



Epistle

Growing in Relationships
Growing in Service
Growing in Christ

July 2015

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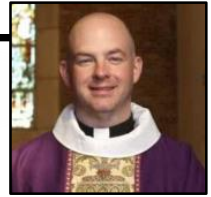
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From the Rector's Desk



The times, they are a-changin' here at St. Paul's! Quite literally in many ways. As you may have noticed, both our 8:00 am and 10:00 am services have been very well-attended this last year. The sounds of many little children fill the church, and that's a wonderful sound of growth. One of the challenges this growth brings is making sure we're able to provide quality Christian formation on Sunday mornings, not only for our young ones, but for adults, too. In fact, St. Paul's guiding principles say that, "We provide a framework for people in faith and help them develop for ministry." They also say, "We believe in and value Christian education in the Episcopal tradition," which doesn't apply only to St. Paul's School, but to our life together as a church. The times we find ourselves in challenge us to live into these principles with a heightened intentionality. The times challenge us even further to live into the spirit of Jesus' Great Commission from which our guiding principles flow: "Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit."

To make disciples we need consistent Christian education and empowerment for ministry. This is why we have made a decision to change our service times beginning on "Rally Sunday," Aug. 16. The 8:00 am service will move up to 7:45 am; the 10:00am service will push back to 10:15 am. These small, 15 minute moves will open up a greater space in between the services allowing us to provide better Christian formation and education for adults and children. We recognize that this is far more than a simple change in service times and Sunday school offerings. It's a change in the culture of our church, at least in recent corporate memory. You aren't used to having or participating in Sunday School opportunities outside of the hour of Sunday morning Church. My hope, our staff and Vestry's hope, is that you will take this opportunity to try something different, and to live more deeply into your faith. The growth we are seeing is a challenge to all of us live more deeply into our mission of "Growing in relationships, growing in service, growing in Christ."

Keep watching the Sunday service bulletin, the weekly "E-pistle" email blast, Facebook, our website (which is undergoing a summer makeover), and listening for weekly announcements updating you about the changes that are coming, and the Christian formation opportunities we are preparing for you this Fall. And be ready to set your clocks 15 minutes earlier. I know you can do it!

May the Holy Spirit empower us all as we live more deeply into God's mission for us.

God's blessings,

rob+



Diocesan News and Events

From the Diocese's General Convention Deputation

The Deputies and Alternates elected at the Diocesan Convention in 2014 have been preparing for General Convention, to be held June 23-July 3 in Salt Lake City, Utah. A number of important issues will be before the Convention, including the election of a new Presiding Bishop, the potential restructure of the Episcopal Church, proposed liturgical changes, a new budget for the Episcopal Church and many other issues.

The Deputies will be providing information throughout the Convention, which you can follow at www.edola.org. You can learn more about the resolutions that have been submitted to General Convention and other information at www.generalconvention.org/ and episcopaldigitalnetwork.com/gc/.

We also attended Province IV Synod June 3-5 at the Kanuga Conference Center in North Carolina to learn more about the issues we will be addressing at General Convention.

Your Bishop, Deputies and Alternates attending Provincial Synod and General Convention are:

- The Rt. Rev'd Morris K. Thompson, Jr.
- The Rev'd Sharon Alexander (Chair), Trinity, Baton Rouge
- The Rev'd Fred Devall, St. Martin's, Metairie
- The Very Rev'd AJ Heine, St. Augustine's, Metairie
- The Rev'd Anne Maxwell, Christ Church, Covington
- The Rev'd Roman Roldan, Grace Church, St. Francisville (Alternate)
- The Very Rev'd Ron Clingenpeel, Retired (Alternate)
- Ms. Ann Ball, All Saints, River Ridge
- Mr. Edgar Cage, St. Patrick's, Zachary
- Mr. John Musser, Trinity, New Orleans
- Mr. Ed Starns, St. Luke's, Baton Rouge
- Dr. Caroline Carson, St. Paul's, New Orleans
- (Alternate)

St. Paul's is very proud to have our own Dr. Caroline Carson attending. Fr. Rob is also serving as an alternate this year, though not attending. Amelia Arthur, our director of formation, was elected as a delegate, but also will not be attending. Bishop Gray will attend as a member of the House of Bishops, and as a member of the Presiding Bishop nominating committee. It's an honor to have so many from St. Paul's serve at our national convention.

The delegation will also include Levi Johnson, St. Luke's, New Orleans as a Province IV Youth Deput (with voice and seat at Convention) and The Rev'd Canon Shannon Manning. In addition, representatives from the ECW of the Diocese will be attending the 48th Triennial Meeting of the ECW, which will be occurring at the same time in Salt Lake City.

Your prayers for all preparing for and attending Provincial Synod and General Convention are requested. The following is found on page 818 of the Book of Common Prayer (Prayer 12, For a Church Convention or Meeting):

Almighty and everliving God, source of all wisdom and understanding, be present with those who take counsel in The General Convention of The Episcopal Church for the renewal and mission of your Church. Teach us in all things to seek first your honor and glory. Guide us to perceive what is right, and grant us both the courage to pursue it and the grace to accomplish it; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Scenes from Holy Week and Easter 2015



**Above: St. Paul's
Easter Egg Hunt**



**Left: St. Paul's
congregation
poses for our
annual
photograph.**



**Above and Right:
Palm Sunday**



Above: Easter Vigil

Remember to like us on Facebook, follow us on Twitter, and visit us at www.StPaulsNOLA.org to get up-to-the-minute updates on church events!

St. Paul's Welcomes Bishop Gray

St. Paul's is proud to welcome The Rt. Rev. Duncan M. Gray III to our staff for the next two years as Bishop in Residence. Bishop Gray and his wife, Kathy, enjoyed their first Sunday with us on March 29, 2015, Palm Sunday.

Bishop Gray retired in January, 2015 as the ninth Bishop of Mississippi. He was elected bishop coadjutor (an assistant bishop) of the Diocese of Mississippi in February of 2000 and was consecrated in June of that same year. Gray served under the Rt. Rev. Alfred Clark Marble and became the diocesan bishop in 2003 after Marble's retirement.



Gray is a native of Canton, MS and son and grandson of former Bishops of Mississippi. Gray graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree (magna cum laude) from the University of Mississippi in 1971; received the Master of Divinity from Virginia Theological Seminary in 1975. In the Spring of 2001, during separate ceremonies, Gray received honorary Doctor of Divinity degrees from both the University of the South and Virginia Theological Seminary. Gray was ordained to the diaconate in 1975 and to the priesthood in 1976. Gray was rector of St. Peter's, Oxford, from 1985 until the time of his consecration. Prior to this post, he was associate rector at Church of the Holy Communion, Memphis (1982-85); chaplain/assistant headmaster at Trinity Episcopal School, New Orleans (1978-82); curate at St. James', Greenville, Mississippi (1975-78); and legislative aide to U. S. Senator Mark Hatfield (R-Ore.) (1973-74). Gray was a seminarian-in-training at Trinity, Hattiesburg, and did field education and work as youth director at Church of the Ascension, Silver Spring, Maryland.



Gray's work on the diocesan, provincial and national levels has been varied. Gray has served as three-time deputy and chair of the diocesan deputation to the triennial General Convention for The Episcopal Church before his election as bishop; served on the National Task Force for the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation; was a member of the Joint Committee for the Nomination of the Presiding Bishop and a founding director of the Gathering of Leaders; and served as a member of the Board of Directors of the College for Bishops, the Standing Commission on Evangelism and Domestic Mission, and the Episcopal Church's Court of Review. Before being elected bishop, Gray chaired the diocesan Commission on Ministry. He served for many years as director of summer camping sessions at Camp Bratton-Green. Gray also chaired the diocesan Task Force on Small Church Development. He served two terms on the Executive Committee and Finance Committee. Gray was a participant in and served on the board for the diocesan Honduras Medical Mission and added a Medical Mission to Panama during his episcopate. During his episcopacy he also initiated mission work in both Uganda and South Sudan. Gray has chaired the diocesan Clergy and Wellness Committee, the Division of Youth and the Commission on Peace and Justice.

As bishop, Gray led the Diocese of Mississippi into an ever deepening understanding of a vision of "One Church in Mission: Inviting, Transforming, Reconciling." He challenged the diocese to a deeper faithfulness with a series of teachings and program initiatives that encourage "out of the box thinking" to effect the mission imperatives of the church of Jesus Christ. He has a particular interest in development of different models of leadership to address the challenges of the church in a post-modern era. As the state of Mississippi has moved through significant anniversaries of the Civil Rights Movement, Bishop Gray has, through pastoral letters and the sponsorship of a number of iconic events around the state, challenged the Episcopal Church to recommit to the goal of racial justice and reconciliation.

Bishop Gray and his wife, Kathy, will reside here in New Orleans. The Grays have two sons and one daughter: Duncan, IV (wife, Amber); Peter (wife, Giulianna); daughter, Tabitha (husband, John Ajak). They also have three granddaughters and three grandsons.

St. Paul's Senior Center

There are a number of ways that you can volunteer to help with the senior program including distribution of food commodities, assisting with senior bingo, or helping with the daily senior activities.

Monthly

Commodity Distribution: On the fourth Tuesday of every month from 1:00pm—3:00pm the Homecoming Center distributes commodities to seniors in cooperation with Catholic Charities. You can help with this distribution by making calls to seniors on the Monday before to remind them about pick-up, by carrying boxes to seniors' cars (the boxes are about 40 lbs. each), or by helping with follow-up calls to seniors who did not make their pick-up.

Bingo: On the third Friday of every month from 1:00pm.-3:00pm the Center hosts senior bingo at Edgewater Baptist Church, 5900 Paris Ave. You can help with reminder calls, setup and sign-in, bingo calling, and/or cleanup.

Weekly

Day Programs: On Mondays thru Thursdays from 9:00 am.—2:00pm the Center (1509 Filmore Ave.) hosts day programs. We provide Gentilly seniors with a healthy lunch, as well as wholesome activities to prevent depression and isolation. The program also helps seniors to connect socially with others. We are looking for volunteers who are creative, self-motivated, and possess leadership ability to provide services to the seniors. Call Cathey Randolph and let her know how you can help: (504) 644-4125, or email crandolph@stpauls-lakeview.org.

Senior Computer Classes: During the school year on Friday mornings seniors learn basic computer skills from students at St. Paul's Episcopal School (6249 Canal Blvd.). You can help with reminder calls to seniors one to two days ahead of each scheduled date.

News from St. Paul's Senior Center

St. Paul's Senior Center Visited
The New Orleans Museum of Art!

People's Health sponsored a field trip to New Orleans Museum of Art, T-shirts, and lunch at Café NOMA on Wednesday, May 20th. It was a delight to see the KONGO across the Waters which showed artifacts, photos, stories, and history of how Kongolese people who were kidnaped and enslaved in America and brought native crafts, and culture to America. The seniors had a blast! Judith Martin, a volunteer at St. Paul's Senior Center, was a big help by taking all of the pictures which recaptured the great time we all had!



NOMA Field Trip
May 20, 2015 - Are we there yet?



The seniors really enjoyed having the tour guides at this very spacious museum. They learned so much and also shared much information that they knew. It was good to get out and change the pace at the center. This will mark our first field trip for 2015! We look forward to stepping out again soon!

Center for Counseling and Education

Dr. Jeanne Robertson, Director

The Center's Mission

The mission of the Center for Counseling and Education is to serve the individuals, families, faculty, and staff of St. Paul's Episcopal Church & School in a nurturing spiritual environment. Through counseling and educational services, the Center seeks to promote and enhance the well-being of individuals and families within a confidential environment of compassionate listening. The Center is interfaith, serving people wherever they may be on their journey in life.

Who Comes to the Center?

People . . .

- of all ages and religious backgrounds
- who seek individual growth and more meaning in their lives
- who seek better relationships in marriage and family life
- with parenting questions and concerns
- who are confronted with divorce or custody issues

What Services are Offered?

Individual, couples, and family counseling, premarital counseling, as well as workshops on a variety of issues.

What Does it Cost?

The Center is a ministry of St. Paul's Episcopal Church. While there is no fee for the services offered by the Center, donations to support this ministry are encouraged and gratefully received.

Educational Programs

The Center's director, Dr. Jeanne Robertson, is available to speak to groups and give workshops on a variety of counseling and educational topics.

How Do I Make an Appointment?

For more information or to schedule an appointment please contact Dr. Jeanne Robertson at (504) 330-2549, or email robertson@stpauls-lakeview.org.

Comments from Some
who have used the
Center:

"I learned that my spouse's drinking is not my fault. My need to control the drinking was my problem. I learned how to change me, so I can be happy."

"I came away with new tools to help me navigate my family situation."

"I had lots of anxiety over the custody battle with my kids' dad. Dr. Robertson's knowledge and experience helped so much."

"Jeanne knows how to get to the heart of an issue and helped me make appropriate behavioral and thought processing changes in a way that is relaxed and non-threatening. She knows when to give guidance and when to quietly listen. I made strides that had never previously been possible."

"Our pre-marital counseling was awesome! I feel more secure that we will have a great marriage!"

"Dr. Jeanne hit on the small, but important tip that helped me understand what my child needed from me. What had been homework nightmare, actually became easier and even fun."

St. Paul's Episcopal School News

Our school's 2014-2015 school year came to an end on May 30. On May 21, the eighth grade class marked their graduation. Three of this year's students will be moving on to high school at St. Martin's Episcopal School, one to De La Salle, one to Cabrini, one to Jesuit, and one to a combined program at Ben Franklin and NOCCA.

Congratulations and good luck to our students! We're proud of your accomplishments and hard work.



We are also sad to say goodbye to Myers McCallister (top left). Myers will be serving as head of school at St. Matthew's Episcopal School in Houma, LA. Myers was a part of our faculty for 20 years, and most recently was our middle school principal. He has been a faithful church and choir member for many years, and his voice and presence will be missed. We wish him all the best in the future as he continues to be a part of our diocesan family at St. Matthews.

For more information about St. Paul's Episcopal School, visit us at <http://www.stpauls-lakeview.org/>.

The Bishop's Annual Visit



Bishop Morris Thompson made his annual visitation with us on April 19. While he was here we baptized four (4) new Christians into Christ's Body the Church, confirmed eight (8), and received four (4) into The Episcopal Church. All of those confirmed and received completed our "Christianity 101" course which will be offered again the spring of 2016. If you're interested in being confirmed or received next year, contact the church office for more details.

Lenten Fish Fry

Our St. Paul's Episcopal Church & School Fish Fry continues to be a successful shared event with our school. This year we added another "Drive-By Fish Fry" and raised additional funds for outreach efforts. We are so grateful to all of our volunteers, and especially to Vestry and Board of Trustee member Betsy Stoner for her incredible organizational skills. Great job, everyone!





Sunday Service Times
CHANGE

Beginning Sunday, Aug. 16
Early Eucharist moves to 7:45 am in the chapel
Choral Eucharist moves to 10:15 am in the church



St. Paul's Episcopal Church
6249 Canal Blvd.
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Growing in Relationships, Growing in Service, Growing in Christ