

# THE MISSISSIPPI EPISCOPALIAN

The Official Publication of the Episcopal Diocese of Mississippi



Volume 149

Issue No. 5

May

2024

## An adopted Mississippian

Bishop Seage reflects  
on a decade serving the  
diocese; prepares for the  
next chapter



## Publication, submission, and advertising schedules

*The Mississippi Episcopalian* implemented a revised publication schedule starting in January 2024 in conjunction with its new format and website. The magazine is now published every month online (at [msepiscopalian.com](http://msepiscopalian.com)) and every other month (in odd-numbered months) in print. **Find the magazine in your physical mailbox in January, March, May, July, September, and November.** And find it every month in your email inbox or by visiting [msepiscopalian.com](http://msepiscopalian.com). If you're not already subscribed to the monthly email, you can do so at the site as well.

**Submissions to the magazine are due at noon on the first of the month for that month's issue, or on the following Monday should the first fall on a weekend.** So, for example, to place material in the upcoming June issue, submissions should be received at [msepiscopalian@dioms.org](mailto:msepiscopalian@dioms.org) by noon on Monday, June 3rd (as the first falls on Saturday). Regular submissions should be related to the diocese, churches within it, the national church, or related institutions or initiatives.

Advertisements are due on the same schedule as regular content, and can be purchased for individual issues or in 6- or 12-month packages. The pricing schedule is available at [msepiscopalian.com/ads](http://msepiscopalian.com/ads).

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All photos  
courtesy of  
St. Andrew's  
Episcopal  
School




## St. Andrew's School develops new Episcopal identity as part of accreditation process

Last year, St. Andrew's Episcopal School embarked on a challenge: to more clearly articulate how its Episcopal identity guides the school community as part of its accreditation process.

The challenge to those tasked with this project was to consider the National Association of Episcopal Schools (NAES) principles of good practice while taking into consideration the particular makeup of St. Andrew's, particularly the religious makeup of the student body, which is 20% Episcopalian and otherwise made up of other denominations and faith traditions.

Over two rounds of consideration, one by a small group considering the NAES principles and how the school lives into them and another by a larger group comprised of current administrators, board members, parents, and alumni, a statement was conceived, centering around four concepts:

- **We welcome.**  
We respect the dignity of every human being and celebrate our diverse community.
- **We worship.**  
We dedicate weekly chapel time - grounded in the Episcopal and Anglican traditions - to the holistic growth of our bodies, minds and spirits. We draw upon the many faiths in our community for lessons of wisdom, compassion, and values.
- **We wonder.**  
We value lifelong learning, human reason, and critical thinking in the pursuit of knowledge and truth.
- **We love.**  
We draw strength from the teachings of Jesus, which inspire us to live a life of service to others and to seek justice, equity, and peace in our world. 

**April 1** → After a busy Easter, I slept much later than normal! The morning was taken up by a leisurely breakfast followed by a workout at the GRIT pool. In the afternoon, I did laundry and relaxed!

**April 2** → I rose early for a scheduled Zoom call with other Province IV Bishops. After the call and breakfast, I made my way to the office for staff meetings. During a meeting with Canon Ponder, we were alerted by the Episcopal News service of the nominees for our next Presiding Bishop. Over lunch, I met with a couple clergy persons to discuss an ongoing project. I spent time in the afternoon on the phone finishing my Journal for March.

**April 3** → A busy day started with an early morning meeting in the office. Immediately after meeting, I drove to St. Andrew's Upper School for a service with the Middle School. The Middle School service was followed by a service with the High School. Following the services, I enjoyed lunch with Kevin Lewis, Annie Elliott, and Hailey Allin. While at St. Andrew's, I received word that a dear friend, the Rev. Canon David Langdon, had passed away. After returning to the office, I kept a phone appointment with the senior warden of a church in our diocese. Before leaving the office, we got word that Bishop-elect Wells received the necessary votes from around the church for consent to her call. Yea!

**April 4** → Another busy day started with meetings in the morning and ended with the Celebration of a New Ministry at Chapel of the Cross, Madison for the parish and their new rector, Will Compton.

**April 5** → I rose early but an early morning call didn't allow time for a workout. Staff meetings took most of the morning after which I began driving for meetings and Sunday visitation on the Coast. While driving, I kept several phone meetings. After arriving on the Coast, I enjoyed time with my host, the Rev. Kyle Bennet, and then supper with the Executive Committee of the Episcopal Church Women.

**April 6** → The morning and early afternoon were taken up with the ECW business meeting and program. The presenter was the Rev. Patrick Sanders. After the program, I celebrated the Eucharist and enjoyed lunch with the group. In the evening, I attended a dinner at the Bennet's house with the Vestry for Trinity in Pass Christian.

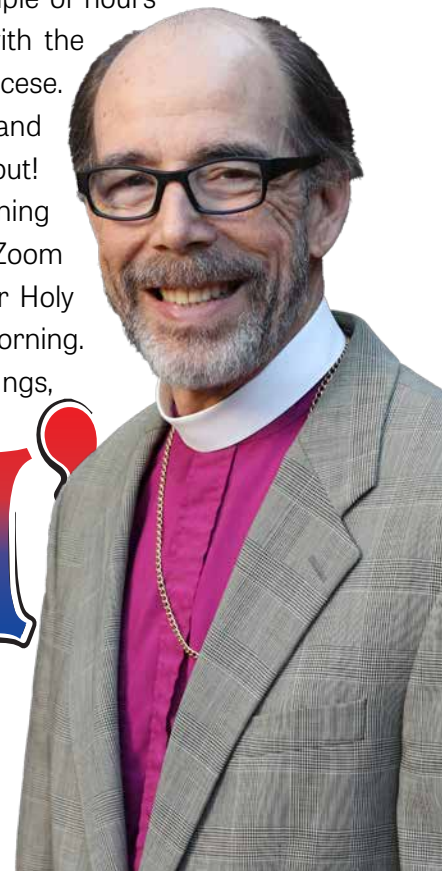
**April 7** → I preached and presided for the two services at Trinity in Pass Christian. Between services we enjoyed fellowship and food along with a Blessing and Ground Breaking for their new parish hall! I drove home in the afternoon and had crawfish for supper at Katie's house.

**April 8** → I did a short morning workout in the GRIT pool. Katie and I met for lunch before going upstairs to the rooftop to watch the eclipse. In the afternoon, I relaxed and went for a long walk.

**April 9** → Staff meetings occupied most of the morning. After a late morning meeting regarding the

Mississippi Episcopal Aids Commission (MEAC), I grabbed a quick lunch. I spent a couple of hours in the afternoon meeting with the Finance Committee of the Diocese.

**April 10** → I slept late and missed my morning workout! The first meeting of the morning was with David Martin. A Zoom meeting with a postulant for Holy Orders took the rest of the morning. After lunch, I had two meetings,



# TRUCKIN'

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

one with the Rev. George Woodliff and then, before heading home, I met with Thorne Butler and David Martin.

**April 11** → I started the morning working from home on a variety of Zooms and phone calls. After lunch, I made my way to the office to catch up on emails and a stack of paperwork. I enjoyed dinner out with friends at the Mayflower.

**April 12** → The morning was busy with staff meetings. I spent the afternoon at home doing laundry and getting ready for a busy weekend. I enjoyed supper at Grace Church in Canton for the opening session of the Conference for Small Churches. It was great to spend time with the faithful leaders and members of these churches! After being part of a panel discussion, I drove to Lake Enid where I spent the night.

**April 13** → I rose to the quiet of beautiful morning at Lake Enid. After breakfast, I drove to Advent in Sumner for the funeral of the Rev. Canon David Langdon. I was honored to preach and celebrate at the service. Following the service, I grabbed lunch at the Sumner Grill before driving back to the Lake.

**April 14** → My morning visitation was at St. Peter's in Oxford. I preached and presided at three services and confirmed fourteen while receiving two and baptizing one. After finishing at St. Peter's, I drove back to the lake house and watched the Masters.

**April 15** → After a "later" morning workout, I relaxed.

**April 16** → Normal staff meetings were cancelled due to several conflicts. I spent most of the day at the Capitol with

a group of Clergy discussing healthcare with lawmakers. In the afternoon, I returned to the office for a phone meeting with one of our Rectors.

**April 17** → During and after my normal morning workout, I was alarmed by incredible pain in my back and shoulder. I left work at lunchtime to visit Mississippi Sports Medicine.

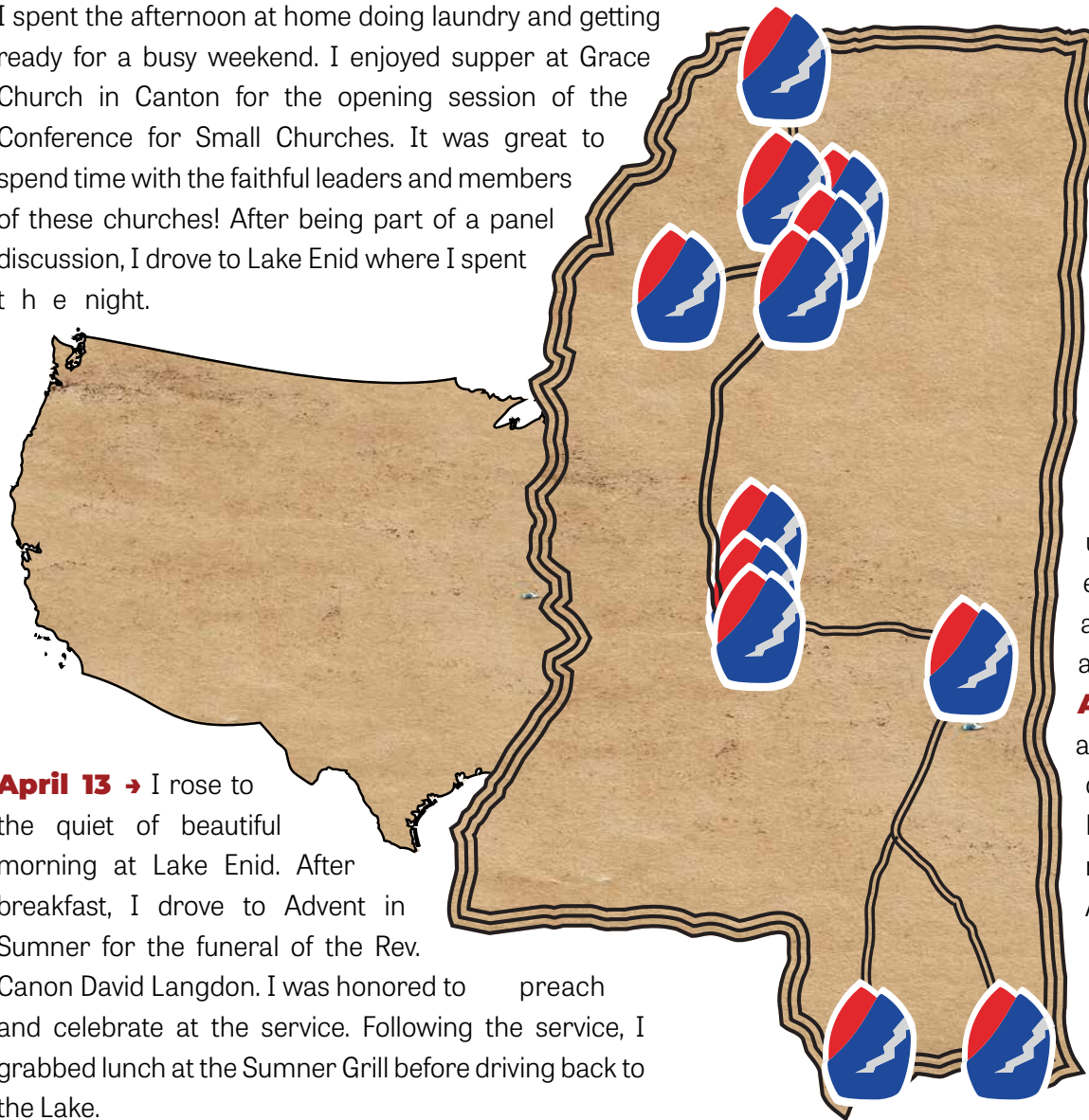
**April 18** → I tended to a few administrative details before driving to Taylor, Mississippi, for a lunch meeting. I was

delighted to run into many Episcopalians from around the state at the same meeting!

**April 19** → I skipped the morning workout to give my shoulder more time to heal. A slow morning got really busy around lunch with a variety of meetings that lasted until 5 p.m. In the evening, I did laundry and got ready for another busy weekend.

**April 20** → I left my apartment early and drove to St. John's in Laurel for the Spring meeting of the Diocesan Altar Guild. After the business meeting, a program was presented by the Rev. Karl Schaffenburg, "Why we do What

we do." It was an excellent presentation that illuminated our liturgy. Before driving home to Jackson, I preached and presided at a Celebration of the Holy Eucharist. After arriving home in Jackson, I loaded my car and drove to Water Valley where I spent the night prior to the next day's visitation at St. Timothy's in Southaven.



**"TRUCKIN'" CONTINUED ON PAGE 5** →

**April 21** → I had a great visit in Southaven with St. Timothy's and Holy Cross, Olive Branch. I confirmed six and reaffirmed one. After the service, we had a festive meal in the parish hall. I returned to Water Valley and spent a "mostly" quiet afternoon which included a walk and dinner out.



**April 22** → It was a nice slow morning in Water Valley. After picking up around the house and driving back to Jackson, I found time for an afternoon swim at GRIT.

**April 23** → The morning was pretty busy with staff meetings and catching up on emails. In the afternoon, I made many telephone appointments. Before heading home, I started the long process of bringing order to my "digital footprint." In particular, I started cataloguing pictures and videos that need to be saved for DioMS archives.

**April 24** → I started early from my apartment with an all-day Zoom call with the House of Bishops. The meeting and Zoom were an interview with my five colleagues involved in discernment for the next Presiding Bishop. These are five great candidates! The meeting ended around 4 p.m. after which I worked on a report.

**April 25** → I rose early and did a morning workout. Upon arriving at the office, I spent some time discussing my weekly calendar with Peggy Jones. After meeting with Peggy, I met briefly with David Martin. I spent the rest of morning working on emails and a project for our Archivist, Julia Marks Young. In the afternoon, I met, over telephone, with one of our parish deacons. I picked up Kyle at the airport later in the evening. Katie met us at my apartment.

## TRUCKIN' CONTINUED


**April 26** → I enjoyed a slow morning and breakfast with Kyle. After a couple staff meetings, I grabbed lunch at Keifer's with Katie and Kyle. Betsy arrived from Birmingham around 2:30 p.m. The evening celebration was incredible, thank you! It was wonderful to be surrounded by friends and family. I am still blown away by the generosity extended to me on this special night.



**April 27** → Kyle, Betsy and I enjoyed a quiet and slow morning. In the afternoon I prepared some sermon ideas for tomorrow in Gautier. After an evening meal I drove to Ocean Springs to spend the night.

**April 28** → I met with the St. Pierre vestry first thing. After discussing the state of the parish and hearing their long-range building plans, we moved to the nave for worship. It was a well-attended service that included two adult baptisms, two confirmations, one reception, and nine reaffirmations. I was assisted by the Rev. Dr. John Switzer and the Rev. Scott Lenoir. I drove home in the afternoon and enjoyed an evening meal with Kyle, Katie, and Jacob.

**April 29** → Morning workout. I spent most of the morning in the apartment, catching up on laundry, etc. In the afternoon and evening, Kyle began preparing for my July move → by boxing up some of my apartment. We enjoyed Little Tokyo for supper.

**April 30** → Kyle and I rose early and enjoyed a long walk. We spent the rest of the morning packing up a huge suitcase with framed pictures that need to be moved. She flew out of Jackson around 3:30 p.m. and I made my way to the office. 

# Resolving to care

## Creation Care resolution passed at diocesan council may be first of its kind

by Tracy Stebbins, Co-Chair Diocese of Mississippi  
Creation Care Task Force

**P**ossibly the first Creation Care resolution in Mississippi was passed at Diocesan Council this year. Our resolution was in support of a General Convention Resolution which passed in 2009. Here it is:

### **A Resolution in Support of Resolution A045 of the 76th General Convention of the Episcopal Church.**

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

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

Reasons for the resolution are many. Here are a few:

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

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

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

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

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

Around 85% of plastic water bottles, which can take up to 1,000 years to degrade, end up as waste. They also

end up in the ocean, adding to a vast swirl of plastic waste that poses a serious threat to marine life.

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

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


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

Microplastics are found in breast milk, placentas, heart tissue, and blood.

**What this means for us.** We are asked to restrict the use of bottled water (and perhaps all single use plastic) at church sponsored activities (and home?). We may have to do things a little differently, but it will be fine. There were no single use plastic water bottles at Council and it was fine. Remember when there were no single use plastic bottles period? It was fine!

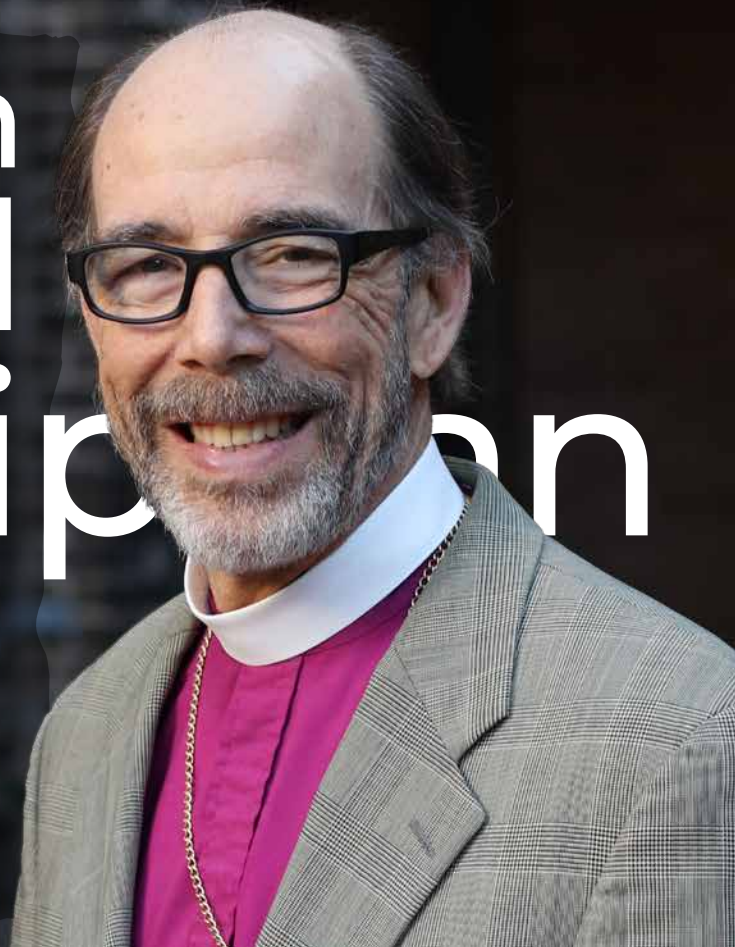
**Would you like to help?** Here are four ways.

1. Julia Weaver will prepare us for a Plastic Free July on Tuesday, June 4 at 5:30 via Zoom. Join at [msepiscopalian.com/creation](https://msepiscopalian.com/creation).
2. Episcopal Creation Care Partner, Creation Justice Ministries offers a free ecumenical resource. Packed with information for lay and clergy, find it at [msepiscopalian.com/creation-resources](https://msepiscopalian.com/creation-resources).
3. If you are low on hope, Fr. Joe recommends we watch the free documentary: Plastic Earth at [plasticearthmovie.com](https://plasticearthmovie.com).
4. Are you on the Diocese Creation Care newsletter list? Send your email and you will be—[tracy.stebbins@gmail.com](mailto:tracy.stebbins@gmail.com)!

Imagine what good we can accomplish when all Episcopalians in Mississippi stop using single use plastic! 

# An adopted Mississippian

Bishop Seage reflects on a decade serving the diocese; prepares for his next chapter



One day in the fall of 2014, a newly-minted Bishop Brian Seage found himself at Mediator, Meridian, waiting for the morning's service to begin. It was a large procession—full of choir members, acolytes, lay readers, and other clergy—too large for the vestibule to accommodate. As such, those last in line to process, including the bishop, had to wait on the walkway outside.

Seage, who, at only about 5 months in the job, was still getting used to wearing his mitre and carrying his crozier, saw a young boy and his father come around the corner of the church, presumably fresh from Sunday School.

"The little boy stopped, and he whispered something to his father," Seage recalls. "And as he walked into the church, I could see him looking back at me. And later on his father told me what he whispered, which was 'Daddy, Daddy, I think that's the king.'"

It was the first half of a great juxtaposition Seage would come to know well during his decade as the tenth Bishop of Mississippi.

"I've worshipped in some of the smaller churches where there were maybe a dozen of us or even less, and really felt like I was in the presence of just an intimate, lovely family gathering," he says. "Like something that I

would expect when visiting my parents, sitting around a table and enjoying a meal together and chit chatting. So I've got those sort of bookend images of being treated like the king, but on the other hand being a son coming home to visit mom and dad."

Seage's years as bishop have been a bit of a study in contrasts from day one, when he was elected on May 3, 2014, as a California boy transplanted to Mississippi. Though he felt called and ready to serve, he wasn't convinced the diocese would feel the same way. He remembers awaiting the results with his wife, the Rev. Kyle Seage.





“Kyle and I have joked about it, but it’s true, we really didn’t think I would be elected,” Seage says. “I had worked here for a while, so everybody knew me. But we thought there were people who may have fit the profile better than I did, or better than I believed I did.”

Once the reality of the election set in, Seage began contemplating the challenges and opportunities that lay ahead.

“I really began to reflect that I was going to be invited into all the various Episcopal communities throughout Mississippi. And what a great honor that is and now, how can I enhance their faith? How can I help support their faith journey? How can I add to it?”

It was the start of a decade that would find Seage forging relationships in every parish and mission in the diocese, from Southaven to Pascagoula, Natchez to Corinth, and everywhere in between. He’s visited most of them at least 5 times, some 10 or more. It’s an interesting education for Seage to look back on as he prepares to return to California. There he’ll join Kyle—now, by coincidence, an Alabama girl transplanted to California—where she has taken the job of rector at St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church in Belvedere.

Though Mississippi was nowhere on his horizon when he was a young man, it’s become a central part of who he is as a clergyperson and as a human being.

“It’s been an incredible blessing to be an adopted Mississippian,” says Seage. “For these 27 years, it’s been really special to have been allowed to be in people’s homes, to be invited in some of the most intimate moments in their lives—baptisms, confirmations, weddings, funerals. And that is part of the joy of the priesthood, the joy of the episcopate, and the joy of doing ministry. I think Mississippi has done more for me than I could have ever done for Mississippi.”

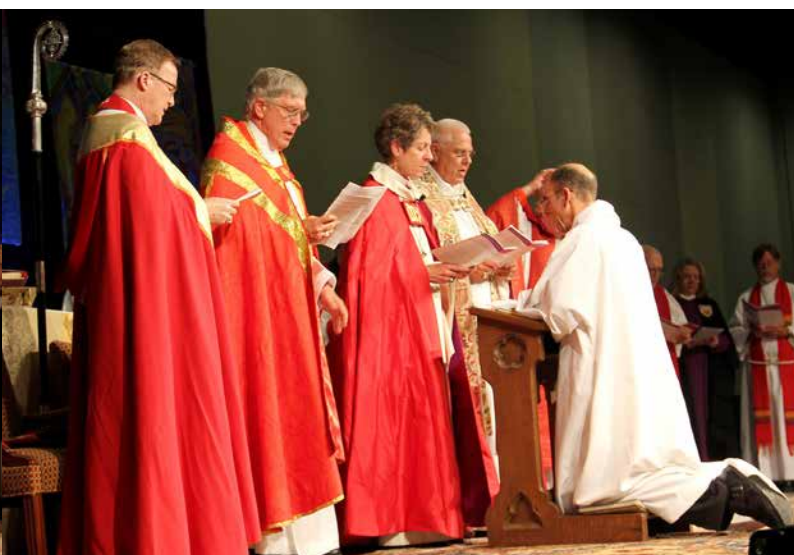
As the clock runs out on this chapter of his life, he’s excited for the future, even as he reflects on all that’s transpired during his time in Mississippi. Particularly bright points include work on the Beloved Community racial reconciliation program and in addiction recovery communities. Perhaps the defining accomplishment of Seage’s career, however, was one he never could have planned for when he started.

“The work we did during the pandemic, that was probably the most difficult period and ministry that I’ve ever experienced,” he says. “The whole idea of telling people not to come to church is just anathema to my experience—it wasn’t something we studied in seminary. But watching us work together to get through that, leading as we did our best to learn how to do live stream, learn how to make contact resume. All that was just fascinating.”

It was a learning experience for all, bishop included.

“If anybody would have told me 10 years ago that I would be doing a Sunday morning talk show called *Breakfast with the Bishop*, I would have said, ‘what dream is that coming from,’ but yet there I was during the pandemic, hosting a Facebook live talk show.”

*Left: Bishop Seage with his wife, the Rev. Kyle Seage, and daughters Katie and Betsy. Right: Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori prepares to consecrate the Very Rev. Brian Seage as bishop coadjutor. Photos by Jim Carrington, courtesy of Episcopal News Service*





*Seage makes the last visit of his episcopate to Saint Pierre's in Gautier on April 28. He baptized and confirmed two adults, Logan Gorum and DeeDee Cogan. Scott Avery was received in the Episcopal Church and nine parishioners reaffirmed their baptismal vows. A brunch was held after the service in honor of the bishop and those receiving the laying on of hands.*

There were other dark moments during that period that amplified the chaos of the time, such as the civil unrest following the murder of George Floyd. Seage remembers how he and Mississippi religious leaders from other Christian denominations as well as other faiths banded together to make a statement that, among other things, contributed to the long-overdue retiring of the state's confederate-emblem-bearing flag.

As he looks ahead to July, when his successor, the Rev. Dr. Dorothy Sanders Wells, will relieve him of his duties and he'll return to California, the thing he's most excited about is reuniting with Kyle. They will have been living apart, with occasional visits, for 18 months by that time.

"I'm looking forward to being under the same roof as my wife again," says Seage. "I'm ready for that normalcy again, you know, being able to share the day's journey.

The holiness of a meal, sitting down for supper at the end of the day. Yeah, I've missed that."

Seage will depart with confidence—he sees a wonderful future for the diocese he loves with Wells at the helm.

"She's going to be a real blessing to Mississippi," he says. "And I think Mississippi is going to be a real blessing to her. I think we're really ready for someone with the unique skills that she brings to this, and she's going to bring some amazing gifts for ministry that I think are really going to help us spread the gospel in some amazing ways."

And as he prepares to say goodbye to so many beloved friends, Seage has a message for the state and the diocese that has given him so much.

"If I can say anything to the people of Mississippi, it would be that you are blessed, and you are holy," he says. "And you have such an important message to share with the world. That message is one of holy hospitality. You all represent Jesus, in so many important ways, to the world at large. Mississippi has a history. So does the rest of the world. Mississippi has so much to share that the rest of the world could benefit from, so continue to preach the gospel at all times. And use words if you must." 🙏



*Seage hosts Breakfast with the Bishop, his facebook live talk show, on March 21, 2021. The stream included prayers, readings, commentary, and updates on the state of the church during the pandemic.*



## 49TH ANNUAL MISSISSIPPI CONFERENCE ON CHURCH MUSIC & LITURGY

**JULY 23-28, 2024**

REGISTRATION IS LIVE NOW ON OUR WEBSITE

**[mschurchmusicandliturgy.org](https://mschurchmusicandliturgy.org)**



## With the Spirit's Gifts 49th Annual Mississippi Conference on Church Music and liturgy to convene in July

**J**oin us for the 49th Annual Mississippi Conference on Church Music and Liturgy this summer, July 23-28, 2024. We will meet on the Chapel of the Cross campus in Madison, Mississippi, and our conference hotel will be the Hilton Garden Inn in Madison. Our conference theme is "With the Spirit's Gifts Empower Us for the Work of Ministry." Although primarily targeted toward the Episcopal Church, the Mississippi Conference is open to

musicians and clergy of all Christian denominations and remains a great value in continuing education.

Don't delay! Register promptly, hotel space is limited. Conference repertory octavos will be sent to you—allowing you to become familiar with them. Elizabeth Smith from Lois Fyfe Music of Nashville, Tennessee, will have a display for you to browse and shop. Come and spend a great week with colleagues, get refreshed and inspired!

Please visit, bookmark, and tell your friends about our new website. On the site, you may learn more about our faculty, see an overview of the week, and register for the conference at **[mschurchmusicandliturgy.org](https://mschurchmusicandliturgy.org)**.



# Make room for reading

Diocesan Racial Reconciliation Task Force provides summer reading list

by the Rev. Andy Andrews

**S**oul stirring literature can be transformative, and in a group setting, the potential is amplified. This Summer, the Racial Reconciliation Taskforce is inviting the diocese into a couple of different opportunities with *Making Room: Recovering Hospitality as Christian Tradition* by Dr. Christine Pohl and *This Here Flesh: Spirituality, Liberation, and the Stories that Make Us* by Cole Arthur Riley.

In June, join in for three Tuesday lunch time sessions to process *Making Room*. To the early Christians, hospitality was central to the gospel mission. This hospitality did not consist of entertaining neighbors, but welcoming the stranger, especially those who could not return the favor. Yet despite urgent need, hospitality is not what it used to be. Dr. Pohl's classic work, *Making Room*, first spoke to this issue in 1999. And it is just as relevant today.

The Rev. Lisa Fischbeck will be our guide. She is the launching vicar emeritus of The Episcopal Church of the Advocate in Chapel Hill, North Carolina. She is the author of the book, *Behold What You Are: Becoming the Body of Christ*, (April 2021 by Church Publishing), and a co-founder of Pee Wee Homes, Inc.

The dates are Tuesdays June 11, 18, and 25 from 11:30 AM-12:30 PM.

In July, the Rev. Ed Bacon circles back for a Train the Leader experience using *This Here Flesh*. This is a unique book of meditations of discovering the sacred in one's



own skin. The book invites the reader to descend into their stories, examine our capacity to rest, wonder, joy, rage, and repair.

Rev. Bacon is so excited about *This Here Flesh* that he wants to train leaders to facilitate their own small groups. The expectation is to have completed the book before the training, participate in both sessions, and then organize a small book study in-person or online.

The dates for Train the Leaders are Wednesday July 17 and 24, 6-7:30 PM.

These will be online gatherings. To register and to ask questions, please email [andrews@dioms.org](mailto:andrews@dioms.org).

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# SUMMER BOOK READ



Calling all who  
want revive and expand  
the practice of hospitality

BECOMING BELOVED  
COMMUNITY IN MISSISSIPPI

## Making Room: Recovering Hospitality as a Christian Tradition by Dr. Christine Pohl

To register, email  
[andrews@dioms.org](mailto:andrews@dioms.org)  
or scan the qr code

To the early Christians, hospitality was central to the gospel mission. This hospitality did not consist of entertaining neighbors, but welcoming the stranger, especially those who could not return the favor. Yet despite urgent need, hospitality is not what it use to be. Dr. Pohl's classic work, *Making Room*, first spoke to this issue in 1999. And it is just as relevant today.



THREE  
TUESDAYS IN  
JUNE 2024



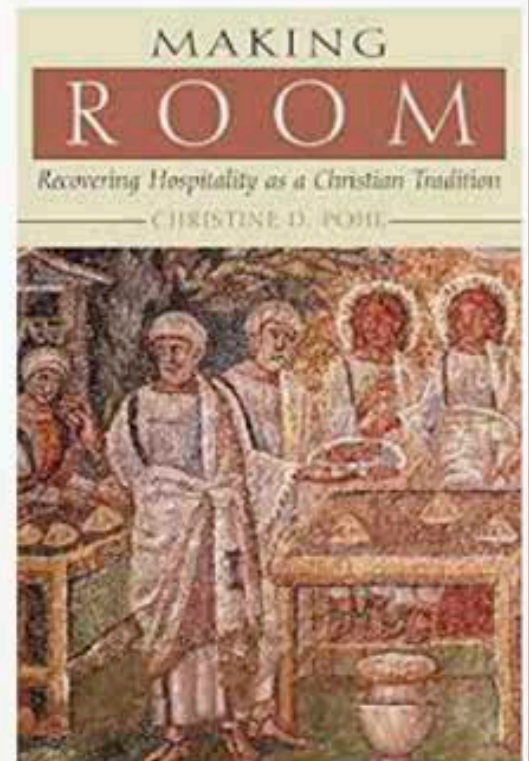
11:30 AM -  
12:30 PM

**JUNE 11**  
**JUNE 18**  
**JUNE 25**



### ➤ FACILITATOR THE REV. LISA G. FISCHBECK

She is the launching vicar emeritus of The Episcopal Church of the Advocate in Chapel Hill, North Carolina. She is the author of the book, *Behold What You Are: Becoming the Body of Christ*, (April 2021 by Church Publishing), and a co-founder of Pee Wee Homes, Inc.



Calling all who want revive and expand the practice of hospitality

# Deployment Report

## New Calls and Transitions

**The Rev. Elizabeth Graham** has been called to serve as rector of St. John's, Pascagoula beginning May 15 following service as chaplain manager of Singing River Health Systems.

**The Rev. Ken Ritter** rounded his service as rector of Trinity, Natchez as of March 31.

**The Rev. Dcn. Carol Borne Spencer** (ret.) is canonically resident in the Diocese of Louisiana and is serving Trinity Church, New Orleans.

## 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

**Trinity, Natchez**

**Canterbury: Mississippi State University /**

**Resurrection, Starkville**

**Incarnation, West Point**

**THE MISSISSIPPI  
EPISCOPALIAN**  
The Official Publication of the Episcopal Diocese of Mississippi



## Official News Publication of the Bishop and the Diocese of Mississippi

118 N. Congress Street | P.O. Box 23107  
Jackson, Mississippi 39225-3107

The Rt. Rev. Brian R. Seage, X Bishop of Mississippi  
The Rev. Dr. Dorothy Sanders Wells, Bishop-elect  
Wil Oakes, Oakes Creative Agency, Editor & Art Director  
The Rev. Scott Lenoir, The Rev. John Switzer,  
& Liz Evans, copyeditors

# 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.

**Mary Bisbee Anton**, 96, communicant of St. Peter's by-the-Lake, Brandon, died April 1, 2024.

**Jo Rita Olson VanDevender**, 102, communicant of St. Paul's, Meridian, died April 4, 2024.

**Harold Alvis (Haley) Holbrook, Jr.**, 38, communicant of St. James', Greenville, died April 5, 2024.

**John B. Waskom, IV**, 83, communicant of St. James', Jackson, died April 19, 2024.

**Charles Stewart Barry**, 86, communicant of St. James', Jackson, died April 25.

**James Webb Steadman**, 95, communicant of St. Pierre's, Gautier, died April 25, 2024.

**Linda McKinney Blakeney**, 77, communicant of St. Paul's, Columbus, died April 27, 2024.

The Mississippi Episcopalian (USPS 024755) is published monthly online and bimonthly in print by the Episcopal Diocese of Mississippi, 118 N. Congress Street, Jackson, MS 39201. Periodical postage paid at Jackson, MS, and additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send change of address to the Mississippi Episcopalian, P. O. Box 23107, Jackson, MS, 39225-3107. In giving changes of address, send the old address as well as the new address. We cannot be responsible for the return of manuscripts or photographs.

# 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.

## May

- 13-14** Fresh Start Retreat, Camp Bratton-Green
- 16** Standing Committee; 11:30 am - 3:30 pm
- 16** Trustees of the Diocese, Allin House; 1:00-4:00 pm
- 16-17** Mississippi Episcopal AIDS Commission Retreat
- 17-18** A.C. Marble School, Solomon Center
- 18** DOK Spring Retreat, Holy Trinity Vicksburg
- 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
- 6** Finance Committee; 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.
- 9** Bishop Seage visits Good Shepherd, Columbus
- 9** Bishop-Elect Wells visits Redeemer, Brookhaven
- 10-15** Special Session 1, Camp Bratton-Green
- 11** Summer Book Read - *Making Room*, online
- 13** Executive Committee,  
St. Andrew's Cathedral, Jackson; 11:30 - 3:30 p.m.
- 15** Ordination of the Rev. Mary Howard King to the Sacred  
Order of Priests, St. Andrew's Cathedral, Jackson
- 16** Father's Day
- 16** Bishop-Elect Wells visits Calvary, Cleveland
- 17-22** Junior Camp, Camp Bratton-Green
- 18** Summer Book Read - *Making Room*, online
- 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
- 25** Summer Book Read – *Making Room*, online
- 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
- 8-13** 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

## August

- 1** *The Mississippi Episcopalian* deadline; 12:00 noon
- 1** Racial Reconciliation Task Force; 12:00 noon
- 2-3** The Gospel according to James Baldwin Retreat
- 6** Small Churches Collaborative, online
- 8-9** Commission on Ministry, location TBD
- 9** Standing Committee, location TBD: 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
- 11** Bishop Wells visits St. Columb's, Ridgeland
- 16-17** A. C. Marble School, Solomon Center
- 17** A Day of Dialogue for Racial Healing and  
Relationship Building, St. Columb's, Ridgeland
- 18** Bishop Wells visits Advent, Sumner
- 25** Bishop Wells visits St. Thomas, Belzoni

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*Members of Working Together Mississippi, including Bishop Brian Seage (second from left), hold a news conference calling for the removal of the Confederate battle flag from the Mississippi state flag at the Cathedral of St. Peter the Apostle Catholic Church in Jackson, Mississippi, on June 11, 2020. Read more about outgoing Bishop Seage's reflection on his episcopate on page 7. Photo by Rogelio V. Solis, AP. Courtesy of Episcopal News Service*

