

ALIVE!

MAY 2010

THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF WESTERN LOUISIANA

VOLUME XXXII, NUMBER 5

Mount Olivet Chapel restoration project receives additional recognition



Bishop MacPherson receives special Mount Olivet award

At its April statewide conference, held in Shreveport, the Louisiana Trust for Historic Preservation presented Bishop D. Bruce MacPherson with a special award “for his vision in seeing the marvelous setting of Mount Olivet Chapel restored.” The Louisiana Trust is the statewide partner of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, and in that capacity is extremely active preserving historical structures and venues, and in highlighting the continuing struggle to maintain structures and locales that link us to Louisiana’s glorious past.

The award was presented at an Honors Awards Luncheon held Thursday, April 15 in Shreveport. The Honors Awards presented recognize individuals and organizations that have made notable contributions to their communities through excellence and leader-

See Special Award, page 10

Bishop MacPherson is presented his special award by Paul Smith, representing the Louisiana Trust for Historic Preservation.

Pentecost — yesterday, today and tomorrow

In just a few weeks we will gather in our respective places of worship and celebrate The Day of Pentecost. What a glorious day



The Bishop's Message

within our lives and the life of the Church! The remembrance of that wonderful hymn that is offered up in so many places on this great feast day, “*Hail thee, festival day! Blest day that art hallowed for ever ...*”

[#225 The Hymnal 1985]. It invigorates the spirit as the

colour of red is seen across the naves of so many congregations. When I speak of Pentecost not just being something of the past, I am saying that it was indeed experienced by a small group in an upper room almost 2,000 years ago; but it is not limited to that upper room. For Pentecost, the sending forth of the Holy Spirit for all, is experienced over and over again down through the ages, and continues so this day.

Look at the Sacraments of the Church, and in particular, the Sacraments of Holy Baptism, Confirmation, Ordination, and the Eucharist. Again and again we pray for the outpouring, the strengthening, the sustaining power of the Holy Spirit to be in and empowering us. And again and again, God in his mysterious way does act!

Pentecost, or to use the old English term, Whitsunday, is the Church’s birthday. Or to draw upon Scripture (the Acts of the Apostles), the commissioning of the Church to experience new life. It is a day that has been observed since ancient days. The Greek word is *pentekoste*, meaning the fiftieth day. The name was first given to the Jewish Feast of Weeks which fell on the fiftieth day after the Passover when the first fruits of the harvest were presented, and in most later times, the giving of the Law of Moses was commemorated. (*We find this first recorded in Leviticus 23:15-22 and again in Deuteronomy 16:9.*)

As we find in the reading of the Acts of the Apostles, the Holy Spirit descended on the apostles on this, the fiftieth day after the

See Bishop's Message, page 10



The Season of Easter

The Season of Easter, the oldest and greatest feast in the church year, celebrates the feast of Christ's resurrection and is the central day in the liturgical year. Easter Day begins the Easter season, which lasts for fifty days, until the Feast of Pentecost. The readings for this season center on the events of the resurrection and the appearance of Jesus to his disciples.



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Monday, May 17, 2010

Cursillo MusicFest: celebrating God's music for everyone, not just musicians

Camp Hardtner to be scene of Saturday, May 22 gathering

Save Saturday, May 22 on your calendar for our Diocesan Cursillo MusicFest. Everyone's invited to come to Camp Hardtner and enjoy food, fellowship and lots of music. There's no agenda, no program, just relaxation in the wonderful Hardtner environment after a cold winter. Saturday's lunch is a fundraiser for the Cursillo Movement. We have it on good authority that the meal will be very tasty indeed.

Event spokesman Ed Ryland is anxious for people to understand that this event is for everyone, not just musicians. "I've been questioned several times about who this event is for," said Ryland. "I want everyone to know that this day is for the celebration of God's music. Musicians from around the diocese will be there to lead the singing, but the event is for the larger community including, for example, our Kairos brothers and sisters, the majority of whom are not Episcopalians."

"There will be no workshops or other kinds of program, rather an opportunity to sing God's praises, enjoy the company of fellow Christians, and relax in Camp Hardtner's blest environment," Ryland added.



The music fest idea grew out of widespread love for the community-building and God-edifying music experienced by so many at Cursillo events. In 1990 a group of cursillistas organized an event called "Joysing," which took place at St. Thomas Episcopal Church in Monroe and was followed a year later with a second Joysing in Abbeville. Joysing was just that—joy in singing God's music. Joysing moved to Camp Hardtner in the mid-nineties but then was forgotten un-

til now. The concept has been revived as a Cursillo-sponsored event called Cursillo MusicFest.

If you'd like to come early, call the Camp Hardtner office and make your Friday night reservation for a room or cabin space. The Camp's phone number is 318/765-3794 or email office@camphardtner.org.

For more information, please contact Ed Ryland 318/345-5501 (Home) or 376-4794 (Cell)



Camp Hardtner's new Family Camp – take the whole gang!

A number of years ago, the Hardtner Summer Camping Committee tried something new. Children entering the second and third grade were given the chance to come to camp with a parent for a three-day introduction to "the place God lives." It was called First Camp, and it is now well attended and introduces new campers to Hardtner each year.

Well, the Summer Camping Committee is doing it again. This time the idea is called Family Camp. It is a chance for a whole family to attend camp together! Like First Camp, Family Camp will run from Friday afternoon until Sunday morning. This year, the dates are July 30 to August 1. Family Camp allows for different possibilities. A parent can come with a child or the whole family can come together. There's no age limit, so children of different ages can all be together at camp along with mom and dad! It is a great chance for grown-ups to come to camp again.



**Camp Hardtner's
Family Camp**
July 30 – August 1

The boys will all stay on the Boy's Side and the girls will stay on the Girl's Side. Cabin counselors will be in each cabin just like regular camp. The program will be geared for the whole family and include games, discussion, worship and a multi-generational theme. Free time will be built into the schedule for families to play together. The pool, the Pav, Arts and

Crafts, canoes, hiking trails and great camp food are all part of the fun. The dean for this year's Family Camp will be Father George Gennuso of St. Michael's in Pineville. Fr. Gennuso and his camp staff will work with Head Counselor, James Bordelon, the permanent staff and Executive Director Pat Higgins to make it a fantastic weekend.

Family Camp is priced to make it affordable for families too. The cost (after April 1) is \$260 for two, \$300 for three and \$340 for four or more. Like all the Hardtner sessions, registration forms or the new online registration is available at www.camphardtner.org or give Camp a call at 318-765-3794 for more information.

Bring your family—help us start a new tradition, and find out why everybody loves Camp Hardtner.

Holy Comforter, Lecompte: serving the hungry at Manna House in Alexandria

The congregation of Holy Comforter, Lecompte is the first to admit that they are small. "But that doesn't mean we can't help our fellow man," declares parishioner John McClure. McClure relates how some at Holy Comforter came to offer their help to others. "The basic idea was that Holy Comforter wanted to help the disadvantage in our community, McClure says. Because they are a small group with a limited facility, the group was stymied in their desire to help.

John McClure says that he had volunteered at Manna House, a feeding ministry of the Catholic Diocese of Alexandria. Manna House had come into existence when Father Gerard Foley wanted to make an impression on his congregation at St. Frances Cabrini Church with his homily about feeding the hungry.

"When I was hungry, you gave me food." (Mathew 25: 35) was the biblical text for his message. He knew his people had heard it all before, but this time he wanted them to really listen, and think about doing something concrete. So at the end of his homily, he challenged whoever was interested in doing something about it, to come to a meeting the following night discuss what could be done. Fifteen people showed up.

That initial group doubled the next week, preparatory work for the formation of a soup kitchen began in earnest.

May 1, 1990 – Manna House opened its doors at 2655 Lee Street in Alexandria with 19 people showing up for a free meal. By mid-summer, Manna House was feeding almost 400 people a day. Ten years later the work continues. A limited paid staff cooks donated or purchased food, producing a nutritiously balanced meal each day.

The group from Holy Comforter liked what McClure related to them about Manna House. It is a wholly volunteer supported feeding program that accepts no city, state, or federal funds. All funds received by Manna House are donations, and most of



the actual work of serving the food is done by regular volunteer groups, which pick a day of the week for which they are responsible for having sufficient volunteers there to serve. Given the details of the Manna House program, Holy Comforter parishio-

ners decided that by partnering with an established program that was consistent with their interest and ability to service, they help much larger groups of needy people than they could ever hope to serve alone.

Ready to Serve!

Above: Holy Comforter, Lecompte members are "aproned up" and ready to serve. At the right is priest-in-charge of Holy Comforter, the Rev'd Joe Bordelon.

Left: Why does any time of food service always involve peeling potatoes?

The most difficult day to staff with volunteers is Sunday, which was a good fit for Holy Comforter volunteers. "Our service begins at 9:00 a.m., so we drive to Alexandria and to be ready to serve by 10:45 or so," said John McClure.

Even though Manna House is a program of the Catholic Diocese of Alexandria, there are independent, minority, and other protestant churches assisting regularly, as well as many non-Catholic individual volunteers. "Joining the efforts at Manna House has allowed us to accomplish what would be improbable or impossible for a congregation like ours," adds McClure.

SAMS missionary will visit Trinity, Natchitoches June 6; also available to speak at other churches

by Carol Brunsgaard

SAMS Missionary, Fr. Juan Marentes, will be the guest speaker at Trinity Episcopal Church in Natchitoches, LA on June 6 at the 10:30 a.m. service.

Father Marentes, a longtime SAMS missionary, is currently involved with several ministries in San Ignacio, Belize, including serving as chaplain to the children of three Anglican schools in the area, reaching out to the homeless, and the development of St. Andrew's and St. Hilda's, where he serves as priest-in-charge.

The Society of Anglican Missionaries and Senders (SAMS) shares the good news of



Father Marentes

to serve cross-culturally from a year to a career long-term missions. "Bridgers" or

Jesus Christ in word and deed, partnering with the Anglican Church globally. Through SAMS Episcopalians and other Anglicans in the USA committed to the Great Commission join together to send missionaries

interns, also go into the mission field from a month to a year. SAMS also sends teams from churches for short-term missions of one to two weeks to build homes for the homeless, serve in the local church's outreach, or teach adults and children.

SAMS serves Anglican churches around the globe by sending missionaries who come alongside a church that is planting new churches, to equip the saints, and give opportunity and hope to the poor. In a corresponding manner SAMS encourages churches in the USA to step out further in global mission and develop long-term relationships across cultures.

SAMS supports individuals and

churches who are called to go, to send, to give, or to pray for those in the mission fields. Goers, who sense a call to serve as missionaries, are assisted through a careful discernment, training and placement process. Senders are given practical ideas on how to help missionaries get to and thrive in a cross-cultural ministry. Senders of short-term mission teams are provided support through comprehensive training, logistical coordination and debriefing. Givers have the opportunity to participate in ministry through engaging in SAMS' wider mission and connecting

See SAMS Missionary, page 11

Junior Choristers participate in “Great Masterpiece” Evensong at St. Mark’s Cathedral

St. Mark’s Cathedral offered Choral Evensong during the afternoon of Sunday, May 2. The Evensong was lead by the St. Mark’s Cathedral Choir, Senior Choristers and Junior Choristers conducted by Jenny Swanson, assistant organist-choirmaster and accompanied by Donald Smith, organist-choirmaster. This particular Evensong featured the St. Mark’s Cathedral Junior Choristers, young singers between the ages of eight and eleven. Music sung included Healey Willan’s *Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis* as well as *Hear my Words, Ye People* by Hubert H. Parry. The Very Reverend Dr. Jacob Owensby, dean of the Cathedral officiated. This Evensong was the last of four offered as part of the 2009-2010 Great Masterpiece Series.



The Great Masterpiece Series was presented free of charge to the public and was supported through an endowment by the Frost Foundation and St. Mark’s Cathedral.

Joy in the Journey ... this fall

The Diocesan Commission on Addiction and Recovery has announced that its annual “Joy in the Journey” addiction recovery retreat has been moved this year from its normally scheduled time in the spring to the weekend of October 29-31, 2010 at the Hardtner Camp and Conference Center.

ALIVE!

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Forward to: Episcopal Diocese of Western Louisiana, P. O. Box 2031, Alexandria, LA 71309-2031

www.diocesewla.org

Diocese of Western Louisiana

Bishop MacPherson’s Office Days



In order to provide a more convenient setting for those in the northern portion of the Diocese, Bishop D. Bruce MacPherson continues to be available for appointments with members of the laity and clergy on the second Wednesday of each month at St. Mark’s Cathedral in Shreveport.

With the closure of the regional office in Opelousas, those in the southern portion of the diocese are encouraged to make an appointment with Bishop MacPherson at Diocesan House in Pineville.

For an appointment at either location, please contact Dianne White, assistant to the Bishop, 318.442.1304 or ladydiwhi@aol.com.

St. Paul's, Shreveport to celebrate 60th Anniversary May 21-23

St. Paul's, Shreveport will celebrate sixty years of ministry in southeast Shreveport during three days of fellowship, remembrance and praise the weekend of May 21-23. "The Family of St. Paul's ... Celebrating 60 Years of Gospel Leadership" is the theme of the weekend extravaganza.

"St. Paul's has a distinguished history in Shreveport," said St. Paul's rector, Father Guido Verbeck, "and we have much to celebrate. We take the wonderful atmosphere of St. Paul's for granted," he added. "So many have worked over the years to maintain our position as a faithful congregation under the authority of Holy Scripture and the Lordship of Jesus Christ," Father Verbeck said.

The weekend will highlight both the history and people of St. Paul's as well as the service that has been rendered to their community. Every communicant of St. Paul's, as well as all interested guests, are invited to the weekend of events.

The calendar of events includes :

Friday night, May 21, A Movie under the Stars on a giant screen

The celebration starts with this great event for the whole family. All are encouraged to bring their lawn chairs and mosquito repellent, and enjoy a modern movie classic that's suitable for the entire family.

Saturday, May 22, St. Paul's 60th Anniversary Golf Tournament

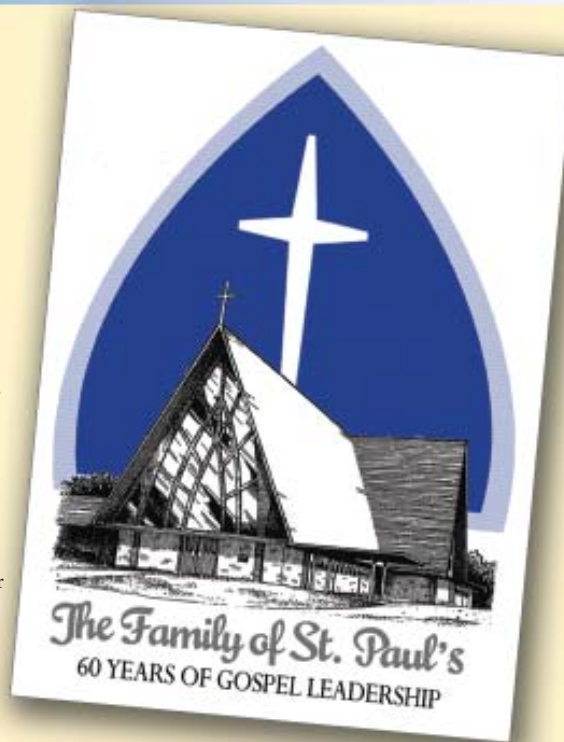
To be held at the Olde Oaks Golf Club, the tournament will be played as a four-man scramble. A \$70 fee will be charged each entrant with profits going to St. Paul's "Matthew 25 Force Homeless Feeding Ministry." Those interest in playing in the tournament should call St. Paul's at 865-8469 to enter.

Sunday, May 23, Special anniversary Eucharist celebrating 60-years of Gospel Leadership.

Even though this is a special celebration, this will be a "Casual Sunday" with each individual left to determine "what is casual and appropriate." A Parish-wide picnic will follow immediately after the worship service with food prepared by some of St. Paul's most distinguished cooks.

Guests will eat hot dogs, hamburgers, with all the trimmings, even ice cream. Organizers promise that no one will go away hungry. The Kenny Miller's Blue Grass Band will supply foot stomping, down-home tunes and young people will have those terrific "inflatable things" on which they can bounce and bounce and bounce. There will also be a Special Dunking Booth. Guests are being promised a chance to send their favorite priest "for a swim." After all the fun, food, music and fellowship, the St. Paul's EYC has challenged all-comers to a softball game.

This weekend is shaping up to be BIG for St. Paul's, so those that are interested should mark their calendars for St. Paul's 60th Anniversary, May 21-23 and BE THERE!



Canterbury College Ministries Want to Hear from You

Due to the new privacy laws in effect on college campuses throughout the state of Louisiana, college chaplaincies can no longer access the denominational preferences of the students who will be attending. If you have a high school senior going off to college in the fall, please take a minute to call or e-mail the Canterbury ministry for the campus. We want to welcome your son or daughter into our communities of faith, and help grow his or her faith to impact the world for Jesus Christ.

See *Canterbury Ministries*, page 11

A sign of rebirth at St. George's, Bossier City

The reinstatement of Choral Music at St. George's in Bossier City has been the oft-stated goal of both St. George's parishioners and priest-in-charge, Father Jaime Flowers. In the fall of 2009, the first step was taken towards the fruition of that goal when noted musician Kermit Poling accepted the position of organist/choirmaster. Moving forward to 2010, on Easter Sunday the "re-constituted," or "re-formed" or "resurrected," St. George's Choir, with eleven choristers, performed during a special Eucharistic feast. Choirmaster Poling (far left) and his group are shown with a beaming Father Flowers.

St. Matthias Founder's Day Celebration



St. Matthias, Shreveport, welcomes all to first Founders Day Celebration

St. Matthias, Shreveport, will celebrate the founding of the parish during a 3-day celebration, May 21-23 on the campus of the west Shreveport congregation. The event will start with a two-day "Arts and Crafts Festival," May 21 and 22. Featured will be jewelry, florals, woodcrafts, toys, food and other items. A portion of the proceeds of the celebration will be donated to the literacy project at Centenary College and other outreach programs. Hours are: Friday, 1 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., and Saturday, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

On Sunday, April 23, a parish-wide picnic will be held at 11:30 a.m. There will be music and children's activities. St. Matthias' rector, the Rev'd Dr. Bill McBride, and St. Matthias parishioners invite all to come and join them at this celebratory event.

For more information, call the St. Matthias office at 318-635-5354, or Bob Hansbrough at 318-218-4461.

"Gemma" for a day



Ladies have you ever wondered what it might feel like to wear \$25,000 in diamonds? "It was quite a treat; I really enjoyed the time I had with 'Gemma,'" declares Mary Beth Beene, a parishioner of St. Matthias, Shreveport and a member of Diocesan Council representing the Shreveport Convocation.

Clarks Jewelers of Shreveport is the source for "Gemma." Months ago Clarks announced a program by which they would honor 12

"Community Gems" – unsung volunteers who had distinguished themselves with their "community involvement and leadership." Each of the Community Gems would have the pleasure of "Gemma," a diamond necklace worth \$25,000, in their possession for one month. One of the honorees is Maurine Locke, long-time member of St. Matthias, Shreveport, and tireless worker for worthy religious and civic programs, too numerous to mention.

Maurine chose to share Gemma, setting up her own schedule that would honor a number of lucky ladies with the beautiful baubles for a 24-hour period.



Maurine Locke, bestows "Gemma" on Mary Beth Beene, who had the necklace "the night of April 26 until about 4:00 p.m. on April 27."



C.L.E.Y. 2010

The C.L.E.Y. youth retreat weekend was held at the Hardtner Camp and Conference Center, April 16-18 with Michael and James Bordelon serving as deans for the weekend. The theme of the weekend was "Jesus is just alright with me." Father George Gennuso served as the spiritual director and Jill Laroussini was the camp nurse. Twenty-three high school students attended along with eleven staff members.

HARDTNER NEWS



THE
HARDTNER CAMP
& CONFERENCE
CENTER

The summer camp season is just around the corner!

The Summer Camping season is just around the corner, and some of our camp sessions are filling up. At press time each of the camp sessions still had a few spots. **DO NOT MISS OUT** by waiting too long to sign up. It's easy to register, either online or by regular mail.



camper e-mail service available. Parents will also be able to see password-protected photos of the activities of the camp their child is attending. Details are available once you have registered for one of



our Summer Camp sessions.

A huge "thank-you" to everyone helping to make Hardtner such a special place. People are demonstrating their love and appreciation of this special place by volunteering and donating to the camp. Gifts continue to come in from the Fill the Canoe campaign. St. Barnabas in Lafayette even arranged for two new canoes for the camp fleet, and paid for them with "Hardtner Sunday" donations. Watch for more on this story. If your congregation hasn't yet held a "Hardtner Sunday," it's not too late. We're also encouraging individual gifts because we need each bit of assistance we can muster to maintain this wonderful place for the diocese.

In addition to financial gifts, others are donating their time and energy. Such is the case with the Bordelon brothers (André, Kevin and Chris). Once again this year the brothers gave up a Saturday to make sure the camp swimming pool was clean and

ready for the summer. The Son Rise retreat group planted flowers and made planters. Many others have done behind the scenes tasks to assist our maintenance



Pat Higgins

efforts. Thank you all! If you are part of a group that would like to perform a service project, contact the camp office. Our small, but dedicated, year-round staff appreciates your help. They, because of their tireless service, deserve our grati-

tude for the work they accomplish. Keep up the good work Ced, Brenda, Janna, Jennifer, Debbie and Trudy!

April was a busy at Hardtner. After a brief Easter holiday, camp was full of activity hosting Cursillo, St. Luke's School from Baton Rouge, the Congress of Louisiana Youth, Time for JOY, which is sponsored by the ECW, and the Camp Deans and Summer Camp staff retreat. Renovation has also begun on the Clergy Retreat House. There will be increased activity in May with school visits, the Cursillo MusicFest, weddings and the Counselor Training Camp.

Start the registration process by checking out our Web site at: www.camphardtner.org or contact your church office. Financial aid is also available so there is NO reason for our young people to miss out on a camping opportunity.

Our counselor staff and camp deans recently had a retreat at which they started program planning and team building. From all that I see it's going to be an incredible summer at Camp Hardtner! An experienced and Spirit-filled staff is raring to go! Programs are available for all ages including the new Family Camp. At this new offering, mom, dad and the entire family can be a part of the "camping experience" the weekend of July 30-August 1.

Once again this year we will be using the services of Bunk1 to make one-way



Father Milligan

Everyone who has visited Camp Hardtner will remember the impressive white cross on the bank of Lake Bordelon, across from the main camp campus. Who can forget how the image of the cross reflects in the waters of the lake. This impressive sight was made possible by two wonderful alumni of Hardtner, Fathers Hal Hutchison and Keith Milligan, who erected the cross on the anniversary of their ordinations. Father Keith recently passed on to his reward after a courageous battle with cancer. Our prayers and thoughts are with his family. Fr. Keith will always be remembered for his enthusiasm and love for the youth of the diocese.

Camp Hardtner 2010 Summer Camping Sessions

First Camp, June 4 - 6, \$130

Senior High Camp, Grades 11, 12 & Graduates, June 9 - 16, \$460 per person

Junior High I Camp, Grades 6 & 7, June 19 - 25, \$420 per person

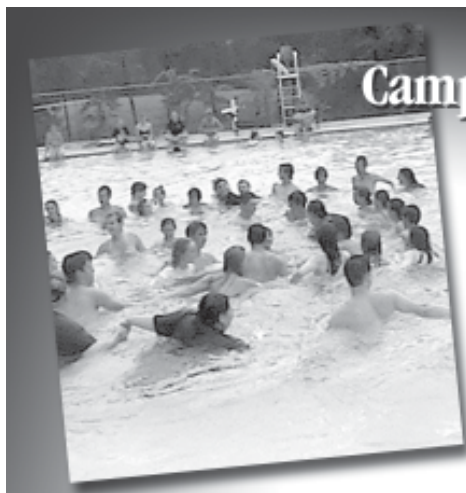
Primary Camp, Grades 4 & 5, June 28 - July 3, \$370 per person

Junior High 2 Camp, Grades 7 & 8, July 11 - 17, \$420 per person

Middle High Camp, Grades 9 & 10, July 20 - 26, \$420 per son

Family Camp, July 30 - August 1, \$260 for 2 people, \$300 for 3 people, \$340 for 4 or more

Go to www.camphardtner.org to register on-line



Diocese of Haiti planning for future, planning for partnerships Partnership director briefs church center staff on diocese's effort

by Mary Frances Schjonberg

[Episcopal News Service] Life still is not easy in Haiti nearly four months after a magnitude-7 earthquake devastated the country, but the Episcopal Diocese of Haiti is working on reconstruction plans and has begun again its long-standing education ministry.

That was the report April 29 from the Rev. Kesner Ajax, Diocese of Haiti partnership coordinator, during a day-long meeting at the Episcopal Church Center in New York City. Ajax, who holds a number of positions in the diocese, is also the executive director of the Bishop Tharp Institute of Business and Technology (BTI) in Les Cayes in southwest Haiti.

"It is not easy right now," Ajax said at a briefing for church center employees.

The diocese is dealing with the same problems of poverty that it tried to alleviate before the earthquake, he said. The earthquake damaged or destroyed most of the diocese's churches and other institutions, and shifted the country's population, with many Port-au-Prince residents now living in the countryside. Thus, the diocese, along with the nation, must make decisions about where and how to rebuild, he said, adding "life is supposed to continue."

To that end, a crisis committee convened shortly after the earthquake by Bishop Jean Zaché Duracin will release its master plan for rebuilding "very soon," Ajax said. The plan is expected to guide the diocese's ef-

forts and give other Episcopalians opportunities to partner with Haitians in those efforts.

Meanwhile, he said, some of the 250 schools run by the diocese before the earthquake have re-opened in recent days and weeks. Many are in the countryside, but in Port-au-Prince they also include an elementary school and the College St. Pierre high school, the site of an earthquake survivors' settlement run by the diocese. The diocese's seminary has relocated outside



Father Kesner Ajax

of the capital.

Ajax told the briefing meeting that the Haitian government helped the diocese clean and prepare the elementary and secondary schools for the students' return, but "they did not care about universities and tech schools." While Episcopal University in Port-au-Prince remains closed, its nursing school campus in Léogâne and BTI in Les Cayes are operating again, Ajax said.

The schools reopened despite the fact that some of them have no desks, chairs, toilets or administrative offices. In addition, he said, school officials have been trying to locate the students and their parents. Some moved out to the countryside, while others have left for the U.S., Canada and the Dominican Republic.

In response to questions about the impact of the approaching rainy season on recovery efforts, Ajax said "we cannot talk about a season for disaster in Haiti" because another natural calamity seems to occur before the country has regrouped from the one just past. Ajax said the work in Haiti is long-term. "We can work together, not to change our situation in one day, but step by step," he said. "Partners are welcome. We have to figure how to go forward with the partnerships. We want to do things right."

"We need your prayer, we need your presence. We would love your money," he said. "All of them are welcome ... we feel that we are not alone."

Ajax told ENS later in an interview that "the kingdom of God is always in the process of being built. We have to continue to take care of his church — take care of his people — until Jesus comes back."

Alex Baumgarten, director of the Episcopal Church's Office of Government Relations in Washington, D.C. and its international policy analyst, told the briefing via an email that Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori earlier this week conducted a series

of "advocacy visits" with the Obama Administration and congressional offices. She focused on U.S. funding for the rebuilding effort, expansion of trade preferences for Haitian exports to the United States, broadening and extending Temporary Protected Status for Haitians in the United States while waiving application fees, ending a backlog of 55,000 visas that have been approved, but not actually granted, to Haitians wishing to come to the United States and ending "the unfair interdiction policies of the U.S. Coast Guard, which place unique burdens on Haitians coming to the United States that are disproportionate to those placed on migrants from other countries."

Jefferts Schori also convened a dinner with Haiti experts from non-governmental organizations, academia, and the ecumenical and legal communities as "an opportunity to share experiences and trade wisdom among those supporting the relief and rebuilding effort," Baumgarten's email said.

One of the advocacy visits came April 26 with U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) Haiti Task Team Coordinator Paul Weisenfeld and Deputy Director of the Department of Health and Human Services' Center for Faith-Based and Community Initiatives Ari Alexander. "The meeting touched on internally displaced persons and the short- and long-term strategies for developing permanent housing settlements, boosting economic investments and partnerships, and leveraging involvement of the Haitian Diaspora," an USAID news release said.

Weisenfeld and Jefferts Schori agreed that USAID and the Episcopal Church will "increase information sharing and outreach," according to the release.

At the end of the church center briefing, Canon Margaret Larom, Episcopal Church global partnerships team leader, told Ajax that "words really fail us to describe the sympathy we have to you and others trying to cope with this day by day. We hope that this day as you are meeting individually with people that you will feel affirmed in your ministry and that we will find more ways to be supportive."

— *The Rev. Mary Frances Schjonberg is national correspondent for the Episcopal News Service and editor of Episcopal News Monthly.*

South American Missionary Society changes its name

The missionary society known as SAMS is keeping its acronym but changing what the initials mean. What was the South American Missionary Society—USA is now the Society of Anglican Missionaries and Senders.

"We are offering more opportunities for people to serve," said Stewart Wicker, president and mission director of SAMS.

Wicker said the society sent its first missionary outside of Central and South America 15 years ago. That missionary served in Spain, and today 20 of the society's 78 missionaries are serving outside of South America.

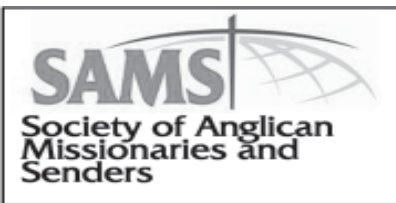
"It's been a gradual process for us," Wicker told *The Living Church*. "We have more people serving in South America than at any point in our history."

The society's previous name was becoming a source of confusion, both to local bishops and donors, when missionaries served on other continents, Wicker said.

Including the word *Anglican* in the society's new name was an important reflection that the society works not only

with Episcopalians but with a broad array of people within the Anglican tradition, Wicker said.

"We thought it probably would be the most



explosive word, but in the best sense of the word it was inclusive," he said.

SAMS—USA was founded in 1976, but its parent — the Britain-based South American Mission Society — dates to a vision by Capt. Allen Gardiner, a British missionary who died of starvation in Tierra del Fuego in 1851.

The SAMS General Council voted in 2008 to merge with the Church Mission Society. They merged on Feb. 1 of this year and are known as CMS.

— *From the Web site of The Living Church.*

Diocese of Rio Grande elects priest serving in Rome

The Diocese of the Rio Grande has elected the Rev'd Dr. Michael Louis Vono, rector of St. Paul's Within the Walls, Rome, as its ninth bishop. Vono was elected on the third ballot. He led strongly among the laity from the first ballot, and gained strength among the clergy as well. Vono, 61, was ordained to the priesthood in 1977 and has served at St. Paul's since 1992.

The six-person slate also included:

- The Rev'd Ellis Tucker Bowerfind, 51, rector, St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Alexandria, Va.
- The Rev'd Dr. Leander Harding, 61, dean of church relations and seminary advancement and associate professor of pastoral theology at Trinity School for Ministry. Harding was a nominee by petition.
- The Rev'd James Harlan, 43, rector, Church of the Ascension, Denver, Colo.
- The Rev'd Jedediah D. Holdorff II, 51, rector of St. Mark's Church, Medford, Ore.
- The Rev'd John Nieman, 50 rector, Holy Trinity Church, Clemson, S.C.

See *Rio Grande*, page 11

News of the Diocese

Bishop's Message

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Resurrection, and the name applied by the Church to the event celebrating this festival—Pentecost.

It is also in the reading of Acts [2:1-11] that we have the historical reflection of how the Spirit worked one of his mightiest acts, a divine disturbance of sorts. As I reflected upon this portion of Scripture, I could not help but find myself thinking about much that is going on across the world. Here in the United States and many other places of travel, we find a real sense of excitement on the part of many as they live out their faith. People in small and large congregations alike talking and sharing their desire to see the local congregation grow in spirit and ministry: to reach out and bring change to their community. For this we can all be grateful, as indeed it is a sign of God's Holy Spirit in their midst!

What do you suppose we would have possibly seen had we been present on that day of Pentecost of which Luke writes about in the Acts of the Apostles? We would have no doubt found a small group of followers of Jesus. We no doubt would have recognized that they were on fire, (*so to speak*) that they were talking in a very unusual way. We would have found that their passionate conviction conveyed the power of their message even to those who stood about looking on.

We would also probably have found that they were unusually fearless; that they stood up and said what they wanted to say, even though they knew that their words might have meant death for them. And above all, we would have found that people listened to them. That people were moved by them, and that people were amazed as they heard them talk of the wondrous works of God.

What we would have found in this event is described by the writer of Acts in a single sentence, "*And they were filled with the Holy Spirit ...*" [Acts 2:4] Yes, they were filled. They were empowered by the Counselor whom Christ promised would come to them. As the reading of Ascension Day states, "*But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you: and you will bear witness for me in Jerusalem, and all over Judea and Samaria, and away to the ends of the earth.*" [Acts 1:8] A very powerful statement.

In fact, this is a statement that has been cited by people in the Church for years. For years people have talked about empowerment. But there is only one problem, and this is that for years many people have talked about this empowerment—this outpouring of the Holy Spirit—as though it were something of the past! It is talked about as though it were not really part of the present day. And in many cases, certainly not something for one's own personal experience. Yet, what does Scripture say?

That the heavenly Father will give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him! [Luke 11:13]

The amazing preparation for the power that Luke describes in Acts is with us today as we share in the living Christ. If we are willing to open our hearts to Christ Jesus; if we are willing to be bold; if we are willing to be responsive; and if we are willing to pray, "*Lord, come Holy Spirit, fill us, empower us, use us.*" Jesus, the Lord of our lives, will!

I trust you will see there is no need for any of us—not one—to look upon the past with envy. There is no need for the words of Scripture, nor a living relationship with the Lord Jesus, to be looked upon with awe. For if we truly ask Christ to pour out upon us the Holy Spirit, to release the power of the Spirit in our lives, he will!

This comes with my prayers and best wishes for a meaningful Pentecost experience.

Faithfully in the Risen Christ,



The Rt. Rev'd D. Bruce MacPherson, D.D.
Third Bishop of Western Louisiana

Special Award

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ship in the field of historic preservation. Bishop MacPherson's award citation said: "This special award is given to The Rt. Rev'd D. Bruce MacPherson, the present Episcopal Bishop of Western Louisiana, for his vision in seeing this marvelous setting (Mount Olivet Chapel) restored."

"... by the time restoration of Mt. Olivet Chapel began, the building had become too unsafe to enter."

"Now, with its original light fixtures, pews, altar furniture, restored windows, and rebuilt organ in place, put this (structure) on your list of must-see places."

The Louisiana Trust for Historic Preservation is a 501(c)3 organization founded in 1979 for cultural and educational purposes pertaining to historic preservation. Its mission is to promote the preservation of the cultural heritage and historic resources of Louisiana. The Louisiana Trust for Historic Preservation is the statewide partner of the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

Make it a habit!



News of the Anglican Communion

Bishop N. T. Wright will retire in August 2010

The Rt. Rev'd N.T. Wright, Bishop of Durham since 2003, has announced his retirement from that historic and influential office, effective Aug. 31.

Wright, 61, will become Research Professor of New Testament and Early Christianity at the University of St. Andrews in Scotland.

"This has been the hardest decision of my life," Wright said in a statement to his diocese. "It has been an indescribable privilege to be bishop of the ancient Diocese of Durham, to work with a superb team of colleagues, to take part in the work of God's kingdom here in the northeast, and to represent the region and its churches in the House of Lords and in General Synod. I have loved the people, the place, the heritage and the work."

"Tom Wright ranks among the most distinguished New Testament scholars in the world, and his profile as a churchman, writer and communicator is simply outstanding," said Professor Ivor Davidson, head of school at St. Andrews. "I am delighted that he will be joining us at St. Andrews, where he will further enhance the long-established reputation of the School of Divin-

ity as a major international centre of biblical and theological scholarship."



Bishop N. T. Wright

Wright served on the Lambeth Commission on Communion, which issued the Windsor Report in 2004.

"We were set up to talk about the issues of communion, because in a sense, an obvious example, the issue of sexuality may be the fire that somebody has lit in

one room that is actually setting bits of the house on fire," Wright said after the Windsor Report's release in 2004. "But what we're doing is actually fireproofing the house, and then saying now we've got to deal with this particular fire, which happens to have broken out in this room. But we're really more interested in long-term fireproofing the house. And of course that demands patience, because there's plenty of people who want to say what you should simply do is go in with all water cannons as fast as you can."

Wright is the author of more than 40 books, including a scholarly series (Christian Origins and the Question of God) and a general-readership series (The New Testament for Everyone).

"My continuing vocation to be a writer, teacher and broadcaster, for the benefit (I hope) of the wider world and Church, has been increasingly difficult to combine with the complex demands and duties of a diocesan bishop," Wright said. "I am very sad about this, but the choice has become increasingly clear."

—From the Web site of *The Living Church*.

Armed militia storm Bukavu bishop's home at night

A group of unidentified gunmen forced their way into the home of Congolese Bishop Sylvestre Bali-Busane Bahati of the Diocese of Bukavu during the early hours of April 9, looting the property and leaving with money, clothes and electronic equipment.

The bishop was unharmed, but the gunmen tied up his eldest son insisting they be directed to him, according to an e-mail sent from Bahati to church partners. The gunmen also assaulted the security man on duty.

According to the e-mail, the gunmen said they had been paid US\$20,000 "to assassinate the Anglican bishop of Bukavu diocese." When the bishop pleaded with the gunmen not to kill him, they requested money, which Bahati gave them, the e-mail said.

In November 2009, the Roman Catholic Church in Kabare lost a priest, a nun and two lay people in a similar attack, he said. "Daily, there is mourning and sorrow in the communities of South Kivu and North Kivu provinces because of killings and looting," Matabaro said.

News of the Diocese

Around

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pants as they also gathered at the Hardtner Camp and Conference Center.

Looking at special opportunities for the sharing of ministry, I was pleased to spend time with the **Shreveport Convocation Clericus** this past month for their regular meeting at **St. Mark's Cathedral, Shreveport**. It is always a pleasure to be able to simply share a meal and visit with the clergy in an informal setting, and for this I am grateful.

On the occasion of the Feast of St. Mark the Evangelist, it was my honour to preside and preach at the **St. Mark's Cathedral School Eucharist** as students, faculty and parents gathered. The time with the young people is always special for me, as is my experience with their observations. This year I wore my rochet and chimere in place of mitre and cope, and several of the children on the way out inquired with "What happened to your hat?"

In addition to the regular monthly meetings, it was good to spend time with some of our various commissions and committees in the exercise of their work, and this

past month included the **Commission on Ministry**, the **Commission on Youth and Young Adult Ministry**, and the **Diocesan Board of Trustees**. Other meetings embraced the work of the **Calling Committee at Christ Church, Mansfield**; and **The Living Church** board of directors on which I serve.

Lastly, it was our honour to attend the **Louisiana Trust for Historic Preservation** awards luncheon at the Shreveport Convention Center. Susan and I were pleased to discover a number of members from the diocese in attendance at the conference and involved in preservation of historic settings within the state of Louisiana.

Looking toward the Day of Pentecost, may our prayer be –

"O God, your Spirit is intertwined with ours in ways we can scarcely fathom: You are the vine, we the branches. As we remain immersed in your inexhaustible love and depth, we are given strength and joy in life. We praise you, Lord, that you have given all people the precious gift of your Spirit. We pray that we might experience the Spirit's presence more fully, for we see but dimly, hear but faintly, and scarcely feel the brush of your sheltering wings. To

those who remain suspicious of joy, come, O Holy Spirit with love; to those whose lives remain untouched by hope, come O Holy Spirit, bearing the mysterious suggestions of dreams and vision; to those caught in a small circle of self-concern, come as fire and kindle compassion as intense as that of Jesus; to those who feel unworthy of being your servants, come O Holy Spirit, as gracefully as the cooling breeze and claim your servants. Amen." [drawn and adapted from *All the Seasons of Mercy* 1987]

Bishop's Calendar

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June 2010 continued

- 9 Northern Region Office, *St. Mark's Cathedral, Shreveport*
- 10 Mount Olivet Chapel, *Pineville-Eucharist*
- 10 Commission on Ministry, *Diocesan House*
- 13 St. Andrew's, *Mer Rouge - visitation*
- 13 Redeemer, *Oak Ridge - visitation*
- 13 Senior High Camp, *Hardtner Camp and Conference Center*
- 15 Diocesan Council, *St. James, Alexandria*
- 17 Mount Olivet Chapel, *Pineville-Eucharist*
- 20 St. John's, *Minden - visitation*
- 22 Hardtner Camp and Conference Center - *Board of Trustees*
- 22 Junior High I Camp, *Hardtner Camp and Conference Center*
- 24 Mount Olivet Chapel, *Pineville-Eucharist*
- 27 Holy Trinity, *Sulphur - visitation*
- 30 Primary Camp, *Hardtner Camp and Conference Center*

SAMS Missionary

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with missionaries on a relational basis. Prayers undergird all ministry efforts and strengthen those who go.

Available to speak at other churches

Father Juan will be in Natchitoches from June 3-8 and is available to visit other churches at any time other than Sunday morning, June 6. Transportation to and from another church can be worked out if necessary. "We are anxious for Father Marentes to meet with as many churches as possible, in order to help expose people to the mission field, and to let others know about the wonderful work Father Juan is doing in Belize," said Mother Catherine Thompson, rector of Trinity, Natchitoches.

Anyone interested in scheduling a visit should contact Trinity Church office at 318/352-3113.

—Carol Brunsgaard is a member of Trinity, Natchitoches.

Canterbury Ministries

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Centenary College

The Rev'd. Andrew Benko
318-865-0466

andrew@stmarkscathedral.net

Louisiana State University

St. Alban's Chapel

The Rev'd Drew Rollins

(225) 343-2070

office@stalban.org

Louisiana Tech University

The Rev'd Jim Benbrook

318-255-3925

rector@rustonredeemer.org

Grambling State University

The Rev'd Thomas Nsubuga

318-247-6669

ttnsubuga@yahoo.com

McNeese State University

Jaime Simon

(337) 802-4424

kibbie33@suddenlink.net

Northwestern State University

The Very Rev'd Catherine Thompson

(318) 352-3113

rector@trinityparish.info

University of Louisiana at Lafayette

The Rev'd Joseph Daly

(337) 232-2732

ascensionrector@yahoo.com

Rio Grande

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Rio Grande's eighth bishop, the Rt. Rev'd Jeffrey Steenson (2005-07), left the Episcopal Church and became a Roman Catholic priest. Its seventh bishop, the Rt.'d Rev. M. Terence Kelshaw (1989-2005), left the Episcopal Church after his retirement and affiliated with the Anglican Church of Uganda.

In a question-and-answer profile, Vono stressed his many years of experience and wrote of how he responded when one of his parishes was in conflict over what style of cross to place above the altar.

"I proposed placing three different crosses over the Altar; a Christ the King cross, symbolic of an Anglo-Catholic spirituality, the original Celtic cross, symbolic of broad Anglican spirituality, and the simple wooden cross, symbolic of Evangelical spirituality," Vono wrote. "Each cross spiritually represented a particular understanding of mission as well as ministry. Each remained over the altar two months. Throughout those six months we held evening discussion forums which enabled us to address issues such as the Church's identity, history in the community, and mission priorities. ... Today the Celtic cross is in place as well as an effective broad Anglican mission."

DIOCESAN DATES OF NOTE

May 2010

- 2 — Bishop's visitation, *St. Paul's, Shreveport*
- 5 — Standing Committee, *Diocesan House*
- 9 — Bishop's visitation, *St. Columba's, Winnboro*
- 9 — Bishop's visitation, *St. David's, Rayville*
- 12 — Bishop's Northern Region Office Day, *St. Mark's Cathedral, Shreveport*
- 12 — Holy Cross, *Shreveport - celebration of new ministry and institution of rector, the Rev'd Mary B. Richard*
- 13 — Ascension Day
- 16 — Bishop's visitation, *St. Mark's Cathedral, Shreveport*
- 18 — Diocesan Council, *St. James, Alexandria*
- 23 — The Day of Pentecost
- 23 — Bishop's visitation, *Grace, Monroe*
- 25 — Hardtner Camp and Conference Center - *Board of Trustees*
- 27-June 1 — Counselor Training Camp, *Hardtner Camp and Conference Center*
- 30 — Bishop's visitation, *Incarnation, Lafayette*
- 31 — Memorial Day

June 2010

- 2 — Standing Committee, *Diocesan House*
- 4-6 — Hardtner First Camp, *Hardtner Camp and Conference Center*
- 6 — Bishop's visitation, *St. Alban's, Monroe*
- 9 — Bishop's Northern Region Office Day, *St. Mark's Cathedral, Shreveport*
- 9-16 — Senior High Camp, *Hardtner Camp and Conference Center*
- 13 — Bishop's visitation, *St. Andrew's, Mer Rouge*
- 13 — Bishop's visitation, *Redeemer, Oak Ridge*
- 15 — Diocesan Council, *St. James, Alexandria*
- 19-25 — Junior High I Camp, *Hardtner Camp and Conference Center*
- 20 — Bishop's visitation, *St. John's, Minden*
- 22 — Hardtner Camp and Conference Center - *Board of Trustees*
- 27 — Bishop's visitation, *Holy Trinity, Sulphur*
- 28 - July 3 — Primary Camp, *Hardtner Camp and Conference Center*

St. Andrew's, Moss Bluff, breaks ground on new classroom building

by Pam Dibbley

St. Andrew's Episcopal Mission Church in Moss Bluff, Louisiana, has just broken ground on the construction of a new building that will house administrative offices and Sunday School classrooms/meeting rooms. Also included will be a courtyard, which will be utilized as additional gathering and social space. The structure is the first major construction undertaken since the St. Andrew's opened on Highway 378/ Sam Houston Jones Parkway.

The building project officially began with a fund-raising campaign in August of 2009, and was completed in two months. One donor matched \$30,000 of the amount collected, and some of the proceeds came from money received for damages sustained during Hurricane Rita.

The building will be paid for at the time of completion without a lien or mortgage. The congregation has been very supportive, and is looking forward to being able to occupy the new space.

From left to right: Members of the Mission Council are James Anderson, Jim Oakley, Jerry Forsyth, Alex Dibbley, the Rev'd Dr. Mitzi George, Priest-in-Charge of St. Andrew's, Sally Duhon and Somer Brown.

—Pam Dibbley is a member of St. Andrew's, Moss Bluff.



Retired Albany Bishop Daniel Herzog rejoins The Episcopal Church

[Episcopal News Service] Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori has issued an order for Restoration of Ordained Ministry for retired Bishop of Albany Daniel W. Herzog, who left the Episcopal Church in March 2007 to join the Roman Catholic Church.

The presiding bishop issued the order after "full consultation and on the recommendation of Diocese of Albany Bishop William H. Love," according to a news release from the church's Office of Public Affairs due to be posted here.

Love announced Herzog's return to the Episcopal Church April 30.

"Though he has never really been absent from our common life, I want to formally welcome Bishop Dan and Carol back to the full communion of the diocese and the wider church," said Love in a statement included in the news release. "During the past three years, they have continued to support the work of the diocese and to participate in a non-ordained capacity."

Love said that Herzog's "restored role will be of help in carrying out the work of the church, and I will be asking him to assist in this diocese under my direction as is true of any retired bishop."

Love, who was consecrated Sept. 16, 2006, succeeded Herzog after the latter's retirement.

Carol Herzog, the bishop's wife, also left the Church in March 2007.

"I want to extend my deep appreciation to Bishop Love and to Presiding Bishop Jefferts Schori for their kindness and pastoral solicitude," said Herzog in his statement in the news release. My only plan is to assist in any way Bishop Bill directs. We are honored to resume a fuller place among the clergy and laity of the diocese."

Herzog became Albany's bishop in June 1998. Before leaving the church, Herzog had expressed disagreement with some decisions of the Episcopal Church's General Convention, including its 2003 affirmation of an opening gay bishop elected in the Diocese of New Hampshire.

Herzog was one of three diocesan bishops to leave the Episcopal Church in 2007 for the Roman Catholic Church. The restoration document states: "Upon the retraction of his Renunciation of Ordained Ministry in this Church, which retraction was made to me in writing on April 1, 2010, and his execution of the Declaration of Conformity prescribed by Article VIII of the Constitution of The Episcopal Church, and with the advice and consent of the Council of Advice to the Presiding Bishop, I have rescinded the Declaration of Removal and Release from the Ordained Ministry of this church, executed by me on September 6, 2007."

Herzog, the document continues, is "restored to the Ordained Ministry of the Church."



Workshop attendance needed for licensure by Diocese

"Each of the Diocese's five convocations will be the site of a workshop on lay ministry to be conducted by the Commission on Liturgy and Music, in cooperation with the Institute of Lay Ministry at the Bishop's Centre for Ministry," announced Canon Jim Boyd, M.D.

Participants must register for the event and each must have the endorsement of their priest to participate in the event.

This year's offering will be patterned after workshops initially held in 2009. Registration forms will be available in all parishes and missions in a timely fashion.

Attending one of the workshops will qualify an attendee, upon recommendation of his/her priest to Bishop MacPherson, for a 3-year license in any or all of the following lay ministries: Eucharistic minister, Eucharistic visitor, or Worship leader. The workshop will start at 10:00 a.m and adjourn at 2:00 p.m. The first of the workshops was held Saturday, May 1 in Shreveport, but four other gatherings will be held during summer and the fall.

For reasons of convenience, attendees need not attend the workshop in their specific convocation, but may attend the session that is most convenient.

Conducting the workshops will be Canon Boyd of St. Mark's Cathedral, Robert and Pat Brown of Ascension in Lafayette, Reece Middleton of Church of The Holy Cross, Shreveport, and Dr. Frank Fuller of Trinity, Natchitoches.

Workshops remaining include:

Alexandria — May 15, 2010 at St. James Episcopal Church

Lake Charles — August 14, 2010 at Church of the Good Shepherd

Lafayette — October 2, 2010 at Church of the Ascension

Monroe — November 13, 2010 at St. Alban's Episcopal Church

Questions concerning the upcoming workshops should be directed to Canon Jim Boyd at 318-222-1902 or by email: jdbgyn@aol.com.