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June

2025

Congrats grads!

Episcopal Schools in Mississippi send a new generation out 'To do the work God has given us to do.'

Also in this issue: Reflections on the LGBTQ+ experience during Pride Month



June 2 - 7: Elementary (ages 9-11)
June 9 - 14: Special 1 (age 40 and up)
June 16 - 21: Middler (ages 10-13)
June 23 - 28: Junior High (ages 13-16)
June 30 - July 3: Primary (ages 6-8)
July 7 - 12: Mixed Ages (ages 8-14)
July 14 - 19: Special 2 (ages 18-39)

Summer 2025



**Let
Freedom
Ring**

Sunday, June 22, 2025
Christ Episcopal Church
Church Hill, Miss.

2-2:45 p.m. — A Free Patriotic Concert by
Professional Musicians, Saluting
Various Freedoms in America

3 p.m. — Worship Service Conducted by
the Rev. Sam Godfrey

Refreshments Afterward

★★★★ All Are Welcomed! ★★★★★

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Diocesan Calendar



Bishop's Journal

May 2025

- 1** Meet with Clergy person
Meet with Clergy person
Visit Gulfport Rotary
Meet with Clergy person
- 2** Meet with Clergy person
Meet with Clergy person
Travel to Jackson
- 4** St. James Church, Jackson
Preached – 7:30 a.m.
Preached – 8:40 a.m.
Preached – 11:05 a.m.,
confirmed 18, baptized 5, and
received 1



- 5** Bishop's sabbath
- 6** Province IV Bishops' meeting
Staff Meeting
Meet with staff member
Meet with staff member
Meet with staff member
Scholarship Committee meeting
Meet with Clergy person
- 7** Meet with staff member
Phone call with bishop
Phone call with Warden
- 7** St. Elizabeth's Church, Collins
Preached, confirmed 3



- 8** Meet with Aspirant
Church of the Creator, Clinton
- 9** Meet with staff member
Travel to Solomon Center
- 10** A.C. Marble School/Iona
Collaborative Commencement
Travel back to Jackson



- 11** St. Andrew's Cathedral, Jackson
Preached – 8:30 a.m.
Preached – 10:30 a.m.,
confirmed 7
- 12-16** Living our Vows Residency
- 17** Memphis Theological Seminary
Commencement
Preached
- 18** Chapel of the Cross, Madison
Preached – 8:00 a.m.,
baptized 1
Preached – 10:30 a.m.,
confirmed 14, reaffirmed 1
Dedication of Outdoor Altar
in Memorial Garden



- 19** Bishop's Sabbath


- 20** Staff Meeting
Travel to Seminary of the
Southwest
- 21** Commencement – Seminary of
the Southwest (Gabrielle
Munn)
Travel back to Jackson



- 22** Meeting with Perry Perkins –
Working Together
Mississippi
Lunch with Clergy persons
Meeting – Becoming Beloved
Community Steering
Committee
Meeting with Staff Member
- 22** Baccalaureate – St. Andrew's
Episcopal School



- 23** Graduation – St. Andrew's
Episcopal School
Meeting with Staff Member
Meeting with Clergy person

- 24-31** Vacation 

Let Freedom Ring

Christ Church, Church Hill, to host patriotic concert for Independence Day

by Carolyn Vance Smith

The recently restored Christ Episcopal Church in Church Hill, Miss., will present "Let Freedom Ring," a free patriotic concert, at 2 p.m., Sun., June 22, 2025.

"This special event serves as a musical prelude to Independence Day, honoring nearly 250 years of American freedom," said John Norris, Warden at Christ Church.

"This concert will highlight the fundamental liberties that emerged from the American Revolution," Norris said. "It is a tribute to the ideals that define our nation: freedom, equality and unity."

Selections will include spirituals like "Go Tell It on the Mountain" and "His Eye Is on the Sparrow," celebrating religious freedom.

Other selections will include Broadway favorites "Somewhere" from West Side Story and "Wheels of a Dream" from Ragtime, reflecting the ongoing American quest for equality and justice for all.

Featured performers are soprano Maryann Kyle, tenor John Christopher Adams, and pianist Ellen Elder.

"These renowned Mississippi artists were selected by Jay Dean, Artistic Director of the Natchez Festival of Music," Norris said. "These exceptional performers are celebrated locally and nationally for their work in top-tier productions."

At the end of the program, the audience will be invited to join in singing "America: My Country 'Tis of Thee," Norris said. "The first stanza includes the line 'Let freedom ring.'"

A worship service in the 1858 Gothic Revival church will be at 3 p.m., conducted by the Rev. Samuel B. Godfrey. Following the service will be refreshments and fellowship.

Christ Church, founded in 1820, is the oldest Episcopal congregation in Mississippi. The church is located 15 miles north of Natchez at the intersection of Mississippi Highway 553 and Church Hill Road.



A New Sculpture at Coast Episcopal School

by Amy Egolf

School Waves, a public sculpture created through a partnership of the Walter Anderson Museum's Public Art Enterprise, the Mississippi Arts Commission, Studio Waveland's Erica and Mitchell Gaudet and Coast Episcopal School, was unveiled Friday, May 19, 2025, on the Long Beach independent school's campus.

The unveiling, which graces the exterior entrance of the Gail Keenan Art Center, coincided with the closing of Paper Fools in Wonderland, an art show that has featured the art of 13 local artists for the last 13 weeks.

Speakers at the unveiling included: Casey Maugh Funderburk, Chairman, CES Board of Directors; Evelina Burnett, CES Capital Campaign Manager; Julian Rankin, Executive Director of the Walter Anderson Museum; Scott Naugle, Commissioner, Mississippi Arts Commission; Erica Larking Gaudet and Mitchell Gaudet, Artists, Studio Waveland; and Wynn Seemann, who, along with Artist Kat Fitzpatrick, was instrumental in establishing the school's art center, named for their friend, Gail Keenan.

One portion of the exhibit still remains; the painting of the white wall in which the sculpture is installed in multiple places. The painting, in seafoam shades of blue, will follow the lines of the sculptured steel waves adorned by colorful glass fish created from forms created by CES students.

Sponsorship opportunities to support the sculpture are still available:

- **\$150 Creative Cast Net:** Glass replica of the CES' fish that are part of the School Waves Sculpture.
- **\$250 Building a Base:** Glass replica of the CES' fish on a glass base and your name on the sponsor plaque.
- **\$600 Fish Trinity:** Replica of the School Waves Sculpture with THREE CES' Fish on steel waves.
- **\$5000 Artistic Activator** (Limited to two

Waves

sponsors): Family or business name prominently displayed on one of the two outdoor sponsor plaques PLUS one glass fish replica AND a Fish Trinity, School Waves Sculpture replica.

To sponsor or for more information, please visit bit.ly/schoolwaves.

Following the unveiling, attendees entered the GKAC for refreshments and to enjoy the final day of the third iteration of Paper Fools, curated by Bay St. Louis Artist and Photographer Ann Madden. Also featured were several pieces by Gail Keenan, for whom the center is named.

Gail Keenan Art Center was dedicated in February 2011 to the memory of the recognized ceramic artist and printmaker who was born in 1940 in New Orleans and passed away in February 2005. Ms. Keenan's ties to the MS Gulf Coast were strong throughout her lifetime, during which she had works exhibited in Santa Cruz, CA; New Orleans, LA; Chicago, IL; Kansas City, KA; Ocean Springs, MS; Camden, ME; and Boston, MA, Ms. Keenan's love for the arts continues to be honored in the works created and exhibited in the Coast Episcopal School signature art center.

Coast Episcopal School has been dedicated to a life-long love of learning by developing the whole child - mind, body and spirit - and providing a joyful, unique and nurturing Judeo-Christian Community that inspires its students to imagine and create a better world. Founded in 1950, CES is a member of the Southern Association of Independent Schools (SAIS). For information: Coast Episcopal School, 5065 Espy Avenue, Long Beach, MS, 39560. 228-452-9442. headmaster@myces.org. Coastepiscopalschool.org. For additional information about School Waves and purchasing a sponsorship to help support the public art sculpture, please email giving@myces.org or call 228-363-1973. 🐟



From top: Just one of several segments of the unique sculpture installed in several sections of the GKAC's signature, curved entrance; One of many colorful fish that adorn the sculpture. Its steel beam waves were crafted by Erica Larkin Gaudet and the glass was poured by Mitchell Gaudet into forms made by CES students; Wynn Seemann and Kat Fitzpatrick honored their dear friend, Gail Keenan, by providing her photo and several of her pieces for the show closing; Scott Naugle, Mississippi Arts Commissioner and owner of Cat Island Coffeehouse & Bookstore, addressed the attendees to explain the importance of partnerships that strengthen the strong tradition of art and culture for which Mississippi is recognized

CONGRATS GRADS

Episcopal Schools in Mississippi send a new generation out 'To do the work God has given us to do.'



Top: Coast Episcopal School's Class of 2025; Middle from left: More than 100 family, friends, faculty and staff attended CES Commencement Services at Trinity Episcopal Church in Pass Christian, CES celebrates Preschool Graduation with a Pink Party; Bottom from left: Victor Vorrath, son of Jon and Emily Vorrath, received the coveted Coast Episcopal School Character Cup, as a result of secret votes by the 6th Grade and all faculty, Windsor Mayfield, daughter of Emory and Autumn Mayfield, was presented with the Seidule Award for achieving the highest academic average by Elementary Principal Kim McWilliams, Summer Dorcik, who is the 5th grade homeroom and math and science teacher was honored with the Head of School Award by Jake Winter.



The 2025 6th grade class at St. John's Day School in Laurel graduated 11 students and (left) welcomed back many former students who have now graduated high school.

A reflection during Pride Month

The year was 2013. Within weeks after having been called as rector at the church I served near Memphis, a parishioner whom I'd known for many years dropped in for a conversation.

"Are you going to allow same sex marriages," he asked.

In our conversation, I learned something I'd not known about him: He had a partner, and they'd been together at that point for nearly 40 years. Although they shared a very lovely home, no one knew about them outside of a small circle of friends. For the sake of both of their careers, the relationship was closeted. By that point, he was worried that his partner's health was failing, and they wanted to be able to protect each other.

I told him how very sorry I was that he and his partner had been unable to publicly express their love for each other. But in 2013, there was no way for them to be legally married in Tennessee. "A minister can pronounce words over you here," I said, "but they have no legal effect." Since travel to another state where they could be legally married seemed unlikely, I gave him the names of a couple of local family law attorneys who could help him and his partner draft legal documents to protect them and to allow them to make decisions for each other should either become incapacitated. Given their ages and health, that was critical information he needed.

Two years would pass before same sex marriage would be allowed in all 50 states. By then, this parishioner's partner had advancing dementia and was incapable of consenting to marriage. They had been able to take care of managing some financial affairs, with the support of his partner's adult offspring.

When his partner's untimely death came, we sat in my office as he grieved a loss that was unfathomable

A welcoming and loving space

to me: forty-two years of never being able to publicly acknowledge their commitment to one another. We wrote the obituary, and planned the funeral service. For the first time, he publicly called this man he'd loved so very much – and for so very long – his partner. I cried and grieved with him.

Around the same time, a much older minister shared that he was gay. As a young man seeking ordination, he'd been unable to "come out." To give him the "cover" that he needed to proceed in his denomination's ordination process many years prior, he married a lesbian, and later, they adopted a child – the family life that his denomination expected. He and his wife divorced after about 10 years, and he finally began a very closeted relationship with a man he'd met and with whom he'd fallen in love in college. Thinking that in his advancing years he might want to "go public," he dared to share his secret with a few "church" people; when a couple of them backed away from him, his worse fears of rejection had been realized.

When the minister died some years later, few of the people who gathered to celebrate his life knew his story. Although present and greeting some of those gathered, the minister's partner was unacknowledged in the obituary or in any other way – despite having been committed to this minister far longer than the wife from whom the minister had been divorced. After giving his partner an innocuous hug, I left with a deep grief for the ways in which the Church had truly not cared for her people.

When I shared my thoughts about observing Pride

Month this year with our Becoming Beloved Community Steering Committee, that team asked me about issuing a proclamation for the diocese. With all due respect to the Steering Committee, a proclamation seemed highly impersonal to me. What seemed more appropriate was sharing something much more personal. For me, it was a time to revisit the sadness I'd known since college friends first came out years ago after brief heterosexual marriages had ended: Although years had passed, and our friendships continued to be strong, I'd wondered how we all could have been more supportive, loving and accepting during our very young years, to perhaps help spare those friends some of their pain. I still wonder how we all, especially the Church, might move toward being more loving.

What I chose to have inscribed on my bishop's ring are words from John's Gospel that speak profoundly to me: "Love one another as I have loved you." These words of Jesus require something that is often challenging: to see beyond our differing backgrounds and perspectives and to love all of God's people, across all human-made boundaries. This year for Pride Month, I invite us all to hear the personal stories, and to show Jesus' radical and unconditional love. Someone who is hurting in our world needs the Church to always be that kind of welcoming place. My prayer is that in June – and throughout the year – all of our worshipping communities will create a welcoming and loving space for persons who are already in our midst, and persons who have yet to meet us. 🏳️‍🌈

Something deep & powerful & frightening

One man's personal journey with the Church, from estrangement to reconciliation

by Ed Oliver

In 1968, when I was twenty years old, I left the Catholic Church and began a twenty-year hiatus from Christianity and in some ways from God. It had been made clear to me that in the eyes of that Church the man I had been created to be was "unacceptable;" that the ways I expressed my love for another person were mortal sins and that my only hope for salvation was celibacy. Since I was already deeply in love and in a committed relationship with another man, I chose him and my true self over the church.

Over the next decade, my anger towards "Christians" and towards God grew to an actual hatred of organized religion and a deep bitterness, sadness, and woundedness where God was concerned. The little boy who loved Sunday School and said prayers every night; the shy, introverted and shamed teenager; and the young man who loved the liturgy, music and seasonal celebrations of the church were gone. In their place was a man who went through the next two decades with a hole in his soul, attempting to fill that hole with work; romantic "encounters;" and a repertoire of sarcastic remarks, jokes, and stories about the absurdity of religion.

Who needed the church and organized religion anyway. I had fled Mississippi as so many of my gay generation had done and was enjoying a wide circle of friends, a successful career and all of the benefits of living the "Rocky Mountain





A young Ed Oliver, around the time of his separation from the Church.

High" in Denver. There were restaurants and bars and discotheques; skiing and hiking; operas, symphonies and concerts in Red Rocks Amphitheater and an endless supply of handsome and available men. Who needed boring sermons, judgmental and self-righteous people who condemned you and televangelists threatening you with Hell's fire just for being who you were.

Then in 1980 a dark and menacing force began to surface in the gay community, striking down young, beautiful and talented men as they shrank into cadaverous figures reminiscent of the inmates of the concentration camps of Nazi Germany. As the months and years went by thousands and thousands of gay men suffered cruel and untimely deaths, often rejected by their families and depending only on their partners and friends. It did not have a real name at first except for Gay-Related Immune Deficiency until science discovered the true nature of the disease and named it AIDS. By that time it was affecting other people with no connection to the gay community. I stopped counting when twenty-two friends and acquaintances had died.

For completely unrelated reasons at forty I moved

back to Mississippi and what I found here was appalling. Yes, there were young gay men dying of AIDS but there were no care teams, support groups or assistance of any kind. There was not even a hospice until Whispering Pines Nursing Home opened a few beds to men in the last stages of the disease, most of whom were bedridden or nearly so. I did find there a place to volunteer but it was generally just to sit at the bedside and listen to the sad stories of men who had been abandoned by their families; who had no place to live; and men who were afraid they were going to Hell. Nice work, Christians.

By that time I had begun working with and become friends with a woman, Carol, who had been reared as a Southern Baptist but who had left that denomination and was attending an Episcopal Church. She had a beloved brother who was dying of AIDS with whom she was very close and she, like thousands of other sisters, was devastated.

Shortly after her brother's death Carol told me that her church, St. Andrew's Episcopal Cathedral, was forming an AIDS Care Team and she asked if I would want to join. At first I thought she was kidding...a church... a church in the South... was going to minister to gay men dying of AIDS? I had actually heard of dying men being surrounded on their death beds by family and church members begging for them to repent and be saved before they died. There was even one such case at Baptist Hospital in Jackson where that happened to acquaintance of mine.

I went to the organizational meeting of the St. Andrew's AIDS Care Team and was met by genuinely kind and concerned people who were not out to convert anyone but only to provide what services they could to those in the Jackson area who, in fact, were dying. There seemed to be no judgement, no condemnation, no ulterior motive in these people; just a genuine desire to show compassion and love. I had fallen through the looking glass.

There were a few people for whom we began to deliver meals, visit, do laundry, take to doctor's appointments and pick up medicine and I grew to respect and even like some of the team members. But, hey—a few weeks of that could not dispel decades of suspicion, anger and resentment.

Not too long after the formation of the team, a member of the team who was HIV+ developed full blown AIDS and died very quickly. It was a shock to everyone and Carol

asked if I would like to attend his funeral at St. Andrew's the next week. I had been to a few AIDS funerals in the past, both in Denver and in Mississippi and they were universally awful. The family of origin and the family of affiliation sat on opposite sides of the funeral home as most AIDS funerals were not allowed in churches and the minister would address only the family of origin with no mention of the deceased's real family and who he really was.

I agreed to go as a sign of respect for "Bill" and I rode with Carol. When we pulled up in front of the Governor's Mansion I was in disbelief. The entire compliment of four clergy were vested, there was a crucifer, torches, a full choir and a crowd of people. As a team Member I had never been inside the nave but only attended two meetings in the parish hall and as we sat in our pew I was impressed by the architectural beauty of the place, the stained glass windows, the beautiful music and the homily that actually addressed "Bill" for who he was, how much he would be missed and how much he was loved. This had to be a cult, I thought.

When it came time for communion, I did not want people to have to stumble over my legs or step on my feet, so I followed Carol up to the altar and took the bread and wine for the first time in twenty years. When I got back to my seat there was a lump in my throat and tears in my eyes. (My eyes sting and my throat tightens even as I type the memory.) Something had happened... something deep and powerful and frightening. Consequently, I did not go back for six months.

Eventually Carol told me that there was an Inquirer's Class starting up in the spring on Sunday afternoons in the Chapel of St. Andrew's. She didn't insist that I go and told me that if I did go and didn't care for it, I need never go back. The rest, as the cliché goes, is history.


I basically threw myself into any group or ministry I could until one day about two years later I realized that I had been at church or at some church-related meeting or function five of the last seven days. I told myself I could not make up for twenty years of spiritual neglect in two years' time.

I have been a member of St. Andrew's now for thirty-four years. There were some disconcerting "situations" in the beginning such as when I first started serving chalice and heard "through the grapevine" that some parishioners

would not come to me for communion because I was gay and probably had AIDS. For the most part, however, I have found genuine loving and caring people who love me just as I am and see no need for conversion or forgiveness for me just being who I am.

The only other echo of the past was after my father died in 1997 when I felt the call to be a Vocational Deacon in the church and asked the Dean to put together a discernment committee to guide me through the process to determine if the call was genuine or just a reaction to grief. I knew that at the time I would not be eligible for ordination because of the canons of the church but I wanted my church family to affirm or not that God was calling me to collared ministry.

The discernment committee submitted their findings to the Vestry. There were two parts to the report which was far from ordinary—a unanimous vote of 8-0 that my calling was, in their opinion, genuine; but by a vote of 6 for-2 they could not recommend to the Vestry that I be referred to the bishop because of my sexuality. I was not naïve enough to think that ordination was possible at the time but, still, I wanted my "family" to think me worthy of a collar.

As time has passed, much about the issues of sexuality and the Episcopal Church have changed. The church now ordains gay and lesbian deacons and priests and blesses and sanctifies the Sacrament of Marriage for same sex couples. In some small way I would like to think that my story has made that possible. 

His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "Neither he nor his parents sinned; it is so that the works of God might be visible through him." John 9:2-3



Hear Ed's story in his own words
at msepiscopalian.com/oliver



Let there be

light

Bratton-Green gets a ‘glow up’ thanks to the work of the CBG Alumni Association

by Rev. CJ Meaders


The Camp Bratton Green Alumni Association is an organization of members who love CBG and seek to fulfill our mission to enhance the CBG experience and provide support for its needs. We depend completely on the gracious charity of our members, and, over the years, we’ve done some amazing things together! In fact, the CBG Alumni Association has a proud legacy of supporting camp for over 20 years.

For example, last year the Alumni Association built a Gaga Pit (ask your kids and grandkids) which is the largest in the state of Mississippi! In addition, each year the Alumni Association identifies projects to enhance CBG and rallies volunteers at our Work Weekends. Past projects have included: replacing wooden benches at the outdoor chapel and elsewhere, creating a beginner’s disc golf course near the Arts N’ Crafts shack, and stripping and waxing tile floors.

This year, we are excited to share the completion of our Annual Project to upgrade the lighting at Camp Bratton Green! Our original plan was to upgrade the

lighting in the Chapel of the Holy Family to more energy efficient LED lighting. Thanks be to God we were able not only to upgrade the lighting in the Chapel but also the exterior lighting surrounding all central buildings on campus because of a gracious offer from Entergy power to cover most of the expense. So, if you are fortunate enough to spend an evening at CBG this summer, you’ll be sure to notice brightness of CBG campus which could only be exceeded by the brightness of a camper’s smile!

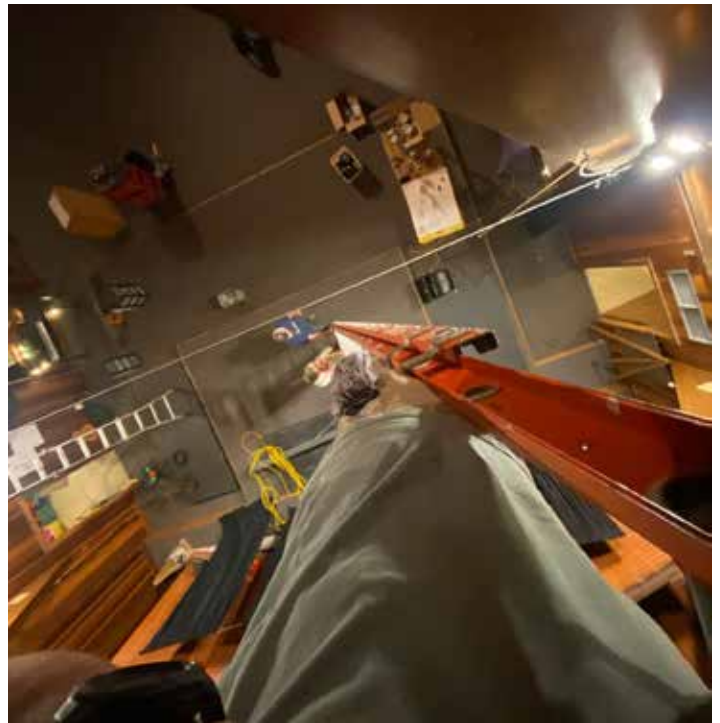
In addition, we were also able to support the directors of each CBG camp session this summer by offering 1k toward their supply budgets. This will help the directors get the supplies they need to have as much fun as possible each day at camp! Finally, we recently also extended an Amazon Wish List to the Permanent Staff to boost their budget for activities as well!

We’d like to give a HUGE thank you to all our members whose donations have made this all possible. Because of your continued generosity, the CBG Alumni Association is poised to continue its mission to enhance CBG well into the future. If you’d like to be a part of our efforts, you can find out more about us at cbgalumni.org. 

Thanks and have a great summer out at CBG!

Rev. CJ Meaders

President, CBG Alumni Association



Facing page: Bratton-Green's central campus, featuring the warm glow of ultra-efficient LED lighting on its walkways. From top left: Volunteers had to scale treacherous heights to reach the aging light fixtures in the ceiling of the Chapel of the Holy Family; the (not for the faint) bird's eye view from the apex; the new brightly (and efficiently) lit chapel interior; the exteriors of the Rec Pavilion, Admin Building, and Dining Hall illuminate the pool area facing Rose Hill Lake.



Diocesan Scholars

Twenty-five Scholarships Awarded to Outstanding Students

By **Peggy C. Jones, Assistant to the Bishop**

The Diocesan Scholarship Committee is happy to announce that 25 outstanding young students have been chosen to receive scholarships for the 2025-2026 academic year. Selections for a variety of scholarships are made each year by the Scholarship Committee composed of representatives of the Executive Committee and Trustees and representatives of the dean and wardens of St. Andrew's Cathedral.

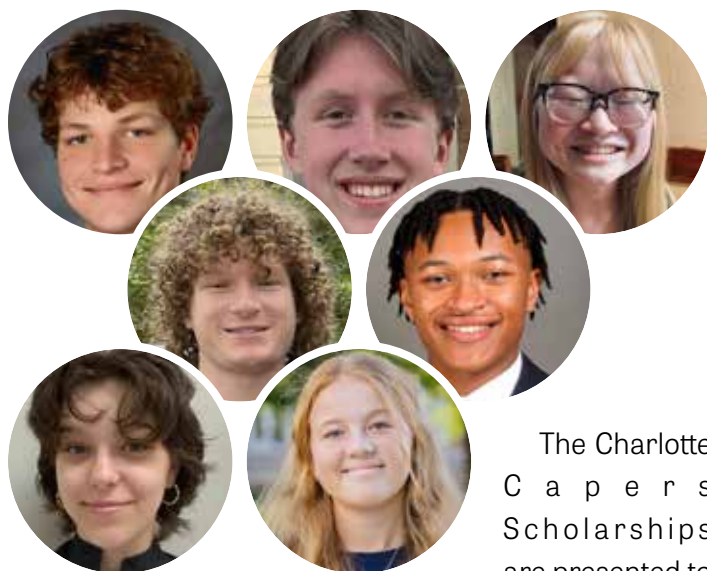
THE ADAMS EPISCOPAL ENDOWMENT SCHOLARSHIP



This scholarship is awarded annually to undergraduate students who are active members of a congregation of The Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Mississippi and attend the engineering college or business college of Mississippi State University. This year, the Adams Scholarship is awarded to two recipients: **Mr. Harlan Easterling**, a member of Episcopal Church of the Incarnation, West Point, studying at Mississippi State University to be a Financial Planner. **Mr. Thomas**

Michael Reich, a member of St. John's, Episcopal, Laurel, pursuing a career in Sports Management, Sales and Marketing studying at Mississippi State University.

THE CAPERS SCHOLARSHIPS



The Charlotte
C a p e r s
Scholarships
are presented to

those who are pursuing a liberal arts degree. This year we have seven Capers scholars: **Mr. Samuel Shepherd Andrews**, a member of St. Christopher's Episcopal, Jackson, pursuing a career as a teacher and outdoor guide at The University of the South, Sewanee; **Mr. Henry Cooper**, a member of St. Alban's Episcopal, Bovina, who is undecided at this time on where he plans to pursue a career in public policy; **Miss Lucy Dick**, a member of St. James' Episcopal, Greenville, pursuing a Liberal Arts degree at Mississippi State University, Hendrix College, Sewanee, or University of Southern Mississippi hopes to become a Licensed Professional Counselor; **Mr. Grant McCarty Duncan**, a member of Trinity Episcopal, Hattiesburg, plans to study Chemical Engineering at University of Mississippi, University of Southern Mississippi, or Tulane University; **Mr. Ryan Cannon Fields**, a member of New Jerusalem Church, Jackson, pursuing a career in the arts at Jackson State University to become as a vocal performer and work in the music/marketing industry; **Miss Olivia Kidd**, a member of St. Peter's Episcopal, Oxford, pursuing a career in editing/publishing or teaching in secondary education at University of Mississippi; and **Miss Audrey Ward**, a member of St. Philip's Episcopal Church, Jackson, pursuing a career in Law at Wofford College.

THE MISTICOS SCHOLARSHIPS



Misticos Scholarships are awarded annually to girls and boys of either the Greek Orthodox or Episcopal faiths. The late Alexander Misticos established these scholarships as memorials to members of his family. This year's recipients are **Mr. William Brooke Andrews**, a member of St. Christopher's Episcopal, Jackson, planning to study Business at Mississippi College; **Miss Emma Kidd**, a member of St. Mark's Episcopal, Gulfport, planning to be a Financial Advisor, studying Business with an Economics concentration at University of South Alabama or Mississippi State University; **Miss Liana Krontiris**, a member of St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church, Upper Darby, PA, planning to study Architectural Engineering at Drexel University; **Mr. Whit Turpin**, a member of St. Philip's Episcopal, Jackson, planning to study Environmental Conservation at Mississippi State University, University of Mississippi or University of Southern Mississippi; and **Miss Margaret Wade**, a member of St. James' Episcopal, Greenville, planning to study Optometry at University of Mississippi.

THE OKOLONA SCHOLARSHIPS



The trustees of the Okolona College Endowment established annual scholarships to be awarded

specifically to African American college students. Preference is given to Episcopalians, but members of all churches may apply. This year's recipients of Okolona Scholarships are **Mr. Ryan Cannon Fields**, a member of New Jerusalem Church, Jackson, pursuing a career in the arts at Jackson State University to become as a vocal performer and work in the music/marketing industry; **Miss JaNay Johnson**, a member of Mt. Carmel Baptist Church, planning to be a USDA Farm Loan Officer studying at Alcorn State University; **Mr. Alexander D. Mason**, a member of St. Mark's Episcopal, Jackson, majoring in Business/Marketing at Jackson State University; **Mr. Eugene Solomon Powell**, a member of Venture Church, Hattiesburg, planning a major in Computer Science with a minor in Coaching at Blue Mountain Christian University, Mississippi State University, or University of Southern Mississippi.

THE WARREN SCHOLARSHIPS



The late Robert Warren of St. Andrew's Episcopal Cathedral established the Warren Trust Scholarships. This year, the Warren Scholarships are awarded to: **Miss Margaret Grace Bullock**, a member of All Saints' Episcopal, Tupelo, planning to study Cardiothoracic Surgery at Centre College, Mississippi State University, or University of Alabama; **Mr. Jack Wesley Carter**, a member of St. Columb's Episcopal, Ridgeland, planning to study Public Relations at Mississippi State University; **Miss Daniela Marie Corrigan**, a member of Episcopal Church of the Resurrection, Starkville, planning to enter the FBI or the ministry with studies at Kenyon College, Denison University, or Vanderbilt University; **Miss Nora Ruth Scott**, a member of St. Paul's Episcopal, Columbus, planning to attend nursing school and then medical school at University of South Alabama.

The Willie Mae Tucker Raspberry Scholarship



The Willie Mae Tucker Raspberry Scholarship is awarded to the most outstanding female student among those applying for the Okolona Scholarship. This year, the Willie Mae Tucker Raspberry Scholarship goes to **Miss Amaria Powell**, a member of Mt. Salem United Methodist Church, Terry, pursuing a career as a Radiology Technician studying at University of Southern Mississippi.


The William Raspberry Scholarships



The William Raspberry Scholarships are named in memory of William Raspberry, an Okolona, Mississippi native, celebrated syndicated public affairs columnist, and Knight Professor of the Practice of Communications and Journalism at Duke University's Sanford Institute of Public Policy. This year, we have one William Raspberry scholar, **Mr. Kendarius Robinson**, a member of St. Christopher's Episcopal, Jackson, studying Aerospace Engineering at Mississippi State University, Jackson State University, or University of Tennessee.

The James L. Raspberry Scholarship



The James L. Raspberry Scholarship is presented to the most outstanding male student among those applying for the Okolona Scholarship. This year, the James L. Raspberry Scholarship is presented to **Mr. Christian Barksdale**, a member of St. Mark's Episcopal, Jackson, studying Civil Engineering at Jackson State University. 

Scholarship applications are due every year on March 1 and that deadline is strictly enforced. The application form and additional information, including criteria, may be found at msepiscopalians.com/scholarships.


Walking the mourner's path

Two reflections on ministries designed to guide people through grief.

by Corny Swayze

St. Thomas Episcopal Church in Diamondhead has been sponsoring Grief Support groups for the benefit of the larger community. Most of those who attend are from Hancock county. The groups began meeting about 8 years ago with a brief rest for Covid. The groups are held twice each year in the Spring and the Fall. They usually run between 6 and 8 weeks in duration, depending on the number of people who attend. The participants are welcome to come back and attend again the following session if they choose. If the loss has been recent that is often helpful and needed. The groups are facilitated by St. Thomas members who have professional backgrounds in mental health.

The structure of the meetings is based on a combination of short educational offerings and opportunities to process the life and memories of the deceased. Various tools and skills are shared to help those attending to work through their pain in a variety of ways. The discussions or processing gives participants an opportunity to freely discuss the memories and share their emotions in an atmosphere of safety and acceptance. Because all are coming from loss there is a mutual understanding and acceptance of each other. It is gratifying to see how participants bond with one another, offering sympathy, acceptance, and caring, which is such an enormous ingredient for healing. They are encouraged to continue being a support to one another after the formal meetings conclude. Many have continued on in the form of regular lunches, meeting for coffee, or just staying in touch with each other.

St. Thomas has been blessed to offer this outreach to our community. 



by Rev. Thomas H. Fanning

I have been a priest for eighteen years, and for most of those years, I have felt a need to offer a grief ministry to the people I serve in my congregation and in the greater community. The Rev'd Billie Abraham and I discussed Walking the Mourner's Path for many years. It is a Christ-centered grief ministry associated with the Episcopal Church, and Billie has always spoken very highly of it.

Not long after I arrived at the Chapel of the Cross, our Rector, The Rev'd Will Compton, asked me to start a grief group. When he asked me about this, I already had an idea of what I would do and how I would make it happen.


I contacted Catherine Gilbert, who leads the training program for facilitators out of St. Anthony of the Desert Episcopal Church in Scottsdale, Arizona. After some discussion, we settled on a date for her to come to Madison, Mississippi, to teach qualified parishioners and priests how to facilitate the program. She trained seven facilitators and two priests in the fall of 2024. The other priest trained to facilitate is The Rev'd Les Hegwood, Rector at St. Philip's in Jackson along with two lay people from his parish. There was also a lay person from New Orleans who joined us for the two-and-a-half-day training. During that time, the facilitators and priests went through the same eight sessions as our future participants.

The program lasts for eight weeks, meeting one night per week and is facilitated by lay persons with an ordained person present in each of the meetings. Additionally, there is a celebration of Holy Eucharist at the end of the eighth meeting.

The program was meaningful to me as I walked

the mourner's path because of my son who died a few years ago. One thing I know about grief is that most of the time it is processed privately. It could be that the person in grief isn't comfortable being vulnerable in the presence of others. It could be that grief is like a book that we don't want to read but must read. So, we put it on a shelf. The healthiest thing someone in grief can do is to deal with it. If we don't, then the grief will come off the shelf and deal with us when we least expect it. Walking the Mourner's Path allows the participants to deal with the grief in a supportive small group. One thing we do at the end of our meetings is to say a prayer, which is to acknowledge that we are not alone. We stand and place our hands in each other's hands and say together, "I place my hand in yours ... and together we can do what we cannot do alone." Not being alone provides a safe place to process grief and, in some way, find some joy through the grief process. This is the goal of Walking the Mourner's Path.

From what I have experienced and what I have found in other grieving individuals, there is a need, "a yearning", for a place to process grief. Walking the Mourner's Path is a meaningful place to meet this yearning.

St. James', St. Andrew's, St. Philip's, and Chapel of the Cross are the parishes that offer this program in the Jackson Metropolitan Area. If you or someone you know is interested in participating in Walking the Mourner's Path, please contact one of these parishes if you are in the Jackson area. My understanding is that there are even more parishes in our diocese who offer this program. I am also available to discuss this program with anyone who is considering starting a group in your parish or mission. 

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Deployment Report

Churches seeking rectors or interim rectors

Calvary, Cleveland
St. James', Jackson
St. Peter's, Oxford
Trinity, Natchez
Incarnation, West Point

Churches Seeking Supply Clergy

Redeemer, Brookhaven
Good Shepherd, Columbus
Christ Church, Holly Springs
St. Matthew's, Kosciusko
Holy Trinity, Vicksburg
Nativity, Water Valley

Available Chaplaincy (summer 2025)

Canterbury: Mississippi State University

Faithful Departed

Please submit Faithful Departed notices to your church for
submission.

David Turner Cochran, Jr., 60, communicant of St.
James', Greenville, died April 19.

Prudence Owens McGehee, 73, communicant of
Mediator/Redeemer, McComb/Magnolia, died April 21,
2025.

Claude Max Tullos, 83, communicant of St. Mark's,
Raymond, died April 23, 2025.

Jill Pierce Flowers, 80, communicant of St. James',
Greenville, died April 30, 2025.

Michael David Pate, 42, communicant of All Saints',
Tupelo, died May 17, 2025.

Karen "Kay" Beth Davis, 76, communicant of St. Pierre's,
Gautier, died May 21, 2025.

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Questions about deployment should be directed to
The Rev. Canon Gary Meade, Canon to the Ordinary,
gmeade@dioms.org; 601-948-5954.

Diocesan Calendar

Diocesan Meetings continue by Zoom unless otherwise noted. Though the Diocesan Staff works in a hybrid model (office and home), the Allin House is staffed daily, M-F, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm.

June

- 15** 61st Commemoration Service for slain civil rights workers, Philadelphia
- 15** Bishop Wells visits St. Francis', Philadelphia
- 16** *The Mississippi Episcopalian* Deadline
- 16-21** CBG Middler Camp (Ages 10-13)
- 19** Allin House Closed for Juneteenth
- 21** Ordination of Deacons (Voc & Trans), 10:30am, St. Andrew's Cathedral
- 21** Sowashee Convocation Altar Guild Meeting, St. Elizabeth's, Collins
- 22** Bishop Wells visits Redeemer, Biloxi
- 23-28** CBG Junior High Camp (Ages 13-16)
- 28** LWL Conference (Intro to LWL), Nativity, Water Valley
- 28** Resource Retreat for Clergy, Wardens, Treasurers, and Stewardship Leaders, 9:00am – 2:00pm, St. James', Jackson
- 28** Lay Leadership Workshop - An Introduction, 1:30 – 4:30pm, Nativity, Water Valley

July

- 2** Delta Convocation Altar Guild Meeting, Nativity, Greenwood
- 5** Small Churches Collaborative, 2:00pm – 3:00pm, Zoom
- 7** Racial Reconciliation Task Force Meeting, 12:00noon
- 7-8** Commission on Ministry, Location TBA
- 8** Standing Committee, 9:30am – 3:30pm, Location TBA
- 9** Old River Convocation Altar Guild Meeting, Mediator, McComb
- 10** Bishop Curry Emmett Till Anniversary event, St. Andrew's, Jackson
- 15-17** Sr. High DOY, Camp Bratton-Green
- 15-16** A. C. Marble School, Solomon Center
- 15** *The Mississippi Episcopalian* Deadline
- 16** Coast Convocation Altar Guild Meeting, Christ Church, Bay St. Louis
- 16** Day of Spiritual Renewal, Resurrection, Starkville
- 17** Bishop Wells visits Mediator-Redeemer, McComb-Magnolia
- 23** Coldwater Convocation Altar Guild Meeting, St. Peter's, Oxford

- 24** Bishop Wells visits St. John's, Ocean Springs
- 30** Emmett Till Commemorative Event, Drew, Mississippi
- 31** Bishop Wells visits Trinity, Vicksburg

August

- 2** Small Churches Collaborative, 2:00pm, Zoom
- 4** Racial Reconciliation Task Force Meeting, 12:00noon
- 5-7** Cursillo
- 7-8** Fresh Start, Camp Bratton-Green
- 7** Bishop Wells visits Holy Cross, Olive Branch
- 9-16** House of Bishops Meeting, Coral Costa Caribe Resort, Dominican Republic
- 12-13** A. C. Marble School, Online
- 15** *The Mississippi Episcopalian* Deadline
- 18** Finance Committee, 11:30am – 3:30pm, St. Andrew's Cathedral
- 23** Bishop Wells at Meals on Wheels, Christ Church, Vicksburg
- 25** Executive Committee, 11:30am – 3:30pm, St. Andrew's Cathedral
- 28** Bishop Wells visits St. Thomas', Diamondhead (morning)
- 28** Bishop Wells visits Christ Church, Bay St. Louis (afternoon)

Submission deadlines—next six months
(always available at
msepiscopalian.com/submissions)

July 2025 issue

June 16, 2025

October 2025 issue

September 15, 2025

August 2025 issue

July 15, 2025

November 2025 issue

October 15, 2025

September 2025 issue

August 15, 2025

December 2025 issue

November 17, 2025



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Jackson, Mississippi 39225-3107



Clergy, parishioners, and friends of St. Andrew's Cathedral in Jackson gather for a joint celebration of the Feast of St. Francis and Jackson's annual Pride Parade in 2023. Among them is longtime member Ed Oliver (front row, second from right). To read about Ed's journey away from and back to the church, see page 6.