

THE MISSISSIPPI EPISCOPALIAN

The Official Magazine of the Episcopal Diocese of Mississippi



Volume 149
Issue No. 12
December
2024

SEND US 50c OF YOUR CHRISTMAS MONEY THE CHURCH NEWS

OF THE DIOCESE OF MISSISSIPPI

Volume XXXVIII.

YAZOO CITY, MISSISSIPPI, DECEMBER, 1915.

Number 11

The Bishop's Journal

October.

Friday, 1. I said Evening Prayer for the College family and practiced with them the Choral Service.

Saturday, 2. On my way to Woodville, I stopped to see my friends, Mrs. Robinson and Mr. Wells at Centreville. Mr. Wells met me and we enjoyed the drive across the country. I was the guest of Mr. and Mrs. Trepdahl and Mr. Carr in Yazoo City.

Sunday, 3. St. Paul's, Woodville. I met the Sunday-School for a brief address and the closing Prayers. Assisted by Mr. Wells I confirmed two children, preached and celebrated the Holy Communion; offering, \$9.25. After service I celebrated for Mrs. A. Smith in her sick room. At evening prayer I again preached.

Monday, 4. The day being very wet, I was fortunate to get an automobile for Centreville, thus relieving Mr. Wells from the uncomfortable trip in a buggy. After dinner with

by the hands of our dear ladies, whose presence was indispensable to the enjoyment of the evening.

Friday, 8. Engaged in the morning with the Rev. Mr. Holmes, President of Bogaloo University, on business of the school. In the afternoon I left for Manola, and the night was spent at Bratton's. The guests of Mr. and Mrs. James Fern in Yazoo City.

Saturday, 9. Rev. Mr. Green, of Jackson, joined us in Yazoo City and we continued the journey together. In Greenwood we had the pleasure of calling upon the Rector and his family and of meeting other friends. Mrs.

Stanton and I were guests in Indianola of the Rev. William Stanton and Mrs. Stanton. We received the address of the Rev. John Gass for the All Saints College fund.

Sunday, 10. St. Stephen's Indianola. I ordained to the Priesthood the Reverends John Gass and William

vocation of the Delta, Rev. Albert Martin, Dean, hearing the admirable sermons and the fine discussions, of which report will be made elsewhere in the best of Diocesan papers, The Church News.

Wednesday, 13. My good friend Robert Baird, drove Mrs. Bratton and me for a visit to the Baird family at Inverness in the morning. After dinner we made a wonderful run into the mountains. Mrs. Bratton remained for further visit with the Bairds and I spent the night with the Auld family at Vicksburg to spend the night at All Saints College.

Thursday, 14. I said Morning Prayer for the Synod at the sessions of the Synod in the afternoon train.

Friday, 15. I received a check for \$5 from Mrs. E. K. McKee, of Inverness, for the Synod course and for the Synod course. I had to have my hair cut and my beard shaved. I had to have my hair cut and my beard shaved. I had to have my hair cut and my beard shaved.

Saturday, 16. After a busy morn-

ing session of the Synod, I was accompanied by her father, Rev. J. G. Glass, and presented by her school chaplain, the Rev. Dr. DuBose. Mr. and Mrs. Glass are not only relatives, but very devoted lifelong friends. I presided at a joint meeting of the committees on behalf of the Board of Trustees of Sewanee and of the Diocese of Tennessee, appointed to consider joint interests in the splendid hospital at Sewanee. I also presided at a meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Board of Missions, and upon the urgent task of organizing the work with the General Board of Missions. During the remaining days until 10 p. m. Thursday I was in attendance at the sessions of the Synod of the Diocese, serving upon committees and entering into its business and other conferences. Our work was both unfruitful and absorbing, and I was very tired when I reached St. Luke's Hall and at Mrs. DuBose, who presides over the Theological family, coming with my uncle in the "Doctor's Room."

Masterpiece, my only opportunity to see a play in quite three years.

Saturday, 23. Arriving in Columbus, S. C., I spent the hours between trains with my very numerous relatives, but chiefly as the guest of Dr. and Mrs. DuBose. In the late afternoon I reached Winnsboro, and soon after drove out to the farm to spend the night with the Beans. I found in excellent health.

On Sunday, 24. I preached in my parish and preached in my parish and preached in my parish. I was the guest of my friends of a lifetime. I was the guest of my friends of a lifetime. I was the guest of my friends of a lifetime.

Monday, 25. I left at daylight for New York.

Tuesday, 26. Arriving just in time, I attended the sessions, morning and afternoon and night, of the Board of Missions, lasting until Wednesday evening at lamplight. It was the most earnest, and at times the most decorously stormy session that I have ever known. The debate over the Panama Conference was thoroughly good tempered and characterized by loving Christian courtesy, but stormy in its earnestness and after results. No one need fear harm to the Church for the plain speaking and decided action. God knows how to use our differences and even our mistakes for our greater ultimate good. I was the guest of the Rev. F. J. Clark in his delightful home in Montclair, N. J.

Wednesday, 27. The session of the Board left me no time for visiting, save at luncheon hour at which Miss Mary Trenholm and Miss McCullough were my hosts. At the close I had only a short time with Rev. Mr. Hinton before taking the train for the South. It was necessary even to forego an expected visit to the Rev. and Mrs. Bland Mitchell, and to Miss Mildred Baird at school in the city.

Friday, 29. I reached home in the late afternoon, in time for an hour at our State Fair, where I met a number of my friends.

Saturday, 30. A busy morning in the office. In the afternoon with Rev. Mr. Smith I went to Bovina where I was the guest of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Child.

Sunday, 31. St. Albans Bovina. Assisted by Mr. Smith, I preached and celebrated for a good congregation. Offering, \$5.25. Mrs. Mary V. Childs



**"This little sheet"
150 years of
The Mississippi Episcopalian**

Work, Play, Life: Vocation



THE MISSISSIPPI EPISCOPALIAN

The Official Magazine of the Episcopal Diocese of Mississippi



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McMillan joins Sovereign Order of St. John

The Very Reverend Bruce McMillan, former Rector of Christ Church, Holly Springs and Associate for Hispanic Ministry at St. Peter's, Oxford, was among 83 people invested into the Sovereign Order of St. John of Jerusalem Hospitaliers in New York City on October 19, 2024 at the invitation of King Charles III, Sovereign Head of the Order. Father McMillan retired four years ago after twenty-five years as Rector of Christ Church and Dean of the Coldwater Convocation. He now serves three congregations in and around

Sewanee, the Alumni Council of the University of the South, and is a member of the Franklin County, Tennessee Commission (Tennessee's answer to a Board of Supervisors).



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On the cover: The cover of the special Christmas issue of The Church News, The Mississippi Episcopalian, from December 1915. The church depicted in the photo is Trinity, Yazoo City, from Christmas of the previous year.

Diocese of Mississippi: 2025 Nominations

If you feel strongly about the mission and ministry of the Diocese of Mississippi, please consider nominating yourself or another gifted individual for a leadership opportunity. Elections will be held at the 198th Annual Council, January 31 - February 2, 2025, when we convene at the Mississippi Coast Coliseum and Convention Center. Please note, training in the prevention of sexual misconduct is required for these leadership positions; anti-racism and other diversity awareness training is encouraged.

TREASURER

The Treasurer of the Diocese works closely with the Finance and Executive Committees, the Trustees of the Diocese, and the diocesan staff on financial and budgetary matters impacting our operations, investments, mission, and ministry. Financial and budgetary acumen is required; current or previous experience as a treasurer is desired. Election details: One layperson for a one-year term.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, Member

The Executive Committee and its subcommittees focus on mission and ministry opportunities across the Diocese; work with supported churches and chaplaincies; and meet quarterly to review or amend the budget, consider insurance plans, and/or initiate programs and offerings. In many ways the diocesan Executive Committee is analogous to a local vestry or mission committee. Election details: Two clerics and two laypersons, each for a three-year term. One cleric for a one-year unexpired term.

TRUSTEES OF THE DIOCESE, Trustee

As the official diocesan corporation chartered by the State legislature, the Trustees focus on property matters (diocesan and mission church holdings), money

and portfolio management. Our catalog of investments includes diocesan funds, endowments, and other monies, as well as those of parishes and missions across the Diocese who invest alongside the Trustees. Often, Trustees have a background in finance, banking, investments, law, real estate, business, or entrepreneurial professions. They often have prior experience serving the Church in an official capacity. Election details: One layperson for a four-year term.

STANDING COMMITTEE, Member

The Standing Committee focuses on churchwide consents in elections for bishops; considers postulancy, candidacy and ordination for those from our Diocese studying for and seeking Holy Orders; and deals with property matters and questions of incumbrance or indebtedness. The Committee serves as a council of advice to the Bishop and, in the case of a vacancy in the office of Bishop Diocesan, acts as the Ecclesiastical Authority. Committee members have often served in a prior leadership role on the local or diocesan level (Vestry, Mission Committee, finance committee, discernment committee, Executive Committee, etc.). Election details: One presbyter and one layperson, each for a four-year term. One presbyter for a two-year unexpired term.

DISCIPLINARY BOARD, Member

The Disciplinary Board considers matters of clergy conduct. Nominees should have a working knowledge of Title IV of the Constitution and Canons of The Episcopal Church or have a willingness to learn. Members are frequently process-oriented. Skills in the areas of discernment, consensus building, and active listening are beneficial. A background in mediation, conflict management, reconciliation, discernment, Canon law, civic law, counseling, family systems, or related fields is helpful for this work. Election details: Two clerics and one layperson for three year terms. One cleric for a one-year unexpired term.

**[“nominations” continued on page 5,
including link to nomination form →](#)**



“In this together”

Grace Church in Canton opens its doors to Hispanic students in need of after school tutoring

On any given Tuesday or Thursday, starting around mid-afternoon, the parking lot behind Grace Episcopal Church in Canton hosts a flurry of drop-offs. Cars pull in and children, hauling their backpacks or tote bags or lunchboxes from school, make their way toward the Parish Hall entrance.

Inside, they find some snacks, some juice, plenty of room to spread out at round tables, and a cadre of tutors ready to help them take on the homework in their bags. Whether it's reading, math, or even, for the youngest pupils, basic skills like identifying numerals or colors—the tutors are standing by. These volunteers spend roughly

two hours with the children, most of whose families hail from either Mexico or Guatemala, each session.

Grace's tutoring ministry has been active now for nearly four years. The Reverend Beth Foose, rector of the parish, had been involved in Hispanic ministry in Canton ever since she arrived at Grace in 2013. After the COVID pandemic, recognizing the need for a place to host tutoring for kids, she opened the church's doors. It was a natural fit given the trusting relationships the parish had built over the years.

“It took a while for our Hispanic community in Canton to get comfortable with Grace Church, and treat it as

On Tuesday and Thursday afternoons, Grace, Canton's Parish Hall is transformed into a tutoring center for children from Canton's Hispanic community, complete with volunteer tutors.



one of their 'safe' spaces," says Holly Wallace, one of the volunteer tutors in the program, "but through Beth's ministering, and that of all our tutors, we are able to share the love of God with one another."

"Grace Church has become kind of a gathering place for some members of the Hispanic community," says Foose. "We have, for many years, had the Posada. We've had a Hispanic Thanksgiving celebration. I mean, it's just a safe, neutral gathering place for the community. So a lot of people know us and know what we're about."

Grace has also co-hosted several health fairs with the Mississippi Immigrants Rights Alliance, the most recent of which was in November. As many as 50-75 members of the community attend these fairs, where

¹ *The Posada, or Las Posadas, is a festival celebrated throughout Latin America, featuring a reenactment of the journey of Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem.*

they can receive preventative care—blood pressure checks, vaccinations, nutritional education, and more.

That reputation has helped the tutoring program succeed by word of mouth. Now, it is typical for a dozen students between three and ten years old to come to each session. While the structure of the program is fairly loose, with students working on their own or pairing up with tutors as needed, the group stays focused on work.

"We pretty much keep our heads down and get this work done," says Foose, "because there's a lot of work to do."

Some of that work involves mild language barriers. While the children all speak English at school, most do not at home. Those are modest hurdles to overcome and Foose communicate with the parents, whose English is typically not as strong as the kids', enough to convey necessary information.

There are tangible, measurable results to this work. In addition to numbers of math problems solved and pages of workbooks completed, the ministry was recently able to boast of two students, fifth-grader Ana and kindergartener Emerson, making the honor roll.

“I’ve had little Emerson since he was three years old,” says Foose, “and he’s the child who shows up every Tuesday and Thursday with terrible conduct marks—he’s quite a talker—but I mean, he can read and count to 100 and do all sorts of amazing things.”

There’s more to this gathering than academic accomplishments, though. There’s a profound sense of community that has developed between the children and the volunteer tutors—something that Foose sees not merely as a happy offshoot of ministry, but as a vital component of it.

“For ministry to be authentic, it has to be mutual,” she says, “and the tutors get as much from the experience as the children do. Ministry isn’t just handing things out to make us feel good—that’s not what we do at Grace. We’re really about nurturing community and a sense that we’re all in this together.” 🏡



Rev. Foose listens to stories from one of Grace’s Tuesday/Thursday pupils while checking his folders from school for homework assignments. Below: A volunteer assists a student with her math worksheets.



“Nominations” continued from page 2 →

TRUSTEES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF THE SOUTH (Sewanee), Trustee

As one of the owning dioceses, the Diocese of Mississippi annually elects an individual to serve a three-year term on Sewanee’s Board of Trustees. Nominees should be invested in the ongoing interests and wellbeing of the University. Nominees regularly have an ongoing relationship with the University, either as an alumnus or through another affinity or affiliation. Alumni status is not a prerequisite. Election details: One layperson for a three-year term.

Make a nomination

The nomination form is available at msepiscopalian.com/nominations and there is a link on the diocesan website. Each nominee must consent to be nominated before the form is submitted. Forms must be received by December 22, 2024 in order to be included in the Council information. When making a nomination, please email a high-resolution color headshot photograph of the nominee for publication to the Rev. Annie Elliott, elliotta@gosaints.org. If unable to submit the nomination form or the photograph through these methods, please contact the Rev. Annie Elliott (601.853.6016). 🏡





Bishop's Journal

October/November 2024

October 2024

- 30** → St. Francis of Assisi, Philadelphia
- 30** → Visit Chaney, Goodman, Schwerner memorial sites - Philadelphia, MS

November 2024

- 1** → All Saints Church, Jackson—Preached
- 2** → Travel to Tupelo
- 3** → All Saints Church, Tupelo—Preached twice, confirmed 4



- 4** → Meeting with staff members
- 5** → VOTE; Staff meeting; Meeting with Chancellor; Meetings with staff members
- 6** → Title IV Reference Panel; Meeting with clergy person; Lunch with clergy person; Interview with lay ministry leader (Saints Brew)
- 7-8** → Bishop's Sabbath
- 10** → St. Stephen's Church, Columbia—Preached and confirmed 2



- 11** → Bishop's Sabbath
- 12** → Staff Meeting; Meeting with Chancellor; Meetings with Staff Members; Spiritual Direction
- 13** → CPAs onsite; Tour of UMMC with Dr. James Keeton
- 14** → Meet with Clergy person; Meet with Postulant
- 15** → Meeting with church in transition
- 17** → St. James Church, Greenville—Preached, confirmed 1, baptized 1, received 1



- 17** → Church of the Redeemer, Greenville
- 18** → Bishop's Sabbath
- 19-21** → Seminary of the Southwest, Austin, TX; Meeting with Postulants; Meeting with Seminary Dean/President; Visited class Meeting with Members of Administration—Spoke



- 21** → Travel to Jackson; Premarital Counseling Session
- 22** → Meetings with staff members; Meeting with Warden of church in transition; Meeting with clergy person; Meeting with postulant; Visit clergy person in hospital
- 24** → Happening! (Chapel of the Cross, Madison)
- 29** → Staff Meeting; Meetings with staff members



This little sheet

The Mississippi Episcopalians celebrates 150 years

by Wil Oakes, research by Julia Marks Young

In 1874, Trinity, Natchez had been a parish at the corner of Commerce and Washington Streets for a little over half a century. That year, Trinity discerned the need for a better means of communication within the parish, and a parish newsletter was born.¹ That publication, with the informative and unadorned title *The Church News (TCN)*, would, within a decade, expand its coverage and be adopted by the Diocese of Mississippi as its official paper.

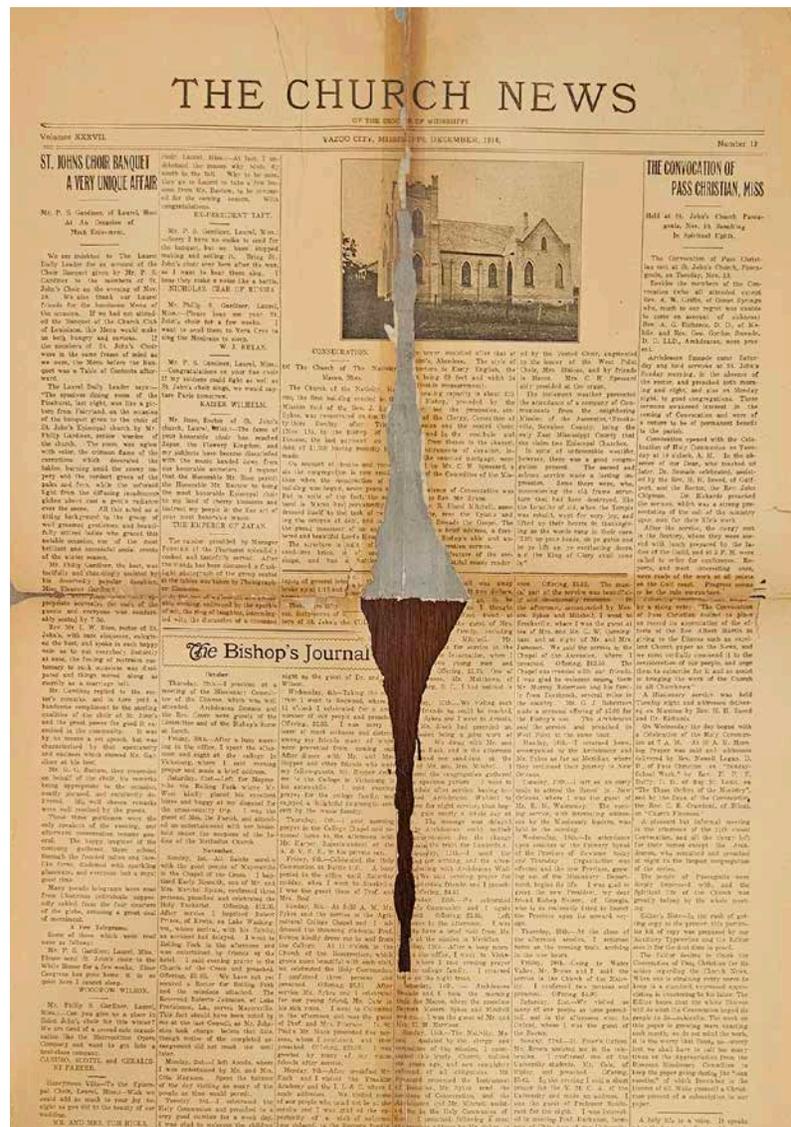
The Reverend Alexander Marks, then-rector of Trinity Natchez, was its first editor.

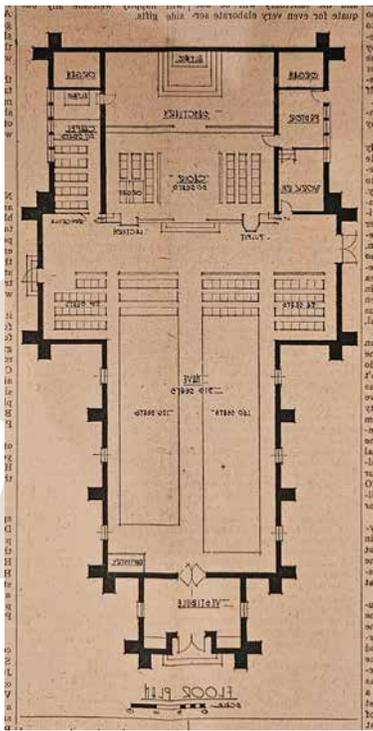
As one of the very oldest parishes in the diocese (in fact, four years older than the diocese itself), Trinity had always been a leader for Episcopalians in Mississippi, and Natchez remained the home of *The Church News* throughout much of the 19th century. Later, at various times, the paper was published at local presses throughout the state, including Yazoo City, Starkville, Canton, and, finally, Jackson.

In 1991, 117 years after its founding, The Church News was, of course, rechristened as *The Mississippi Episcopalian (TME)*.

But back in 1882, the paper made its official transition

¹ There is conflicting information about the actual year TCN was first published. According to Chas. Stietenroth in his 1922 book *One Hundred Years with Old Trinity Church*, TCN was started by Rev. Marks and Stietenroth himself in 1882, not 1874. Volume numbers noted on issues throughout the years are also inconsistent and some indicate different initial dates of publication. This being the final issue of what is now branded volume 149, we choose to celebrate this Sesquicentennial, fully aware of these discrepancies.





Facing page, top: An early motto of The Church News, which appeared on cover pages in the late 19th and early 20th centuries; facing page, bottom: front page of an issue of TCN from December 1914, featuring a photo of The Church of the Nativity in Macon (now closed); this page, left and bottom right: a floor plan and sketch of the proposed St. James, Jackson nave in a 1954 issue (the building was completed in 1956); this page, bottom left: the cover of the September 1945 issue—TCN did not cease publication during either World War.

from a parish to a diocesan organ when council adopted a resolution stating “that the confidence and assistance of the Diocese be given to *The Church News*, published in the city of Natchez.”

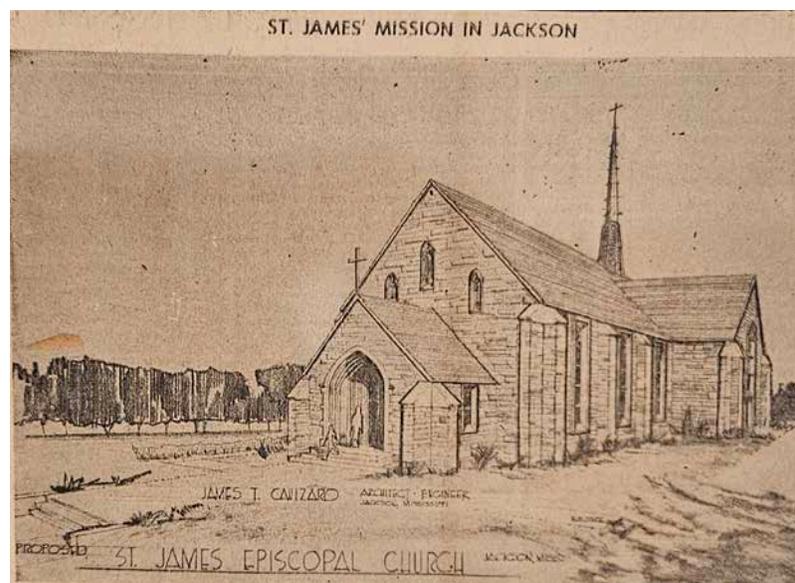
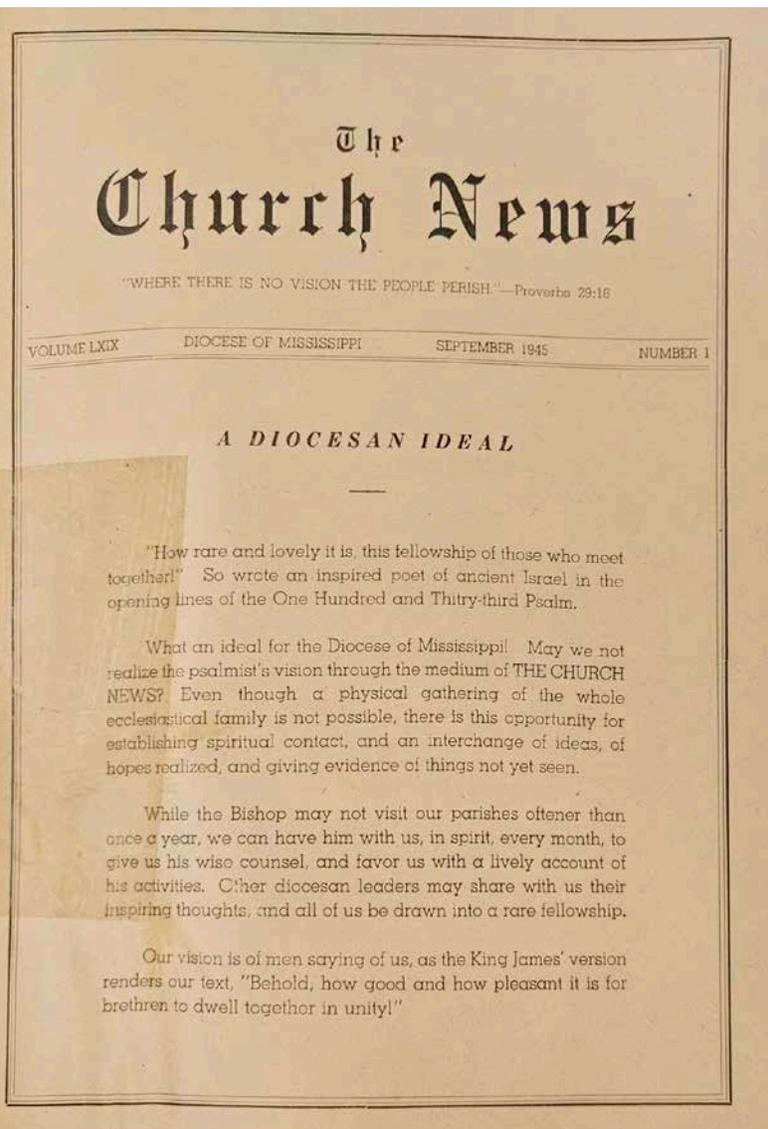
The following year, a committee was established to oversee the publication, and Bishop William Mercer Green shared his enthusiasm in his address:

“Before I close,” he said, “let me say a word in relation to that excellent paper, *The Church News*, published at Natchez. No diocese has juster cause to be proud of its periodical than we. It has been ably conducted from the beginning; but will soon appear in a form of increasing ability and interest.”

At that time, the committee for TCN did have truly grand expectations. At the 1884 council, their report implied a hope that the paper would grow even beyond the diocese, perhaps to cover the entire American Church, or at least Episcopalians in the Southern and Southwestern states.

Much of this ambition stemmed from the fact that then-bishop coadjutor Hugh Miller Thompson was an experienced editor, having helmed the *American Churchman* in the 1860s.

“With the aid of his great influence, the ultimate outgrowth of this enterprise may be a journal of still wider range...” wrote the committee in its report, “which has, besides... the general subjects that concern all, to deal with such special interests as those of the University of the South, the spiritual needs of the colored race, and others arising from peculiar ecclesiastical and social conditions.”

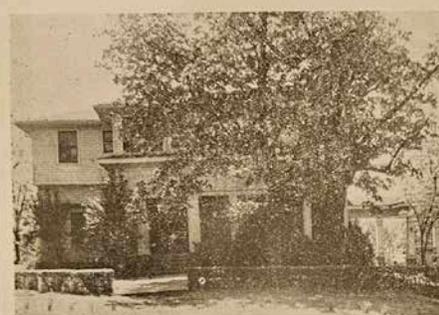


The Church News

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE BISHOP AND DIOCESE OF MISSISSIPPI



VOLUME LXIX MAY 1946 NUMBER 9



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Vicksburg, Miss.

Thompson himself offered a bit more modest appraisal of the paper and its prospects:

“Let me speak of a diocesan interest which, in some respects, I consider second to none,” he said at council in 1885. “*The Church News* is not a very wonderful paper, indeed, and doesn't try to be. But it is ours, our diocesan organ.”

For Thompson, one important result of *TCN* was its ability to make his life easier by saving him time on his correspondence:

“This little sheet is our official organ,” he went on. “The bishops and diocesan officers publish their official announcements in it. And for myself, dear brethren, I think it is very little to ask, that it be taken in every parish. I

cannot afford to keep a secretary, and it is too much to ask, that, in a life so entirely occupied, I should be required also to write letters and bulletins. Published in the official paper, I am saved that.”

At first, during the decade of the 1880s, it was a struggle for *TCN* to find support and get people to subscribe to and read it. The arguments made by the *TCN* committee read much like those to be heard over a century later with the advent of the internet.

"That the press is not like the font, the altar, or the pulpit . . . may be freely admitted," members wrote in 1884. "But to reject the use of the press as an adjunct in the work of the church . . . would be as unreasonable as to refuse to avail ourselves of the agency of steam in Episcopal visitations and missionary journeys, because the primitive Apostles traveled on foot . . . or to condemn the use of paper, because the Epistles of St. Paul were written on parchment."

Thompson and the committee succeeded, however, and *TCN* survived and thrived. Remarkably, *TCN* did not cease publication during either of the World Wars. The editorship passed among clergymen, including Bishop Duncan M. Gray, Sr., who ran the paper while simultaneously running the diocese. For much of its history, *TCN* published monthly updates on parishes around the state, sent in by correspondents.

Also, for many years, one of *TCN's* functions was to encourage parishes to support the diocese financially, by printing a list of assessments and payments. A few column

Facing page, left top: a cover story about then-Camp-Bratton before its inaugural summer in 1947; facing page, left bottom: an ad the previous year for the camp at All Saints' College; facing page, right: advertisements appearing inside the December 1914 issue; this page: the cover and announcement of the January 1991 issue, the first to be called The Mississippi Episcopalian instead of The Church News.

inches were often dedicated to reminding parishioners to pay their subscriptions to the paper as well. Throughout the 19th century, a subscription cost 50 cents, a fact often splashed above the masthead as a reminder.

As technology evolved, the purpose and format of *TCN* also changed. The 1991 transition to the name *The Mississippi Episcopalian*,

readability of the newspaper. *The Mississippi Episcopalian* should reflect the lives and interests of all Episcopalians in our State," said the editor, Carolyn McLendon. "In the future, as we are able to expand the number of pages in each issue, we will be able to include more news from every church and mission."

Mrs. McLendon urged readers to consult the November issue of *The Church News* for instructions for submission of news stories and photographs.

coincided with an era when fax, phone, and a fledgling invention called the internet were changing the way information was shared.

Most recently, under the visions of Bishops Seage and Wells, *TME* has transitioned from newspaper to magazine, and its primary mission from one of information to one of inspiration. As the official magazine of the Episcopal Diocese of Mississippi looks ahead to year 151, it does so ready to tell the stories of the Episcopalians of this state and how their witness to Christ continues to transform the world, just as it did back in 1874. 

Help *TME* & the diocese fill out the archive

Do you or your parish have any old issues of *The Church News* stashed away in a closet or basement? Currently the diocesan archive has no issues of the paper prior to 1914, and is also missing issues from the 1930s and 1940s. If you have copies of these issues, please contact diocesan archivist Julia Marks Young at jmyoung@dioms.org.



Six Nominees Named For Bishop Coadjutor

Beginning with an initial meeting on April 5, 1990, the Bishop Coadjutor Search Committee for the Diocese of Mississippi produced a "profile of the diocese and used that document to help narrow a field of prospective nominees from 48 to six." They are:

The Rev. David Augustus Elliott, rector, St. James', Greenville; the Rev. Sidney Ross Jones, rector, St. James', Alexandria, LA; the Rev. David Stafford Lockett, Jr., rector and headmaster, All Saints' School, Vicksburg; the Ven. Mary Adelia Rosamond McLeod, rector, St. John's, Charleston W. VA and archdeacon, Southern Region, W. VA; the Rev. Alfred Clark "Chip" Marble, Jr., assistant to the bishop, Diocese of East Carolina, Kingston, NC; the Rev. Dr. Colton Blumford Smith, III, canon to the ordinary, Diocese of Mississippi.

Additional nominations for bishop coadjutor may be made from the floor at the opening session of the recessed Council on February 22nd in Jackson. Those persons wishing to make nominations from the floor should first receive permission from the person to be nominated and then consider preparing a "Presentation Form" similar to those used by the Search Committee in their report to the Diocese. There will be no nomination speeches from the floor. Blank forms for this purpose are available from the chairman of the Search Committee or from the Diocesan office.

The Diocesan office will help with the mailing of such resumes to each congregation and mission if the materials are received by February 12, 1991.

In announcing the final selection of nominees the chairman of the Bishop Coadjutor Search Committee said, "Each of the priests who were recommended by the Search Committee was considered in relationship to the profile of the diocese, as well as possessing the style of leadership that will command the respect and support of clergy and laity alike. The Search Committee believes the six listed above most appropriately match our needs and have our endorsement as nominees for bishop coadjutor for the Diocese of Mississippi. They will be presented to the

A major criterion used in the selection of the final nominees for bishop coadjutor was the response by Mississippi's Episcopalians as to the qualities they consider most important in a bishop.

The Search Committee used the responses of the congregational survey as a basis for questions asked each nominee and those responses by nominees helped in the final selection process. Consideration was also given to the responses from the vestry and mission survey.

Survey forms were sent to approximately 9,200 households in the Diocese. Completed surveys were returned by 1,503 individuals with at least two responses from 83 of our 84 parishes and missions. Over 860 persons returning the survey took time to add comments.

"The majority of these commenting made it clear that our nominees all must be well-grounded in their spiritual journey and truly people of prayer with strong commitment to Jesus Christ as Lord," said James LeLaurin, chair of the Search Committee.

The survey requested the respondent to select five of the most important qualities for a bishop from a list of 12 attributes and to rank the five choices in order of the most to the least important.

The top five choices were (1) pastoral leader, (2) administrative leader, (3) spiritual leader, (4) preacher/theologian, (5) conciliator/reconciler.

"Many, many comments praised Bishop Gray and his ministry to us all," said LeLaurin. "There was also plentiful praise for past bishops and their unique ministries in years past. Many priests now serving in the Diocese were also praised."

Qualities Most Needed In Our Bishop

Church News Becomes The Mississippi Episcopalian

After many years — 117 if the masthead is correct — *The Church News* now has a new title: *The Mississippi Episcopalian*.

The name change was decided by the advisory committee to the publication at its October meeting. "We expect to continue to increase the number of articles and pictures depicting activities of church members throughout the state. We also hope to present more regional and national Episcopal news. With this issue we begin incorporating a new format which will increase visually the attractiveness and



ECW

Diocesan ECW holds its 2024 Annual Fall Conference

by **Martha Morgan**

The Episcopal Church Women of the Diocese of Mississippi held their 2024 Annual Fall Conference on Saturday, November 9 at St. Peters by the Lake, Brandon. Their ECW ladies welcomed 43 women & 2 men to their lovely Parish Hall with coffee & donuts.

Our last business meeting for 2024 began with our thanks to all who welcomed us to their church and then a prayer by the Very Reverend Carol Mead.

The meeting was called to order by President, Martha Morgan. The ECW prayer was led by President Elect, Ann Milsted, who also made a few comments about the Board's availability to each & every ECW member. 2024 Spring Conference minutes were read by Deborah Orrick, Board Secretary, and a motion was made & seconded to approve them. A financial report dated 9/30/24 was discussed with an emphasis on the 2024 Outreach programs' expenditures for CPC, Global Scholarships & our own Children at Risk Fund outreach grants. Our CPC outreach will continue to support grants for our Seminarian & bi-voc students. We realize that dues & contributions are limited due to financial difficulties all around the Diocese and appreciate our ECW Chapters contributions. There have been a few suggestions made to limit our state-wide conferences to one per year and concentrate on Convocation meetings in between. The final decision on these matters will be posted in the near future on our Diocesan ECW web page, our FB page (Episcopal Church Women of Miss) &/or our Diocesan BLAST notifications.

Brenda Hawkins, our UTO Chair, plans to retire next year and requests any or all Ladies interested in being involved with this important outreach program to contact her: brendadavishawkins@gmail.com.

Our 2025 dues reminder was noted for all ECW Chapters to send their payments (Parish \$100/Mission \$50) to our Assistant Treasurer. Checks should be payable to DIOCESAN ECW, c/o Wava Peters, POB 128, Terry, MS 39170. Note dues year on memo line, please.

Our meeting was then adjourned.

Our speaker, Carolyn Terry, Master-Craftsman Photographer, was introduced. She is an author & digital editor of *ENDURANCE OF THE SPIRIT*, a collection of 95 Episcopal Churches in Mississippi and their stories. This book and many of the individual digital photos of the churches were available for purchase. Ms. Terry is a member of St. Paul's in Picayune, Miss.

There was a lot to recap for this year, including a review of the 2024 Triennial Conference, June 23-28, in Louisville, KY. Three Board members attended as delegates, Martha Morgan, President, Ann Milsted, President Elect and Lollie Everett, our 2024 Mississippi's Distinguished Woman represented our Diocese. Our former Presiding Bishop Curry presented a special PIN to each of the Distinguished Women honorees. Also, Board member, Mary Beth Welch, attended her last Triennial as Provence IV representative while Gloria Rogers, St Mark/Jackson, was elected to her first term as ECW Natl Board 2nd Vice President. We are proud that our small Diocese has many women recognized with exceptional leadership abilities.

A delicious box lunch was served after the Speaker's program with a special Eucharist service after lunch.

Our Eucharist service was celebrated by our ECW Board Chaplain & Rector of St. Peter by the Lake, the Very Reverend Carol Mead and Deacon Betty Melton, St Francis of Assisi, Philadelphia. The ceremony of transfer of Office from President Elect to President was performed by bestowing the GOLD President's Cross from 2022-2024 President, Martha Morgan to Ann Milsted, 2025-2027 President. A SILVER cross was presented to retiring President Martha Morgan. All other new & returning Board members were installed, including our new Board Secretary, Deborah Orrick, daughter of our late long-time board Secretary, Darcy Strickland.

It was a lovely special Annual Fall Conference that November day.

Thanks to all who hosted the Conference & all who attended. 🍷

Peace be with you.

Martha E. Morgan, 2022-2024 President

Episcopal Church Women

Diocese of Mississippi



Helping Hands

St. Matthew's, Kosciusko, Contributes to Holiday Treats

Every year, during the week preceding Thanksgiving, the churches of Kosciusko join together in offering up a bountiful feast to the community. Each church is asked to prepare a particular course to serve for the mid-day lunch. While the event is called "Holiday Tastings", attendees leave with full stomachs and ideas for new holiday food favorites.

All proceeds from the tickets



to the event go to benefit the Helping Hands Ministries of Attala County. Helping Hands supplies food and other household items to Attala County residents in need.

This year St. Matthew's Episcopal Church in Kosciusko prepared a table of desserts. Parishioners prepared some

of their holiday favorites and several of the cooks volunteered to serve the items during the lunch, including new parishioner and current president of Helping Hands Ministries, Mary Al Alford.

The Helping Hands Ministries is one of St. Matthew's largest outreach missions by supplying funds, food and volunteers on a regular basis. The Holiday Tasting Lunch raised over \$5000 for the Helping Hands organization. 🍷

THE MISSISSIPPI EPISCOPALIAN

The Official Publication of the Episcopal Diocese of Mississippi



Faithful Departed

Please submit Faithful Departed notices to your church for submission

Jane Montgomery Warren, 84, communicant of Nativity, Greenwood, died October 24, 2024.

Eileen Rene Garrard Bailey, 60, communicant of All Saints', Tupelo, died November 19, 2024.

Harry Michael Reich, 76, communicant of St. Paul's, Meridian, died November 21, 2024.

Ann Hogan Macvaugh, 81, communicant of St. James', Greenville, died November 2, 2024.

Louise Ophallon Floyd Cole, 73, communicant of St. Bernard's, Okolona, died November 30, 2024.

The Official Magazine of the Episcopal Diocese of Mississippi

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

The Rt. Rev. Dr. Dorothy Sanders Wells, XI
Bishop of Mississippi, Publisher

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The Rev. Scott Lenoir, Liz Evans, & Julia Marks Young,
copyeditors

The Mississippi Episcopalian (USPS 024755) is published monthly 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.

Deployment Report Churches/Chaplaincies in Transition

Redeemer, Brookhaven

Calvary, Cleveland

Good Shepherd, Columbus

All Saints', Grenada (seeking a rector)

Christ Church, Holly Springs

St. James', Jackson

St. Matthew's, Kosciusko

Mediator, Meridian

Trinity, Natchez

St. Peter's, Oxford

Canterbury: Mississippi State University /

Resurrection, Starkville

Incarnation, West Point

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Diocesan Calendar

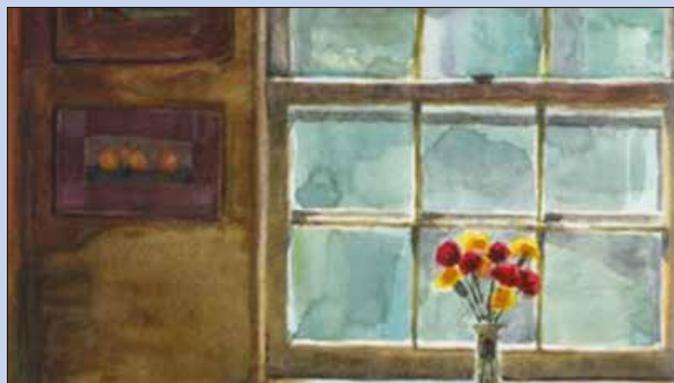
Diocesan Meetings continue by Zoom unless otherwise noted. Though the Diocesan Staff works in a hybrid model (office and home), the Allin House is staffed daily, M-Th, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Fridays (through Labor Day) 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon.

December

- 17** Executive Committee, St. Andrew's Cathedral, 1:00 - 4:00 pm
- 20-21** A.C. Marble School, online
- 21** Ordination of Gabrielle (Gabbie) Annelise Munn to Diaconate, St. Andrew's Cathedral, Jackson
- 22** Bishop visits Grace, Canton
- 24** Bishop visits St. Andrew's Cathedral, Jackson
- 24-26** Allin House closed for Christmas
- 27 - 1** Winter Solstice (12/27-1/1), Camp Bratton-Green at Gray Center

January

- 1** Allin House closed for New Year's Day
- 2** Racial Reconciliation Task Force Meeting; 12:00 noon
- 5** Bishop visits Holy Trinity, Crystal Springs
- 5** Bishop visits Good Shepherd, Terry
- 7** January Mississippi Episcopalian deadline
- 10-11** A.C. Marble School, Solomon Center
- 12** Bishop visits St. Paul's, Hollandale
- 19** Bishop visits St. John's, Aberdeen
- 19** Bishop visits St. Bernard's, Okolona
- 20** Allin House closed for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- 29** Bishop visits Mississippi State, Starkville
- 31 - 2** 198th Annual Convention, Mississippi Gulf Coast



The Journey Series at St. Andrew's Cathedral

Writing into the Light

Saturday, January 25th, 9:00am to 2:00pm

A writing workshop of discovery and delight into our hidden, shared life that makes us fully human, led by Ellen Gabardi, Marion Barnwell, and Beth Foose. No writing experience necessary! Get more info and sign up at standrews.ms/journeyseries.



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.

Submission deadlines for the next six months (always available at msepiscopalian.com/submissions):

January 2025 issue

January 7th, 2025

April 2025 issue

March 15th, 2025

February 2025 issue

January 15th, 2025

May 2025 issue

April 22nd, 2025

March 2025 issue

February 15th, 2025

June 2025 issue

May 15th, 2025



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Christ Episcopal Church in Vicksburg packed 21 Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes with gifts for children in need around the world with the message of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. More will be taken to the drop-off Vicksburg location at First Baptist Church.