

THE MISSISSIPPI EPISCOPALIAN

The Official Magazine of the Episcopal Diocese of Mississippi



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DRINKS \$2

Big-hearted hospitality

Chapel of the Cross, Madison's Day in the Country festival approaches its 50th anniversary with no signs of slowing

Also in this issue: Reflections on addiction recovery

diocesan youth events

2025-2026

FALL DOY WEEKENDS (GRAY CENTER)

August 15-17. Sr. High DOY

October 17-19. Jr. High DOY

HAPPENING #99

St. Peter's-by-the-Sea, Gulfport

November 7-9 Staff Training

November 21-23 Happening #99

HAPPENING #100

St. Andrew's Cathedral, Jackson

February 20-22 Staff Training

March 6-8 Happening #100

SPRING DOY WEEKENDS (GRAY CENTER)

March 27-29 Jr. High DOY (Gray Center)

April 24-26 Sr. High DOY (Gray Center)

Division of Youth



HAPPENING
A CHRISTIAN EXPERIENCE

youth
at annual council



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Bishop's Journal

August 2025

A personal word

Episcopal Recovery Program offers hope to those struggling with addiction

BISHOP'S CORNER:

The blessing of recovery

We are called to help

An interview with professional counselor John Conway about spirituality and recovery

Big-hearted hospitality

Chapel of the Cross, Madison's Day in the Country festival approaches its 50th anniversary with no signs of slowing

CREATION CARE:

Common prayers

Deployment Report Faithful Departed

Diocesan Calendar



Bishop's Journal

August 2025

2 A fabulous week in York...much worship and prayer, a beautiful Evensong, a wonderful organ recital, a great visit to the Heritage Festival, a bit of reading and writing, making great new friends, and a few fabulous meals...the week has been full and good.

3 Today was truly a mountaintop experience. I am so grateful for (and still so humbled by) the invitation to preach at York Minster. So many thanks to Dean Dominic Barrington and all of the clergy team for such a warm welcome and such tremendous hospitality all week. This is an experience I won't ever forget.

Preached

All my hope on God is founded;
he doth still my trust renew.
Me through change and
chance he guideth,
only good and only true.
God unknown, he alone
calls my heart to be his own.

It seems only fitting that the closing hymn of my last Evening Prayer service on this visit to York Minster was one of my absolute favorites (and the prelude was a series of variations on that magnificent Howells hymn tune). This week

has been a gift. Until next time, York Minster.

4 Traveled home.

5 Staff Meeting
Meetings with Staff Members

6 Meeting with Communicant
Media Interview

6 Meeting with Vestry at the
Church of the Creator, Clinton

7 Commission on Ministry

8 Meetings with Staff Members

9 Emmett Till Commemoration
Weekend:
Workshop: *The History of Us*
Presented day-long workshop

10 St. Andrew's Cathedral
Baptized 1

10 Emmett Till Commemoration
Weekend: Conversation with
Bishop Michael Curry (St.
Andrew's Cathedral)
90-minute dialogue

So very, very thankful for all of the folks who engaged this weekend in our commemoration of the 70th anniversary of the killing of Emmett Till. Saturday's workshop on "The History of Us" was a sold-out success - with many thanks to St. Andrew's Cathedral and the Journey Series for hosting that event and allowing us to engage history together in that space. And having the incomparable Bishop Michael Curry join us yesterday at the Cathedral (another full house!)

to engage in a conversation around the pain of that memory and the hope for our future was truly inspiring. Thank you to the many persons from near and far (Truly, thank you to everyone who traveled to Jackson for this weekend!). Know that we will look for ways to keep this faith conversation going!

11 Reference Panel

12 Staff Meeting
Meetings with Staff Members
13 Meeting with Clergy person
Meeting with CPA firm re
financials

14 Meeting with Clergy person
Meeting with Creation Care
Committee

15 Meetings with Staff Members
Meeting with Clergy person

17 A wonderful visit with Church of the Mediator/Redeemer in McComb! This church is stunning - with beautiful stained-glass windows - and the congregation is so warm and welcoming! Many thanks to the Rev. Vic McInnis and all of the parish family - and congratulations to the newly confirmed and received! So grateful for this parish family's investment in community ministries, including MICA Food Pantry and Angel Wings Senior Care. Before Vic and I went to visit the lovely Magnolia church, I also had

continued on next page →

the chance to meet with Lisa and Dr. Brett Ferman, both of whom staff the Honduran Medical Mission, and whose passion for this ministry is tremendous. Lisa is the team lead for the next Mission - and her excitement is palpable. Preached, confirmed 2, and received 3

19 Staff Meeting

Meetings with Staff Members

21 Meet with Aspirant

Meet with Clergy person

Meet with Clergy Candidate

22 A delightful weekday visit to Grace Church, Carrollton!
What a beautiful space!
Grateful to Joel Williams and Clint Gee for taking time to meet with me today to show me around! Looking forward to visiting again!!

Meet with Staff Member

23 Travel to Gulf Coast

Hurricane Katrina/Hurricane Camille Memorial

Thank you to Church of the Redeemer, Biloxi, for hosting this evening's lovely service of remembrance as we prepare to commemorate the 20th anniversary of Hurricane Katrina. The church's Redeemer stained glass window survived the loss of the church in both Hurricane Camille (1969) and Hurricane Katrina - and that window still serves as a testimony to the love and grace of God.

Preached

24 My visitation St. John's Church, Ocean Springs was quite the

eventful day! Three worship services, confirmations, baptisms and a reception. Lovely music led by the Cherub Choir and the Adult Choir. A beautiful parish breakfast and a great time of fellowship. And, a lovely dinner with staff. Thank you to the Rev. Charles Hawkins, the Rev. Deacon Adele Ledford, Ann McGraw, Mary Brooks and Jonathan Mitchell, Lena Melton and all of the St. John's team of vergers, servers, acolytes and ushers - and all of the St. John's parish family - and a special thanks for sharing such gracious hospitality with the confirmands from St. Elizabeth's Church, Collins and Christ Church, Bay St. Louis!! And...super thanks to the two ambulance teams who came in response to a fall and an illness - and prayers for our loved ones.

Preached 3 services: 7:30 a.m., 9:00 a.m., 11:15 a.m.

Confirmed 17, baptized 2, and received 1

24 Visit with Clergy person

25 Visits with Clergy persons

26 Travel home to Jackson

Staff Meeting

Meetings with Clergy persons

27 Travel to Hattiesburg

Visitation: Church of the Ascension

Preached, confirmed 4, and received 3

28 Reference Panel

Meeting with Clergy person

Love Thy Neighbor event, St.

James Church, Jackson

29 Meeting with Staff Member

Meeting with local photographer

31 Thank you, Church of the Holy Trinity, Vicksburg!!
Wonderful worship today!!!
Confirmations, receptions, reaffirmations! So grateful for your hospitality in welcoming confirmands from Chapel of the Cross, Madison, Chapel of the Cross, Rolling Fork, and St. Mark's, Raymond!

Preached, confirmed 17, reaffirmed 5, and received 2
Meeting with Wardens

Prayers for us all, as Labor Day approaches: Almighty God, we give thanks for the labors to which you call us. Be present with your people where we work; grant to all people work that enhances human dignity, allows us to best utilize our abilities and calls us to be our best selves. Through the work of our hands, unite us with each other, so that we can serve our brothers and sisters, and your world. Give us pride in our work, a fair return for our labor, and joy in knowing that our work finds its source in you. We lift up to you all who need and long for employment, that they may know the fulfillment, satisfaction and reward of honest work. May those who have retired feel a sense of accomplishment and thanksgiving for their endeavors. In our working and in our resting, may we always give you praise. Amen. 

A personal word

Episcopal Recovery Program offers hope to those struggling with addiction

by Brian Bullard

Hello, my name is Brian Bullard, and I am an alcoholic. By the grace of God and the fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous, I have been sober since February 19, 2012.

My journey began in darkness—years of daily drinking and despair—until I finally hit my “bottom” and reached out for help. Recovery has given me a new life, and it is my calling to help others find the same hope and freedom. That’s why I work with the Episcopal Recovery Program—and we want everyone to be aware of this ministry, especially during this Recovery Awareness Month.

A Brief History

The Episcopal Recovery Program (ERP) was formed in July 2015 when Bishop Brian Seage brought together members of the recovery community along with several lay people to create a task force. The goal was—and remains—to offer hope and support to those in the Episcopal Church struggling with addiction to alcohol or drugs.

What is Addiction?

Addiction is a chronic brain disease marked by compulsive engagement in a substance or activity despite negative consequences. It involves changes in brain chemistry and behavior that lead to:

- Loss of control
- Compulsive use



- Tolerance and withdrawal
- Neglect of responsibilities

How We Help

ERP is most often contacted by clergy within the diocese when a parishioner or fellow clergy member is in need of guidance or direction in seeking recovery.

Our support can take different forms:

- **Resources & Guidance:** Helping individuals find the right path to recovery.
- **Treatment Connections:** ERP partners with treatment centers across Mississippi and can connect individuals to appropriate care.
- **Financial Assistance:** Limited help may be available through Andre’s Fund, created by Bishop Seage in 2015.
- **12-Step Support:** For some, the first step may simply be attending a 12-step meeting—and we are here to help make that connection, even offering transportation when possible.



How to Reach Us

As chairperson of ERP, I am available to anyone in the diocese seeking help, information, or guidance. If you, a loved one, or someone in your parish is struggling, please reach out. More information is at erpms.org. 

The blessing of recovery

I wasn't at all familiar with the mission or work of Adult Children of Alcoholics when a group approached the church I served near Memphis, inquiring about whether we had meeting space.

The church already hosted a number of Alcoholics Anonymous and Al-Anon meetings. ACA was new for us, and its work immediately spoke to me: I was the adult daughter of a father who had become an alcoholic. I knew firsthand the range of emotions—from a sense of abandonment, to fear, grief, loss, anger, resentment, among many, many others—that might be experienced by children of alcoholics. ACA's work, I was convinced, was important.

We readily extended them an invitation to join the fold. In time, we discovered that there were more ACA meetings on our campus than AA and Al-Anon meetings.

My earliest memories of my father are memories of a laughing, fun-loving man—playful and joyful, a man who laughed with me and sang a lot. He loved entertaining; he'd learned during his time in the Army that he was a pretty good cook, and for a time, we shared his grilling and barbecuing with family, friends and neighbors.

But as time passed, my once-jovial father became a sad, short-tempered, impatient, angry man. I didn't understand the weight that was on my father until I was a young adult. Looking back, I can understand how alcohol could have become his drug of choice, to help him escape the stresses of home. My father had—surely, unknowingly—married a woman, my mother, who struggled with mental illness.

My parents married a few years after the death of my father's first wife. They were both 42 years old when they married at the home of the minister of the church they attended. There were certainly clues that might have suggested to my father even before they were married that all was not well with my mother. The truth was that

family members had always been aware that something wasn't "quite right" with my mother.

I understood from my earliest years that our household didn't seem like any other household of family members or family friends. At 4 or 5 years old, I likely would have said that my mother was not okay. She seemed to be paranoid about everything and everyone, often hid in the house (and wouldn't answer the door) when she wasn't teaching school, and spoke abruptly and unkindly to virtually everyone around her. Amazingly, teaching seemed to be her only joy. But her behavior beyond the classroom left her isolated from tongue-wagging relatives, school colleagues, neighbors and church folks. As it turns out, there was indeed a name for her illness, but because of her fear and avoidance of doctors, she wasn't seen or diagnosed with the schizophrenia that had plagued her, likely from her youth, until she was 90 years old.

My father's drinking seemed only to add to the chaos of our home during my childhood. My mother was already unstable, and if my father came home drunk or drank himself to sleep after work (as he often did), she became even more unstable. I learned that staying in my room and reading a book, or losing myself in my piano music, provided an excellent escape. I am fortunate that it never occurred to me to adopt his drug of choice as my own: I was too busy trying to be the one stable and reliable person in a dysfunctional household.

I watched my father sink deeper and deeper into an angry sadness. He'd always said that he wanted to travel when he retired; there were still so many places he wanted to see. My mother's illness made that travel impossible. He remained at home, puttering in the yard with his plants, going to church as long as he was able, enjoying occasional visits with relatives, and drinking excessively until progressing dementia seemed to dull the need for the alcohol.

The fact that my father developed dementia at about the same time he was diagnosed with cancer proved to be fortuitous. He would forget soon after physicians' visits that he was sick, go on living, and not obsess about dying. But my mother wasn't able to care for him adequately, and that presented ongoing challenges. He died two days before I was to move him to a memory care residence where I'd prayed he'd receive better and more consistent care.

In 2018, I wrote a piece (msepiscopalian.com/dont-always-see) acknowledging that, in my own frustration, I had failed to give my father credit for all he'd survived with my mother. I had so badly wanted the gregarious father of my earliest years, before he'd become broken and beaten down, to come back to me. Too many years passed without my understanding how, during a time when it was even more difficult than it is today to get help for a loved one who is suffering from mental illness, he had

done the absolute best that he could under enormously trying circumstances, and how much he had sacrificed of his own life to care for my mother and for me.

I wish he could have attended even one AA meeting—for his own sake, not for mine—so that perhaps he could have known some small amount of peace and health in this lifetime.

It is because of my father's suffering that I am firmly committed to recovery ministry. It is for all of the persons I've met through the years who owe their lives to recovery ministry that I will zealously support it. It is for all of the loved ones dear to me who did not survive the battle with addiction that I ardently advocate it.

Many of the churches in our diocese host 12-Step groups. Please, please, for the sake of your life, connect with the resources you need to be your healthiest and best self. Our Creator God, and all of the people who love us, want us all to survive and thrive. 🙏



ALL ARE WELCOME

WINTER 2025
WINTER SOLSTICE (GRADES 9-12) DEC. 27-JAN. 1

SUMMER 2026
ELEMENTARY (AGES 9-11) JUNE 1-6
SPECIAL 1 (AGES 40+) JUNE 8-13
MIDDLER (AGES 10-13) JUNE 15-20
JUNIOR HIGH (AGES 13-15) JUNE 22-27
PRIMARY (AGES 6-8) JUNE 29-JULY 2
MIXED AGES (AGES 8-14) JULY 6-11
SPECIAL 2 (AGES 18-39) JULY 13-18

Camp Bratton-Green
CBG
graycenter.org

EMAIL
CHIP@GRAYCENTER.ORG

We are called to help



An interview with professional counselor John Conway about spirituality and recovery

John Conway is a lifelong Jacksonian and longtime member of St. Philip's, Jackson. A licensed professional counselor who works primarily with clients struggling with substance abuse, he facilitates group therapy programs at Bridge to Recovery and manages a grant for the Mississippi Public Health Institute. Through that grant, he provides Narcan, which can save the lives of people overdosing on opioids, and trains first responders on how to use it. Conway also works with the Diocese of Mississippi's Episcopal Recovery Program and helped establish Andre's Fund, named for his brother who died from addiction. The fund helps people in need of treatment.

TME: How did you get started in this line of work?

JC: I am in long term recovery myself and, God willing,

will celebrate 27 years sober on October 2nd. So it was through Alcoholics Anonymous and through recovery that I felt compelled to try to help and try to see if I could provide some sort of support and care for people as they went through the same struggles I went through. My family's got a pretty long history with recovery. My mom just got her 45-year chip. My younger brother Andre struggled with addiction his whole life. He had some periods of recovery, but ultimately succumbed to the disease.

TME: That led, if I understand correctly, to the establishment of Andre's Fund?

JC: Yes. Bishop Seage decided that we could focus some resources there using my brother's name, and I believe a number of people wanted to honor him in some way, and so began to give donations to Episcopal

Recovery and that turned into Andre's Fund that Episcopalians or people through the Episcopal Church could request support for treatment, for recovery.

TME: You and Andre grew up in the Episcopal Church?

JC: Yeah, my brother and I both went to St. Philip's, starting when my parents moved to Jackson in 1969. We were in that neighborhood, and we grew up experiencing all the great things the Episcopal Church offered us. We were active in EYC. We were acolytes at St. Philip's. In fact, for a number of years, we were probably the go-to acolytes because our parents took us to church every Sunday so we could be counted on for that. We were a utilitarian acolyte corps, you know. So EYC, acolyting, and then Camp Bratton-Green.

TME: Can you tell us a bit about Andre? What kind of person was he?

JC: As is often the case, the paradox of addiction means that it's not that simple. He was a great man, a loving guy, someone who, at his best, tried at every turn to help somebody else, to help other people in recovery, and had a fairly significant impact in the recovery community in Jackson and in Mississippi with the work he did. And when I say work, I mean lowercase 'W,' I mean just the efforts he made through his own program of recovery. And the paradox is that he also suffered greatly from the disease of alcoholism and drug addiction, and so he struggled mightily with that. He had long periods of sobriety, but also periods where he was struggling. And throughout it all, he tried to help others, and I believe did that a great deal. In fact, I know he did that a great deal. I got to see God working in his life a lot. And also got to see the horrors of how addiction can take over all of that as well—block us from that sunlight that is God's love.

TME: Spirituality, I take it, is a big part of recovery. Can you talk about the relationship between those two things?

JC: For me, to talk about the spiritual part of my program of recovery is like talking about the wet part of the ocean. You know, it's just all encompassing, and it only exists because of that and through that, right? The program of recovery that I practice through Alcoholics Anonymous offers me a spiritual solution to help with all the problems in my life and when I was introduced to that, I found that it dovetailed just seamlessly with how

I'd been raised in the Episcopal Church and the way spirituality had been presented to me in the Episcopal Church as all-welcoming, benevolent, all-loving, and just truly something I could count on on a day-to-day basis.

I'm very fortunate that my avocations and my vocations have lined up together, you know, and are in lockstep. I feel really lucky that I get to do the thing that I care most about at my work, as well as care deeply about the things I'm doing from a personal and a spiritual standpoint. I believe we are called to help, and that's a lesson I always learned in the Episcopal Church and that my parents imparted on me.

TME: As someone with such a long career helping folks struggling with addiction, what's your message to those who may be considering seeking help?

JC: Well one of the biggest things that I want to emphasize, is that people do recover, people can get sober. It's an incredibly frustrating disease. It can be discouraging. It can be fraught with missteps and false starts. But people do recover. I've watched people's lives change through spirituality and trying to find solutions that can work in their life. So I would just say that as an encouraging word to anyone who's struggling with addiction or with family members with addiction—recovery is possible, and people do get better, they can recover.

I want to be able to offer that message of hope for anyone who needs it and offer myself, St. Philip's, the diocese, or any of the other avenues there are for help. The idea that we can do this alone, that we're put on this earth alone, that we have to face challenges alone or live alone, is simply not true. We're taught that we are all connected. We're wired for connection, and that's a spiritual principle. I believe that we are meant to be God's message to each other, and oftentimes be God's voice. Reaching out for help can feel like an arduous task, but man, that's where the solution can begin. 

Looking for help?

Information on the Episcopal Recovery Program can be found at erpms.org. Information on the program is also in this issue on page 4.



Big-hearted hospitality

Chapel of the Cross, Madison's Day in the Country festival approaches its 50th anniversary with no signs of slowing

by Eric Eaton

Beneath the sweeping branches of centuries-old oaks, surrounded by rolling green pastures and tranquil ponds, stands the historic Chapel of the Cross Episcopal Church—a timeless treasure of both Mississippi and Madison County. Completed and consecrated in 1852, the Chapel has been a place of welcome, worship, and community for over 170 years, touching the lives of every generation since.

One of the most beloved ways the public experiences this warm and hospitable parish is through its much-anticipated Day in the Country fall festival. Each year, thousands of visitors—from wide-eyed children to lifelong festival-goers—stroll onto the Chapel grounds to savor roasted corn hot off the grill, eat boiled peanuts, shop for handmade pepper jelly and other locally crafted treats, buy a few loaves of freshly baked bread and, of course, taste a slice of the legendary 63-egg cake. For those with slightly smaller appetites, the “modest” 11-

egg version is also on hand—but arrive early, as they're known to disappear before noon.

Now celebrating its 46th year, Day in the Country has become a red-letter date on the calendar for anyone who delights in blending small-town charm with big-hearted hospitality. The festival offers something for every interest:

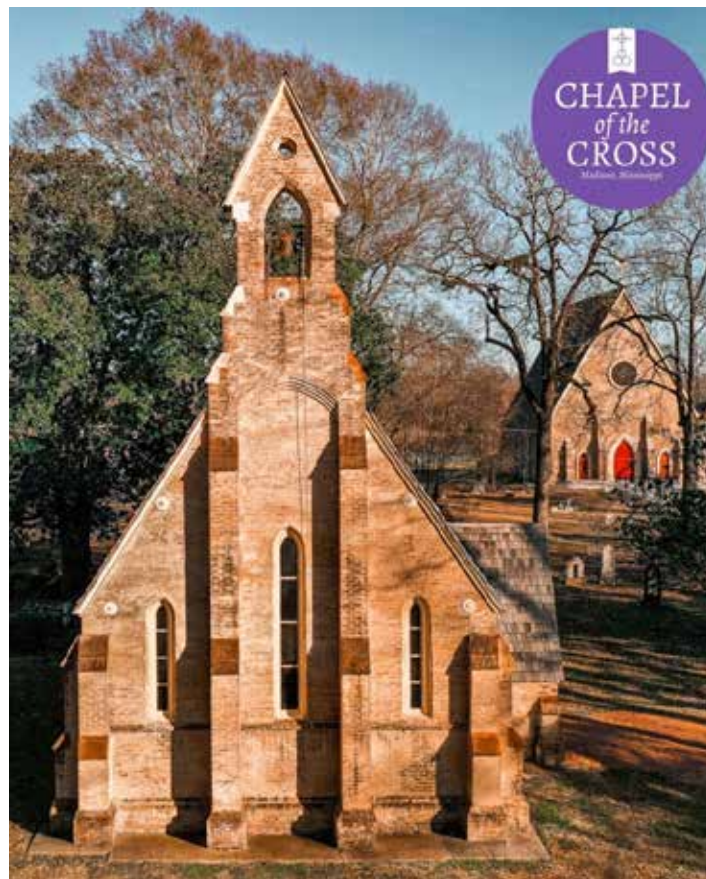
- **The Chapel Attic**—a treasure trove for antique lovers.
- The ever-expanding **vendor marketplace**—brimming with regional artisans and makers showcasing their finest work.
- **The Country Store**—home to irresistible baked goods and local specialties.
- **Kid's Country**—a wonderland of face painting, a petting zoo, and inflatable jump houses sure to keep little ones smiling.

For history buffs and lovers of sacred architecture, parish members lead guided tours of both the original 1852 Chapel and the newer Chapel of the Resurrection. Visitors can also embark on a self-guided walk through the historic cemetery, where the lives—and sometimes colorful stories—of past generations are shared beneath weathered stone markers.

In recent years, new additions have made the festival even more inviting. Beverage tents now offer a relaxing spot to unwind while enjoying live performances from local musicians on the shaded outdoor stage. And when hunger calls, the lunch counter serves freshly grilled hamburgers, hot dogs, and BBQ pork sandwiches with all the 'fixins'—a simple but satisfying festival tradition.

Whether it's your very first visit or your forty-sixth, Day in the Country promises a day brimming with flavors, fellowship, and fun. Mark your calendar for October 4, 2025, 9AM-4PM, and come see why this cherished celebration has endured for nearly half a century. Admission is free and on-site parking is just \$5 per vehicle, payable at the conveniently located purple tents at each entrance (cash preferred).

The Chapel of the Cross looks forward to welcoming you—and making you feel like part of its story.. 



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

November 2025 issue

October 15, 2025

December 2025 issue

November 17, 2025

January 2026 issue

December 15, 2025

February 2026 issue

January 15, 2025

March 2026 issue

February 16, 2025

April 2026 issue

March 16, 2025

we want stories . . .

about your church, your ministry, your school... or whatever is on your Episcopal mind! Send us fully realized stories, photos, or just ideas at msepiscopalian@dioms.org.

Creation Care:

by Rev. Beth Foose

One afternoon in mid-August, Bishop Wells generously opened her office and shared her time to reflect with the Diocesan Creation Care Team about how we might better meet the needs of the broader diocese.

The Creation Care team is particularly excited about one of the outcomes of the meeting. We will be writing a quarterly article for *TME*.

In this inaugural article, I want to tell you a few things about what to expect from us in the months ahead in the hope that you will become a regular reader.

This column won't be a litany of things you should or ought to do. The truth is that as a committee, we have a wide variety of practices through which we live into our care for creation. Some of us are diligent in our recycling. Others avoid long-distance travel. Some of us compost, and some of us don't. I am not sure we could all agree on a "must-do" list of creation care practices. Instead of telling you what to do or instilling fear and overwhelm you about what you haven't done, we will be sharing scripture and science-based information to give you the media with which to paint your own hopes for creation.

As Episcopalians, we offer prayers we hold in common with one another. I understand prayer as being aspirational. In other words, when we pray, we are

Common Prayers



naming to God our commitment to make our prayers a reality. Listen to the words of our liturgies and the scriptures, and you will find that care of creation is not some "optional add-on" to our concerns as Christians.

That truth is made evident time and time again in our Book of Common Prayer and in scripture. From proclaiming, "The Earth is the Lord's for he made it: Come let us adore him" at the beginning of Morning Prayer, through every Form of the Prayers of the People, and the Eucharistic Prayers, we give thanks and pray for God to empower us to respect and love all our neighbors, including life in all of its various and wonderful forms.

Through caring for creation, we open our hearts to receiving God's abundant gifts and we offer ourselves to

become the hands and feet of the living God. We want to empower you to become the prayers we pray every Sunday by inviting you into new ways of experiencing and participating in God's deep love for Creation.

The abundant life God yearns to give us is about being faithful to our truth and then committing to learn the truth of others' ideas. We hope this column is about what matters and the reasons it matters to you, to us, and to Creation.

The Episcopal Church has designated September as Care of Creation month. The Church says it is important to mark this time in the year to give special attention to creation "...because of our Gospel call to grow in faith as we affirm that God in Christ loves, redeems, and sustains the whole of Creation, not only human beings" and "because of the urgency of the climate and ecological crisis and the need for a bold, prophetic response."

Myriad resources, including meditations, scripture reflections, and intergenerational activities, are available for parish-wide and personal celebrations of this month. You might want to begin with episcopalchurch.org/season-of-creation-and-st-francis-day-resources and buildfaith.org/creation-care.

Many parishes honor creation with a St. Francis of Assisi blessing of the Animals. Bishop Wells has suggestions for a service to share with anyone who is interested.

We want to invite you...your concerns, your interests, your passions, and your expertise...into this conversation. As we sat around the table with the bishop, it occurred to me how important and how healing community can be. We need to hear other voices and perspectives so that our views can grow. And, we need the comfort of shared perspectives to help us understand who and where we are.

Even though the words of our common prayers are all the same, we don't all agree on how to live into God's dream for reality. God loves all of creation and equips those of us with memory, reason, skill, and voices to have hard conversations around how best to love our neighbors. The Creation Care Committee hopes this column will plant seeds for grace-filled conversations and transformational actions.. 

Disaster Team Rises Again

Tornadoes, floods, the occasional hurricane, et al.: Mississippi has them all, and Episcopalians feel a need to help.

A Diocesan Disaster Response Team took shape under Deacon Cathy Halford a few years ago. Now, Fr. Richard Roessler has taken up the baton, and a new Disaster Response Team is forming. Some of those so called have met twice at All Saints' Church in south Jackson.

On the Coast, natural disasters have long been a fact of life, and the team of veterans centered at St. Peter's-by-the-Sea have given invaluable support and advice.

The present team hopes to coordinate with St. Peter's, and

- Identify and enroll a contact **person in each parish**, statewide,
- Outfit a **trailer** and keep it ready at all times,
- Create a **chainsaw gang**, to handle that important work,
- Study and master the safety and compliance regulations,
- Offer a **chaplain and social services**, and
- Practice good communications.

You may have good ideas or want to be involved in Disaster Response in some capacity. If so, please contact Fr. Rick Roessler at richard_roessler@att.net.

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THE MISSISSIPPI EPISCOPALIAN

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Faithful Departed

Please submit Faithful Departed notices to your church for submission.

Donald Franklin Pringle, 88, communicant of St. Paul's, Meridian, died April 15, 2025.

Dorothy Liles Gibson, 89, communicant of St. James', Jackson, died on July 9, 2025.

Emmett Joseph Chassaniol, Jr., 86, communicant of Nativity, Greenwood, died July 26, 2025.

Jeanne Marie Pate, 74, communicant of All Saints', Tupelo, died August 3, 2025.

The Rev. Dr. Helen Whitener Tester, 75, having served as vicar of Holy Trinity, Crystal Springs (2002-2006) and rector of Mediator, Meridian (1/1/2007-5/1/2015), before transferring to the Diocese of Western North Carolina, died August 3, 2025. Helen was preceded in death by her husband, The Rev. Dr. Charles K. Floyd, Jr., former Canon to the Ordinary.

Page Whites, 62, communicant of Nativity, Greenwood, died August 3, 2025.

David Dunlap Hamilton, 69, communicant of St. Paul's, Meridian, died August 17, 2025.

Deborah "DJ" Ritterbush Wells, 72, communicant of St. Paul's, Meridian, died August 18, 2025.

John "Jack" Armistead Conway, 81, communicant of St. Philip's, Jackson, died August 19, 2025.

Churches seeking supply clergy

Good Shepherd, Columbus

Christ Church, Holly Springs

All Saints', Jackson

St. Christopher's, Jackson

St. Mark's, Jackson

St. Matthew's, Kosciusko

Church of the Good Shepherd, Terry

Holy Trinity, Vicksburg

Church of the Nativity, Water Valley

Available Chaplaincy

Canterbury: Mississippi State University

The Official Magazine of the Episcopal Diocese of Mississippi

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Deployment Report

Churches seeking full or part-time clergy

Redeemer, Brookhaven

Calvary, Cleveland

St. James', Jackson

St. Paul's, Meridian

Trinity, Natchez

St. Peter's, Oxford

Holy Trinity, Vicksburg

Church of the Nativity, Water Valley

Questions about deployment should be directed to
The Rev. Canon Gary Meade, Canon to the Ordinary,
gmeade@dioms.org; 601-948-5954 x114.

Diocesan Calendar

September

- 9-16** House of Bishops Meeting, Coral Costa Caribe Resort, Dominican Republic
- 15** *The Mississippi Episcopalian* October Deadline
- 18** Finance Committee, Allin House, 11:30am – 3:30pm
- 20** Capital Day of Pride, Downtown Jackson 9:00am - 3:00pm
- 21** Convocational Youth Delegate Elections (online), 4:00pm
- 25** Executive Committee, St. Andrew's Cathedral, 11:30am – 3:30pm
- 28** Bishop Wells visits St. Thomas', Diamondhead (morning)
- 28** Bishop Wells visits Christ Church, Bay St. Louis (afternoon)
- 28** Recovery Awareness Sunday

October

- 2** Beloved Community Monthly Gathering, 12:00 noon
- 3-4** CBG Alumni Weekend, Camp Bratton-Green
- 4** 2025 ECW Conference, St. Christopher's, Jackson
- 5** Bishop Wells visits St. Paul's, Corinth
- 7** Small Churches Collaborative, Zoom, 2:00 - 3:00pm
- 10-11** A. C. Marble School, Online
- 12** Bishop Wells visits All Saints', Inverness (morning)
- 12** Bishop Wells visits All Saints', Leland (afternoon)
- 13-17** Voluntary Proportionate Giving
- 15** 1% Seminary Support Due
- 15** *The Mississippi Episcopalian* November Deadline
- 17-19** Jr. High DOY, Gray Center
- 17** Daughters of the King Fall Assembly - Evening Social
- 18** DOK Fall Assembly, 11:30am – 3:30pm
- 18** Commission on Ministry, Allin House
- 19** Bishop Wells visits Epiphany Church, Tunica
- 20-22** Clergy Conference, Jackson
- 22** Standing Committee, Allin House, 11:30am – 3:30pm
- 23** Trustees Meeting, Allin House, 1:00 – 4:00pm
- 26** Bishop Wells visits St. Paul's, Picayune

November

- 2** Bishop Wells visits All Saints', Tupelo
- 4** Small Churches Collaborative, Zoom, 2:00 - 3:00pm
- 5** Bishop Wells visits All Saints', Jackson
- 6** Beloved Community Monthly Gathering, 12:00 noon
- 7-9** Staff Training for Happening #99, St. Peter's-By-the-Sea, Gulfport
- 7-8** A. C. Marble School, Solomon Center
- 9** Bishop Wells visits St. Mary's, Enterprise
- 16** Bishop Wells visits St. Matthew's, Kosciusko
- 17** *The Mississippi Episcopalian* December Deadline
- 20** Deadline for Lay Leadership Relicensing
- 21-23** Happening #99, St. Peter's-By-the-Sea, Gulfport
- 26-28** Allin House CLOSED for Thanksgiving

December

- 1** Deadline for Submission of Budget Requests/ Reports to Annual Council
- 1** Deadline for Submission of Reports to Annual Council
- 1** Voluntary Proportionate Giving % Due
- 2** Small Churches Collaborative, Zoom, 2:00 - 3:00pm
- 3-5** Province IV Bishops' meeting, Camp McDowell, Nauvoo, Alabama, 11:30am – 3:30pm
- 3** Standing Committee, Allin House
- 4** Beloved Community Monthly Gathering, 12:00 noon
- 5-6** Ministry Exploration Gathering (MEG), Gray Center
- 7** Bishop Wells visits Grace Church, Carrollton
- 11** Finance Committee, Allin House, 11:30am – 3:30pm
- 12-13** A. C. Marble School, Solomon Center
- 14** Bishop Wells visits Mediator, Meridian
- 15** Deadline for Submission of Resolutions for Annual Council
- 15** Deadline for Submission of Resolutions/Deadline for Pre-filed Nominations
- 15** *The Mississippi Episcopalian* January Deadline
- 16** Executive Committee, St. Andrew's Cathedral, 11:30am – 3:30pm
- 20** Church Hill Commemorative Service, Christ Church, Church Hill, 11:00am-12:00pm
- 20** Ordination of Transitional Deacons, 9:00 – 10:00am
- 21** Bishop Wells visits Trinity, Yazoo City
- 24-26** Allin House CLOSED for Christmas
- 27-1** Winter Solstice, Camp Bratton-Green



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The diocesan creation care team meets with Bishop Wells at Allin House in downtown Jackson. To read about the work of the team, see page 11.