

# THE MISSISSIPPI EPISCOPALIAN

The Official Magazine of the Episcopal Diocese of Mississippi



Volume 150  
Issue No. 12  
December  
2025

## Pathways to accessibility

Welcoming all God's people  
in the Diocese of Mississippi

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## diocesan youth events 2025-2026

**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)

### On the cover:

Michael Maeze Williamson, son of Stacie Williamson, serves as crucifer from his wheelchair with a little help from fellow acolyte Hart Smith at Church of the Holy Trinity, Vicksburg. PVC pipe was added to the back of Michael's wheelchair, allowing him to serve—proudly—at the church where he was recently confirmed. To read more of Bishop Wells's thoughts on accessibility and Advent, see page 9.



# THE MISSISSIPPI EPISCOPALIAN

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## Bishop's Journal

November 2025

## Every voice, one song

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& 31st in Ridgeland

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# Bishop's Journal

November 2025

- 1** "For all the saints who from their labors rest..."

On this All Saints Day (and every day...!), I'm grateful for all of the saints in my life who have surrounded, supported and shaped me: a great-aunt who taught me so much through her selfless service of others; a college professor who helped me learn that my first God-language is music; a WWII glider pilot who has taught us all so much about lovingkindness; a friend who taught me the true meaning of forgiveness; another friend who taught me that God's humans have so much more in common than meets the eye; and still another friend who made me family. I am so profoundly grateful.

Almighty God, you have surrounded us with a great cloud of witnesses: Grant that we, encouraged by their good example, may persevere in running the race that is set before us, until at last we may with all your saints attain to your eternal joy; through Jesus Christ, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Travel to Tupelo

- 2** What a wonderful All Saints' Sunday at All Saints' Church, Tupelo! So grateful for today's baptism and confirmations - and asking God's blessing on the Columbarium Garden!!! So much lovely hospitality - and more faith stories: One of the confirmands first came to All Saints' as part of this church's amazing Saints' Brew weekday breakfast ministry, and after a time of not being housed, has just recently been able to move into an apartment. Giving thanks for All Saints' continued faithful ministry in Tupelo!



- Preached, confirmed 13, and baptized 1  
Travel to Jackson  
**3** Bishop's sabbath  
**4** Province IV Bishops' Call Staff Meeting  
Meetings with Staff Members (3)  
Small Church Collaborative meeting  
**5** Meetings with staff members  
Mid-week visitation this evening at All Saints' Church, Jackson! It was wonderful to be with the All Saints' family, and be joined by communicants of St. Mark's Church, for worship,

confirmations and a delightful dinner following!



Preached, confirmed 2

- 7** Virtual meeting re: changes in TEC staff  
Meetings with clergypersons (2)  
**9** A full Sunday!!! Today's visitation was with St. Mary's Church, Enterprise - where we had beautiful worship and a wonderful time of fellowship over a delicious lunch! So grateful for the warm welcome and hospitality!



Preached

Then it was off to Meridian for a meeting with Vestry and a search committee, followed by dinner with a clergyperson. Methinks it's now time to call it a day!! #grateful

Meeting with Clergyperson

- 10** Travel to Jackson  
Bishop's sabbath  
**11** Staff Meeting  
Meetings with staff members  
**12** Reference Panel  
Budget Meeting  
CPG Meeting  
Meeting with Chancellor

continued on next page →



**13** A wonderful evening at Trinity Church, Hattiesburg, as we enjoyed an interfaith dinner with the worshipping community of Temple B'Nai Israel Synagogue. Rabbi Debra Kassoff gave me a tour of the Synagogue and a bit of its history before dinner. Grateful to be part of an evening of thoughtful conversation!



**14** Travel to Jackson

**15** Pre-Advent Retreat (Invite, Welcome, Connect)  
So very thankful to Mary Foster Parmer for leading our Pre-Advent Retreat, to the people of St. Philip's Church for hosting us, and for everyone who took



**16** So very grateful to be with the parish family of St. Matthew's, Kosciusko, today! Beautiful worship, with confirmations/reception, and a delicious lunch following. Many thanks to all who were with us today, for all who helped with hospitality, and to the Rev. Lynn K Barker, longtime supply priest.



Confirmed 4, and received 1  
Travel to Jackson

**17** Bishop's sabbath

**18** Staff Meeting

Meetings with Staff Members

**20** Finance Committee Meeting

Meeting with Clergy person

**21** Meeting with Downtown

Partners

**23** Humbled to have been

invited to preach at the Yazoo Ministerial Association City Wide Thanksgiving Service!  
What a beautiful glimpse of the


Kingdom - as all ages, all races, all conditions came together to worship. The Rev. George Woodliff has been President of the Ministerial Association since its founding in 2002. Tonight's service included sharing food boxes given by the Association's churches to neighbors in need (including persons whose SNAP benefits may have been delayed, seniors and others). So very grateful to have been part of such a wonderful experience of sharing God's love with neighbors tonight.

Preached

**24** Bishop's sabbath

**25** Staff Meeting

Meetings with Staff Members

**26-28** Allin House closed for Thanksgiving 

## Holiday Tasting in Kosciusko

On November 21, the women of St. Matthew's, Kosciusko, along with other churches in the area hosted a Holiday Tasting to benefit the Helping Hands Ministries of Attala County. Helping Hands is a nonprofit organization created in 1987 to supply food, clothes and household items to families in need in Attala County and central Mississippi. This organization is one of St. Matthew's largest outreach programs by supplying volunteers and financial support throughout the year. The Holiday Tasting is the organization's largest fundraiser and its most successful. From appetizers to desserts this special event allows ticket buyers to taste the best the kitchens of Attala County have to offer.



Mary Al Alford, Mary Davidson  
and Sandra Bagley

# Every voice, one song

199th Annual Council to  
take place January 30th  
& 31st in Ridgeland


by the Rev. Canon Gary Meade

**T**he Diocese of Mississippi is invited to gather for the 199th Annual Council, offered this year at St. Andrew's School in Ridgeland on Friday and Saturday, January 30th and 31st. As always, the gathering promises to be a time of shared worship, mutual work for the benefit of our congregations and people, and—of course!—our own version of a large family reunion. This year's theme, building on last year's (Telling Our Story), is "Telling Our Stories: Every Voice, One Song."

While much remains the same, one big change for this year's event is a shorter schedule concluding on Saturday afternoon which will allow the clergy of the diocese to be with their congregations on Sunday morning (and potentially save visiting clergy and delegates the cost of a second night of a hotel stay).

"Wait!" you may be thinking, "What about our Sunday Eucharist?" Annual Council will still include a community celebration of Holy Communion, but this year it will be offered on Saturday morning. Churches are encouraged to bring banners to carry in procession, and all singers are invited to lead our worship that morning.

Clergy, delegates, and all interested persons 21 or older are invited to a Diocesan Reception at Georgia Blue in Madison on Friday starting at 8:00 pm. The evening will include food, beverages, and music from Doctor Zarr's Amazing Funk Monster. Clergy spouses are also being invited to a special luncheon in their honor on Saturday at Anjou Restaurant.

Details about Annual Council can be found by visiting [msepiscopalian.com/council](https://msepiscopalian.com/council) or call the diocesan staff at the Allin House, 601-948-5954. 



**199<sup>th</sup> Annual Council**  
of the Episcopal Diocese of Mississippi  
January 30-31, 2026  
ST. ANDREW'S EPISCOPAL SCHOOL  
RIDGELAND, MISSISSIPPI

## Council registration pricing

Early bird pricing of \$150 is available until January 8. Beginning January 9, registration will be \$175.

*Delegates and guests of the  
197th Council in Ridgeland greet  
newly-elected Bishop Wells via  
Zoom in 2023*





# Collins Cares

## St. Elizabeth's, Collins makes outreach a priority in two events in November

### Veterans Day celebration and antique car show

On November 11, two veterans of St. Elizabeth's were privileged to participate in the Veterans Day parade in Hattiesburg, MS. Col. William (Bill) Kegerreis, US Army Ret. and, Chief Warrant Officer 3 Howard McClendon, US Army Ret. escorted the Grand Marshall and featured speaker, Brigadier General Robert Greer, US Army Ret. in a World War II era army jeep belonging to Col. Kegerreis.

Later that afternoon, they displayed Col. Kegerreis' army jeep and antique 1985 GMC Caballero at the Veteran's Day festivities at Landmark Nursing Home in Collins, MS. While at the Landmark, Col. Kegerreis presented a military service appreciation coin to a Veteran who resided at the living center.

St. Elizabeth's is always grateful for opportunities to honor the veterans who served our country.



### Thanksgiving meal fixing for foster families

On the Friday before Thanksgiving, St. Elizabeth's provided 35 boxes of food to the foster families of Covington County. The boxes contained enough fixings to prepare Thanksgiving dinner for each family. The church has provided this outreach service for several years.

Helping to pack the boxes and deliver them to the Department of Human Services were Law and Public Safety students of Covington County Career and Technical Education Complex. They were accompanied by their teacher, Jennifer Cade.



# Before the streetlights come on

## Creation Care Committee hosts book study in January


by Joe Porter

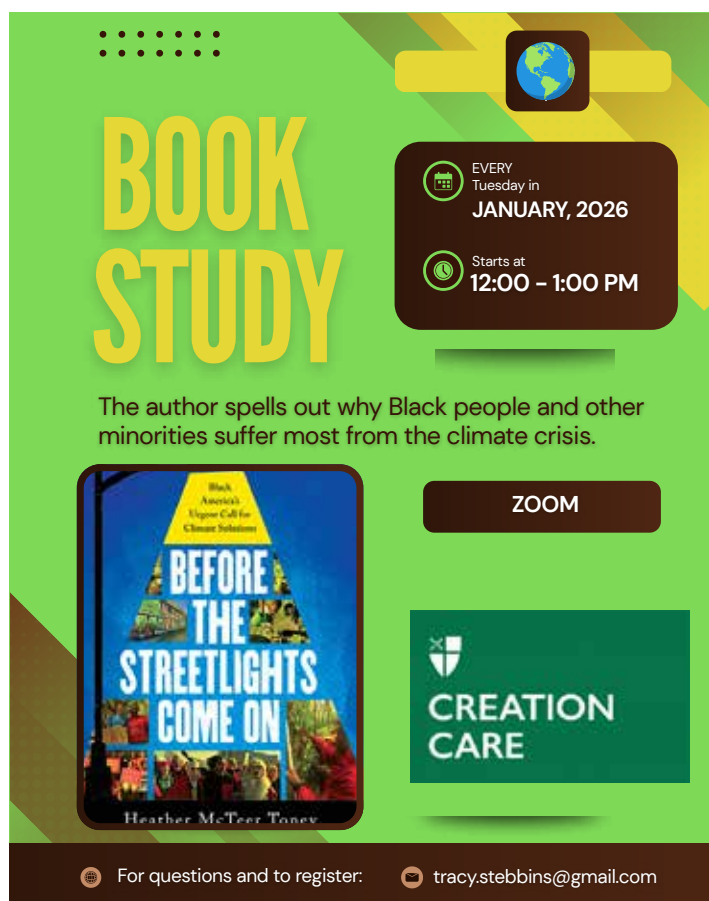
The Creation Care Committee of the Diocese of Mississippi will be reading a very timely and important book during January of 2026 and invites you to join us. The book's title is **BEFORE THE STREETLIGHTS COME ON: Black America's Urgent Call for Climate Solutions** by Heather McTeer Toney. Many of you might recognize that name. Ms. Toney is a native of Mississippi who was raised in Greenville. After high school there, she graduated from Spelman College in Atlanta and then received her Juris Doctorate from Tulane University. She later returned to Greenville. There she became the first Black, the first female, and youngest mayor ever elected to that post at the age of twenty-seven. Following her public service in Greenville she was appointed a regional administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency by President Obama. Since that time she has served our country, and indeed, the world by being a leader in raising environmental consciousness.

Her words are very powerful and straight from the shoulder honest in spelling out the threat that we face with increasing global warming. Even more importantly, she underlines the increased harm that is faced by Black and other minority groups around the world by this crisis. This is being felt right now and especially in the south by states like ours. Ms. McTeer states that her book was written primarily for a Black audience, but I, a southern white male, attest that the book benefits White people even more. This is a book that addresses head on two great challenges facing us right now--the threatened return of the Jim Crow era and the impending destruction of God's Creation by the hand of humankind.

Of this book David Axelrod, director of the University of Chicago Institute of Politics says, "With crystal clarity,

Heather McNeer Toney documents the shameful history that has left Black communities particularly vulnerable to the ravages of climate change—and explores what we can do about it."

The book read will be presented by zoom at 12:00 P.M. on January 6, 13, 20, & 27. Of course, the book, available from Amazon or your favorite bookstore, needs to be purchased beforehand. You may register by emailing Tracy Stebbins Arnett at [tracy.stebbins@gmail.com](mailto:tracy.stebbins@gmail.com). Please join us as we try to reclaim our role as responsible stewards of GOD'S GREAT BIG BEAUTIFUL EARTH and please spread the word to your fellow parishioners who might like to join in. 



**BOOK STUDY**

EVERY Tuesday in  
**JANUARY, 2026**

Starts at  
**12:00 – 1:00 PM**

The author spells out why Black people and other minorities suffer most from the climate crisis.

**ZOOM**

**CREATION CARE**

For questions and to register: [tracy.stebbins@gmail.com](mailto:tracy.stebbins@gmail.com)







# Breathing deep



## A conversation with St. Andrew's Cathedral organist and choirmaster Jessica Nelson

**J**essica Nelson holds degrees in music and liturgy from Millsaps College (2005) and Seabury-Western Theological Seminary (2009) and the Colleague Certificate from the American Guild of Organists. She has directed the Mississippi Conference on Church Music and Liturgy, served on the board of the Association of Anglican Musicians, and served two triennia on the Episcopal Church's Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music. Prior to her call to St. Andrew's, Jessica was organist/choirmaster at All Saints' Episcopal Church in Tupelo and taught on the faculties of the University of North Alabama and Northeast Mississippi Community College. She is the editor of Church Publishing's 2022 *Ponder Anew: Conversations in 21st Century Church Music*, a collection of essays, interviews, and sermons focussed on the changing landscape of church music. Her published works are available from St. James Music Press, Paraclete Press, and Selah Publishing. She sat down with TME editor Wil Oakes to discuss church music, organs, and the joy of taking part in liturgy.

**TME:** So, for starters, tell me how you found your way to a career as an organist.

**JN:** So, my undergrad degree is in piano performance, and I took organ as a second instrument, just because I thought that if I could learn enough to play hymns, I could substitute places and earn money. I was not good at it. I was not disciplined. I never practiced. But then I wound up going to seminary for a sacred music degree, and was the organ scholar there in the chapel at Seabury, and played maybe 10 to 12 services every week and just really grew to love it a lot. And people think that organ and piano are so similar, but, you know, aside from the keyboard, they're really not. The piano is a percussion instrument and organ is a wind instrument, so you just approach them in completely different ways, but they're a lot of fun to play.

**TME:** Tell me a bit about the organ at St. Andrew's.

**JN:** Our organ is an Aeolian Skinner, and at the time it was built, they were the most important, the best American builder based out of Boston. There aren't very many in Mississippi, I think just maybe one or two



others. This one was originally built in the 60s and replaced an instrument that I think was acquired from a movie theater—we had a theater organ! and then this replaced that in the 60s. In the early 90s, it was revised, which means that a builder came in and did a lot of once a century kind of maintenance, and replaced a lot of the mechanical portions. It got a new console at that point.

**TME:** And the console is the part you actually play?

**JN:** Yeah, the console is just the keyboards. And what you see is just the tip of the iceberg. The organ is all over the building, including under the floor—the pipes you see, the pipes you don't see, like all kinds of wiring and tubes and whatnot. So the console was replaced them, and some digital stops were added at that point as well.

**TME:** So it's partly mechanical and partly electronic?

**JN:** Some organs are totally mechanical. Those are called tracker organs. So when you press a key, it activates a series of levers which goes directly to the pipe. Our organ is electropneumatic, which means that it's based on electrical impulses. So if I press a key or press a button, it's like synapses firing, which eventually get to the pipe and allow it to speak.

**TME:** It's cool to think about the pipes being under the floors and all around the building. Almost like the entire building is the instrument.

**JN:** We don't actually have any pipes under the floor, but the blower is under the floor, and you access it through the sacristy. And when you turn the organ on and you hear the blower come on, it's like the whole building is like sucking up its breath, getting ready to sing.

**TME:** Oh, that's interesting you use that word. It's like it's another member of the choir.

**JN:** Absolutely, because organs mimic the human voice better than any other instrument. If you play a piano, the note starts decaying immediately. If you play guitar, the note starts decaying immediately. And that doesn't mean that they don't have their place, but if you play the organ, the note sustains and supports congregational singing. They're awfully expensive, of course, but they're these feats of engineering and architecture and music, and without them, not only would the church not sound the same, it literally wouldn't look the same.

**TME:** Tell me about what it's like for you personally playing at services.

**JN:** Without being super cheesy about it, accompanying hymns, I think is my most important job here. Helping the congregation sing. Which is good, because it's like my favorite thing in the whole entire world to do. When you've got this room full of people that are all breathing in at the same time, you know, that's pretty incredible.

**TME:** Do you get feedback from the congregation often?

**JN:** Yeah, that's always really lovely to hear. You know, when somebody tells me that something is their favorite hymn or they sang it at some special service, like a funeral or a wedding. I love it when people come and tell me things. Love it. I let kids come play the organ after church—there's nothing they can do to break it that can't be easily fixed!

**TME:** What are some of your very favorite hymns or even just pieces to play?

**JN:** My favorite hymn of all time is “King of glory, king of peace.” I really love Bach. I mean, that's super predictable. I really love promoting new works by living composers, by women and people of color and other underrepresented folks.

**TME:** Can we get some recommendations?

**JN:** For sure! 🎵

**Hear some of Jessica's Christmas music suggestions on either Apple Music or Spotify!**




 **Music**  
[msepiscopalian.com/  
tme-jams-apple](https://msepiscopalian.com/tme-jams-apple)



 **Spotify**  
[msepiscopalian.com/  
tme-jams-spotify](https://msepiscopalian.com/tme-jams-spotify)

# Pathways to accessibility

## Welcoming all God's people in the Diocese of Mississippi



*Michael Maeze Williamson, son of Stacie Williamson, serves as crucifer from his wheelchair with a little help from fellow acolyte Hart Smith at Church of the Holy Trinity, Vicksburg. PVC pipe was added to the back of Michael's wheelchair, allowing him to serve - proudly - at the church where he was recently confirmed.*

In October, I gathered with the clergy of the Episcopal Diocese of Mississippi at our annual Clergy Conference. This year's topic? Pathways to Belonging: Places, Spaces and Accessibility. The goal of the conference was to help us learn how our worshiping communities could be more welcoming to all of God's people. We heard from our LGBTQ siblings. We heard from persons who had mobility challenges, vision loss, and hearing loss. We heard from persons who struggle with mental illness. We heard specifically about ministry with mature persons as memories fade and ability to navigate spaces becomes more challenging.

We heard about the kinds of actions we could take to make our campuses more welcoming. We were reminded that a communicant who felt called to read lessons on Sunday mornings could do so from a pew if navigating steps to a lectern was no longer possible. We were reminded that communicants who wished to serve as ushers or chalice bearers could do so without navigating steps. We were reminded that deescalation training might be in order for all of our worshiping communities, so that we could respond with love when one suffering from mental illness might have become triggered.

And, armed with tools to help us faithfully evaluate our spaces, we will continue to study ways in which we can faithfully adapt our historical spaces that are currently inaccessible to persons experiencing mobility challenges.



We commended a book, *My Body is Not a Prayer Request: Disability Justice in the Church* (Amy Kenny), to remind us that churches must always be spaces in which worshippers—in the bodies God has given us—are able to fully utilize our gifts to the glory of God.

How do we begin to live into all of this?

The parish family at Church of the Holy Trinity, Vicksburg, shared some photos of a young man I recently confirmed there. Yes, he's wheelchair-reliant. And, yes, you see him photographed here, serving as a crucifer (with a bit of help from an acolyte-friend!)

Michael Maeze Williamson wanted to serve as a crucifer. His friends at Holy Trinity realized that by attaching PVC pipe to the back of his wheelchair to accommodate that cross, he would be able to serve. And he's done so, proud of the fact that he could join with other young persons who serve there and take his part in worship. Senior Warden Bobbie Marascalco commented that she'd never seen Michael sitting up so tall in his wheelchair, and beaming so brightly.

I'll admit that I couldn't have been happier for him—and for the Holy Trinity parish family—to see these photos of him living out ministry there, and showing us all that God doesn't place limitations on the ways that we can serve. The gift Michael has given us all is a glimpse of the Kingdom, where all of God's people are indeed valued and loved.

We enter the season of Advent hearing the words of John the Baptist, reminding us that the Kingdom of heaven has come near. As we watch with expectant hearts for the One who is to come, we know our waiting is not a passive waiting, but an ever-watchful, ever-vigilant, ever-purposeful waiting. The “wait” for the ancient people called Israel for the coming of Messiah—over hundreds of years—had been full of warfare and exile, of grief and loss, of conflict and strife, of longing, of wondering for how long and for whom they waited, of needing to renew their faith, and living out that faith over so many generations. Mary's nine-month “wait” was full—changes in her body as a child grew inside her; fear about how her own family and her fiancé's family would receive her; visiting her kinswoman, Elizabeth and having this call upon her life affirmed; an arduous journey to Bethlehem. Who was this child for whom she

was waiting? How would her own life change?

As we wait, filled with our own hope and expectation for the One who is to come, we might well recall the waiting of our forebears in the faith, and remind ourselves of the steps we take—embodied just as we are—in walking in true solidarity with our neighbors who need a dose of our hope that bring the Kingdom ever closer.

And we might recall these pictures of Michael—and know that the Kingdom draws just a bit closer with each step in love that we take. 🙏





*Top: Christopher Creech and Don Corban;  
Bottom: Debbie Hux, Mother Brenda McCleendon  
and Sandi Kegerreis*

# On the verge

## Two new vergers, fellows enter the ministry of the Vergers Guild

course typically spans approximately nine months. Upon completion, they were honored with a certificate from the FVGE (Fellow of the Vergers Guild), and their Verge or Virge received a distinctive top to their Verg, that is exclusively granted to Fellows of the Guild. Additionally, they gained the opportunity to apply for Associate membership in the Church of England's Guild of Vergers (CEGV).

This was a truly remarkable day for not only these two exceptional individuals but also for the Guild, the Parish of Saint Elizabeth's, and our cherished Diocese of Mississippi.

Congratulations, Debbi and Sandi!

If you're interested in becoming a Verger or Fellow of the Guild, or have questions about the Verger's Ministry, please contact me, your Diocese Representative to the VGE, at [chris.creech@iona.ssw.edu](mailto:chris.creech@iona.ssw.edu), or Margaret McLarty of St. Andrews. Clergy members are also welcome to reach out, as I understand there are many who have never had the opportunity to work with Vergers and are unsure how they can contribute to their parish. Margaret and I are here to answer any questions you may have. The most common confusion is why Vergers lead and what the stick signifies. Many people also wonder if anything goes in front of the Cross during the Procession. I'll clarify that right away: the Verger NEVER leads; the Cross is always the leader. The Verger's role is to "escort the from the front", clearing the path and guiding and protecting it and the procession to its destination. 🙏

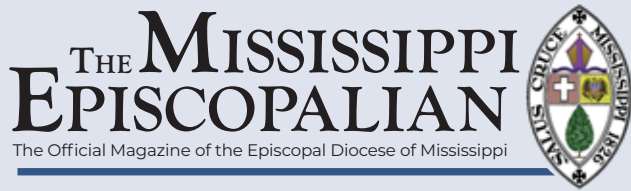
by Christopher Creech

On Christ the King Sunday, November 23rd, 2025, I had the honor of commissioning two new Vergers and two new "Fellows" to the ministry of the Vergers Guild of the Episcopal Church (VGE) and the Diocese of Mississippi Verger's Guild. The two new Vergers are Debbie Hux and Sandi Kegerreis, both from Saint Elizabeth's Episcopal Church in Collins, MS.

These two remarkable ladies not only received on-the-job training but also demonstrated their unwavering dedication to the Church and the Ministry of the Verger by enrolling in the additional and non-mandatory Fellow's course. This course proved to be an invaluable complement to their on-the-job training, providing them with comprehensive knowledge about the verger ministry. Throughout the course, they delved into various aspects, including the history and significance of their building and congregation, the intricacies of liturgy, the Book of Common Prayer (BCP), the different types of vestments worn by clergy, laypeople, and vergers, the roles of virgins and beadles, and the historical and ministerial aspects of the verger's role. The training



## Advertise with



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Next year, we're rolling out new ways to advertise in our pages (both print and digital).

If you'd like to talk about how to tap into our audience of engaged Episcopalians, send us an email at [msepiscopalian@dioms.org](mailto:msepiscopalian@dioms.org).

# Winter Solstice

AT CAMP BRATTON-GREEN



## CAMPERS

9-12TH GRADE  
DEC 27-JAN 1

## STAFF

ADULTS 21+  
DEC 26-JAN 1

APPLY TODAY:

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## 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



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# THE MISSISSIPPI EPISCOPALIAN

The Official Magazine of the Episcopal Diocese of Mississippi



## Faithful Departed

Please submit Faithful Departed notices to your church for submission.

### The Official Magazine of the Episcopal Diocese of Mississippi

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

Wil Oakes, Oakes Creative Agency, Editor & Art Director

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

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monthly by the Episcopal Diocese of Mississippi, 118 N.  
Congress Street, Jackson, MS 39201.

#### The Right Rev. Joseph (Joe) Goodwin Burnett,

77, retired bishop of Nebraska, served St. John's, Pascagoula (curate); St. James', Jackson; Creator, Clinton; St. Peter's, Gulfport; Trinity, Hattiesburg, as professor of homiletics at the School of Theology at Sewanee; and the 10th Bishop of Nebraska (2003-2011). Following his resignation as bishop diocesan, he served as Assistant Bishop of Maryland (2011-2013); then in parish ministry at St. Columba's, Washington, DC; St. Paul's, Meridian; All Saints', Tupelo; and Emmanuel, Rapid City, SD. Bp. Joe Burnett, father of the Rev. Jody Burnett, died on November 14, 2025 in Atlanta.

**Martha "Rooney" Maharrey**, 89, communicant of All Saints', Tupelo, died November 15, 2025.

#### The Rev. Michael Emerson "Corky" Carlisle, 78,

having served St. Mary's, Enterprise; St. Paul's, Meridian (Curate); Trinity, Newton; and churches in Alabama, Kentucky, Georgia, and Texas; as Director of Rondo Retreat Center, and as Principal of St. Philip's Theological College, died November 26, 2025.

## Deployment Report

### Churches seeking full or part-time clergy

Redeemer, Biloxi

Redeemer, Brookhaven

Calvary, Cleveland

Ascension, Hattiesburg

Trinity, Natchez

St. Paul's, Meridian

Resurrection, Starkville

Holy Trinity, Vicksburg

Church of the Nativity, Water Valley

### 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

Calvary, Michigan City

Church of the Good Shepherd, Terry

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](mailto:gmeade@dioms.org); 601-948-5954 x114.

### Available Chaplaincies

Canterbury: Mississippi State University

Oxford: Ole Miss



# Diocesan Calendar

## December

- 20** Church Hill Commemorative Service, Christ Church, Church Hill, 11:00am-12:00pm
- 21** Bishop Wells visits Trinity, Yazoo City
- 24-26** Allin House closed for Christmas
- 27-1** Winter Solstice, Camp Bratton Green

## January

- 1** Beloved Community Monthly Gathering, 12:00 noon
- 1** Allin House closed for New Year's Day
- 6** Small Churches Collaborative, Zoom, 2:00pm
- 9-10** A. C. Marble School, Online
- 11** Bishop Wells visits St. Mary's, Bolton
- 11** Bishop Wells visits St. Alban's, Bovina
- 14** 10th Annual Mississippi Legislative Prayer Breakfast, First Baptist Church, Jackson, 7:30am
- 15** The Mississippi Episcopalian February Deadline
- 18** Bishop Wells visits Redeemer, Greenville
- 19** Allin House closed for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- 25** Bishop Wells visits St. Paul's, Columbus
- 25** Bishop Wells visits Mississippi State, Starkville
- 30-31** 199th Annual Council, St. Andrew's Episcopal School, Ridgeland
- 31** Standing Committee (Saturday At Council)

**Submission deadlines—next six months**  
(always available at  
[msepiscopalian.com/submissions](https://msepiscopalian.com/submissions))

### February 2026 issue

January 15, 2026

### March 2026 issue

February 16, 2026

### April 2026 issue

March 16, 2026

### May 2026 issue

April 15, 2026

### June 2026 issue

May 15, 2026

### July 2026 issue

June 15, 2026

## 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](mailto:msepiscopalian@dioms.org).**

## February

- 3** Small Churches Collaborative, Zoom, 2:00pm
- 5** Beloved Community Monthly Gathering, 12:00 noon
- 8** Bishop Wells visits Christ Church, Vicksburg, 8:00am & 10:00am services
- 13-14** A. C. Marble School, Solomon Center
- 14-26** Honduras Medical Mission
- 15** Bishop Wells visits Nativity, Greenwood
- 16** The Mississippi Episcopalian March Deadline
- 18** Ash Wednesday
- 18** Bishop Wells visits Holy Trinity, Crystal Springs
- 18** Bishop Wells visits St. Mark's, Raymond
- 20-22** Staff Training for Happening #100, St. Andrew's Cathedral, Jackson
- 22** St. Stephen's, Indianola
- 27-1** Young Adult Retreat, Camp Bratton-Green

## March

- 1** Annual Parochial Report Due
- 1** Credentials of Delegates/Alternates to Annual Council Due
- 1** Diocesan Undergraduate Scholarship Applications Due
- 1** Bishop Wells visits St. Pierre's, Gautier
- 3** Small Churches Collaborative, Zoom, 2:00pm
- 5** Beloved Community Monthly Gathering, 12:00 noon
- 5** Finance Committee, Allin House, 11:30am – 2:30pm
- 6-8** Happening #100, St. Andrew's Cathedral, Jackson
- 8** Bishop Wells visits St. Peter's, Brandon, 8:00am and 10:30am
- 12** Executive Committee & Cathedral Chapter, St. Andrew's Cathedral, Jackson, 10:30am – 3:30pm
- 13-14** Ministry Exploration Gathering (MEG), Gray Center
- 15** Bishop Wells visits St. Patrick's, Long Beach
- 16** The Mississippi Episcopalian April Deadline
- 17-24** Spring House of Bishops, Camp Allen, Navasota, TX
- 20-21** A. C. Marble School, Solomon Center
- 26** Trustees, Allin House, 1:00 – 4:00pm
- 27-29** Jr. High DOY, Gray Center
- 27-28** Commission on Ministry (COM)
- 28** Standing Committee, 9:30am – 3:30pm
- 29** Bishop Wells visits St. Mary's, Lexington
- 29** Palm Sunday



The Episcopal Diocese of Mississippi

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Sandi Keggerreis, Don Corban, Debbie Hux and Christopher Creech celebrate the commissioning of Keggerreis and Hux as vergers during coffee hour at St. Elizabeth's, Collins on November 23rd. Read more about these new vergers on page 11.