

THE MISSISSIPPI EPISCOPALIAN

The Official Magazine of the Episcopal Diocese of Mississippi



Volume 151
Issue No. 4
April

2026

An end, a beginning



The deconsecration of the chapel at
Gray Center marks a transition from
one ministry to the next

DAUGHTERS OF THE KING
(DOK) INVITATION TO AN
INFORMATIONAL TEA



An informational tea for DOK for those women interested in becoming a daughter or for those just curious about DOK will be April 18, at 4:00 in the afternoon. Hosted by Sophia Order of Daughters Of the King, St. Thomas Diamondhead

For more information, please call or text Kathryn Larsen and leave a message.

By His Grace,
Kathryn Larsen
228-223-6242

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Bishop's Journal

March 2026

1 Visitation, St. Pierre's, Gautier



Preached, confirmed 5, received 1, reaffirmed 2 Sunday's visitation at St. Pierre's Church, Gautier was joyful and spirit-filled! Welcome to the newly confirmed, received and reaffirming! So very grateful for beautiful worship and such gracious hospitality! And definitely looking forward to working with this delightful parish family as they discern God's plans for their future!

Meeting with Vestry, St. John's Church, Pascagoula

2 Chapel, Coast Episcopal School



In addition to Sunday's visitation at St. Pierre's, the past few days have been filled with meetings, fellowship and a school visit here on the Coast. (I did manage to take a couple of fabulous LONG sunset beach walks!) Grateful to our Coast churches and Coast Episcopal School for always extending such warm hospitality!!

Meeting with Coast Episcopal School

Lunch with Clergy person

3 Province IV Bishops Call

Travel to Jackson

Meetings with Staff Members

Financial Review with Forvis Mazars

4 Meeting with Trustees of All Saints School

5 Finance Committee Meeting

6 Meet with Diocese of Louisiana pilgrimage group

Happening #100 – Spiritual Director

7 Happening #100 – Spiritual Director

8 Visitation, St. Peter's by the Lake, Brandon



Preached 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m., confirmed 6 and received 2.

This morning's visitation was at St. Peter's by-the-Lake, where during beautiful worship we welcomed the newly confirmed and received, and enjoyed a lovely time of fellowship after. Happening #100 – preached Closing Eucharist



continued on next page →

What a wonderful weekend! Friday evening, I had the privilege of spending time with Bishop Shannon Rogers Duckworth and folks from The Episcopal Diocese of Louisiana on pilgrimage in Mississippi, to help set some historical context. Then it was off to Happening #100 at St. Andrew's Episcopal Cathedral - to share much of the weekend with an amazing group of Happeners and staff as these young people grew in their relationship with God and each other.

- 9** Bishop's sabbath
Spiritual Direction
- 10** Staff Meeting
Meetings with Staff Members
Meetings with Clergy
- 11** Becoming Beloved Community
Steering Committee
Forward Movement – Webinar Speaker
- 12** Executive Committee Meeting
- 13** Travel to Coast
- 14** St. Pierre's, Gautier vestry Retreat
- 15** Visitation, St. Patrick's, Long Beach



Preached, confirmed 5 and reaffirmed 2. Another full and wonderful weekend! On Saturday, we had a Spirit-filled Vestry retreat with Saint Pierre's Episcopal Church, Gautier! Sunday's visitation was the patronal feast day at St. Patrick's Episcopal Church, Long Beach - with beautiful worship and lovely fellowship (Thank you to the Rev. Jane Bearden for the delicious Shepherd's Pie!). Welcome to the confirmands and those reaffirming their faith! Then it was off to a vestry meeting at St

John's Episcopal Church, Pascagoula - and a meeting of the vestry and search committee at Episcopal Church of the Redeemer, Biloxi. Grateful for fruitful time with these worshipping communities! (We have churches in clergy transition here on the Mississippi Gulf Coast! I'd love to tell you all about them!)

Meeting with Vestry

- 16** Travel to Jackson; bishop's sabbath
- 17-24** Spring House of Bishops, Camp Allen, Texas



Enjoying a great week with colleagues, at the Spring House of Bishops meeting—and grateful for the hospitality of the Diocese of Texas and Camp Allen!

- 25** Secularization of Gray Conference Center Chapel
- 26** Trustees Meeting
- 27** Meeting of Commission on Ministry
Call with Church Warden
Meeting with Clergy person
- 29** Travel to Lexington
Palm Sunday visitation with St. Mary's Church, Lexington! Always wonderful to visit with this worshipping community!
Preached.
- 30** Bishop's sabbath; spiritual direction
- 31** Staff Meeting
Meetings with Staff Members
Standing Committee meeting

Following another successful year of service, new leadership for the Honduras Medical Mission

The Honduras Medical Mission has been serving the village of San Joaquín for over 40 years, and during each week there it provides a full medical clinic, dental clinic, eye care, pharmacy, veterinary clinic, and more. The mission also supports the community year-round through the medical clinic, Kinder Mississippi, and helping with town projects for betterment of the village.

Lisa and Brett Ferman have served on this mission for the past 3 and 4 years, and are the new team leaders, relieving Scott and Kathy Knight of their duties.

Church of the Mediator-Redeemer in McComb is the host church for the 2027-2028 mission, and is now working to raise support.

Donations can be mailed to PO Box 1001, McComb, MS 39649.



Lisa and Brett Ferman with local San Joaquín resident Allison

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

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A small but passionate group gathered for the deconsecration on March 25th, led by Bishop Wells



BISHOP'S CORNER

with The Rt. Rev. Dr.
Dorothy Sanders Wells

The deconsecration of the Gray Center Chapel marks an end and a new beginning

October 12, 1991, marked the beginning of a new era in Mississippi ministry, when the Duncan M. Gray Conference Center was dedicated in Canton. Mississippians from throughout the Diocese gathered for the celebration of the new conference center—situated on the North Side of Way Road, across from our iconic Camp Bratton-Green. Over the course of the next 30 years, the Conference Center hosted many a Cursillo, vestry retreat, clergy conference, and gathering of Episcopalians. Weddings and baptisms were celebrated at the Chapel. The Conference Center has been beloved among us.

In time, the Conference Center began to show its wear—and revenues could not keep pace with expenses. The Conference Center closed—and as stewards of a property that had served us well, we committed ourselves to shepherding a property that seemed ready for new life into the hands of its next steward. I prayed that God would reveal that next steward to us; I also prayed that the next steward would be a ministry that would be complementary to our diocese's ministry.

God's revelation came in a phone call from Martie Kwasny, Executive Director of Quiet Waters, who



called to introduce her ministry to me and to inquire about the property. Quiet Waters is a Christian ministry dedicated to serving all who are suffering with disease, disability, and disorder. Martie explained that the ministry was traveling a pretty far distance to have a space to serve, and the team wanted to be at home in Mississippi. The Conference Center seemed a perfect location.

Over the course of the next few weeks, we learned that God's plan for ministry at that holy place on the North Side of Way Road does indeed continue. The Episcopal Diocese of Mississippi entered into agreement with Quiet Waters for the purchase of the Conference Center. Quiet Waters' ministry will be a welcome neighbor for Camp Bratton-Green. With its vision "for the world to see Jesus," Quiet Waters "offers gospel-driven retreats, respite, and restoration to all who are suffering." Its ministry clearly complements the work already being

done in the Diocese to help make all of God's people visible and included. With an accessible ropes course and other camp improvements designed to help make the Camp Bratton-Green experience more accessible to all persons, our prayer is that our two ministries will find ways to share in service.


The Rt. Rev. Duncan M. Gray III, along with a number of Episcopalians from throughout the diocese, were on hand for the deconsecration. Additionally, several of Quiet Waters' Board members were present. We not only gave thanks for the years that the Episcopal Diocese of Mississippi enjoyed the gift of the Conference Center, but we also prayed for the ministry ahead:

O God, our creator and preserver, we humbly pray for all of your people made in your image and likeness, as we all stand in need of your grace and favor. On this day, we commend to your never-failing love the ministry of Quiet Waters. We ask your blessing upon those who serve this

Top: Attendees share memories from their times at the conference center prior to the deconsecration. Bottom: After the service, Bishop Wells invited the congregation to share stories.





ministry: May they be given the grace of your wisdom and discernment, and your enduring strength, and may your love abundantly pour from them as they serve your people. We ask your blessing on those who are served by this ministry: May they know the comfort of your healing presence and the joy of your saving help. Continue to breathe the breath of your possibility into that which seems impossible. Draw us all ever closer to you and to one another; help us grow in cooperation and collaboration to serve you in unity, concord and peace; help us always to seek your healing, justice and righteousness. All this we beg for Jesus Christ's sake. Amen. 



Following the service, attendees gathered outside to greet one another and reminisce about the 30+ years they enjoyed the conference center.

To see a brief video of the day, visit msepiscopalian.com/deconsecration.



School's in for Easter

Photos from Bishop Wells's visits to St. Andrew's School for chapel

by Emily Gordon, St. Andrew's Episcopal School

St. Andrew's Episcopal School thanks The Right Reverend Dr. Dorothy Sanders Wells for leading Easter chapel services on both of the school's campuses. Weekly chapels in all divisions give the school's community the time and space to worship together, with students and faculty participating as readers, acolytes, musicians,

and chalice bearers. Following the Lower School Service, Bishop Wells and the Very Rev. Anne Maxwell toured the new Lower School buildings with St. Andrew's Head of School Kevin Lewis and Head Chaplain, the Rev. Hailey Allin (not pictured). The new buildings will open in the Fall of 2026.

To learn more, visit gosaints.org/makingtheway.



It's all Happening!



Bishop Wells reflects on her Happening experiences

by the Rt. Rev. Dr. Dorothy Sanders Wells

From my first peek at Happening—as a “backstage” mom of a Happener—I knew there was something incredibly holy and special about this teen retreat weekend called “Happening.” What is Happening, you ask? By teens and for teens, with a little support from adults, the weekend is—for lack of a better way of putting it—an intense time of experiencing the love of Christ and the love of community. Teens are invited to become part of a nurturing community and to share with one another, to grow together, and to learn how very much they are loved by God. That’s the big message for the weekend: We are all God’s beloved, in all of our sorts and conditions, in the magnificent and marvelous ways that

we are made in the image and likeness of the Creator. Our prayer is that any teens who arrive at Happening and are questioning whether they are truly loved by God will leave knowing the answer: Yes, without a doubt and immeasurably.

It was my privilege to serve as Spiritual Director for Happening #100 at St. Andrew’s Cathedral in March 2026 and to be surrounded by teens for that holy weekend. It was my first time serving in that role here in the Episcopal Diocese of Mississippi, after having served a number of times as a Spiritual Director in West Tennessee—and I certainly hope it won’t be my last. I grow myself from the experience of being with our teens.


From the first note we sing together, to the amazing

prayers that young people share with us all, our time together is Spirit-filled. I sat in awe of the depth of prayers and witness, and the vastness of their imaginations. (Did I mention that teenagers can EAT?!?!?! We're all so, so grateful to everyone who brought meals for our time together and made certain that we all ate heartily and well!)

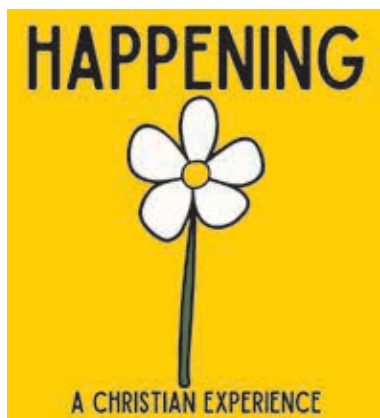
We sing at Happening. We pray at Happening. We experience some stillness and quiet at Happening. We make lots of holy noise at Happening. We listen to teens vulnerably share stories of their young faith journeys. We pray at our holy healing service for the things that have troubled us and perhaps strained our relationships with God and neighbor.

We eat...and eat...and eat. We're nourished in Word, Sacrament and of course, food.

If your teen hasn't yet experienced Happening, I can't encourage enough to make the time on the jam-packed calendar for your teen to experience it. Your teen will thank you; that's pretty much guaranteed. And, if your teens are anything like my two, they will experience Happening and then yearn for more. My daughters applied and staffed every Happening from the time they went through as sophomores until high school graduation. They dearly loved those weekends of spiritual highs with friends.

It's good for us all to know that our young people are being grounded in faith. Happening does that—and affords us grown-ups a great opportunity to support them. 

Look ahead to next month's issue, when TME will celebrate the milestone of 100 Happenings in Mississippi.



GRAY CENTER-CAMP BRATTON GREEN & THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION PRESENT THE







5.23.26

We are in need of Silent Auction items!

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Availability is limited*



*For more information, contact
The Reverend Canon David H. Johnson
E-mail: canonjohnson@gmail.com*



A new thing

Archbishop Sarah Mullally poses for selfies with people in the crowd following her installation service.

Sarah Mullally installed as 106th Archbishop of Canterbury

by David Paulsen,
courtesy of *Episcopal News Service* (full
version at msepiscopalian.com/mullally)

Archbishop of Canterbury Sarah Mullally was installed March 25 at a service at Canterbury Cathedral that was attended by leaders from across the Anglican Communion, including Presiding Bishop Sean Rowe and several other representatives from The Episcopal Church.

The ceremonial installation marks the start of Mullally's public ministry. As the 106th archbishop of Canterbury and the first woman to hold that office, she acknowledged that history and her unlikely path to this moment in her sermon.

"I make this journey both on a personal level ... but more significantly I make this journey with others and in the footsteps of the past," she said, mentioning Thomas Becket, who served as archbishop of Canterbury 850 years ago. "Today, I think of the many thousand unknown Christians who have trodden these same paths since, and not just on this ancient land, but all across the world. People walk the pilgrim paths of faith each and every day."

Mullally, 63, was ordained to the priesthood in 2001 after a career as a nurse treating cancer patients and had served as the bishop of London since 2018. As archbishop of Canterbury, she now leads the Church of England and serves as a "focus of unity" for all 42 autonomous, interdependent provinces of the Anglican

Communion, including The Episcopal Church, which have historical roots in England.

She was named the church's next archbishop of Canterbury in October, and she took office January 28 after her election was confirmed. Her installation service, also known as an enthronement, at the 1,400-year-old Canterbury Cathedral was livestreamed on the Church of England's YouTube channel.

"This is a truly global gathering," Canterbury Cathedral Dean David Monteith said in welcoming remarks at the start of the service that acknowledged the geographic breadth of those in attendance. "We meet in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, in whose service we are united."

After a ceremonial reading of the mandate for Mullally's installation, those inside the cathedral stood as, outside, the new archbishop gave the customary three knocks with her pastoral staff on the cathedral door, which opened for her entrance.

"I am Sarah, a servant of Jesus Christ, and I come as one seeking the grace of God, to travel with you in his service together," Mullally said, in the words appointed for the liturgy. "I am sent as archbishop to serve you, to proclaim the love of Christ and with you to worship and love him with heart and soul, mind and strength."

After processing to the nave altar, Mullally kneeled, and Monteith said: "Let us join Sarah, our archbishop, in prayer for God's blessing on her ministry in this diocese, in the Province of Canterbury and throughout the world-wide Anglican Communion."

Archbishop of York Stephen Cottrell and Monteith then led Mullally through the Declaration of Assent and the Oaths, which she spoke after placing her hand on a Bible.

After she was formally installed, Mullally said: "I solemnly commit myself before you to the service of the Church of England, the Anglican Communion and the whole Church of Christ throughout the world, that together we may proclaim the Gospel of Christ who reconciles us to God and breaks down the walls that divide us."

On the dean's cue, all stood in applause.

Twenty-six Anglican primates — archbishops and presiding bishops who lead the Anglican Communion's provinces — were reported in attendance at Mullally's

installation, including the Most Rev. Alba Sally Sue Hernández García, who was just elected primate of the Anglican Church of Mexico on March 21. Speaking in Spanish, she read the Gospel reading for Mullally's installation, Luke 1:26-38.


Mullally preached about the Gospel story of Mary's acceptance of God's call, saying it was an inspiration for her and for all Christians.

"As I look back over my life, at the teenage Sarah who put her faith in God and made a commitment to follow Jesus, I could never have imagined the future that lay ahead, and certainly not the ministry to which I am now called," Mullally said. "Mary followed in the footsteps of the faithful. Her story resonates with the beautiful stories of women, like Hannah, in the Scriptures. Mary put her hope in God's future. She trusted that he was with her, and through Mary, God did a new thing."

Other Anglican leaders have heralded the choice of Mullally as the Church of England's new leader, with hopes that she can guide the Anglican Communion through this time of rising tensions.

"I think she is an extraordinary leader," Rowe said in an interview with Episcopal News Service in Canterbury before the installation. "She brings with her so many charisms of the spirit and experience in the world. I think she's going to give us a new perspective on the communion and being together. I think she's going to provide leadership that's entirely different than what we've seen to this point, and I, for one, am excited to be working with her."

Before her installation, Mullally chose to travel to Canterbury by foot, leaving London on March 17 on a six-day walking pilgrimage across about 140 kilometers (or about 87 miles), accompanied by her husband, Eamonn, and others. They followed the Becket Camino route, from St. Paul's Cathedral to Canterbury Cathedral.

"As a church, we are a pilgrim people, and like Mary, we are called to trust that nothing will be impossible with God, even when we see so much in the world that makes hope seem impossible," Mullally said in her sermon. "But there is hope, because we make this journey with God. 

To read the full text of the archbishop's sermon, visit msepiscopalian.com/archbishop.

Deployment Report

Faithful Departed

Please submit Faithful Departed notices to your church for submission.

Churches seeking full or part-time clergy

Redeemer, Biloxi
Redeemer, Brookhaven
Calvary, Cleveland
St. Thomas, Diamondhead
St. Pierre's, Gautier
All Saints, Grenada (after 4/5/26)
Ascension, Hattiesburg
St. Paul's, Meridian
Trinity, Natchez
Resurrection, Starkville
Holy Trinity, Vicksburg
Church of the Nativity, Water Valley

Richard Edward Thomas, 68, communicant of St. Paul's, Columbus, died on December 17, 2025.

Edwin Clanton Mauck, 75, communicant of St. Paul's, Columbus, died January 6, 2026.

Ruth Taylor Berry, 72, communicant of St. Paul's, Columbus, died February 10, 2026.

Bobby Lane Harper, 84, communicant of St. Paul's, Columbus, died March 8, 2026.

Ragland Watkins, 77, communicant of Mediator/Redeemer, McComb/Magnolia, died March 21, 2026.

Churches seeking supply clergy

St. Stephen's, Batesville
Good Shepherd, Columbus
Holy Trinity, Crystal Springs
Christ Church, Holly Springs
All Saints, Inverness
All Saints, Jackson
St. Christopher's, Jackson
St. Mark's, Jackson
St. Matthew's, Kosciusko
Calvary, Michigan City
St. James, Port Gibson
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; 601-948-5954 x114.

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

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

The Mississippi Episcopalian (USPS 024755) is published
monthly by the Episcopal Diocese of Mississippi, 118 N.
Congress Street, Jackson, MS 39201.

Diocesan Calendar

April

- 21 Bishop Wells visits Hattiesburg - USM Canterbury
- 24-26 Sr. High DOY, Gray Center
- 25 Spiritual Renewal Retreat, St. James', Jackson
- 26 Bishop Wells visits St. Stephen's, Batesville
- 26 Bishop Wells visits St. Timothy's, Southaven
- 30 Trustees Meeting, Allin House, 1:00-4:00pm

May

- 1-3 Cursillo #140, Gray Center
 - 1 Diocesan Undergraduate Scholarship Applications Due
 - 3 Bishop Wells visits St. James', Jackson
 - 5 Small Churches Collaborative, Zoom, 2:00-3:00pm
 - 7 Beloved Community Monthly Gathering, 12:00 noon
 - 8 Sewanee Commencement
 - 10 Bishop Wells visits St. Andrew's Cathedral, Jackson
 - 14 Ascension Day
 - 14 Bishop Wells visits Ascension, Hattiesburg
- 15-16 A. C. Marble School, Solomon Center
 - 15 *The Mississippi Episcopalian* June Deadline
 - 16 Diocesan Altar Guild Meeting, Chapel of the Cross, Rolling Fork
- 20 Seminary of the Southwest 75th Commencement
- 23 Culpepper Cookout, Camp Bratton-Green
- 25 Allin House closed for Memorial Day
- 28 Standing Committee Meeting, Allin House, 1:30 - 5:00pm
- 31 Bishop Wells visits Chapel of the Cross, Madison

June

- 1-5 Living Our Vows Residency, Roslyn Conference Center, Richmond, VA
 - 1 Completion of your Annual Audit
 - 2 Small Churches Collaborative, Zoom, 2:00-3:00pm
 - 4 Beloved Community Monthly Gathering, 12:00 noon
 - 7 Bishop Wells visits Incarnation, West Point
 - 11 Finance Committee Meeting, Allin House, 11:30am-2:30pm
 - 15 *The Mississippi Episcopalian* July Deadline
 - 18 Executive Committee Meeting, St. Andrew's Cathedral, Jackson, 11:30am-3:30pm
 - 19 Allin House closed for Juneteenth
 - 20 Ordination of Deacons (Voc & Trans), St. Andrew's Cathedral, Jackson, 10:30am
 - 21 62nd Commemoration Service for slain civil rights workers, Philadelphia
 - 21 Bishop Wells visits St. Christopher's, Jackson
 - 28 Bishop Wells visits Good Shepherd, Columbus

July

- 2 Beloved Community Monthly Gathering, 12:00 noon
- 4 Allin House closed for Independence Day
- 7 Small Churches Collaborative, Zoom, 2:00pm
- 9 Trustees Meeting, Allin House, 1:00-4:00pm
- 15 *The Mississippi Episcopalian* August Deadline

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

May 2026 issue

April 15, 2026

June 2026 issue

May 15, 2026

July 2026 issue

June 15, 2026

August 2026 issue

July 15, 2026

September 2026 issue

August 17, 2026

October 2026 issue

September 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.**



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Jackson, Mississippi 39225-3107

The Mississippi Episcopalian is published at msepiscopalian.org monthly, and in print annually in February of each year. For more information, visit the website or email the editor at msepiscopalian@dioms.org.

Bishop Wells gives communion to student Sydney Shafer during Easter chapel at St. Andrew's School in Jackson. To see a few more photos from her visit, see page 8.

