

# **REPORTS TO THE CONVENTION FROM THE GENERAL OFFICERS, AND THE BOARDS, COMMISSIONS AND COORDINATORS OF THE DIOCESE**

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## **REPORTS OF THE GENERAL OFFICERS:**

### **SECRETARY**

It is my privilege to report that the duties of the secretary of the Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast have been fulfilled in the year 2018 in accordance with Canon 6 of the Canons of the Diocese. I am very grateful for the friendship and help of two assistant secretaries: the Rev. S. Albert Kennington and Dwight Babcock. It was my first year in carrying out the duties of the secretary and would have been lost without them.

As an officer of the diocese I have attended as many of the Standing Committee meetings as possible to gain knowledge as to how the diocese functions.

Respectfully submitted,  
The Rev. Deacon Edward T. Richards

### **STANDING COMMITTEE**

It has truly been a joy to be the president of the Standing Committee this year. The members have worked well as a team with seriousness of situations, and with humor needed to keep us fresh. We so appreciate the help of Jenn Johnson, Mary Poss, Sarah Chau and Kim Weinstein who helped make our job so much easier. And the reports by Chris Heaney who was hired to connect with the areas of our diocese affected by Hurricane Michael were so helpful to understand what was going on in the eastern end of the diocese. The following is a summary of our meetings through the year as required by the Canons of the Episcopal Church.

#### **January 30, 2018 (budget session)**

- 2017 - Treasurers Report  
2017 Financials – end of year / State Street Portfolio – end of year
- 2018 Pre-Convention Info Sessions / Bishop's Priorities  
2018 – Budget (Projected Income from Pledges, Congregational Pledges, Key Budget Highlights / Changes
- Commission on Ministry  
Interview (via Zoom) - Alice Sawyer (Candidate for Holy Orders)  
Certification: Mike Dickey (Ord. to Priesthood)  
These remain within the confines of the Commission on Ministry and the Standing Committee.
- Update on 2018 Diocesan Convention  
Resolution(s); Food Packing – Friday Feb. 23
- Update on 2018 General Convention (Austin, TX)

#### **February 24, 2018**

The standing Committee met briefly following the Diocesan Convention at St. Andrew's, Destin.

Committee members who were present at the convention, along with the newly appointed or elected members met in the worship space following the close of convention. New members provided contact information and it was noted that the 2018 Liaison appointments would be worked out at the first scheduled meeting. Nominations were opened for President of the Standing Committee for 2018. The Rev. Dr. Margaret Shepard (St. Andrew's, Panama City) was nominated and elected unanimously. Nominations were opened for secretary and Sally Crenshaw (Holy Trinity, Pensacola) was nominated and elected.

Bishop Kendrick announced that a schedule of meetings would be sent out, and that an overnight retreat would be held at a later date at Beckwith Camp and Retreat Center.

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## **April 5, 2018 Meeting: rescheduled**

### **May 1, 2018 at the Duvall Center**

Following the opening prayer, new members were welcomed!

Bishop Kendrick offered his Comments followed by Commission Liaison Reports, New Liaison assignments for 2018  
Commission on Ministry - Overview of the COM Process; Ordination to the Transitional Diaconate (certification)

Mutual Ministry Review – next steps

Change to Convocation Boundaries from 6 to 5 was discussed.

Sewanee – School of Theology request for fund commitment

An update on 2018 General Convention (Austin, TX) was given.

Loans / Property:

Christ the King – church school building on church property

Trinity, Mobile – sale of vacant lot

Christ Church – extension of Line of Credit

Sale of St. Mary's, Evergreen

The meeting was closed with prayer.

### **June 15 – 16, 2018 Standing Committee Retreat at Beckwith Camp and Conference Center:**

Following a wonderful dinner, a time for getting to know each other was facilitated by The Rev. Dr. Margaret Shepard.

“What is something important for us to practice/remember as the Standing Committee?”

An overview of the Beckwith Master Plan and discussion of a possible Capital Campaign was led by Eleanor Reeves and Bishop Russell.

Lay of the Land: “Church trends, a few resources, program updates, upcoming items to work” was facilitated by Dwight Babcock.

Goals for year: Complete the study of the Mutual Ministry Review

Review goals and make a plan to move forward on them: Facilitated by Russell

### **August 14, 2018 at Murray House, Mobile**

Following the opening prayer, the Bishop offered comments, and Liaison reports were given.

The incident at camp Beckwith was discussed.

Program Team reports were given by Kammy Young, Joy Blaylock, and Massey Gentry.

Post General Convention - Update on 2018 General Convention (Austin, TX)

Mutual Ministry Review – Status / Updates

SC MMR#1: Clergy Wellness

SC MMR#3: Leadership Communications

Convocation Consolidation was discussed as to whether we should have 4 or 5 Convocations.

Camp Beckwith – Forever Wild offer on 10 acre parcel

Camp Beckwith – Loan extension for 20 acre parcel

Holy Trinity, Pensacola – Loan extension

The meeting closed with prayer.

### **September 22, 2018 – Commission on ministry / Standing Committee Interviews (jointly)**

Information is confidential.

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### **October 23, 2018 at the Duvall Center**

Following the opening prayer, President Margaret Shepard expressed her gratitude to all that have helped the churches impacted by Hurricane Michael. Bishop Kendrick, The Rev. Canon David Johnson, (Retired Canon to the Ordinary of Mississippi) The Rev. David Knight, Bishop Duncan Gray (Retired bishop of Mississippi have provided advice including the hiring of The Rev. Gay Jennings, President of the House of Deputies to lead a clergy wellness day.

- Hurricane Michael – impacts, status, updates
  - Chris Heaney, Senior Warden at Christ Church Pensacola, has been hired as the Disaster Relief Coordinator. His job is to take charge of coordinating details for Hurricane and disaster relief. The Rev. Dr. Roy Elam was hired as a follow-up on the clergy wellness day. A report of the damages to diocesan churches was given.
  - ERD support to diocese
  - Discussion on long term effects of storm
- Data Story - We are a part of a grant initiative with the Diocese of Georgia
- We are one of ten dioceses that sent a team to the Diocesan Leadership Initiative
- Bishop: clergy transition updates
- The Candidacy Endorsement for Pete Burgess was approved.
- The Priesthood Certifications for Ryan Currie, Sara Phillips (ordination is in Coden on 12/1), Alice Sawyer (Nativity, Dothan, on 11/3), Forbes Sirmon (St. Simon's on 10/27), and Josh Woods (San Antonio on Nov. 15) were approved.
- Various transitions in clergy/churches was reported.

The meeting closed with prayer.

### **December 11, 2018 at St. Simons, Fort Walton Beach**

The meeting was opened with prayer.

- Kammy Young offered a report on various Evangelism Programs
- Hurricane Michael Update report was given by Diocesan Disaster Coordinator Chris Heaney
  - Status / Updates
  - Emergency Relief Funds
- Preparation for 2019 Diocesan Convention
- Diocesan Canonical Resolutions: changes to youth representation & deacon vote
- Notice of resolutions for proposed changes to Constitution – 2018 General Convention
- CGC 50th Anniversary – Creation of Jubilee Committee
- Capital Campaign Feasibility Study - results
- 2018 Update to “Model Policy for the Protection of Youth and Children” (revisions / updates can be made if they meet / exceed these requirement)
- 2019 Budget impacts: 15% pledge to TEC and potential storm impacts to budget
- 2019 Minimum Clergy Compensation change
- Bishop Diocesan Consents
  - Diocese of Kansas: The Rev. Dr. Cathleen Chittenden Bascom
  - Diocese of Colorado: The Rev. Kimberly D. Lucas

The meeting was closed with prayer.

### **January 29, 2019 at the Duvall Center:**

The meeting was opened with prayer.

- 2019 Diocesan Budget was reviewed
  - 2018 Review
  - 2019 Budget Development
- Preparation for 2019 Diocesan Convention were discussed.

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- Updates
- Diocesan Canonical and General Resolutions
- Update: CGC 50th Anniversary – Creation of Jubilee Committee
- COM notice: Standing Committee certification of canonical documents for Transitional Diaconate (to be sent in conjunction with next Commission on Ministry session)
- Bishop Diocesan Consents
  - Diocese of West Tennessee: Rev. Phoebe A. Roaf
  - Diocese of Arizona: Rev. Jennifer Reddall
  - Diocese of Ecuador: Rev. Canon Cristobal Leon
  - Convocation of Episcopal Churches in Europe: Rev. Mark Edington

The meeting was closed with prayer.

The next meeting will be held following the Diocesan Convention, Feb.14-16 at St. James, Fairhope.

Respectfully submitted,  
The Rev. Dr. Margaret Shepard, President

### **COMMISSION ON FINANCE**

Report forthcoming

### **REGISTRAR – HISTORIOGRAPHER**

Report forthcoming

### **COMMISSION ON MINISTRY**

The Commission on Ministry has two primary responsibilities. The first is to assist individuals in their response to God's call to ministry. In particular, the Commission seeks to support those who are discerning a call to ordained ministry. The second responsibility is to advise the Bishop, when requested, in matters concerning discernment and formation.

#### **COM Mission Statement**

The COM seeks to prayerfully ascertain, discriminate, and discern a sense of God's call in a person's life and in the life of the church for his/her *lay or ordained vocation and ministry*.

#### *The Commission on Ministry will*

- *be a resource for aspirants for ordination*
- *be an advisor to the bishop concerning aspirants, postulants, and candidates*
- *be a shepherd and advocate for those being prepared for ordination,*
- *providing pastoral care and guidance on an individual basis*
- *assist the bishop in developing and furthering continuing education for the clergy of the Diocese.*

In this diocese, individuals called to ordained ministry may follow one of two separate paths. One path is for those who are called to the Priesthood. At present, seminarians from this diocese are enrolled at Virginia Theological Seminary (Pete Burgess) and Yale (Ansley Walker). Transitional Deacons Sara Phillips, Alice Sawyer, Forbes Sirmon and Josh Woods were ordained to the Priesthood in the Fall of 2018 and Ryan Currie will be ordained once he's received a call. We had two (2) individuals accepted as Postulants to attend Seminary (Craig Doshier and Kenneth White-Spunner)

Our Diocesan School for Ministry is now in its second year. We have eight (8) individuals that are Postulants enrolled in The School for Ministry (Mike Ballard, David Chatel, David Clothier, Bob Donnell, Rachael Iversen, Lydia Johnson, John Kendall, and John Talbert) some following the Vocational Diaconate tract and some the Priesthood tract. Deborah

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Epps was approved as a Postulant to attend the School for Ministry and is currently enrolled in EFM (Education for Ministry).

Discernment for those called to the Priesthood and for those called to the Diaconate requires participation by many from the community, as the individuals prayerfully seek God's direction for their lives. The Commission is grateful for the willingness of so many within this diocese to support and assist those who are examining their call to ordained ministry.

Respectfully submitted,  
The Rev. Al Pruitt, Chair/mrp

### **BECKWITH BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

“...Grant that we, who have been born again and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit.” from a Collect for Christmas Day, BCP 213

The sun rises every morning over Weeks Bay and God's front yard. In this sunrise is the dawning of a new day with the promise of grace and renewal. I grieve for the disappointment that tarnished "God's Front Yard" in July. I also know that we do something important at Beckwith summer camp. I am grateful for those staff and volunteers who show up each summer and love on the youth of our diocese. I am excited and encouraged by the changes being made to improve all areas of Summer Camp 2019.

In January we welcomed Rachel Gilliam to Beckwith as the new program director. Rachel was born and raised in Huntington, West Virginia, and it was in West Virginia where she was introduced to church camp. She has been involved with camping ministry as a camper, counselor, and assistant program director for a total of 14 years, and it is a ministry that is very close to her heart. Rachel attended college at Transylvania University in Lexington, Kentucky, and graduate school at Duke Divinity School in Durham, North Carolina. We welcome Rachel and her dog, Aladdin, to the Beckwith family.

We are also excited to welcome Priscilla Condon as the 2019 Summer Camp nurse. Priscilla is a long-time member of the Beckwith family and has served as the camp nurse in several summers past. Priscilla, a retired family nurse practitioner and a master nutritional therapist, has a Master of Science in Nursing from Vanderbilt University. Priscilla owns Path to Wellness in Foley working with clients concerning all areas of general nutrition. We look forward to working with and learning from Priscilla as a member of the summer camp leadership team.

Mark your calendars for Beckwith Sunday and BayLights 2019. Beckwith Sunday is April 28. Help us celebrate the ministry of camp, our youth, and the role Beckwith plays in the life of our diocese. We hope you will all take the time to celebrate Beckwith in your parish. BayLights had another successful year with Sean of the South, the Bishop's BBQ, the Diocesan Ultreya, the Low Country Boil, music of Rock Bottom, and of course the Draw Down. We are grateful to all of our sponsors, donors, and those who attended the weekend. Save the date for BayLights 2019, Sept. 27-29.

Based on a recommendation from the Master Plan committee, Hardman Hall was completely renovated this past summer. Each room received new flooring, bathroom fixtures, lighting, mattresses, and a fresh coat of paint. We are hopeful for some grant funding to paint the exterior, replace the doors, and upgrade the exterior lighting. The renovation of Wilson Hall is under way and should be completed in March. Wilson Hall will receive new kitchen appliances, flooring, lighting, windows, exterior board and batten, handicap parking and landscaping. This dining hall is home to around 900 youth each summer and an average of 5,500 adults on retreat each year. Annually, over 30,000 meals are prepared and served from the kitchen in Wilson Hall.

I would like to give a special thank you to the Commission on Cursillo for their continued commitment to Beckwith. The

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commission purchased all the new mattresses for Hardman Hall and a new sound system, speakers, microphones and music stands for Alves. We are grateful for the Cursillo community and their generous donations to Beckwith.

The Beckwith Board is an active board and works hard to support the camp and retreat ministry of Beckwith. The board is excited about the vision for the future of Beckwith.

Respectfully submitted,  
Wayne Brunson  
Board Chair

### **MURRAY HOUSE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

The ministry of the diocese at Murray House continues to be positive and life-giving. Under the direction of Connie Anderson, the executive director, and Sharon Phillips, the administrator, the current census is 40 residents.

**The major goal of the Board in 2018 was to complete an exhaustive survey of major maintenance issues. After an extensive evaluation of the structure, Murray House will address approximately \$200,000 of these urgent issues in 2019.**

Murray House is an assisted living residence of the Episcopal Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast. Murray House provides a range of supportive services including: a healthy lifestyle of nutritious food, daily exercise, supportive social connections, religious services, as well as state of the art security.

Thanks to the dedicated and passionate work of the staff and Board, Murray House is financially sound and continues to provide a loving, supportive, safe and nurturing home to the residents.

Respectfully submitted,  
The Rev. Ken Cumbie,  
Chair and Chaplain

### **WILMER HALL BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Wilmer Hall, an agency of the Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast, located in Mobile, Alabama, has been serving young people in need since 1864. It was founded by Bishop Richard Hooker Wilmer, the second bishop of Alabama. We currently have six programs: Residential, Transitional Living (TLP), Transitional Family (TFP), Education4Life, the Philippa Stirling Hamilton Education Center, and the Max Miller Education Program.

In 2018, we had a total of 50 residents in our three residential programs (Residential, TLP, TFP). For the 2018-19 academic year, we have 39 students enrolled in our on-site Education Program and 129 students enrolled in our two community based education programs (The Hamilton Education Center and the Max Miller Education Program). **Our total number of children and young adults served is currently 194.**

We are very excited to have expanded our successful education model into other areas of our community in 2018. The Hamilton Education Center, serving students in the Maysville Community at Williamson Prep Middle School, and the Max Miller Education Center, serving middle school students at Pillans Middle School, Chastang Middle School, and the Mobile County Training Center, both launched this past year. In the nine years since its inception, our education program has had a 100% graduation rate.

We are excited to expand our residential capacity from 30 to 36 in 2019. Harrell-Greene Cottage was restored and renamed in honor of the long and successful ministry of recently retired executive director, Sally Greene. Harrell-Greene

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Cottage is currently housing young mothers and their children. Carpenter Cottage, which was vacated by those families, will become Graduation Housing for our residents who have already entered the workforce and completed our Life Skills Training Program as they prepare to go out on their own.

Our staff and board continue to be good stewards of our resources as we recently passed a balanced budget and as we care for our historic campus. We charge no fees for our services, of course, and receive funding from the diocese, the United Way, and from many donations and grants. We greatly appreciate the support from the diocese, its churches, and their congregants.

We currently have a full time staff of 18. We added a full time social worker in 2018, as well as a full-time community-based education director. Longtime chief operating officer, the Rev. George Riggall, also a priest in the diocese, retired last month after many years of service as chairman, trustee, and chief operating officer. A festive celebration of George's ministry will take place in late March.

A three-year vision plan, or strategic plan, was adopted in late 2018. It included an updated mission statement and an official Wilmer Hall prayer, which was composed by the Rev. Albert Kennington. You will find both below.

We welcome visitors from around the diocese for a visit to our campus, and we are also happy to come talk to your parish or group about our mission and ministry. Please contact Pratt Paterson ([ppaterson@wilmerhall.org](mailto:ppaterson@wilmerhall.org)) or Mae Dennis ([mdennis@wilmerhall.org](mailto:mdennis@wilmerhall.org)) for more information.

Respectfully submitted,

Pratt Paterson, Executive Director

Christian White, Board President

The mission of Wilmer Hall Children's Home is to provide a safe home and educational resources for children and young adults in need due to poverty, abuse, neglect, and homelessness. We serve all children and young adults without regard to race, ethnicity, or religion.

Wilmer Hall extends warm and nurturing care to every child and young adult in its care, ensuring they are surrounded by people who love and support them. Our goal is to help children succeed in four areas: physical health, emotional stability, academic achievement, and spiritual maturity.

Wilmer Hall serves children and young adults through five programs: the Residential Living Program, the Transitional Living Program, the Transitional Family Program, the on-campus Education Program, and the Community-Based Education program.

### **Prayer for Wilmer Hall Children's Home**

by the Rev. Albert Kennington

November 7, 2018

*Almighty God, our heavenly Father, whose Son Jesus welcomed and blessed children with love: We give you thanks and praise for this Children's Home, for the founders, for all who have served and supported this Home through the years, and for all who have found love and family in this Home. In the faith of our founders, we spread before you our prayers for all who live within the care of Wilmer Hall and for those who will do so in years beyond us. Raise up, we pray, in every generation, faithful people to support and sustain this Home following the way of our Savior Jesus Christ with whom we are bound in the best of bonds. Amen.*

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## CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL

### **Cathedral Mission Statement**

*Christ Church Cathedral lovingly welcomes all people to traditional Episcopal worship, to deepen our relationships, serve our community, and grow closer to God.*

*The Cathedral is the spiritual center of the Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast. The Cathedral is a dynamic and evolving church that serves as a liturgical, educational, and pastoral center for Diocesan life. It serves as a visible symbol of unity and promotes growth, hope, and a deepening trust in the Lord. The Cathedral is a place where the Gospel of Jesus Christ will be faithfully preached and responded to, and it will model new concepts and ideas for education, evangelism, and outreach to which the Gospel calls us.*

*Institution Statement for the Cathedral Church of the Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast*

The Christ Church Cathedral family began the year by hosting a Regional Pre-Convention Meeting on Sunday, January 18. On the Tuesday in Holy Week, March 27, diocesan clergy were invited for a luncheon and service for Renewal of Ordination Vows. On April 22, the members of the Christ Church Cathedral family celebrated with Bishop Kendrick, marking the 13-year anniversary of being named the cathedral of the Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast.

Bishop Kendrick was in residence in his apartment at the Cathedral over 12 nights during the year while making visits to local parishes and transacting business. He celebrated the Eucharist in the Chapel on St. Matthew's Day, September 21 in honor of the parish that was decommissioned in 2016.

Five seminarians were ordained to the Diaconate on Saturday, April 28. Over 300 family and friends were in attendance. Bishop Kendrick was celebrant and The Rev. Clelia Garrity was the preacher. The ordinands were Ryan Daniel Currie, Sara Dulaney Phillips, Alice Sherman Sawyer, Thomas Forbes Sirmon, Joshua Wayne Woods. The sponsoring parishes were: St. Simon's on-the-Sound, Fort Walton Beach; St. Paul's, Mobile; St. Mary's, Coden; St. John's, Pensacola, and St. Paul's Church, Chattanooga. The deacons were vested with red stoles as gifts from the Cathedral Chapter.

On Saturday, September 15 Christ Church Cathedral hosted youth from across the diocese for the second diocesan Acolyte Festival. We give thanks to the presenters: Bishop Kendrick, Dent Neilson, The Rev. Marshall Craver, The Rev. Ben Rockwell, The Rev. Thomas Heard. We are also grateful for the support given by Stephen Ingram of Ministry Architects. We had over 75 acolytes and sponsors from 18 parishes. It was an informative and fun-filled day that culminated with the Eucharist. The opening procession included all of the participants—a sight to behold. Our Organist and Choirmaster, Christopher Powell continues to expand our musical program offerings—another year of concerts that were well attended by members of our diocese. We have two donor-generated funds for support of our musical programs: 2018 was the fifth year for the Friends of Cathedral Music, and the need to care for our organ initiated the Cathedral Organ Fund in 2015.

Beginning in May, the Cathedral Family began a five-year journey as one of the pilot parishes for Baptized for Life, an initiative of the Virginia Theological Seminary and the Lilly Foundation.

June 2018 found the Cathedral in a state of demolition as work began on Phase II of the Master Plan for the campus. Phase II includes restoration of the Brantley and Huger Houses on the north side of the campus, the addition of a new kitchen and servery, installation of a fire stair and elevator, the installation of a new electrical transformer, installation of a chiller and boiler that will serve the entire campus, and consolidation of electrical, HVAC, and water. We are grateful to those in the diocese who have contributed to this restoration of our historic campus. Work on Phase II should be completed in 2019.

The Cathedral Foundation, initiated in the fall of 2006 to raise funds to support cathedral ministries, has become inactive. A vestry team is working with Chancellor Kathy Miller to reconstitute the Foundation Board so that funds may be drawn from the account when necessary.



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Cathedral lay leaders continue to serve in a number of capacities within the diocese. Dean Beverly Gibson serves on the Standing Committee. The Reverend Marshall Craver serves as Clergy Spiritual Director. Meg McGovern serves on the Commission for Episcopal Church Women. Laura Rutherford and Clayton Ryan serve on the board at Murray House. Cart Blackwell and Stephen McNair serve on the Wilmer Hall board. Carl Cunningham and Jubal Hamil serve on the Beckwith board. Jill Chow serves on the Diocesan Youth Ministry Leadership Team and the Commission on Racial Justice and Reconciliation. Christ Church Cathedral is a proud sponsor of Bay Lights at Beckwith and the Pancake Breakfast at Wilmer Hall. At Christmas the parish family gathered sheets, towels and other household items for the residents of Murray House.

Christ Church Cathedral has begun planning for hosting the 2020 Diocesan Convention. Dean Gibson and Christopher Powell are serving on the 50th Anniversary Celebration Committee.

As we continue to grow into our ministry as Cathedral, it remains a joy for us as we serve the diocese.

### **Christ Church Cathedral Prayer**

*Gracious God, today we give thanks for the ministry you have entrusted to us as the cathedral church of our diocese. Help us to be faithful in answering the sacred calling to be ministers of hospitality for your people and leaders of worship to your honor and glory. May this place be a beacon of your light and love for the world. All this we ask through your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.*

Respectfully submitted,

Beverly F. Gibson

Dean

Carolyn S. Jeffers

Provost

### **CANON MISSIONER FOR DEVELOPMENT: EVANGELISM AND MISSION ENGAGEMENT**

Last year's diocesan convention approved a budget that included funding for a part-time program position at the Duvall Center. The work of the Diocesan Canon Missioner for Development is aimed at increasing and deepening our efforts in congregational development, especially in the areas of evangelism and mission engagement.

Specific areas of focus for ministry during 2018 have included:

1. **Panama City Beach Between the Bridges Enterprise:** Working with the Panama City Beach Missioner, Rev. Mary Alice Mathison, and congregational leaders of Grace and St. Thomas by the Sea, we are engaged in a three-year exploration and determination of the most effective model for an Episcopal communal ministry between the bridges of Panama City Beach area. Shared Ministry leadership teams have been experimenting with new missional opportunities and have exciting plans for 2019.
2. **Evangelism Task Force:** Diocesan Evangelism Catalysts participated in "Evangelism Matters: Episcopal Evangelism Conference" held at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Cleveland Heights, Ohio March 14-17, 2018. The Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast Evangelism Task Force was created over the summer of 2018 and membership has included Justine Kmiecik (Epiphany, Crestview), Mary Alice Mathison (Panama City Beach Missioner), Valerie Lynch (St. Thomas by the Sea, Panama City Beach), David Chatel (St. Luke's, Mobile), Lydia Johnson and Gillianne Sharp (St. Paul's, Mobile), Madeline Bliss (Holy Nativity, Pensacola), Clelia Garrity (St. Simon's, Ft. Walton Beach), Donna Gerold (Trinity, Apalachicola), and Kammy Young. The shared purpose of this task force is to organize the Episcopal Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast to engage spiritual practices that seek, name, and celebrate Jesus' loving presence in the stories of all people and then invite everyone to MORE with God. One way we have been supporting our congregations to move beyond existing structures and programs and provide formation opportunities for each congregation has been to create a webpage of diocesan resources for the 2019 Epiphany StorySharing project. We are currently working with Evangelism Catalysts in 30 congregations that are hosting events for those who are not already members using prompts from the "Power of Love" Royal Wedding sermon preached by Presiding Bishop Michael Curry. The team also led an "Episcopal Evangelism 101" workshop for the Daughters of the King diocesan annual assembly in September 2018.

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The task force also looks forward to working with the Rev. Stephanie Spellers, Canon to the Presiding Bishop for Evangelism and Reconciliation, in offering workshops during the May 4, 2019 Discipleship Day.

3. **DataStory Evangelism Project:** The Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast led the way in beta-testing DataStory for Faith Communities, missional tool developed for The Episcopal Church, as well as hosting the Rev. Ken Howard for Discipleship Day 2018 workshops during the spring of 2018. The Episcopal Church's Province IV Executive Committee awarded a \$10,500 Ministry Grant the DataStory Evangelism Project, which is being co-sponsored by the Episcopal Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast and the Episcopal Diocese of Georgia. DataStory uses cutting edge on-line demographic tools together with the traditional biblical disciplines of learning to love our neighbors as an essential part of being the church. This project will assist our diocesan churches in learning about the story – the context and culture - of their neighborhoods, train a team of diocesan leaders to engage that story with our story and God's story more faithfully, and create a model for other dioceses and congregations to do the same. Currently, a diocesan missional strategic planning process is underway, under the leadership of Bishop Kendrick, Rev. Greg Hein, Rev. Massey Gentry, Mr. Dwight Babcock, Rev. Margaret Shepard, Ms. Lynn Ferrin, Rev. Kammy Young, Mr. Brad Moore, Rev. Dr. Joy Blaylock, Rev. Donna Gerold, Mr. Harry Hall, and Rev. Ed Richards. After studying the Missional Opportunity Map and engaging God's story with our stories we are considering three missional priorities: (1) Prioritizing Hispanic and Black neighbors we believe we are called to love and learn from for new ministry development out of existing congregations; (2) Exploring Freeport for new ministry development with people in an area where we are not currently present; and (3) exploring opportunities about potential for revitalization and re-development in the Crestview area.
4. **Freedom School:** A new collaborative missional initiative of six Pensacola congregations: St. Cyprian's (Brenda Turnage, Nettie Eaton, Patricia Spencer), Christ Church (Charla Norris, Jennifer Adkins, Katie Gillett), St. John's Cross (Leona Mayberry, Christie Hord), St. Christopher's (Bill Sloan, Nick Phares), Holy Cross (Rob Dixon), and Holy Nativity (Sally Crenshaw, Geneva Hill) began in the fall of 2018. These congregations have formed a joint leadership team working together to launch a Children's Defense Fund Freedom School during the summer of 2020, our diocesan Jubilee Year. After this successful launch of this first Freedom School within the diocese, we are anticipating the launch of a similar collaborative missional initiative among Mobile area churches.
5. **Baptized for Life:** Three congregations are working on a 4-year grant to explore discipleship: Christ Church Cathedral, Mobile; Holy Cross Episcopal Church, Pensacola; and Church of the Good Shepherd, Mobile will be exploring a variety of spiritual practices and models of ministry to grow in their own faith and engage God's mission in the world and will discern a ministry project to equip people to claim their vocations as Christian disciples in the world, with up to \$20,000 per congregation available from the BFL initiative to support their work.

Respectfully submitted,  
The Rev. Kammy Young  
Canon Missioner for Development: Evangelism and Mission Engagement

### REPORTS OF THE COMMISSIONS

#### AFFIRMATIVE AGING

Report forthcoming

#### CURSILLO

The Cursillo ministry had an amazing year in 2018. Below are a few of the highlights:

1. Hosted three Cursillo weekends for the first time in a very long time with 98 pilgrims attending – this schedule will continue in 2019 and beyond.
2. Hosted three Ultreyas throughout the diocese including one at BayLights for Camp Beckwith's fundraiser.
3. Hosted an overnight staff training at Beckwith with 24 people in attendance.

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4. Made a \$14,340 gift to Beckwith for help with the Hardman Hall renovations - our gift was used for new mattresses and materials (and labor) for a new porch off Hardman Hall.
5. Made a \$5,000 contribution to the hurricane relief efforts for Hurricane Michael.
6. Spent \$15,000 upgrading our musical equipment to better equip our music teams.
7. The Commission voted to add a one day staff training opportunity in addition to our overnight staff training starting in 2019 and beyond. The one day will rotate throughout the diocese in order to accommodate other parts of the diocese and engage more parishes. The overnight staff training will continue to be held parallel to the September weekend each year at Camp Beckwith – both staff training opportunities will be offered each year.

Our focus in 2019 and beyond is to continue to spread the love of Christ while we raise up leaders in our parishes.

Respectfully submitted,  
Scott Thompson  
Chair

### **DIOCESAN MISSIONS**

The Commission on Diocesan Missions planned and held the 13th First Timers meeting at the beginning of the 2018 Diocesan Convention at St. Andrew's-By-The-Sea, Destin, FL. The Commission thanks Kris Branch, president of the Standing Committee, for sharing information about the workings of the Standing Committee and Convention and the Rev. Barry Crow, then-rector of St. Andrew's-By-The-Sea, for sharing more information about the Convention. Bishop Russell welcomed the delegates and thanked them for serving their congregations and the diocese by attending the convention and doing the work of the diocese.

The Commission did not meet during 2018. Many of the members were working on and attending many of the workshops and presentations being sponsored by other commissions in support of the bishop and the Standing Committee. The hope is that the Commission on Diocesan Missions will begin to meet to plan ways to continue its work of helping small congregations during 2019.

The Commission thanks Bishop Russell and the entire diocesan staff for all that they do to support the diocese. I thank the members of the Commission for their support of the diocese and hope that we will be able to make plans for 2019.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lynn M. Ferren  
Chair

### **EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN**

Report forthcoming

### **PLANNED GIVING AND STEWARDSHIP**

Report forthcoming

### **PRISON MINISTRY**

Report forthcoming

### **RACIAL JUSTICE AND RECONCILIATION**

This Commission was officially announced at the 47th Annual Convention of the Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast on Feb. 24, 2018. Our Mission Statement is also a call to action: *“As members of the Jesus Movement, our mission is to dismantle individual and institutional racism by sharing resources and creating opportunities that inspire and empower faith communities and the larger community, resulting in reconciliation and restoration of all God’s*

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**People.”** Your personal and financial support and engagement in this work is fundamental to the Gospel. Please join in for there are many ways in which to serve. The work of racial healing and reconciliation is not limited to this commission.

### **CREATING COMMUNITY - locally, regionally and across the Episcopal Church:**

Commission representatives participated in the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. memorial marches, Jan. 15, 2018, in Fairhope, Alabama and Pensacola, Florida (we now have a banner which can be used in Commission events).\*

Commission representatives attended a seminar hosted by The Absalom Jones Episcopal Center for Racial Healing from Jan. 17- 19, 2018 which brought together Province IV leaders in the area of racial reconciliation.\*

Dr. Catherine Meeks, executive director of The Absalom Jones Episcopal Center for Racial Healing conducted a full day, in-service training for commission members on Saturday, April 21, 2018, at St. Cyprian’s Episcopal Church, Pensacola, Florida.

Commission representatives and Bishop Kendrick attended a private prayer service for the opening of the Equal Justice Initiative’s (EJI) National Memorial for Peace and Justice and the Legacy Museum, dedicated to victims of racial terror lynching, in Montgomery, Alabama, on April 25, 2018.\*

Commission representatives attended the official opening of EJI’s National Memorial for Peace and Justice and the Legacy Museum and met representatives of the Episcopal Diocese of Alabama’s Commission on Racial Reconciliation on April 28, 2018.\*

Commission members met at the School of Ministry St. Agatha Episcopal Church, DeFuniak Springs Saturday, June 23, 2018.\*

Commission representatives participated in the Episcopal Church’s General Convention (July 4-13, 2018). There they served on the House of Deputies Committee on Racial Justice and Reconciliation. Gary Moore served as vice-chair of the committee and Joe McDaniel drafted five substantive resolutions which were passed by General Convention, including Resolution D002 entitled Funding the Beloved Community which allocates \$750,000 to the local level to further the work of creating the Beloved Community.

Commission representatives participated in a joint pilgrimage with the DuBose Chapter of The Union of Black Episcopalians, traveling to Montgomery, Alabama in Aug. 2018, to visit EJI’s National Memorial for Peace and Justice and the Legacy Museum, followed by a worship service and time for reflection at Good Shepherd Episcopal Church in Montgomery. The group travelled to Hayneville to meet with other commission representatives and participated in the Jonathan Myrick Daniels and All Martyrs Annual Pilgrimage.\*

Commission representative attended The Absalom Jones Episcopal Center for Racial Healing on Nov. 2, 2018 for the “Calling Their Names: Remembering Georgia’s Lynched,” in which a marker was erected and placed at the Center with the names of the 600 victims of racial terror lynchings that have been identified within the geographic boundaries of the Diocese of Atlanta.\*

Commission representatives are also involved in community-wide efforts including Hope Community in the Fairhope area, the Path to Peace Community Outreach Activities in Baldwin County, Alabama, and the EJI Community Remembrance Projects of Mobile and Baldwin Counties, Alabama and Escambia County, Florida.

Committed to reaching and building community beyond our physical limits, the commission (aided by diocesan staff) created a Facebook page for current events and announcements and a website full of resources available to anyone.

The Commission is hosting (or co-hosting) one-day pilgrimages of several kinds in 2019: in Dec. 2018, we co-host with Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church, Daphne, Alabama, a pilgrimage to EJI’s National Memorial for Peace and Justice

## REPORTS TO THE CONVENTION FROM THE GENERAL OFFICERS, AND THE BOARDS, COMMISSIONS AND COORDINATORS OF THE DIOCESE

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and the Legacy Museum. Future dates are March 30, June 29, Aug. 31, Nov. 30 and co-hosting is encouraged. A single day pilgrimage to Selma for the Bridge Crossing Jubilee is planned for March 3. Local pilgrimage opportunities include the Dora Franklin Finley African-American Heritage Trail and the Africatown Pilgrimage hosted by the local Pensacola Area chapter of the Episcopal Peace Fellowship slated for March 9-10.

Pilgrimages have long proven helpful in starting conversations, creating community, forming friendships, providing safe and sacred spaces for spiritual growth, all of which often translated into significant service. The Commission pays for fuel costs only (and no entrance fees, meals, etc).\*

### **BUILDING CAPACITY - locally, regionally, and across the Episcopal Church:**

Six commission members have begun facilitator training track which ultimately means more workshops can be conducted in more places around the diocese on a more predictable schedule. It also makes the facilitator teams more dynamic and nimble in response to special training requests from parishes, EfM groups, School of Ministry, local governmental bodies, other church denominations.

With only few exceptions, all commission members have completed a Becoming Beloved Community workshop preparing themselves for future work in their parishes, communities, dioceses.

We are recruiting commission members who are persons of color (in addition to Black). We recognize that racial issues are not just the binary choices of White and Black. We have many White people willing to help. We are looking for members who are Native American, Latino, Hispanic, Asian, Middle Eastern, etc. We especially need younger voices and hearts and hands included in our work.

Becoming Beloved Community workshops were hosted at St. Paul's Daphne (April 2018) and at Good Shepherd Mobile (Dec. 2018). Our scheduled event at St. Andrew's Panama City (Oct. 2018) was suspended because of Hurricane Michael. The commission extends its gratitude to all parishes hosting our events.

At least five Becoming Beloved Community workshops are planned in our diocese in 2019. (We will have future capacity for more workshops depending upon interest and attendance).

Organized and facilitated book reads and/or video series with discussion groups are being planned.

Commission representative attended the Sewanee (University of the South) Slavery Project Conversations at The Absalom Jones Episcopal Center for Racial Healing in Atlanta in June 2018.\*

Commission representative attended the 50th Annual National Meeting of The Union of Black Episcopalians, July 2018. There was a presentation of the official charter for the Rev. Dr. Robert E. DuBose Chapter of The Union of Black Episcopalians, a joint chapter created between the Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast and the Diocese of Alabama.\*

### **IDENTIFYING AND SHARING RESOURCES - locally, regionally, and across the Episcopal Church:**

Commission representatives have compiled a significant volume of resources and recommendations and has posted these on its website, welcoming everyone to join in, to suggest additional ideas, and even invites partnerships with other faith traditions as we grow into Beloved Community together. We have partnered with other Episcopal dioceses and other Episcopal provinces and have shared resources at no cost to our diocese. These resources can be located on our website at <http://www.diocgc.org/racial-justice-and-reconciliation> and frequently on our Facebook page.

Respectfully submitted,

Joe McDaniel, Jr.

Gary Moore

Co-chairs Commission on Racial Justice & Reconciliation

\* indicates the participants paid their own expenses to attend the event and no diocesan resources were utilized

## REPORTS TO THE CONVENTION FROM THE GENERAL OFFICERS, AND THE BOARDS, COMMISSIONS AND COORDINATORS OF THE DIOCESE

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### MISSION ENGAGEMENT (formerly known as WORLD MISSION)

In 2019 the Commission made strides in carrying out its commitment to change its philosophical approach to mission ministry. Instead of sponsoring mission trips that are singular in nature, the Commission's focus was aimed at missions that will aid local citizenry become self-sustaining in providing their own medical care, potable water, church support, education programs, salaries for teachers and training in vocational skills.

To this end, the Commission has been quite active in its global mission ministry. Since our last diocesan convention in February 2018, the Commission has lent support to, sponsored in total, or partnered with others to sponsor the following:

1. February 2018 –Bate Palave, Dominican Republic – Medical Care :
  - Held our 13<sup>th</sup> and final Medical Mission to Bate Palave, Dominican Republic.
  - Made a commitment to continue working with local leaders on a long-range project to support a community nurse so Palave and the surrounding area will become self-sufficient in providing year-round medical care.
  - Assisted in developing a program for the community nurse to hold regular health care classes to educate families in the basics of community health and personal hygiene.
  - Arranged and provided for the training and certification of twelve locals to become medical assistants to do basic triage with such matters as taking vitals and arranging for doctor visits and assisting doctors with patients.
2. March 2018 – Bate Palave, Dominican Republic – Potable Water:
  - Concluded the establishment of a well as a water source for Bate Palave, Dominican Republic and its surrounding villages.
  - Paid for and concluded installation of an osmosis type water purification system and trained local people in its maintenance and long term use thus enabling them to have a self-sustained permanent source of potable water.
3. March 2018 – Iglesia Esperitu Santo, Azua, Dominican Republic – Sanctuary Furniture:
  - Held our 14<sup>th</sup> Construction Mission to the Dominican Republic where we built 20 pews, an altar, pulpit, lectern, clergy chairs, acolyte benches, credence table and a bishop's chair for Iglesia Esperitu Santo in Azua, DR.
  - Mission was to furnish this new church with all furniture necessary to convert an empty room into a comfortable, functional and attractive house of worship.
  - This congregation had been worshipping outside in a member's yard for the past forty (that's right, as in Four Zero!) years and the furniture built by our team was installed into a newly built church that has since been consecrated.
4. March 2018 and following dates – Vocational Trade School, Dominican Republic:
  - Met with Dominican Bishop Moises, other church officials and missionaries to further talks for plans to establish a trade school in the Dominican Republic with a goal of teaching local citizens skills such as basic carpentry, sewing and cooking that they might make an independent living.
  - We have since received a commitment from Bishop Moises for the use of a church owned building in Carraton for possible use as a vocational school. Discussions and plans are ongoing.
5. March 2018 – Bate, Palave Dominican Republic:
  - Helped establish a program of pottery art for the women of Bate Palave, DR to make objects of art for sale in order to earn an income.
6. May 2018 - Education Mission to Dominican Republic:

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- Continued this mission which was started in 2017.
  - Sponsored a team of doctorate level educators from Mobile and our partners from the University of Monterey, Mexico where they organized, wrote the curriculum for and then lead their third week of professional workshops for the teachers and administrators in the Episcopal parochial schools throughout the country.
  - The Episcopal parochial school system in the Dominican Republic consist of 26 schools and approximately 6,400 students. These workshops were prepared based on the express needs of the teachers and administrators and are aimed at helping them become better teachers and educators.
  - Missionary Dr. Tom McGowan has reported to us that as a result of this ministry:
    - i. Many teachers and administrators have told him how they believe our team has had a sizable impact on their schools' quality.
    - ii. Bishop Moises stated that in his travels around the diocese he is convinced that "improvement is happening in a major way and our team has made considerable contributions to these changes".
    - iii. And that "our important work would not happen without the interest and support of the Global Mission group at the Central Gulf Coast Diocese" and "It might seem trite but I can honestly say that our team has and will continue to influence change here in the DR and that 'we couldn't have done it without you'".
  - Met with Dominican Bishop Moises and local educators to assess the need, viability, feasibility and means of making this a continuing project.
7. June 2018 – Martel, Haiti – Water, Schools, Health Care:
- Mission to Haiti where we continued to work with local leaders to establish a source of potable water, start schools for local children and set up a program providing long term health care with visits by both a nurse and MD on a bimonthly basis.
8. Summer of 2018 – Youth Mission Trip – Hurricane Recovery:
- Worked jointly with our Diocesan Youth Commission in sponsoring a youth mission to Texas to participate in a program titled "Episcopal Strong" in which youth from our diocese helped with recovery from Hurricane Harvey.
9. July 2018 – Potable Water for Iglesia San Marcos, Haina, Dominican Republic:
- Raised and provided funding to install an osmosis water purification system for the church and school of San Marcos in Haina, Dominican Republic to provide potable water for the church and approximately 900 school children.
10. September 2018 – Martel, Haiti – Water, Medical Care, School:
- Concluded our two year commitment to Martel, Haiti during which time we helped the area have a badly needed source of potable water and made arrangements for continued routine medical care by helping arrange funds to hire a community nurse and medical doctor to visit the area on a routine bimonthly schedule thus helping the locals become self-sufficient in providing year-round medical care; held a two day health care clinic; and assist in the establishment of a school for local children.
11. October 2018 – Volcano Relief for Guatemala:
- From our budget we made a \$500 contribution to Episcopal Relief and Development earmarked for volcano relief to Guatemala.
12. October 2018 – University of South Alabama Scholarships for & Dominican Episcopal School Graduates:
- Had preliminary discussions with staff of the University of South Alabama about our participation in a program that might ultimately offer scholarships to students graduating from the Episcopal high school system in the Dominican Republic.

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13. October 2018 – Medical Clinic in Ft Walton Beach, FL:

- Made a commitment to become a partner in support of a project known as “Cross Roads” with a view to establishing an indigent medical clinic in Ft. Walton Beach as a satellite clinic of one presently operating in Valparaiso, FL.

14. December 2018 – Fourth Education Mission to Dominican Republic:

- Sponsored our fourth Education Mission to the Dominican Republic.
- On this trip our team helped design the curriculum and present professional programs for a retreat for all diocesan priests and school administrators for the Episcopal parochial school system throughout the Dominican Republic.
- (Please see comments in paragraph “6” above.)

15. December 2018 – Zambia, Africa:

- Made a commitment to support an exploratory trip to Zambia, Africa, to determine if we should pursue participation in a Christian holistic community development ministry known as HHY (Halleluiah House of Yahweh).

16. December 2018 – Guatemala:

- Made a decision to explore the possibility of becoming involved in a program of sponsoring Guatemalan families by providing assistance with food, schooling and housing.

17. December 2018 – Global Episcopal Mission Network:

- Made a decision to explore the feasibility and benefits to becoming a member of the Global Episcopal Mission Network.

18. Throughout 2018 – Within Our Diocese:

- Continued with ongoing efforts to learn of mission work being done by congregations throughout the diocese and to offer the Commission’s help and support.

19. Throughout 2018 – Dental Mission to Dominican Republic:

- Worked with a group of local dentist to assist them in starting a dental ministry to the Dominican Republic.

20. Throughout 2018:

- Continued with our program of having a “Home Team” and a “Go Team” for each mission trip. The “Go Team” being the individual missionaries actually going on the trips. The “Home Team” being the people at home who pray for the mission and help with financial support. Home Team support is essential for mission ministry to be successful.

21. Looking Forward to 2019:

- Many of the above ministries are ongoing and will continue into 2019.
- The Commission has a commitment to not only continue with these ministries to conclusion but also to actively seek out new opportunities in the field of global mission ministry.

The Commission stresses that mission trips sponsored by the Commission are open to all adult communicants of the diocese and that an ability to speak Spanish or French is not necessary to be a contributing member of a mission team.

In summary, the Commission on World Mission is an active, involved, passionate, dedicated and hard-working commission with a commitment to continue the expansion of our global mission ministry to the extent that prayer, manpower and finances will permit. We pray that we shall continue to be led by the Holy Spirit as this exciting ministry continues to unfold.



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However, mission ministry could not exist without the prayerful and financial support from the Diocese and the “Home Team.” We ask for your prayers as this exciting and rewarding ministry continues to grow and affect the lives of so many in need.

Respectfully submitted,  
Geary Gaston  
Chair

### REPORTS OF THE DIOCESAN COORDINATORS

#### BROTHERHOOD OF ST. ANDREW

Report forthcoming

#### CHAPLAINS TO RETIRED CLERGY & CLERGY SPOUSES

A total of 123 households of clergy and surviving spouses were related in some way to the Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast in 2018. Of these, 73 resided within the Diocese, including some canonically resident elsewhere. Most of the rest were canonically resident in the Diocese but lived elsewhere. Six had been deposed or left the Episcopal Church.

Bishop Russell Kendrick has appointed six persons to serve as Chaplains to the Retired: the Rev. John and Ann Phillips, Ms. Sheila Campbell, the Rev. Joe Hagberg, and the Rev. Richard and Pam Schmidt. The Schmidts are coordinators of the Chaplains. The Chaplains met in May 2018 and outlined the ministry they felt they could provide. This ministry involved five elements:

- **Regular contact.** Each Chaplain took a dozen or more households residing within the Diocese and agreed to contact them once or twice a year to inquire as to their wellbeing. Most contacts were made by telephone. A number of phone calls elicited news of changed place of residence, physical condition, contact information, and other things.
- **Website.** The Diocese maintains several tabs on its website to assist retirees, including a list of retirees with contact information, health insurance forms, and a list of retired clergy available for Sunday supply work.
- **Supply work.** At present, 23 retired clergy do Sunday supply work. Some take the service every week at the same congregation; others travel to several congregations on an as-needed basis.
- **Caribbean cruise.** Thirty-four retired clergy, spouses, widows, and companions went on a five-day Caribbean cruise out of Mobile in January. While most who took the cruise were from the Central Gulf Coast, eight were from the Diocese of Alabama which co-sponsored the cruise. A second cruise out of Jacksonville is being considered for 2020.
- **Annual luncheon.** Bishop Kendrick hosts an annual luncheon for retirees, spouses, and surviving spouses each fall, with a speaker and time for fellowship. The 2018 luncheon, held at St. Paul’s Church in Foley, featured the Rev. Laura Queen and Mr. Sean Scheller from the Church Pension Group who explained new benefits to the 31 retirees who attended.
- **The *Geezer Gazette*.** The Chaplains publish the *Geezer Gazette*, a quarterly newsletter for retirees. It contains news of upcoming events, articles about retirement and aging, book reviews of titles of interest to retirees, meditations, and other material. The *Geezer Gazette* is mailed to all retirees on the diocesan list, including widows and those living outside the Diocese.
- **Birthday cards.** Each retiree and Pension Fund beneficiary receives a birthday card from the diocesan Chaplains.

In addition, a group of eight or so retired clergy in the Baldwin County area meet about six times a year for lunch and fellowship at Baldwin House, an assisted living facility. Spouses meet at a nearby restaurant at the same time.

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Respectfully submitted,  
The Rev. Richard and Pamela Schmidt  
Coordinators of the Chaplains to the Retired

### **CONGREGATIONAL ENRICHMENT VENTURE**

The Congregational Enrichment Venture focused the first year on Hopeful Leadership and ended the year with a most exciting training session entitled Fight or Flight or be the Church. The event was held at Holy Trinity, Pensacola and was led by Shannon Ammons. The focus was on navigating change and conflict. As we moved into the second year-Purposeful Apostleship-we hoped to explore ways by which congregations could more fully engage in mission within and beyond our walls. Our first two sessions were rudely interrupted by Hurricane Michael. The session on Apostleship which was to be led by Shannon Ammons will be rescheduled at a later date. However, we are excited to offer this spring on March 23, a combined workshop. The first half of the day will be Stewardship led by the Rev. Reid McCormick; and the second half of the day will be Outreach and Engagement led by the Rev. Hendree Harrison. The session on stewardship will focus on stewardship as a way of life, and ways to faithfully practice stewardship. The Outreach component will focus on what outreach looks like and we will find out ways to reach out and become more involved with the community.

Then on May 4 the final session will be Living the Jesus Movement led by the Rev. Stephanie Spellers, the canon to the presiding bishop for evangelism. She will be giving us ways to deal with the fear of the “E” word: Evangelism. All churches are invited to participate in this venture. The cost is \$50 per church for each session. It is hoped that churches will bring teams to go back home and lead others. The sessions will be held at St. Jude’s Niceville, 200 N Partin Drive. The sessions begin at 9 a.m. Lunch will be served. For more information, contact The Rev. Dr. Margaret Shepard at 850-419-7440, or visit [www.diocgc.org/congregational-enrichment-venture](http://www.diocgc.org/congregational-enrichment-venture).

Respectfully submitted,  
The Rev. Dr. Margaret Shepard  
Coordinator

### **DAUGHTERS OF THE KING**

The Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast assembly of The Order of the Daughters of the King® currently has 206 members in 21 parish chapters and 22 members called Daughters at Large who are in parishes without chapters. Members of The Order undertake a Rule of Life, incorporating two Rules:

1. Rule of Prayer: praying daily for the extension of Christ’s Kingdom, their clergy, the spiritual growth of their parish, needs brought to their attention, and for members of the Order;
2. Rule of Service: participating regularly in the worship, study and work of the Church, assisting their priests in the ministry of the Church, and bringing others to a knowledge and love of Christ.

The assembly meets twice a year in the spring and fall. Last spring’s assembly took place in March at Church of the Nativity in Dothan, Alabama. The inspiring teachings, led by the Rev. Tom Nixon of St. Matthew’s, Chipley, Florida, were based on Micah 6:8, “He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?” The focus was on how to apply the scripture to life as a Daughter of the King.

Last fall the assembly took place at St. James, Fairhope, Alabama in September. The Rev. Kammy Young, diocesan canon missionary for development, along with two members of the Evangelism Task Force, gave some powerful teachings and led small group activities on the theme: “Living Out Our Vows: Being Ambassadors for Christ.” At the fall assembly the new executive board officers and chaplain for this Triennium were installed during the Eucharist. They are: President Beth Moore, Vice President Susan Martin, Secretary Dianne Walters, Treasurer Dana Herazo, and

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Chaplain the Rev. Dr. Mary Jayne Ledgerwood. The immediate past president, Vicky Patterson, remains on the board as advisor, and the Rev. Jandy Watkins now serves as diocesan chaplain emeritus.

Last summer four delegates attended the DOK Triennial Assembly in Austin, Texas, which took place immediately before the General Convention of the Episcopal Church. There were over 800 attendees with delegates from 21 countries. (There are over 26,000 members of the Order around the world.)

Each year in October, delegates from the diocese attend the Province IV DOK Fall Assembly at Kanuga Episcopal Conference Center in Hendersonville, North Carolina. Last October four diocesan Daughters attended.

During this January's Diocesan Clergy Retreat at Camp Beckwith, Daughters throughout the diocese prayed daily for the attendees by name.

Diocesan Daughters organize and attend a prayer chapel during the Diocesan Annual Conventions. Recently the Episcopal Community and the Brotherhood of St. Andrew have also participated. Prayer request forms are provided in the packets of each convention attendee. Those prayer requests are collected and lifted up throughout the convention. Individuals may also visit the prayer chapel for personal prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Beth Moore  
President

### **DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE COORDINATOR**

In late 2017 Bishop Russell Kendrick appointed Deacon Patricia Spencer to be the disaster preparedness coordinator for the Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast. She assists parishes to prepare for disasters before they happen. The first annual diocesan workshop was held on January 13, 2018. Representatives from a number of parishes came together to consider how best to write a plan for hurricane and weather related emergencies. The intention was to move on to a different disaster this year, but because of Hurricane Michael, we are planning to repeat the same workshop again sometime in the spring.

In the meantime, if there are any questions or needs that arise, feel free to contact Deacon Tricia at [deacontricia@yahoo.com](mailto:deacontricia@yahoo.com).

Respectfully submitted,  
The Rev. Deacon Tricia Spencer

### **ECUMENICAL OFFICER FOR ALABAMA**

Report forthcoming

### **ECUMENICAL OFFICER FOR FLORIDA**

Bishop Kendrick has established a friendship and meets informally with his Roman Catholic counterpart in Florida, the Most Rev. William Wack, C.S.C., bishop of the Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee. Cooperation with bishops of the Atlanta and Florida Synods of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America has enabled the Rev. James Korzun and the Rev. Handlee Vige to serve respectively as pastors at Church of the Epiphany in Crestview, and St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Brewton, Alabama.

Ecumenical efforts and opportunities on the grass-roots level are also abundant and fruitful in Northwest Florida. Examples include but are not limited to: A weekly dinner for the hungry at Grace Church, Panama City Beach that is served by several Episcopalian and Roman Catholic faith communities. At St. Andrew's-by-the-Sea Episcopal Church in

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Destin, both the Blue Door and bicycle ministries for the needy and homeless enjoy the volunteer support of those from many denominations. Christ the King Episcopal Church in Santa Rosa Beach was the springboard for launching the South Walton Community Chaplain, by the Rev. Emily Proctor, a Presbyterian minister and wife of the Rev. Richard Proctor, the rector of Christ the King. Emily has said: “Well, maybe this is an opportunity to be open to a ministry outside the box. With God, you have to be prepared to be surprised. I wondered if there was a non-traditional church ministry opportunity here, maybe a hospice chaplain, a hospital chaplain. What I kept noticing was how many folks worked the tourist industry — restaurants, retail — and the work was pretty low-paying and seasonal.” In Pensacola, the clergy and people of both Christ Church, neighboring Allen African Methodist Episcopal, and other churches offered an Ecumenical Thanksgiving service in November; Christ Church also joined with other Christian communities in Pensacola to offer prayerful support at Temple Beth El in Pensacola in the aftermath of the tragedy at the Tree of Life Synagogue in the Squirrel Hill section of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. In Marianna, St. Luke’s Episcopal Church maintains a strong relationship with the other “Clinton Street Churches”: First Methodist, First Baptist, and First Presbyterian; the latter church also loaned its Christmas pageant costumes to St. Luke’s whose own had been damaged by Hurricane Michael. St. Luke’s also observes “Home and Away,” a semi-annual joint worship service with St. James’ A.M.E. Church, alternating between St. Luke’s and St. James Church. One church visits the other, providing the preacher and choir, with the host church offering a luncheon for all afterward. Sadly, due to Hurricane Michael, December’s annual ecumenical and interfaith World Aids Day Commemoration at St. Andrew’s Church in Panama City needed to be cancelled due to storm damage inflicted upon the headquarters of its partner BASIC, an HIV/AIDS agency serving the needs of Florida’s Bay, Calhoun, Gulf, Holmes, Jackson, and Washington Counties.

The words of the late Bishop Robert Terwilliger bear repeating: that ecumenism should not be mistaken for substituting smaller church headquarters for larger ones! The preceding examples are but only a few of the many other ecumenical endeavors in our diocese that enable us to accompany one another into the prayer of Our Lord, *Ut unum sint*, “That all may be one.”

Respectfully submitted,  
Joseph A. Hagberg  
Ecumenical Officer for Florida

### **EDUCATION FOR MINISTRY (EfM)**

There are currently nine EfM groups meeting in the diocese, seven of which continued from the previous year, with two new groups starting in fall 2018. There are four groups meeting in Pensacola, two in Daphne, and one each in Apalachicola, Magnolia Springs and Mobile. There were 72 participants, as of November 2018, led by a total of 11 mentors (some groups have co-mentors). Thirty-one (31) participants graduated from the four-year program in 2018.

A mentor-training event was offered June 21-23, 2018, at the Beckwith Camp and Conference Center, with two classes and a total of 17 participants. The next mentor-training event in the diocese is tentatively scheduled for January 23-25, 2020, also at Beckwith. The details of this training will be announced later through direct mailings to current mentors and congregations, and through the various diocesan communication media.

Respectfully submitted,  
David M. Clothier  
Coordinator

### **THE EPISCOPAL COMMUNITY**

Report forthcoming

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## **EPISCOPAL RELIEF AND DEVELOPMENT**

This was a very busy year for Episcopal Relief & Development around the world and in the Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast. The organization responded to over 40 disasters in the United States and around world including Hurricane Michael that devastated the eastern part of our diocese. This does not include all of the places that benefited from diocesan disaster coordinators who received disaster training from Episcopal Relief & Development.

The year began with an Episcopal Relief & Development Training Day hosted by Christ Church Pensacola in January. Chad Brinkman of the Episcopal Relief & Development's Office of Church Engagement shared many ideas on how parish representatives could learn more about Episcopal Relief & Development and how to make it known in the congregation. In addition, he taught people how to get network resources that support their efforts in the congregation. Network representatives in the diocese shared what has worked with their congregations.

In early September, Episcopal Relief & Development unveiled a new logo and tagline to inspire and deepen engagement with supporters and program partners, and to better represent our work around the world. This new logo closely connects with the 2017-2021 strategic plan, which identified three signature program priorities where we are able to make a measurable difference: Women, Children and Climate.

In mid-October, Katie Mears, the senior director of Episcopal Relief & Development's US Disaster Program visited the Episcopal Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast to meet with Bishop Russell Kendrick and to see some of the devastation resulting from Hurricane Michael which made landfall in the Panama City area.

Mears and Chris Heaney (Hurricane Michael disaster relief coordinator) visited Holy Nativity, Panama City, St. Andrew's, Panama City and Grace Episcopal Church, Panama City Beach. At each visit they spoke to the priest to learn what help was needed to aid in recovery efforts.

Episcopal Relief & Development wishes to thank the network representatives around the diocese as they work to make the organization known to all congregations. Episcopal Relief & Development would also like to express appreciation to all who supported them in the past year.

Respectfully submitted,  
Eugene Johnston  
Diocesan Coordinator

## **FRESH START**

Report forthcoming

## **MEN'S CONFERENCE**

Report forthcoming

## **UNITED THANK OFFERING REPORT**

This has been a very busy year for The United Thank Offering since it was a convention year. A UTO ingathering was held during one of the General Convention worship services and it was a very moving moment. Many of us were particularly inspired and humbled by the contributions that were made by some of the poorest dioceses in our church. Ms. Elizabeth Welch, Church of the Nativity in Dothan, represented our diocese well. Also, UTO announced the new UTO app. It is available at the google store, free of charge, and provides a new way to make gratitude an important part of our daily lives. Please check it out!

The UTO Board is trying something new this year. We are publishing the grant focus for all three years of the upcoming triennium. This will hopefully give groups time to plan their grant applications ahead of time. The focus of 2019 is **Go: Crossing boundaries created by race, culture and economics to create communities that listen deeply and learn**

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to live like Jesus. The focus of 2020 will be **Bless: Share faith, practice generosity and compassion, and proclaim the Good News of God in Christ with hope and humility.** Finally, 2021 will be **Act: Turn love into action by caring for God's creation to protect the most vulnerable who will bear the largest burden of pollution and climate change.**

In 2017, our total diocesan ingathering was **\$21,976.45**. Unfortunately, our ingathering for 2018 was considerably less at **\$12,239.19**. I know that Hurricane Michael is partially to blame for this decrease and I have great hope that 2019 will bring a large increase in our ingathering. UTO is encouraging everyone to send their ingathering funds directly to the PO Box in St. Louis now. Diocesan coordinators are now able to obtain ingathering reports directly from the UTO staff officers in a timely manner so there is no need to go through the diocesan office anymore. It is important to note that any ingathering money received after December 15 will most likely be attributed to the next year's ingathering so please send in your contributions early. Also, UTO keeps ingathering money in an interest- bearing account which increases the ingathering total so the sooner you send in your money, the better.

I want to thank all of you that participated in UTO this past year. As you know, 100% of all ingathering money goes towards funding new and innovative ministries in our church and around the world. Remember, our blessings can become a blessing to others.

The congregational contributions are as follows:

St. Thomas Episcopal Church	Greenville, AL	\$667.44
St. James' Episcopal Church	Port St. Joe, FL	\$103.50
Holy Trinity Episcopal Church	Pensacola, FL	\$159.00
St. Jude's Episcopal Church	Niceville, FL	\$520.25
Christ Church Cathedral	Mobile, AL	\$273.56
Christ Episcopal Church	Pensacola, FL	\$1118.50
St. Mary's Episcopal Church	Milton, FL	\$339.52
St. Paul's Episcopal Church	Mobile, AL	\$2997.29
St. Christopher's Episcopal Church	Pensacola, FL	\$1439.00
St. John's Episcopal Church	Mobile, AL	\$486.74
St. Thomas By-the Sea	Panama City Bch, FL	\$374.15
St. Peter's Episcopal Church	Bon Secour, AL	\$93.95
St. Mark's Episcopal Church	Troy, AL	\$336.00
St. Paul's Episcopal Church	Daphne, AL	\$27.00
Church of the Epiphany	Enterprise, AL	\$20.00
St. Mary's By-the-Sea	Coden, AL	\$196.00
St. Augustine of Canterbury	Navarre, FL	\$337.70
Church of the Nativity	Dothan, AL	\$809.00
St. John's Episcopal Church	Monroeville, AL	\$132.00
St. Francis of Assisi	Gulf Breeze, FL	\$1278.59
Individual donations	Diocese	\$530.00

Respectfully submitted,  
Joyce Landers  
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UTO Vice-President

# REPORTS TO THE CONVENTION FROM THE GENERAL OFFICERS, AND THE BOARDS, COMMISSIONS AND COORDINATORS OF THE DIOCESE

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## YOUTH MINISTRY

Our Committee continues under the leadership of Ministry Architects who bring highly capable and strategic leadership to this team. Our diocesan partnership with Ministry Architects began in the fall of 2016 and in 2018, together with the Youth Ministry Team, we accomplished visioning sessions throughout the diocese that laid the groundwork for our first diocesan youth ministry mission statement, core values, and three-year goals. This committee continues the two-pronged parallel process started in 2016 of providing a sustainable “way” of empowering lay leadership from around the diocese while also focusing on building up smaller congregations with the use of tools that effectively reach young people and their families.

The 2017-2019 strategic focus areas were accomplished in the following ways. Our first strategic focus was to help churches with at or near a 100 ASA with resources & support. The committee accomplished this through creation of the first Smaller Church Cohort that enrolled five church teams for quarterly workshops, reading groups, and four team-specific coaching calls with our consultant. One team, St. Andrew’s (Panama City), experienced excellent results from this Cohort and coaching when they effectively enrolled 12 parishioners who had previously not been involved in children’s ministry to each take one Sunday in the summer to plan and lead the thirty minute children’s chapel. Our second strategic focus was to accomplish regional events in addition to diocesan-wide events which was accomplished through Fall Fling as well as the ongoing revival of Happening in our diocese. Our third strategic focus was to provide training/support to adults/volunteers who work with youth. This was accomplished both through our Smaller Church Cohort and through the creation of our Resource Portal\*. Lastly, we had a strategic focus of managing diocesan-sponsored programs/events with an eye toward sustainability and continual improvement. This was accomplished through the use of event planning methods, after-action reports, and effective use of a shared drive. Use of those methods and tools results in enhanced reach and future viability for Worship on the Water, Happening, Diocesan Convention Lock-in and Youth Presence, Fall Fling, as well supporting parish-sponsored events like the Acolyte Festival.

Visioning sessions took place May 1-4, 2018 in Panama City, Mobile, and Pensacola to dream about the identity and future of the diocesan youth program\*. The goal of these diocesan-wide gatherings was three-fold: begin to craft a new mission statement for diocesan youth ministry, define the core values, and draft three-year goals. Over three nights, 42 youth workers, priests, and lay ministers participated. Feedback from these sessions emphasized the need for resources and the desire for sustainability of initiatives and events. For example, participants do not see the need for a staff person dedicated to diocesan youth ministry as much as they desire better access to resources. They envisioned less event-driven ministry and instead greater connections made between communities. The participants want initiatives that are even more robust, focused, and clarified to ensure that they are well-curated and continued in the coming years.

The May 2018 Visioning Sessions also led to the creation of a mission statement and core values. Using brainstorming results from the visioning sessions, the diocesan youth ministry team developed this as our mission statement: *Youth Ministry in the Episcopal Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast connects young people and their families together to nurture a welcoming, spiritually-fed community that inspires self-worth through serving Jesus Christ.* Also using input from the visioning sessions we established core values for diocesan youth ministry of:

- **Spiritually-Rooted:** We design spaces and experiences where people can truly be themselves within genuine Christian community.
- **Fun:** Fun is a sacred activity. As such, while our work is serious and with great intention, we do it with a fun-filled, community-based and a joyful attitude.
- **Sustainable:** We strive to create long-lasting ministry, knowing that our work should outlast our own tenure.

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- **Welcoming:** We work to design all of our events, programs, and retreats, with an undergirding thread of holy hospitality and a sense of welcome for all who might come.

The final output from the visioning sessions was to set goals for June 2021 with one-year benchmarks. The over-arching goals are summarized below; detailed text of goals and benchmarks is also available to those who are interested\*.

1. Develop and implement a diocesan-wide day of service that involves 150 youth total.
2. Hire diocesan staff to match the current needs enabling those staff people to train, develop, and offer resources.
3. Develop an online “toolbox” that is easily accessible by all parishes and organized with timely and relevant resources.
4. Identify and implement a strategy for forming and supporting youth from “cradle to college” has been developed. Share Christian formation strategy and curriculum models widely with each parish and mission family.
5. Develop and adopt a diocesan confirmation curriculum and vision across the diocese (could include a retreat, video series, etc.).
6. Launch a new diocesan-wide mission and outreach enterprise, supported by the youth of the diocese.

The team expects to recruit new members in 2019. Currently the team is: Jenn Johnson (diocesan staff liaison), Addie Boyd-Quina, Lydia Allison, John Talbert, Anne McEniry, Jill Chow, The Rev. Molly Payne-Hardin, Rachel Iversen, as well as Mark DeVries, Stephen Ingram, Leslie Manning, Krista Mulhollen, Melissa Rau, and Stephanie Caro from Ministry Architects.

*\*We're happy to make our online resources and strategic planning documents available to those who are interested in diocesan youth ministry or in replicating these methods for another ministry. Please contact Leslie Manning of Ministry Architects at [leslie.manning@ministryarchitects.com](mailto:leslie.manning@ministryarchitects.com) for links and access.*

Respectfully submitted,  
Youth Ministry Team