Committee for a portion of their quarterly Zoom meeting. After lunch, I worked out and later in the day I drove to the Coast for evening meetings with St. Patrick's in Long Beach. My meeting included remodeling to their buildings thanks to a new partnership with the Mississippi School for the Blind. This new ministry promises to offer a unique Spirit to the congregation.

March 17 → I officiated at St. Patrick's principal service and confirmed two and received one. I decided to take a little break from driving and spent an additional night on the Coast.

March 18 → After driving home from the Coast, I managed time to get a workout at the GRIT pool.

March 19 → After staff meetings, I was busy with phone

calls and emails for most of the day. Before heading home, I began the task of packing my office.

March 20 → I spent the morning at the Capitol with judicatories and clergy from around the state. In the afternoon, I spoke at a press conference on expanding Medicare. The afternoon was spent driving to Columbus for the Celebration of a New Ministry at St. Paul's with their

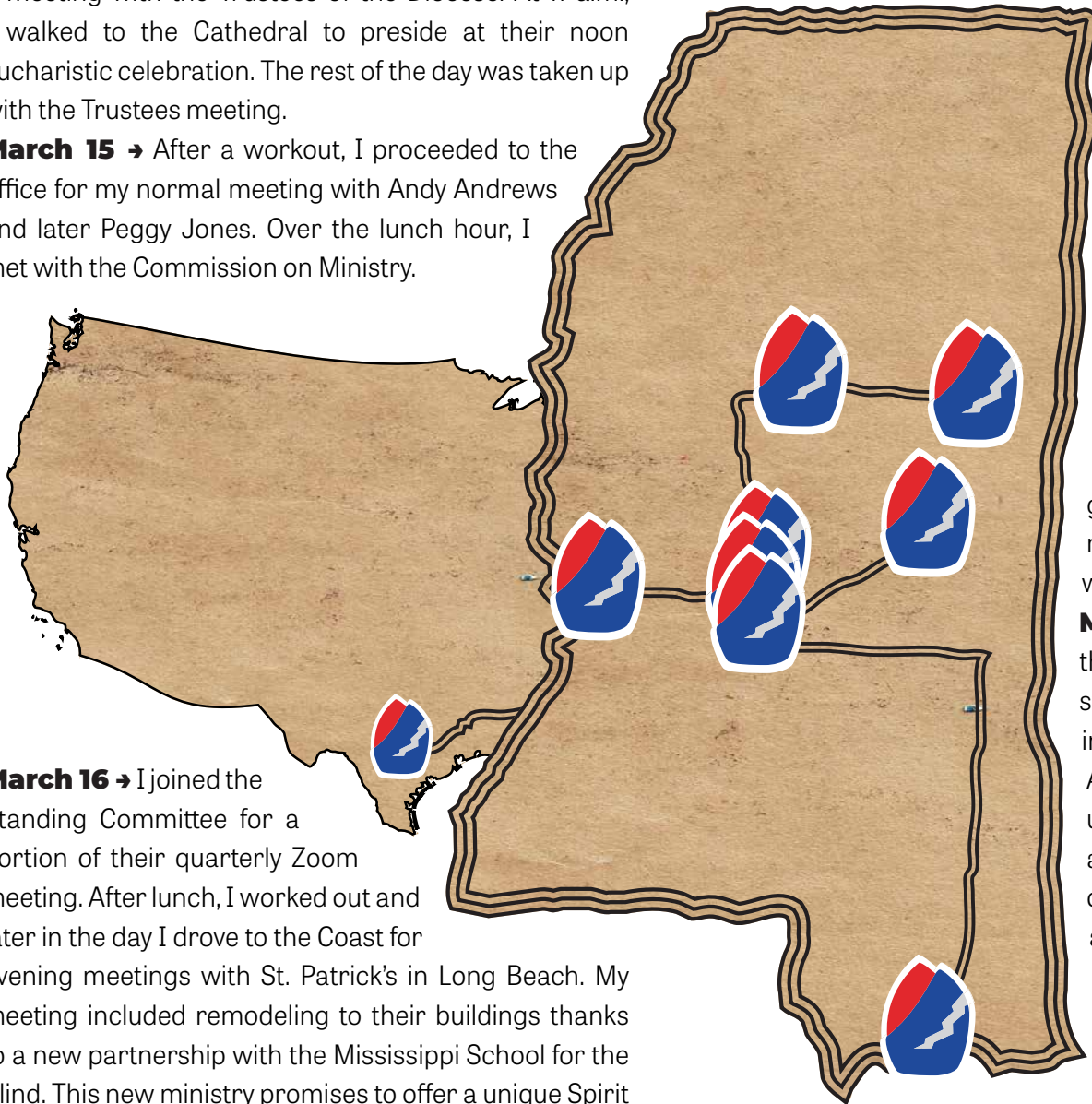
rector, Andrew McLarty. I drove home after the service.

March 21 → I left the house early to make an emergency pastoral call at St. Dominic's to visit Mr. Bob Everett. May he rest in peace and rise in glory. The rest of my day was busy within the office.

March 22 → I kept the normal Friday staff meetings in the morning. After lunch, I met up with Katie to attend the funeral of Debbie Hartzog at St. Columb's. Betsy met us at the Church. It was hard to say good bye to a

dear friend. After the service, I met, over Zoom, with the Disciplinary Board.

March 23 → With Betsy in town for Spring break, we made our way downstairs, from my apartment to the St. Patrick's Day parade. We had a great time at the parade and catching up with friends at the Cathedral.



TRUCKIN' CONTINUED

March 24 → In the morning, I drove to Lexington for my regular Palm Sunday visit at St. Mary's. After the service, we had lunch. At supper time, Betsy and I enjoyed a rack of ribs sent home from St. Mary's.

March 25 → I spent a calm day with Betsy. Around noon, I made my way to the pool for a workout. In the evening, I attended the Central Ultreya Group at St. James'.

March 26 → I had a busy morning with a phone call prior to the normal day. Later, I made my way to Allin House for the all-staff meeting. At lunchtime, Betsy and I made our way to run errands and grab a smoothie. On the way home, she received an email from her college, Birmingham Southern, that they would be closing at the end of the academic year. Needless to say, the day and week changed dramatically after that news. I returned to work for several important meetings.

March 27 → It was a crazy busy day that included a Zoom meeting before the regular work day and another before lunch. During the lunch hour, I met with Working Together Jackson at St. Christopher's in Jackson. I spent the rest of the day doing services at the Orchard and then St. Catherine's Village.

March 28 → In addition to preparing for a Maundy Thursday sermon, I spent time getting ready for the rest of the preaching during Holy Week. In the afternoon, I called David Langdon who is ill at home.

March 29 → I worked out in the early morning and then spent the remainder of the morning working on Good Friday sermon ideas. At noon, I preached at the Chapel of the Cross in Madison for my annual Holy Week offering. In the evening, Betsy and I saw Dune.

March 30 → Betsy left around midday. In the evening, I preached and presided at the Great Vigil of Easter at St. Philip's in Jackson.

March 31 → Alleluia, He is risen! I preached the two services at the Cathedral. It was a beautiful morning. It's been a tremendous blessing to spend the last ten Easters with this congregation! After the 10:30 a.m. service, I drove to Philadelphia and officiated at an afternoon Easter celebration with St. Francis'. Another wonderful celebration! I went straight from St. Francis' to Katie's house for crawfish! 🍤





Vienna comes to Natchez

A trio of cultural events, anchored by the Mississippi debut of a Mahler symphony, bring a taste of Austria to Trinity Episcopal Church

Three events tightly related to Vienna, Austria, will take place in May at Trinity Episcopal Church in Natchez.

They are sponsored by the Natchez Festival of Music and Trinity Church. Two events are ticketed, and one is free of charge.

The Song of the Earth by Gustav Mahler, a symphony concert in six movements, will be presented for the first time in Mississippi at 7 p.m., Thurs., May 16, 2024, at Trinity Church. Tickets are \$30.

Mahler is famed in Vienna, where he lived and worked until his death in 1911.

Conducted by Dr. Jay Dean, Natchez Festival of Music Artistic Director, the concert will feature:

- Two vocalists, Jonathan Yarrington, tenor, and Myka Murphy, mezzo soprano;
- The Festival of Music Chamber Players, musicians from nationally known music companies;
- Ward Emling, former Director of the Mississippi Film Office, who will present the poetry that inspired the symphony;
- Projected images of original oil landscapes by Will Smith, Jr., of Natchez and New Orleans that relate to the theme of the concert.

Setting the stage for the concert will be two additional Vienna-related events at Trinity Church, to be held Thurs., May 9, a week before the concert.

First is a free lecture at 11 a.m., May 9, called "The Magical Music of Gustav Mahler." Presented by Trinity Church's Marion Smith Speaker Series, the program will be by Dr. Joseph E. Jones, musicologist at the University of Southern Mississippi School of Music.

He will discuss Vienna in the early 20th century, when Austria's artistic and literary elite came together. He will focus on Mahler, an intellectual and cultural giant whose style developed at the time.

Following the lecture, at 12 noon, May 9, in Trinity's Kuehnle Hall will be a ticketed luncheon called *Let's Visit Mahler's Vienna*.

Adding to the ambiance will be Austrian-inspired foods, Austrian flags and images of dancers performing the Viennese Waltz.

Tickets are \$20 and limited to 80 people.

Tickets to the luncheon May 9 and to the concert May 16 are available at natchezfestivalofmusic.com.

The concert benefits Trinity's organ restoration fund and the Festival of Music. 



Be thou my vision

cover photo by Jeanie Munn

Holy Week & Easter in photos from across the diocese



**Resurrection,
Starkville**



**St. Alban's,
Bovina**



**St. Elizabeth's,
Collins**



**St. James,
Port Gibson**



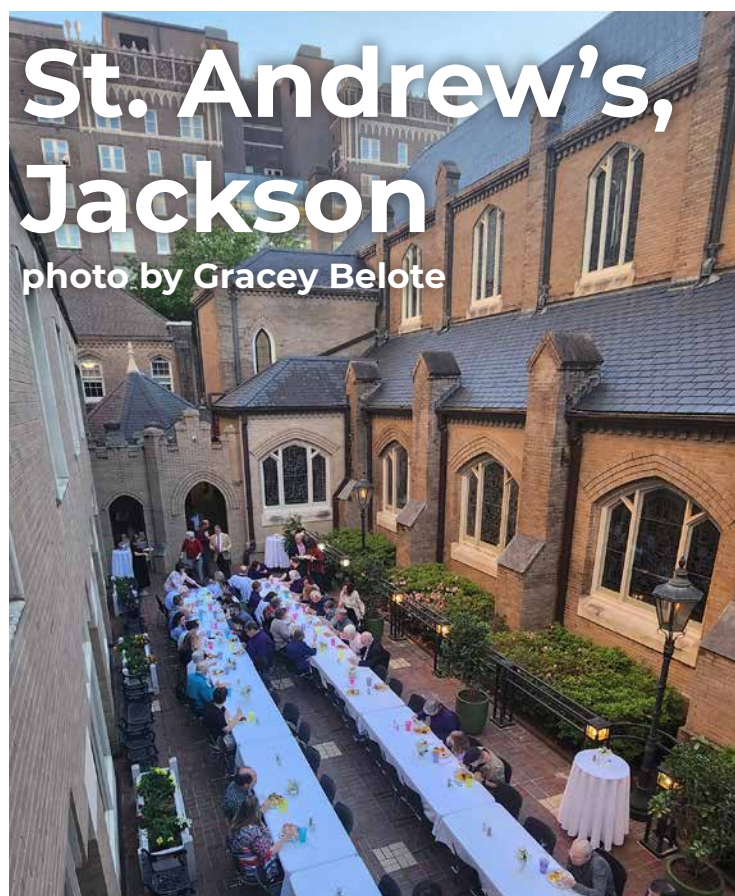


Advent, Sumner



**All Saints',
Tupelo**

photo by Nathan Duncan



**St. Andrew's,
Jackson**

photo by Gracey Belote



**St. Philip's,
Jackson**

photos by Bill Burke





Chapel
of the
Cross,
Madison



Epiphany,
Tunica



Nativity,
Water
Valley



Faith Becomes

Joy

The annual diocesan ECW conference brings Episcopal Women together on the coast.




On Saturday, April 6, 2024, about 50 ladies (and a few men) gathered at St. Peter's By-the-Sea in Gulfport to hear the Rev. Patrick Sanders speak and to conduct the business of the diocesan ECW. Bishop Brian Seage was also in attendance for the final conference to be held under his episcopacy.

Five former ECW Board Presidents were in attendance: Mary Chaney, Mary Beth Welch, Brenda Hawkins, Lindsey Richard, & Mary Beth Burghard. President Martha Morgan presided with Interim Board Secretary Brenda Hawkins taking minutes. The group honored Darcy Strickland, Board secretary for many years, who passed into her next life in January of this year. Special memorials were made to the All Saints, Tupelo, breakfast ministry for unhoused persons called "Saints Brew" and our ECW Children at Risk fund. The 2023 financials were reviewed and the Outreach Funds distributions were noted. Reminders were given for the Providence IV Zoom meeting on June 1 and the dates of ECW Triennial/Nat'l Convention, Louisville, KY, June 23-28. Our three

delegates are President Martha Morgan, Pres-Elect Ann Milsted and Lollie Everett, 2024 Distinguished Woman of the year. The Fall 2024 conference is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, November 9, in a Jackson area church. The special speaker's name will be announced soon.

Rev. Sanders' talk was called *How Faith Becomes Joy* and focused on John the Disciple. This John wrote the New Testament book of John, the letters of John, and the Book of Revelation. His book is considered the earliest of the Gospels. And it stands out among the others as a more personal account of Jesus Christ's life.

St. Peter's By-the-Sea and Rev. Sanders held a closing service, preached by Bishop Seage. Their wonderful choir & its Choirmaster-Organist, J. T. Anglin, provided lovely music which filled the sanctuary.

In closing, a lovely buffet lunch was served by the local ECW hosts. During the meal Ann Milsted & Rev. Sanders suggested ideas for ECW fundraisers, including such fun-sounding activities as "Big-Mouth Bingo." 

Endurance of the Spirit

Photographer and digital artist Carolyn Terry publishes book of photographs of Mississippi churches

Carolyn Terry, a parishioner of St. Paul's, Picayune, and an award-winning artist, found inspiration for her recent photos in the stories of rebuilding she found among the churches of the Diocese of Mississippi.

"I was so impressed after learning of the history of many that rebuilt after much destruction and disasters," she says.

Those photos are now the subject matter of her just-released book, *The Endurance of the Spirit: Mississippi Episcopal Churches*.

Much of the rebuilding that inspired her happened in the aftermath of the Civil War, a theme she found while photographing the interiors of churches.

"Many of the stained-glass windows were installed not only to honor family members," says Terry, "but in the spirit of reconciliation after the Civil War to honor the dead from both North and South."

In some cases, however, that rebuilding process was all too present, like the one currently underway for the people of Chapel of the Cross, Rolling Fork, whose church was destroyed in a tornado last year. As Terry assembled the photos she took of 95 churches across the state for the book, she decided it only appropriate to donate a portion of the proceeds to that parish in its hour of need.

Bishop Brian Seage penned some remarks to celebrate the publication of *Endurance*.

"This book is a visual celebration of the spiritual heritage that resonates within the walls of these Episcopal churches," he says, "and it serves as a timeless tribute to the holy moments shared by the faithful throughout Mississippi."

The book is available for order from Terry. She can be contacted at cterryphoto@bellsouth.net. 



From top: The Rev. Kyle Bennett, the Rt. Rev. Brian Seage, and Carolyn Terry celebrate the release of Terry's new photography book at Trinity, Pass Christian on April 7; Terry's photo of Church of the Annunciation, Perkinston; Terry's photo of Chapel of the Cross, Rolling Fork, pre-tornado.

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.

April

- 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 and Bishop-Elect Wells visit St. James', Jackson
- 6-8** Province IV House of Bishops, Kanuga
- 7** Small Churches Collaborative, online
- 8-10** Province IV Synod, Kanuga
- 9** Bishop Seage visits Ascension, Hattiesburg
- 11** Commission on Ministry, Location TBD
- 12** Mother's Day
- 12** Bishop Seage and Bishop-Elect Wells visit St. Andrew's Cathedral, Jackson
- 13-14** Fresh Start Retreat, Camp Bratton-Green
- 16** Standing Committee, Location TBA
- 16** Trustees of the Diocese, Allin House; 1:00-4:00 p.m.
- 17-18** A.C. Marble, Solomon Center
- 19** Bishop Seage visits Chapel of the Cross, Madison
- 19** Bishop-elect Wells visits Chapel of the Cross, Rolling Fork
- 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
- 2** Bishop-Elect Wells visits Advent, Sumner
- 3** The Mississippi Episcopalian deadline; 12:00 noon
- 3** Report of Annual Audits Due
- 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
- 9** Bishop-Elect Wells visits Redeemer, Brookhaven
- 10-15** Special Session 1, Camp Bratton-Green
- 13** Executive Committee, 11:30 - 3:30 p.m., St. Andrew's Cathedral, Jackson
- 15** Ordination of the Rev. Mary Howard King to the Sacred Order of Priests, St. Andrew's Cathedral
- 16** Father's Day
- 16** Bishop-Elect Wells visits Calvary, Cleveland
- 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
- 30** Bishop-Elect Wells visits Trinity, Natchez

July

- 1** The Mississippi Episcopalian deadline; 12:00 noon
- 1-6** Elementary Camp, Camp Bratton-Green
- 2** Small Churches Collaborative, online
- 4** Independence Day
- 4** Allin House staff holiday in observance of Independence Day
- 7** Bishop Seage visits St. Mary's, Vicksburg
- 8-3** Mixed Age Camp, Camp Bratton-Green
- 11** Trustees of the Diocese, Allin House; 1:00-4:00 pm
- 14** Bishop Seage at St. Andrew's Cathedral, Jackson
- 15-20** Special Session 2, Camp Bratton-Green
- 20** Consecration of the XI Bishop of MS, St. Andrew's Episcopal School North Campus, Ridgeland
- 21** Seating of the Rt. Rev. Dorothy Wells, St. Andrew's Cathedral

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.

Deployment Report

Churches/Chaplaincies in Transition

St. Luke's, Brandon

Redeemer, Brookhaven

Good Shepherd, Columbus

St. Pierre's, Gautier – initiating self-study

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

Mediator, Meridian – receiving names

Canterbury: Mississippi State University / Resurrection, Starkville

St. John's, Pascagoula – interviewing candidates

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

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Faithful Departed

Please submit Faithful Departed notices to your church for submission

Richard W. (Dick) Phillips, 83, communicant of St. Peter's by-the-Lake, Brandon, died December 8, 2023.

Lilla Jean Barksdale Holmes, 104, communicant of St. Peter's by-the-Lake, Brandon, died January 10, 2024.

James Howell Sutherland, 84, communicant of St. James', Greenville, died March 27, 2024.

The Rev. Canon David Stetson Langdon, DMin, STM, 85, having served churches throughout the Mississippi Delta over the course of his ministry, as well as in Florida and New York, became chaplain at the Mississippi State Penitentiary at Parchman in 1980, and was founding vicar of St. Vincent's Within-the-Walls at the diocese's mission at Parchman, died April 3, 2024.

Save the date for the



Save the date for the



DRAWDOWN to BUILD UP

Saturday, May 18 @ 6 P.M.
St. James' Episcopal Church

GRAND PRIZE \$10,000

Tickets can be purchased at
tinyurl.com/HabitatBuild2024



Strengthening



Bonds

St. Philip's, Jackson reaches out to its surrounding community by connecting civic and religious leaders over lunch.

Christy Dunaway, outreach chair for the parish, said building and strengthening connections through communication is the goal of the luncheons, which will be held quarterly.

"Communication with one another and making connections with one another is vital to ensuring that we get to know our community better," says Dunaway. "That way, we can all work together to ensure that we all thrive."

The goal is to build community in St. Philip's area by providing a space to meet, a good lunch and the opportunity to share interests, make connections, and share contact information.

"We want to offer a forum and a space to open lines of communication," she says. "We intend to make this a regular event, hoping over time to reach a large number of people with interests in our area, including homeowners' association, local service organizations, local churches and faith-based organizations, city and county officials and local community organizations seeking to serve Northeast Jackson."

St. Philip's can be reached at 601-956-5788 and is online at stphilipsjackson.com 

Strengthening existing bonds in the community and creating new ones are the goals of Community Lunches at St. Philip's Episcopal Church in Jackson.

The church, located at 5400 Old Canton Road, held its first Community Lunch March 22 with representatives from nearby homeowners' associations, Temple Beth Israel, Christ United Church, New Jerusalem Church, the Jackson Police Department and city and county officials.

"We've recently celebrated our 60th anniversary at St. Philip's Episcopal Church," says William Burke, the church's senior warden. "We've witnessed a lot of change in Jackson since we first purchased our property at Old Canton and Westbrook Road, and we see the needs of our community changing."

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

*Bishop Seage celebrates the Great Vigil of
Easter at St. Philip's, Jackson on Saturday,
April 30. To see more photos from Holy Week
and Easter from across the diocese, see, page7.
Photo: Bill Burke.*

