

# Jubilate Deo

The Anglican Diocese of South Carolina

Summer 2023

## The War is Over: It's Time to Plant, Revitalize, Rebuild

### Edgar Sets Priorities in First Convention Address as Bishop

By Joy Hunter, Editor

In his first convention address as Bishop of The Anglican Diocese of South Carolina, Bishop Chip Edgar set priorities he hoped the Diocese would live into over the course of his Episcopacy. In the address, given March 10, 2023, in the Chapel at the Cross Schools, Bluffton, he highlighted church planting, church revitalization, the continuing education of our clergy, the updating of our constitution and canons and restoring our losses – noting, especially, the development of a new camp and conference center, Camp Jubilee.

He also offered a word of caution.

While acknowledging three of our churches are still awaiting a ruling by the SC Supreme Court, he said now that we're at the end of the litigation with the Episcopal Church, we need not continue as "battlers."

"We've come to the end of the lawsuit, and I am eager to walk with you into the future that God has for us in gospel ministry in the Anglican Diocese of South Carolina," said Edgar. "The churches, the people, the clergy of this great diocese, are ready to put all of that behind us and to move on unfettered into gospel ministry."

"We need to be a diocese now, not marked by our fighting ability, not hungry for the next enemy, but desiring to proclaim the gospel alone and to build those places where righteousness can take root, where the world, as we want it to be, begins to take hold.

"The war is over. It's time to seek and save the lost. It's time to plant and revitalize. It's time to hone and consistently renew our minds, to answer the hard questions of the day. And it's time to rebuild what is lost. Read, full address below, right.



JOY HUNTER

"We've come to the end of the lawsuit, and I am eager to walk with you into the future that God has for us in gospel ministry in the Anglican Diocese of South Carolina," said Bishop Edgar.

#### Abbreviated Convention

This year, the Convention meeting was abbreviated with the Bishop's address, the welcoming of two church plants about to become mission congregations, as well as the welcoming of new clergy all incorporated into Friday evening's service of Holy Eucharist.

Following the worship service, clergy and delegates shared a meal and viewed an

inspiring video in which the rectors, vicars and laity of congregations which had to turn their properties over to the Episcopal Church, following the SC Supreme Court ruling, described that experience, talking about the loss, the struggles they've encountered, the faithfulness of God, and the blessings they are receiving in the process.

In the video, Ted Duvall, Rector of Christ Church, Mt. Pleasant, remarked, "... The dio-

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#### South Carolina Supreme Court Final Order:

### Two More Anglican Parishes Have Property Rights Affirmed

By The Rev. Canon Jim Lewis, Canon to the Ordinary

Today, May 24, 2023, in a unanimous order, the South Carolina Supreme Court ruled on the pending petitions and motions before it regarding the remaining three parish properties still in dispute. Today's order denied all such actions, returning to its earlier decision from August 17, 2022. Two will remain with the Anglican Diocese of South Carolina and one will be returned to the Episcopal Church in South Carolina.

In response to the August ruling, the Church of the Good Shepherd (Charleston) had filed a petition for rehearing, asking the Court to reconsider facts in the case that had resulted in the Court ruling that the Episcopal Church (TEC) maintained a trust interest in their property. That determination has now been affirmed by the Court and the parish will enter into settlement discussions with TEC to resolve the transfer of property and all other remaining issues.

The Episcopal Church on its part had also filed both petitions for rehearing and motions for relief from judgement regarding Old St. Andrews (Charleston) and Holy Cross (Stateburg). The August 17 ruling had affirmed Anglican parish control of those properties. Today's decision affirmed that outcome for both those congregations. In today's order, the Court said, "After careful consideration of both petitions for rehearing, the court is unable to discover that any material fault

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MADISON KUZIA

**FOOD TRUCK CONNECTIONS:** "What is the one thing we can do to invite people back after Easter?" That was the question St. Michael's leadership team pondered. "We love Alpha," said Assistant Rector Greg

Smith, "but realized for some people it's a step too far. First people need to step on our campus and realize Christians aren't crazy people. We love and bless our community. That was our goal." See story, page six.

## Bishop Edgar Addresses the 2023 Convention

By The Rt Revd Chip Edgar, Bishop of the Anglican Diocese of South Carolina

Following is the address given by Bishop Edgar at the 2023 Diocesan Convention, held March 10-11 at the Cross Schools in Bluffton, SC. It has been edited for readability.

Heavenly Father, you gave your apostles grace truly to believe and to preach your word. Grant that we might love what they believed and preach what they taught through Christ our Lord.

I want to first greet my fellow bishops, Bishop Hathaway, Bishop Lawrence. I'm so grateful for you and your presence in this Diocese. I also want to remind you of and greet Bishop Allison. Bishop Allison is not with us. You might have heard that his daughter Alston died Wednesday evening. Please keep the Allison

family in your prayers. The funeral will be held Thursday afternoon at 2:00 p.m. at St. Michael's Church in Charleston. And Bishop Skilton, also one of the bishops in our Diocese, I'm grateful for him and sad he could not be here.

Greetings to my brother and sister clergy. It is great to be with you. It's great to be gathered together like this from time to time and to remind each other, as we see each other, just how strong this diocese is. As I look out, I see an amazing group of clergy, and I'm blessed by you. I'm blessed to know you and to be working with you.

I'm grateful for, and want to greet, all of the delegates and lay folks who are here. It's wonderful to have you with us, to have you

here worshipping with us today. It's a wonderful time as a diocese to be together.

And I have to thank Father Chuck Owens and all the folks—the clergy and people of the Church of the Cross, Bluffton, who have done amazing work to get ready for us and for this occasion. Thank you all for all the hard work you have done to make this possible for us.

So, this is The Anglican Diocese of South Carolina! I am so blessed to be a part of this Diocese. I've been in the diocese for 402 days, 363 of those as your bishop. (It was easy to figure that out with the old "www.computer" at hand.)

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# What is Old is New Again: Full-Immersion Baptism at St. Paul's, Conway

By The Rev. Jason Collins, Rector, St. Paul's Church, Conway

Last summer, I took a sabbatical to be refreshed and recharged for the next season of my ministry. For my own personal edification, I decided to read and study about baptism. I studied every Scripture reference to ritual washing in the Old Testament and references to baptism in the New Testament. Then, I read scholarly works about baptism from the Early Church Fathers and theologians from Anglican and other Protestant traditions. Finally, I studied the baptism liturgies from every English Book of Common Prayer from 1549 to 1662 and then subsequent American versions of the Book of Common Prayer from 1789 to 2019.

My academic reading was edifying, but I was not wading into unfamiliar waters since I had read (hurriedly) much of the Anglican baptismal works while in seminary. The biggest surprise came from sources I was VERY familiar with – the Books of Common Prayer. If “familiarity breeds contempt,” then my familiarity had caused me to overlook something that reading the rubrics with fresh “sabbatical eyes” allowed me to catch.

I was surprised to learn that every version of the Book of Common Prayer suggests that baptism by full immersion is the preferred method of baptism. From 1549 to 1928, the baptismal rubrics are clear: “...the Priest shall take the Child into his hands, and shall say to the Godfathers and Godmothers, ‘Name this Child’. And then naming it after them (if they shall certify him that the Child may well endure it) he shall *dip* [emphasis added] it in the Water discreetly and warily...” Alternatively, the rubrics state: “But if they certify that the Child is weak, it shall suffice to *pour* [emphasis added] Water upon it...” To “dip” is the immerse; to “pour” is to effuse (sprinkle).

The rubrics in the baptismal liturgy of the Book of Common Prayer 1979 state: “Each candidate is presented by name to the Celebrant, or to an assisting priest or deacon, who then *immerses* [emphasis added], or *pours* [emphasis added] water upon, the candidate...” Likewise, the ru-



KAITE HUCKS

Above, The Rev. Jason Collins baptizes Drake Shelton. Drake was the first person fully immersed in the new baptistry.

brics of the baptismal liturgy of the ACNA Book of Common Prayer 2019 also state: “Then the Celebrant *immerses* [emphasis added] the Candidate or *pours* [emphasis added] water upon the Candidate three times...” In the newer editions of the Book of Common Prayer, immersion is mentioned first and effusion is mentioned second. That – at least – implies that baptism by full-immersion should be an option, if not the preferred method of baptism.

When the congregation at St. Paul's, Conway, built the new church in 2001, a typical baptismal font was installed in the church, but because of the size of the font, it is impossible to immerse a candidate in the water. No one had the option to be fully immersed if they were baptized inside the church. But following my sabbatical, I made a report of my baptism study to the Vestry, and they agreed it was important to have the option to be fully immersed at baptism. In October 2022 and January 2023, we borrowed a portable baptistry from The Rock Church

and offered full immersion as an option for baptism. Then, a group of generous parishioners purchased our own portable baptistry. It was used for the first time on April 30, 2023.

Since the amount of water does not determine the efficacy of the sacrament, candidates and their parents and godparents may be baptized by full-immersion or effusion. Since having the option available, nine candidates have been baptized at St. Paul's Church – five by full immersion and four by effusion.

Obviously, full-immersion baptism presents a logistical challenge if Holy Communion is to be celebrated later in the service. To remove that challenge for the Celebrant and the newly-baptized, with Bishop Edgar's permission, we began to do baptisms during Morning Prayer. This was also common practice in the Anglican tradition before the Book of Common Prayer 1979. This custom allows for the newly baptized to exit the chancel to dry off and put on dry clothes before re-entering to finish the service. This

also allows time for the Celebrant to change vestments (if necessary) while a lay person or deacon finishes the Morning Prayer service.

Full-immersion baptism may not be an option for every church for various reasons. But as the Conway community continues to grow and we reach more and more non-Christian and unchurched people with the Gospel of Jesus, and as baptismal candidates get older and older, it seemed to be a necessary option for us. I pray that the ancient symbolism of going under the water and dying to sin and coming up from the water to a new and resurrected life will be a metaphor that will help people to live out their baptismal covenant in “holiness and righteousness all the days of their lives.” To God be the glory!

If you would like a copy of the Morning Prayer/Baptism liturgy, contact The Rev. Jason Collins at [jason@stpaulsconway.org](mailto:jason@stpaulsconway.org).

## Bowman Appointed Canon for Safe Churches

By The Rt Revd Chip Edgar, Bishop of The Anglican Diocese of South Carolina

I am pleased to announce that, with the Standing Committee's concurrence, I have appointed the Revd Laura Bowman to be our diocesan

Canon for Safe Churches. This appointment is a part of, and demonstrates our ongoing



commitment to, making our diocese and our churches safe places for everyone, especially our children and youth.

For the past year, the Standing Committee has been working to bring our diocesan program for church safety in line with best practices that have been learned from around the ACNA and the wider church.

Our training for clergy, church staff, and volunteers is strong, and our Canons outline clearly how perpetrators are dealt with if found guilty. We felt our greatest need was to make clearer how incidents were to be more easily reported, and how investigations were to proceed.

During our research and planning it became clear that a point person was needed to ensure faithful, ongoing compliance by our churches; a simple, straightforward route for incident reporting; and a person who would oversee the process of investigations, ensuring that both victims and the accused had pastoral care and support; clear communication throughout the investigation process; and professional, trauma informed investigators conducting the process.

Canon Laura Bowman is a priest in good standing, currently serving at the Church of the Holy

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## GAFCON: Moving Forward Together in a Shared Devotion to Jesus

By The Very Rev. Peet Dickinson, Dean of the Cathedral of St. Luke & St. Paul, Charleston

Along with our Bishop, Chip Edgar, and eight others from our diocese, attended the Global Anglican Future Conference (GAFCON) in Kigali, Rwanda from April 17-21. GAFCON is held every five years, and this is the fourth gathering. It brought together 1,302 delegates from 52 countries, including 315 bishops, 456 priests and deacons, and 351 laity. Thirty-four hours of travel one way might seem a little extreme in order to spend a week at a conference, but that's exactly what I did last week, and let me tell you why it was worth it.

### The Beauty of a Global Communion

It never ceases to bless my heart to see the broad diversity of our Anglican Communion and this was on full display in Kigali. To look across the room where we met was to see a true tapestry of different ethnicities and cultures. If you stopped and listened in between sessions you could hear countless languages being



PROVIDED BY GAFCON

The diversity is spectacular, but what makes it all so beautiful is the very real sense that we are all part of one global Anglican family...

spoken. My prayer group consisted of bishops from Tanzania, South Africa, Myanmar, a priest from Americas, Georgia, and a laywoman from Dublin, Ireland. I heard testimony of a joint mission between a Brazilian Bishop and a Nigerian Bishop to the tiny West African

vice. It really did feel like we had a glimpse of the heavenly vision of Revelation 7 and the great multitude from every nation, tribe, people, and language standing before the throne and the Lamb.

nation of Guinea-Bissau, and we met the very first Anglican priest ever ordained in Guinea-Bissau. The diversity is spectacular, but what makes it all so beautiful is the very real sense that we are all part of one global Anglican family as evidenced by the ease with which we entered into our Book of Common Prayer worship at Morning Prayer and in the closing Holy Communion service.

### The Break with Canterbury

The most consequential news from GAFCON IV was that the GAFCON primates and the primates of the Global South Fellowship of Anglican Churches (GSFA), whose provinces represent about 85% of the world's Anglicans, made the decision to no longer recognize the Archbishop of Canterbury as an “Instrument of Communion,” the “first among equals” of the Primates because “the Church of England has chosen to impair her relationship with the orthodox provinces in the Communion.” Furthermore, the Primates stated that there is a “united commitment of both groups on three fundamentals: the lordship of Jesus Christ; the authority and clarity of the Word of God; and the priority of the church's mission to the world...Anglican identity is defined by this and not by recognition from the See of Canterbury. This all stems from the most recent departure from Biblical teaching on human sexuality and marriage coming from the Church of England despite the pleas from the rest of the Communion for them not to do so. It is a terribly sad thing that has happened, and

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## A Big Thank You to St. Helena's Church Provides Housing for Camp Jubilee Director

By Justin Johnson, Camp Director, Camp Jubilee

My family and I will move up to Camp Kinard outside of Columbia on May 22 to begin training the Camp Jubilee summer staff and prepare to receive our first campers. We are eager to start this new season of camp ministry, but before we head out, we want to pause to thank you.



This season of transition has included much loss for our family. Having to give up our home at St. Christopher was particularly hard and left us uncertain of where we were to go next. When it became clear we would have to leave, Shay quickly reached out to say that St. Helena's would like to support us and help us find a place to land in Beaufort. Providing a home for our family has been a true blessing and answer to prayer. Thank you!

Your support in this season has not only blessed our family but has also played a large role in allowing summer camp ministry in our diocese to continue uninterrupted. We have had to rebuild practically every aspect of camp from the ground up over the last few months. Being able to begin this work from day one instead of having to spend weeks looking for a place for our family to go was significant, and it provided us the time and focus needed to help make camp happen this summer. Thank you!

Finally, I want to say thank you for welcoming us into this community. We have been blessed by your friendship over the last several months, and it has been a joy to worship, share meals, and live life alongside of you. St. Helena's is a wonderful church that reflects the love of the Lord well, and we are grateful to be part of this community.

Please pray for us and all the Camp Jubilee staff, counselors, and campers over the next few months, and please know that we will be praying for you while we are away. We look forward to seeing you when we return and sharing all that the Lord will do at camp this summer!

*This article first appeared in the email newsletter of St. Helena's, Beaufort.*

# Partnering with God in Creating Good and Beautiful Things

An Interview with Tom Woodle, Rector, The Well, Myrtle Beach

Interview By Joy Hunter, Editor

**Tom, in addition to being a priest, (Rector of The Well, Myrtle Beach), you're a musician, singer, author, and now teach a group in your parish how to play the ukulele. How do you see creative expression as a part of your walk with Christ? And how important is it in your life?**

From the very beginning God has allowed us to "co-create" with Him. We do this in birthing babies, in preaching the gospel, in developing medicine, and certainly in what we call "the creative arts." Someone once said "God gave us music so we could pray and worship without speaking." I believe this is true and when we add words to the creative

I believe that when we create beautiful and helpful things, we can sense God's pleasure and we leave the world a little better place than how we found it.

mix, we only enhance the gift God has given us. I believe God created us to partner with Him in creating good and beautiful things, so for me, writing music and books are two of the highest expressions of my personal worship. Even when we are singing funny songs, like we often do in the ukulele group, we are creating joy, laughter, and fellowship.

**When did you first pick up a guitar or start writing music? Tell us a bit about your creative journey.**

I remember very well the first day I picked up a ukulele 66 years ago. My dad was sitting on our front porch playing a banjo-ukulele (which I still have) and I told him I wanted to play. I was four years old at the time. He put the uke in my hands, showed me how to hold it and taught me three basic chords....C, F, and G. Then he taught me the old Hank Williams song, "Your Cheatin' Heart." The chord formation and strumming came very easily for me,

so after about 30 minutes, he taught me my second song, "Five Foot Two, Eyes Of Blue," which required me to expand into a couple more chords. I loved it and spent the next two years constantly playing and learning songs. At age six, I was invited to play on a local radio show. I was so little they had to get a box for me to stand on in the studio so I could reach the microphone. After that I was invited to play in beauty contests, talent shows, etc. around Marlboro County.

When I was about nine I switched over to a tenor guitar, which is a four-string guitar with steel strings. I played that for a couple of years and at 11, started playing the six-string guitar. I had an uncle who would frequent bars and there was this one particular place where guitar players would gather on Saturday nights, in the back room. Some of them had worked in Nashville and were really good musicians who had let "fire water" get the best of them. Unbeknownst to my parents, my uncle would take me there on Saturday nights to sit and play with them. I learned quite a bit from these guys....some of it actually about guitar playing. At about 12 I was in my first band and did a little TV work in Florence.

Then at 16 I was in my first professional band, "The Mystics," which was a soul/Mo-town band. I started writing music in high school and eventually that paid off when my band later started playing in Nashville. Over the years I played constantly and was a worship leader in my college Christian fellowship group. I majored in voice performance for one year in college, but gave it up for theological studies.



TIM TAYLOR

*Find what makes your heart smile and do it. Open yourself up to things you may not have thought were especially creative in your life. It may not be music. It may be flower gardening. It could be anything. Just do it. And the more you do it, the better you'll get at it.*

After college I went on the road playing country and bluegrass. The Reedy Creek Band ended up in Nashville, recording and working with artists such as Reba McEntire, Steve Wariner, and other country musicians. In 1983 we had our first (and only) national chart hit and we rode that for several years afterward. When I finally decided I really didn't like the mainstream music business that much, I gave up the road and returned to create a bluegrass band with three of my friends that lasted for 30 years. During that time I also realized that a large part of my personal apostolic calling centered around leading worship. Today, in addition to being the Rector of The Well, I am also the worship leader. The uke band was something I thought of after watching Janis Breazeale at St. Matthews, Fort Motte, form

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## War Over: Convention Recap

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cese and others have grieved with us, and we thank them for that. But the real story at Christ Church is that God has been good to us... Christ Church Anglican is alive and well. We need your support. But we're moving forward, and God's graces are manifold."

### Business Meeting

During Saturday's business meeting the convention passed the 2023 budget, heard a report from the Rev. Dr. Rob Sturdy on the progress being made by the Abuse Prevention Committee, passed changes in the Constitution and Canons, mostly pertaining to our change of status in relation to the Episcopal Church, received a report on the Jerusalem Fund from the Rev. Canon Jim Lewis and held elections.

The Jerusalem fund, which was developed to provide assistance to the churches which lost property, has received \$322,351 in donations, to date, Lewis shared. Of that sum, \$120,206 has been disbursed. Once the final status of the last three parishes is decided, the Diocese

will launch a targeted ingathering. Until that time all gifts are gratefully welcomed.

Sturdy's committee, made up of members of the standing committee, as well as diocesan youth and children's ministers has been working to update and revise our sexual abuse prevention policies. Assisting them in this endeavor has been the comprehensive work of the non-geographic diocese Churches for the Sake of Others, who have made their resources available to member dioceses of the ACNA. Their finished work will assist our diocesan churches increase awareness about children's and youth safety, educate our clergy and ministers about South Carolina State law regarding their responsibilities concerning children and youth safety, and give every member of the diocese a clear, straightforward, simple, online reporting process.

### Elections

The following individuals were elected to serve the diocese: Standing Committee: The Rev. David Booman, The Rev. Mary

Ellen Doran, Bobby Kilgo and Terry Jenkins; Diocesan Council: The Rev. Kyle Holtzower, The Rev. Jason Varnadore, Kelli Hample and Cathy Jacobs, Ecclesiastical Court: The Rev. Newman Lawrence, The Rev. Drew Miller, Susan McDonald and Harry Oxner.

### Missions Transition to Parish Status

One of the highlights of the convention was the welcoming of two church plants as mission congregations. The Parish Church at Habersham, Beaufort and Good Samaritan Anglican Church, Summerville were welcomed on Friday and their new status was officially voted on during Saturday's business meeting. The clergy and representatives of the two congregations received a standing ovation for their new status.

### Camp Jubilee

The Rev. Canon Ken Weldon, Executive Director of Camp Jubilee, gave an update on the team

organizing our new summer camp and future camp and conference center, answering three questions they are repeatedly asked, "How are y'all doing? What are we doing? and Where are we going?" In summary, they're doing "great;" summer camp is 70% subscribed; and the future, for the camp and our diocese, is "in the Lord's hands." Weldon reminded us that though we may not see far in to the future, as it says in Psalm 119 "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet." "Jesus will go before us. Jesus will never forsake us...we do not walk in darkness."

### Additional Business

One of the more poignant moments of the convention came while thanking those who played a significant role during the litigation with the Episcopal Church: Alan Runyan, (our lead Attorney), Ben Hagood, (our Chancellor), the Rev. Canon Jim Lewis (Canon to the Ordinary) and Nancy Armstrong (Diocesan Administrator and Assistant Treasurer). When Bishop Edgar asked Runyan if he would like to say a few

words, he said, "Asking a lawyer if he wants to say something is like waving a red flag in front of a bull. It has been an honor representing this Diocese, but this is not my moment, this is God's moment. There is one thing I've been thinking about all night and all morning. And that is this question. It doesn't come from me; it comes from God. It's this: "What will you do with what I have given you?"

A special tribute was made to Nancy Armstrong who will be retiring this July after having served in the diocese for 30 years.

### Conclusion

Before adjourning, the Bishop thanked the youth commission, the staff and volunteers of the Church of the Cross, Bluffton, for hosting the convention; and announced that the 2024 Convention will be held March 7-9. At the conclusion of the meeting the location of the next convention had not yet been decided, but it will be held at the Church of the Cross again in 2024.

# VBS: Return to its Roots and Take to the Streets

By Corey Vernon, Director of Children's Ministry, The Parish Church of St. Helena, Beaufort

Did you know Vacation Bible School (VBS) started at a saloon in New York City? Like most of us, I never thought to ask, "Where and when did VBS begin?" What I learned was surprising. Would you have ever guessed that VBS was 125 years old, and started in a New York City saloon? Neither would I.

VBS was conceived by the wife of a missionary doctor who saw a need to get kids off the streets of New York City in the summer of 1898. The doctor's wife, Mrs. Hawes, rented a saloon in the city's east side to host her "Everyday Bible School" as it was called back then. VBS has come a long way since 1898. And I would argue there is more of an opportunity to build God's kingdom through VBS than the church gives it credit for.

My hope and prayer is that this article expands your expectations of what VBS is capable of.

## How Vacation Bible School has grown and changed

One thing is abundantly clear when you study the history of Vacation Bible School: it was solely focused on evangelism.

The strategy Mrs. Hawes stumbled upon was to give a bunch of aimless kids something positive to do with their summer. What she did struck a nerve in the community, and the church took notice! By 1901 there were five schools. By 1903 there were 17 schools across New York City. Over the next few decades, VBS went north to Canada, west to Chicago, and south to the Baptist churches. Committees were

formed to manage the growth. Curriculums were written to standardize the model. Conventions were held to spread the strategy across denominations, and for international use. This dynamic ministry went on virtually unchanged until the 1970s when new technologies and cultural shifts began to influence VBS. By the late 1990s, VBS was not so different from what you might experience today. However, there is one major difference between a modern VBS and its traditional roots. In a word, it's the "outcome." What do I mean? Let me share a story.

## My personal journey with Vacation Bible School

I was 27 years old and newly married when I took my first role as a Children's Director at a non-denominational church. Two years as a Middle School Director in youth ministry was all the experience and training I had to lean on. This did



COREY VERNON

*I had heard that VBS had evangelistic, and even missionary-like roots. I did some digging and found a curriculum that was designed to be packed in a box and taken on a mission trip. I thought, "What if we did this in neighborhoods and community parks?"*

not help me when it came to planning my first VBS, so I just did what I saw other churches doing. We went with an evening VBS and served dinner to help attract families. Kids were encouraged to invite friends. A fun "Heroes of the Bible" theme was chosen. The kids I saw every Sunday at church were all there, plus a neighborhood friend or two. Everyone had a great time! A few kids raised their hand during an altar call on the last night. Sound familiar? The next year was much the same. New theme, same location, same format, same outcome.

Something was bugging me after the second VBS. I couldn't help but think, "Gosh, this seems like a lot of work with little to show for it at the end. Am I doing this wrong?" Now I know that every sinner who repents causes great rejoicing in heaven. And this is nothing to scoff at. All I'm saying is that planning a VBS is a LOT OF WORK! Meanwhile, I had heard that VBS had evangelistic, and even missionary-like roots. I did some digging and found a curriculum that was designed to be packed in a box and taken on a mission trip.

I thought, "What if we did this in neighborhoods and community parks?" Some of my more seasoned volunteers looked at me and said, "That's how we used to do VBS back in the day." Encouraged by the thought that there was a historical precedent, and that my volunteers were familiar with this type of VBS, I pitched the idea to some parents and church leaders at a later event. The response was tepid to put it kindly. There was no real interest in a different approach, so I went back to the usual methods of VBS until we left that church a few years later.

Fast forward to March 2020. I was gearing up for the first VBS in my new role at the Parish Church of St. Helena when COVID-19 hit! It was a struggle for everyone, and we were no exception. All plans and progress came to a screeching halt, and it was the middle of June before I remembered the VBS curriculum designed for mission trips. Again, I thought, "What if we did VBS outside in neighborhoods and parks?" I pitched the idea to Father Shay Gaillard, and unlike the response I received years ago, he enthusiastically said, "Go for it!"

## Back to the roots of Vacation Bible School

With Father Shay's full support, I had the opportunity to fulfill a desire God placed on my heart years prior and meet the substantial need I saw in the community to be together under the banner of the Gospel. With little time to plan I still had to get clear on what we were after.

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# Ready. Set. Launch! Holy Cross, Daniel Island, Prepares to Become an Independent Church

By The Rev. Jonathan Bennett, Associate Rector and Daniel Island Campus Pastor, Holy Cross



JESSICA WILLIS

*In the spring of 2024 the Holy Cross, Daniel Island, campus will launch as its own church within the Anglican Diocese of South Carolina.*

You may or may not know that Holy Cross, Daniel Island, is preparing to launch as an independent and autonomous church within the Anglican Diocese of South Carolina. Here's an overview of what we are doing, why we are doing it, and where we are in the process.

## Why are we launching?

In the spring of 2024 the Holy Cross, Daniel Island campus will launch as its own church. Over a period of six months in 2022 it was prayerfully discerned by the leadership of our church on both campuses that this was God's call to us. But why do we believe this is right? Becoming an independent church will allow us to:

**#1 Grow Up:** The Daniel Island campus is somewhat like the child that never leaves home, and as a result is never challenged to begin its own family, remaining in a state of constant childhood, stunted in our growth. Being launched out will stretch us in ways that would not happen otherwise - time, talents and treasure - but also in raising up leaders and becoming a people who pray and who grow in their faith. With no 'mother church' to provide for us we will have to use our own resources to thrive.

**#2 Grow Out:** With autonomy will come more flexibility to plant churches, expand our current buildings, and reach beyond our current location through local cultural adaptation and outreach, both national and international.

In short, we want to 'grow and go!'

## How will we do this?

There are three phases to this process:

### #1 Ready!

A launch committee was formed in October 2022 to shepherd this process and to get us ready to launch, handling areas such as budgets and finance, separating our pre-school, vision and values, governance (vestry and bylaws), staffing, and possible building

expansion. This team then formed sub-committees to draw in more lay people to help make the launch a reality.

### #2 Set!

By fall of 2023, we intend to get set and move into the final preparations for launch as an independent church within the Anglican Diocese of South Carolina. This phase will include finalizing our first budget, finalizing our bylaws, electing our first vestry, establishing our staff team, and sharing our vision and values.

### #3 Launch!

At the beginning of 2024 we will be launched as an independent church and received into the Anglican Diocese of South Carolina as an autonomous parish. While we will share some administrative functions with Sullivan's Island, we will be separate, and, God willing, I will be installed as our first Rector.

## Where are we in the process?

Since the last update, our Launch Committee has been hard at work and has:

- met monthly, with subcommittees meeting in between these meetings
- completed a week-long assessment, by church consultant Jim Pace (Discerning Partners)
- received Jim Pace's full report and it is helping to shape our future conversations and decisions



JESSICA WILLIS

*With autonomy will come more flexibility to plant churches, expand our current buildings, and reach beyond our current location through local cultural adaptation and outreach, both national and international.*

- prepared a draft 2024 budget for HCDI, and the initial numbers look like we can be financially viable as a stand-alone church, though we will need to grow in this area.
- received architectural bids for possible expansion.
- drafted a 'Vision and Values' document that will be finalized this summer and shared with the congregation this fall
- written draft bylaws that will also be finalized this summer
- put together an online survey for the HCDI Campus, focusing primarily on Sunday morning worship and our current ministries.

Please keep Holy Cross, Daniel Island, in your prayers as we move forward in this process.

# Hospitality Edgar Style: The “Normal” Open Door

## An Interview with Beth Edgar

By Joy Hunter, Editor

**W**hat does hospitality mean to you? A formal dinner party, with candles glowing, silver place settings? A cookout with a collection of neighbors?... For Beth Edgar, the wife of Bishop Chip Edgar, it means an open door and a place to stay. In addition to friends and family, they’ve hosted visiting bishops, international speakers, clergy from other dioceses, families seeking medical treatment. Their front door is so open they had about 50 overnight guests in the first three months they lived in the Bishop’s residence. Sound extreme? It did to me, so on April 6 Beth made time for me to come sit with her in her sunny kitchen, with Wrigley, their Vizsla, resting nearby and we talked about hospitality.



JOY HUNTER

**Fifty guests in three months. That’s a lot of guests! Does hospitality come naturally to you? How did you and the bishop get started?**

Chip and I both grew up in houses that practiced hospitality. When we came together it was never, “Do you want to do this?” It was just the natural thing you do. We had similar backgrounds in terms of how we do it. Our parents were very involved in Christian ministries and church. So, it definitely has its root in Christian ministry, for both of us.

**What does hospitality look like for the Edgars?**

It’s mostly opening our home. I don’t really do meals for people. I’ll set up coffee and usually breakfast stuff or some fruit and muffins. But if I had to prepare a meal every time somebody stayed with us, we would not be having people in nearly as much. That, to me, is stressful.

Hospitality is just showing love to people... We all have different gifts, we all have different means, we all have different personalities. Taking an interest in people is showing hospitality.

I always told my kids when they were younger, “Just be an includer, just include people.” And something I learned when I had my second baby was that love always multiplies, it never divides. We found that, too, with hosting people and having an open home. It doesn’t ever take away. That’s not to say there aren’t times when we need an evening just the two of us, but love multiplies. It doesn’t divide.

**Is it mostly friends staying with you or people you know?**

A lot of them are. Some are friends of friends. The people in the carriage house right now aren’t people we knew. A priest in the diocese called and said the brother of one of their church members had to be life-flighted to MUSC. So that family came and stayed for a week. But the family in there now are once removed from that family, in a similar situation. The man had to have heart surgery.

**So you sometimes open up to complete strangers?**

Yes. A priest will call and say, “There’s somebody in my church who needs it.” Or in Columbia, where we did not have a carriage house, we often hosted musicians through the University of South Carolina.

We probably had, I don’t know, about 20 people in and out of here last year for Spoleto (the Charleston Arts Festival).

**That’s a lot of people to have in your home! It would overwhelm me!**

I feel like people make it a bigger deal, which then makes it a little scary. But there are lots of different ways to show hospitality. For us, it’s just been easy and natural and fun to have people in our home.

**S o m e** would say, “I’d rather not have

people in my house, but I’ll take people a meal or I’ll pick something up.” I have a friend who stops by every once in a while and drops off some flowers or a little something I mentioned. That’s her way of showing hospitality.

Hospitality is just showing love to people. It doesn’t have to mean having a big dinner party or having people in your house. I think we need to look outside that. It’s broader than that. We all have different gifts, we all have different means, we all have different personalities. Taking an interest in people is showing hospitality.



JOY HUNTER

The first night you stay here, you get the cute little signs and all that, and then... the second day, it’s, “Morning! The coffee is over there, and I bet you can find the cream. It’s in the fridge.”

**Do you adjust your schedule to spend time with every guest that comes in?**

No. Some guests, yes. But not every guest. Coffee will be on in the morning, and I have everything set out for breakfast when people are here, on a tray. I even have little cards I keep in the drawer that say “Vanilla Creamer” and “Half and Half.”

The first night you stay here, you get the cute little signs and all that, and then, and you can ask Ken Weldon for backup on this, the second day, it’s, “Morning! The coffee is over

Continued on Page 11



JOY HUNTER

One thing Ken Weldon told me his mom always said was, “If you treat people like guests, they’ll feel like guests and act like guests. If you treat them like family, they’ll feel like family.” Above, the Edgar’s dog, Wrigley helps people to “feel like family.”

## Rediscovering Your Joy Anglican Women’s Retreat, October 20-22

**C**hrist came “that we may have life and have it abundantly” (John 10:10). Why, then, do so many of us fail to experience a joy-filled, abundant life?

Join Sherry Schumann, at this year’s Anglican Women’s Retreat, as she digs into God’s Word to examine what it means to remove the grave clothes and rediscover the joy. Together, we will discuss hot topics faced by women throughout the ages; topics such as unattainable goals, unforgiveness, generational sin, fear and shame. All the while, we’ll keep our eyes on Christ and His incredible gift of freedom and joy.

The retreat will be held at Epworth by the Sea, St. Simons Island, GA.

Additional information will be available soon on the diocesan website [www.adosc.org](http://www.adosc.org)

**About our Speaker**

A gifted storyteller and speaker, Sherry serves as the president of Christian Grandparenting Network. While she spends much of her time working with grandparents, she loves whenever the Lord

affords her opportunities to study God’s Word with women of all ages.

She has written two books, *Prayers that Stir the Hearts of Grandparents* and *The Christmas Bracelet*. Her latest book, *The Grand Expedition: A Practical Guide to Praying for Your Grandchildren*, will be available in summer, 2023.

Sherry’s life in rural South Carolina is simple and beautiful. She has been married to her soul mate for four decades. They are blessed with three grown sons, three daughters-in-law and seven adorable grandchildren. Sherry’s heart rejoices whenever their home echoes with the sounds of their children’s (daughters-in-law, included) and grandchildren’s voices.



JOY HUNTER

*Rediscovering your Joy*

Speaker: Sherry Schumann

The Anglican Diocese of South Carolina Women’s Retreat  
October 20-22, 2023 at Epworth by the Sea, St. Simons Island, GA

[adosc.org](http://adosc.org)

## The Annual Gathering of the Anglican Women of the Diocese: Van Weston Teaches about God as Caring, Loving Father and Redeemer

By Nell Stone, Church of Our Saviour, Johns Island



JOY HUNTER

Speaker Van Weston, of All Saint's Church, Pawley's Island, shown above with her brother, the Rev. Rich Giersch, "delivered a riveting--and heartening--presentation, 'Can You Hear Me Now?'"

The Annual Gathering of the Anglican Women of the Diocese was held Saturday, April 22, at the Church of the Resurrection, North Charleston. Planned by Diocesan Women's president, Sunny Walker, and other board members, including Janet Stoda, Brenda Rindge, Tracy Sutpin, Dab Dent, Cathy Jacobs, and Nell Stone, with meals provided by members of the Church of the Resurrection, the event was a day of encouragement, fellowship, learning, and refreshment.

Sisters in Christ started the day with fellowship and joyous worship. After a delicious breakfast graciously prepared by Mary Kauser, Mary Frances Ahl, and other women of Church of the Resurrection, the Rev. Rich Giersch, with assistance from Ann Caldwell, led lively and inspirational music worship in the sanctuary. Giersch's music, resonant with

to be an integral part in the lives of His people, His outpouring of love in sending Jesus as a living sacrifice for all, and His loving forgiveness for anyone who has fallen away but repents and opens his or her heart and life to Him. Van also assured the women that God cares about the particular personal concerns and needs of every one of His children. Weston reminded her audience of the realities of God as a Creator who brought men and women into being out of love, and as a Father who listens compassionately to the desires of our hearts and wishes to intervene directly in our lives.

Toward the end of Weston's initial teaching session, Weston shared a "Love Letter from God" that touched many hearts profoundly. Greeting the reader as a "precious daughter," the letter presented the voice of God communicating with the reader through a selection

of Scriptural passages expressing His immeasurable love and knowledge of each person in His creation as well as His assurance that He will guide the steps of someone who opens her heart to Him. As such, the letter reiterated the Lord as a Father who knows each man and woman intimately, loves us unconditionally, and desires to protect and guide us daily.

Speaker Van Weston, of All Saint's Church, Pawley's Island, and the sister of Rich Giersch, delivered a riveting--and heartening--presentation, "Can You Hear Me Now?" Weston's message emphasized the Lord's desire

of Scriptural passages expressing His immeasurable love and knowledge of each person in His creation as well as His assurance that He will guide the steps of someone who opens her heart to Him. As such, the letter reiterated the Lord as a Father who knows each man and woman intimately, loves us unconditionally, and desires to protect and guide us daily.

President Sunny Walker expressed, "I heard God's voice as I read the letter. Tears flowed--they were good tears." Attendees were also reminded of God's role as a loving Redeemer. To underscore His love, protection, and forgiveness, Weston showed a beautiful picture of Jesus holding a tiny lamb as she stressed the absolute dependence of sheep on their shepherd for guidance and protection. Our Good Shepherd cares deeply for each of us, His sheep, and opens His arms in joy and loving forgiveness when any one of us has fallen away but penitently returns to Him.

"Van was very inspiring and engaging. I could have listened to her all day," said Cathy Jacobs, of St. Paul's Church, Summerville.

Small group gatherings after each of Van's two presentations allowed participants to exchange ideas and discuss the ways in which Weston's teachings impacted each woman personally. "Van's small group questions were relatable and led to wonderful discussions," said Lisa Snowden, of Church of Our Saviour, John's Island.

Other attendees shared the following

statements about the teachings and small group gatherings:

"The realities of God the Creator knowing me before I came into the world and caring for me as a Father were things I needed to hear."

"The day made me feel uplifted. I enjoyed talking with women from other churches and



JOY HUNTER

"The event was a success," commented Walker, President of Anglican Women. "Women from churches all over the diocese talked, laughed and worshiped together, and Van gave everyone a strong message to take home with us."

listening to moving talks by our speaker."

"I felt the Holy Spirit's presence through Van's teaching and the conversations in my small group."

Walker announced that this year's Fall Women's Retreat will be held in October at Epworth by the Sea on Saint Simon's Island, Georgia. (See Pg. 5)

The event provided a day full of blessings. Walker commented, "The event was a success. Women from churches all over the diocese talked, laughed and worshiped together, and Van gave us a strong message to take home."

## St. Michael's Blesses Neighborhood with Food Truck Fête

By the Rev. Greg Smith, St. Michael's Church, Charleston

On busy, historical Meeting Street, in the heart of Charleston, a unique culinary event unfolded, hosted by none other than historic St. Michael's Church. The Food Truck Fête, held on a sunny Wednesday evening, was a party with a purpose for the friends and neighbors of St. Michael's.

The congregation of St. Michael's invited their friends and families to an event featuring four exceptional food vendors, each offering a distinct palette of flavors, ensuring that there was something to tantalize everyone's taste buds. The tantalizing scent of slow-cooked barbecue, another chef turning out sliders packed with big flavor, and

still another offering shrimp po'boys made for a culinary paradise.

But it wasn't just about food or fellowship. Our Evangelism Task Force proposed this event at the suggestion of the Rev. Tim Surratt who said we need, "one thing to invite people back for after Easter." The Vestry, with the help of the Rev. Randy Shirley, backed the project and we got to work.

The idea was to have a series of Porch Parties to which we could invite people with no other agenda than to have fun. No preaching, church music, nothing but the people and their clergy hanging out and having great food and great conversations. While St. Michael's has a decades-long track record of evangelistic efforts and great results from Alpha -- we've found it harder and harder for seekers to make their way into the church. Transfer growth is happening, but seekers find it hard to make Sunday or even Alpha their first taste of Christianity.

So, we decided to just have a series of parties with an agenda of "fun." This was the first and we'll follow it up with Noise in the Narthex (an afternoon mini-concert for people to enjoy from the street) and Jazz in the Churchyard (an October event for adults to mingle and enjoy music). Each event is designed with the singular purpose of letting our



MADISON KUZIA

As one satisfied participant noted, "What we've savored here today isn't just about the diverse food or fun activities -- I can tell this church loves its neighbors."

congregation invite friends to a quality event that is designed to introduce them to the idea of a church that likes to bless the neighborhood. Then, if they have a good time, it's easier to invite them to another church event like Alpha.

And, here's the best part -- the cost for this event was about \$300 for permits. The vendors charged for their food and were delighted to have so many customers.

Was it successful? It's a long term investment, but as the sun set on Meeting Street, the sounds of laughter and lingering conversations

filled the air. As one satisfied participant noted, "What we've savored here today isn't just about the diverse food or fun activities -- I can tell this church loves its neighbors."

And, to top it off, we ended the night with King

of Pops, a gourmet popsicle stand serving up an array of refreshing treats to counterbalance the sultry Charleston heat. With intriguing flavors from tropical mango-chili to decadent chocolate-dipped sea salt caramel, each popsicle was a masterpiece that soothed and excited the palate in equal measure. These frosty delights proved to be the perfect sweet ending to the evening.

See additional food truck story on page 11.



MADISON KUZIA

The idea was to have a series of Porch Parties to which we could invite people with no other agenda than to have fun. No preaching, church music, nothing but the people and their clergy hanging out and having great food and great conversations.

## Church of the Cross, Bluffton, to Host 2024 Convention

By The Rt Revd Chip Edgar,  
Bishop of The Anglican Diocese  
of South Carolina

At Diocesan House—the offices at the Cathedral where we serve the needs of our diocese—we are already planning for 2024. My calendar is being laid out, and the major events of our whole diocese are being worked out, as well.

Believe it or not, less than three months out from our last Diocesan Convention, planning for Convention 2024 is already well underway. When we took stock of the feedback we received from 2023, the facilities at the Church of the Cross, Bluffton, received exceedingly high ratings. The church where we worshipped, the hall where we ate dinner Friday night and held our business session Saturday morning combined for a great experience for everyone! It seems we all enjoyed being able to sit with our delegations at round tables. But the Cross, Bluffton's, facilities are unique in our diocese.

Fortunately, we have a commitment from the Church of the Cross, Bluffton, to host our Convention again on the Cross Schools Campus. I'm grateful to Fr Chuck Owens and his staff for their generous spirit of hospitality.

Begin now making your plans for the upcoming Convention to be held March 8 - 9, 2024, at the Cross Schools in Bluffton.

We are exploring AirBnB's in the area, in addition to hotel lodging, to make housing easier and, hopefully, cheaper. My assistant, Joyce Harder, will be providing information about these options in the near future.

I continue to be blessed to do ministry with you for the sake of the Kingdom.

## My Journey to Global Anglican Relationships

By The Rev. Robert S. Lawrence, The Cathedral Church of St. Luke & St. Paul, Charleston

Global Anglican relationships have long marked my experience as an Anglican “flavored” Christian, and I have been all the more blessed because of it. As a child of parents who had lived overseas (prior to my birth) I was aware of their opportunities to worship as Anglicans in other places throughout the world. I was also aware of relatives called to overseas mission work as Anglicans, as explanation for why an elaborate antique Chinese lantern hung in their home. The churches in which I grew up in various locations throughout the southeast often included members from other nations who came as Anglicans from other places like Nigeria, Jamaica, Cuba, and Egypt.

We share a common vision of building God's Kingdom that is growing exponentially in so many areas of the globe...

From an early age, I recognized that my participation and membership in our local Episcopal/Anglican church was indeed my participation in a much larger portion of the full body of Christ. That early recognition has certainly fueled my desire to continue to be involved in relationships and opportunities with the wider communion of Anglicans worldwide. It also has heightened my awareness that what one portion of the body does impacts the whole, particularly when one portion chooses to deviate from the faith once delivered and biblical truth.

I am grateful beyond measure that my Anglican journey led me to become a priest in the Diocese of South Carolina back in 1993 to



*“I have never been more encouraged as an Anglican Christian within the ADOSC, the ACNA, and the Global Anglican Church than I am right now.” Above, Bob and representatives from ARDF and Great Lakes Outreach visit a project site in Burundi.*

serve as the Rector of St. Matthew's, Darlington. That step led me to join the journey in which we as a diocese traveled into the Anglican Church of North America and our association with both the Global South Fellowship of Anglican Churches and the Global Anglican Future Conference.

That journey has opened the door even more widely to the larger Anglican Communion throughout the world. My personal involvement with diocesan mission, the New Wineskins Global Missionary Network, and the Anglican Leadership Institute has extended a network of personal friendships that reach across the globe, friendships that are rooted in a shared love of Christ Jesus and His call on our lives to make Him known.

Having had the opportunity to attend the last three GAFCON gatherings in Nairobi 2013, Jerusalem 2018, and Kigali 2023, and all of the triannual New Wineskins Conferences since 2007, I know that each has provided a glimpse of the

eternal heavenly banquet that awaits us all. Each has also enriched our diocese through the extension of interpersonal relationships of fellow Anglican Christians who care and love one another. It has broadened our awareness, cooperation, and involvement such that it matters that there is famine in Kenya. We know of the hunger for healing in West Bengal India. Schools for the children of internally displaced peoples from war and conflict within South Sudan is important. Outreach to the Batwa in Burundi, the most rejected of all peoples throughout the world, that they might know they are loved by Jesus, and us, is joyful and lifegiving. Sharing in mission, born of relationships with our Anglican brothers and sisters, through a growing awareness of their needs and ours, is so characteristic of what it means to be Christian.

As recently as September of last year, we in the Anglican Diocese of South Carolina welcomed many of

our Anglican brothers and sisters into our churches and our homes from 13 different nations and provinces when they were here as our guests to attend the New Wineskins Conference. More recently at the February Anglican Leadership Institute, many of us were privileged to interact with the 16 participants from nine different countries and provinces of the wider church. Most recently in April, 11 of us from the diocese were blessed to be part of GAFCON IV in Kigali, Rwanda which was, for many of us, a family reunion of reconnecting with literally hundreds of friends both new and old from throughout the world.

I have never been more encouraged as an Anglican Christian within the Anglican Diocese of South Carolina, the Anglican Church in North America, and the Global Anglican Church than I am right now. We share a common vision of building God's Kingdom that is growing exponentially in so many areas of the globe, and the opportunities before us to partner together in so many ways to further that growth, is unending. One of the five initiatives (<https://anglicanchurch.net/initiatives/>) of the Anglican Church of North America is Partnering Globally. Every diocese of the ACNA has a designated Global Mission Advocate who participates in a monthly Zoom call to share resources, to encourage one another, and to further the ministry of this Global Mission Initiative. I am blessed to represent our diocese in this ministry, and I welcome the opportunities to share more widely within the congregations of the diocese about what God is doing and what each of us can do to partner globally throughout the Anglican Church worldwide. Please feel free to contact me at [robert.stratton.lawrence@gmail.com](mailto:robert.stratton.lawrence@gmail.com) or 843.276.1758 to know more. I guarantee you will be blessed.

## GAFCON

Continued from Page 2

yet the resolve among those gathered at GAFCON to move forward together in shared devotion to Jesus under the authority of his Word in order to bring the Good News of his saving grace to the world was unmistakable.

### A Humble and Repentant Posture

Knowing that what I mentioned above was likely to happen, my greatest concern going into GAFCON was that we maintain a humble posture rather than a high and mighty, prideful one. When calling others to repent, it is easy to fall into condemnation of others for the specks in their eyes while missing the plank in one's own eye (Matthew 7:3-5). I was grateful to the leadership of GAFCON, beginning with Archbishop Foley, for the emphasis that was placed on our collective repentance. To quote one Bishop, “we must first repent before calling others to repent.” Archbishop Foley, in his GAFCON Chairman's charge, identified the four marks of modern Anglicanism. We are to be a repenting church, a reconciling church, a reproducing church, and a relentlessly compassionate church.

And each day of the conference we prayed Morning Prayer together and then received teaching from Colossians, and then went into a time of profound and deep repentance as an entire group. 1300+ people in silent and often tearful repentant prayer asking for the Lord's mercy on us for our sin is a powerful thing to experience. I know there is no way we can proceed with any of the other three marks if we don't start with repentance. It's the only posture that disciples of Jesus should take before we attempt to speak truth to others. I was glad we spent so much of our time in that humble posture.

### A Living Hope of the Resurrection All Around Us

Kigali is one of the most beautiful cities in the world with some of the most beautiful, friendly, and welcoming people I've ever met. Even though we arrived in Kigali at 3:30 a.m. our first day, the Archbishop of Rwanda, Laurent Mbanda and his wife were there at the airport to greet us! Everywhere you looked there were lush green hills, clean streets, bustling businesses, and smiling faces. A beautiful sight,

for sure, but considering what this nation looked like in 1994, it was a downright miraculous sight. It was a vision of God's resurrection power at work in a nation. If Rwanda can be raised out of the devastation of genocide, what else can God's grace accomplish? The theme of GAFCON IV was “*To whom shall we go?*” This was a reference to Peter's remark to Jesus in John 6:68 after the Lord asked his disciples if they would abandon him like some others. Peter replied, “*Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.*” We will turn to Jesus, and with Jesus go to the world, always with a humble and repentant spirit. I could see what kind of new life this has brought to Rwanda, so I am enormously encouraged even in the face of so many challenges for our Anglican Communion and in all parts of the Church and world. The truth of God's Word and the hope that it brings to the broken, the lost, and those dead in sin is worth defending no matter the cost.

*If you would like to read the statement that was released from the conference, The Kigali Commitment, visit <https://www.gafcon.org/news/gafcon-iv-the-kigali-commitment>.*



BILL READ

## Diocesan Men's Hike

By Bill Read, Saint James, James Island

This year the Diocesan Spring Men's Hike was in Oconee State Park. Twelve men from seven churches in the diocese attended. We set-up a base camp by one of the small lakes, enabling us to bring a gourmet spread — pulled pork, brats, and beef tenderloin steaks. From camp we set-out each day to hike the nearby trails. Along the way, we dove into the story of Gideon and the Israelites — tying-in some local features to the story — as we

followed Gideon's journey from coward to leader of the Israelites. We ended each day with a teaching, witness, and compline; and ended the hike after communion by hitting Fuddrucker's on the drive home.

There is discussion of a fall hike — if you haven't gone on a Men's Hike, get signed up now! Visit <https://adosc.org/ministries-and-departments/mens-ministry/mens-hikes/> to learn more.

# Bishop Edgar Addresses the 2023 Convention

Continued from Page 1



As I look out, I see an amazing group of clergy, and I'm blessed by you. I'm blessed to know you and to be working with you.

I am excited for this convention because we have come to an end—well, almost the end. I see you, Good Shepherd. I see you, Old St. Andrews. I see you, Holy Cross, Stateburg, still waiting.

We've come to the end of the lawsuit, and I am eager to walk with you into the future that God has for us in gospel ministry in the Anglican Diocese. The churches, the people, the clergy of this great diocese, I think are ready to put all of that behind us and to move on unfettered into gospel ministry. So, what I hope to accomplish in the next few minutes is not so much to set an agenda for the coming year as it is to put forth some priorities that I hope we'll be living out over the course of the next—Lord willing—14 years or so, that I will be able to be bishop.

To do that, I want to begin by setting the stage for you. Last fall, there was yet another mass shooting. Looking back, I can't even remember which mass shooting it was. That's how things have gotten in the U.S. But the shooting had unfolded, and Bishop Woodliff-Stanley, the bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of South Carolina called. You know that I have spent a pretty substantial amount of time with her—in the company of our attorneys. I have to tell you; we've become friends. I think of Antonin Scalia and Ruth Bader Ginsburg—two people with very different worldviews, very different ways of seeing things who have managed to find friendship with each other. The friendship is not a diminishment of the big differences that we have between us. But she called, and asked if I would be willing to write an editorial with her for the newspaper about mass shootings. I think she was particularly interested in writing something about gun control.

Now, I've got to put my cards on the table. I'm not a big gun guy. I've gone hunting a few times, but guns don't play a big role in my life. Neither am I a very political guy. I'm not that interested in politics. It's okay with me whoever's President, I'll happily live my life. I view politics as a remarkably penultimate sort of endeavor, very far short of the work of the kingdom of God. I don't put a lot of effort in those things.

## The Banquet at Belbury

What I told her when she asked me was that the biggest problem in doing something like that together was that I thought we saw things so differently. We understood what was happening in events like that in very different ways. She asked what I might mean by that, and I found myself talking about chapter 16 of C.S. Lewis's, *That Hideous Strength*.

The chapter is called the Banquet at Belbury.

Now, before I push into that, I just have to say, years ago, a lot of years ago, I was Canon Pastor at the Cathedral in Orlando, Florida, and the Dean called me into his office one day, and said, "I've been invited to give the commencement address at the big high school in Orlando. What would you do if you got the opportunity to do a commencement address?" And we talked a little bit, and I threw an idea out, and then a few months later, he called me in again, and he said, "Hey, I don't know if you know, but I've been given the opportunity to speak at this commencement. Here's what I think I'm going to do." And he parroted the idea that I gave him right back to me. At first, I thought he was joking. And then I realized he was not joking, and he had completely forgotten that I had given him the idea. So, what I'm afraid of is that I don't know where the idea came from, but probably one of you sitting in here is thinking to yourself, "I gave you that idea," and I just don't remember. So, to whom I owe the hat tip? Hat tip!

But I said to her, "I think of Chapter 16 of *That Hideous Strength*. The Banquet at Belbury."

If you've never read *That Hideous Strength*, I want to commend it to you. I think it is important, and increasingly important in the season in which we find ourselves living. Lewis wrote that book in 1945 as the final book in his space trilogy, *Out of the Silent Planet*, *Perelandra*, and *That Hideous Strength*. It seems like what he was doing was working on this space trilogy, and then decided that he needed to put his book, *The Abolition of Man*—which he always maintained was the most important work he had ever done—he decided to put *The Abolition of Man* into a story form, and what came was *That Hideous Strength*.

Now, it's part of his space trilogy, but *That Hideous Strength* is not set on Mars or Venus or anything like that, but in the fictional English college of Bracton, part of the University of Edgestow. Trouble is brewing at Bracton College, and a young couple named Mark and Jane Stutter get caught up in things that are happening. Mark is trying to work his way up the faculty ladder, and Jane is a PhD student. Their marriage struggles throughout the whole story, but it endures. And that's one of the most important features of *That Hideous Strength*. That's key.

Bracton is considering selling a portion of Bragdon Wood, an ancient woodland on their campus that was believed to be the resting place of the great wizard Merlin. And

they're going to sell Bragdon Wood to the NICE. The National Institute of Coordinated Experiments. The NICE is not nice.

But over the course of the story, the NICE recruits Mark to work for them. As he gets more and more involved, his life grows more and more troubled. Jane finds her way to, and begins to get involved in, the Community of St. Anne, a sort of religious community where virtues are taken very seriously, and they're lived out well amongst a people. The Community of St. Anne is led by a man named Ransom. Ransom is the connection, really, for *That Hideous Strength* to the other stories of the Space Trilogy.

Well, as conflict continues to grow, and the story gets more and more difficult, NICE disdains any sort of objective moral code which might obligate their behavior to the people with whom they work. Basically, the idea is, can you get somebody to do what you want them to do? Do you have the capacity to manipulate them and force them to do the things that you wish to do? Well, if so, then you can do it. If you have the power, that's all that's required. You can make people do what you want to do. You can do to people what you want to do to them. The head of NICE is a guy named Francois Alcasan and he is just that, a head; he is disembodied. He had gone to the guillotine in a previous age and he's now the head of this horrific institute.

As the story unfolds, we finally come to chapter 16. It's the culmination of the entire book and it's where Merlin, a wizard, is still alive. He's not buried at Bragdon Wood. He's actually been working and influencing the Community of St. Anne. He and Ransom are in cahoots together. But Merlin is at this great banquet and he pronounces a sort of Curse of Babel on the group. They begin to speak gibberish. They can't understand each other. One of the things that Lewis is pointing us towards is that as subjectivism begins to take hold, we begin to be able to understand each other less and less. We change the things that language means. We decide for ourselves what they mean. And so, chaos and confusion unfold. And it comes to a climactic conclusion when a woman takes a pistol out of her purse, shoots the speaker and mayhem and bedlam break out and everybody kills each other. The animals on which NICE have been doing experiments get set free and they come in and slaughter a lot of people. It is an absolutely horrible scene of slaughter.

It's unlike anything else Lewis ever wrote anywhere else, and it is horrible and ugly. When everything quiets down, the smoke clears, Mark flees to where Jane is at St. Anne's, and she has, in spite of all the difficulties of their marriage, been readying herself and a place for him so that they could carry on their married life together.

What Lewis wants us to see is that the evil of subjectivism always ends in chaos and confusion in death and destruction. It turns on itself, it consumes itself, it collapses. Meanwhile, the Good, just by being good, endures.

Now, all through the story, in the Community of St. Anne there has been a skeptic, a man named Andrew MacPhee. Throughout the story, as the tension has been mounting and as the evil nature and intent of NICE grows ever clearer, he has been urging his brothers and sisters of the Community of St.

Anne to do something. "We have to take up arms, we have to try to defeat the NICE, we have to foil their plans. We have to do something." And so, when at the end the dust settles, MacPhee turns to Ransom, the hero of the story, and says, "Well, it could be right, good, history without mentioning you or me or most of those present. I'd be greatly obliged if anyone could tell me what we have done—always apart from the feeding of pigs and raising some very decent vegetables here."

At the end of the story, they're told that they have been in the middle of a great cosmic battle, that the fate of all life is in their hands and that, for a time at least, they have won. But MacPhee can't even tell what it is they've done, other than the everyday chores about them. They danced a bit. They helped a young couple rediscover each other in their marriage. But what have they done?

That was the question. And Ransom answers simply, "You've done what was required of you. You obeyed and waited. It will often happen like that."

## Creating the World as it Should Be

Now, I know where I owe this hat tip: this is to Brian McGreevy. He shared this with me in a class he was teaching. It's an article by Matt Mikalatos. He, I think, graduated from Seattle Pacific University. He's a regular commenter on a science fiction blog called Tor.com, that I had never run across before—not being a science fiction fan. But commenting on *That Hideous Strength*,



Church planters are recognized for their work in the diocese.

and particularly on this point, Mikalatos says, "The point is that part of contributing to the cosmic war raging around us is not necessarily to take up weapons and fight so much as it is to create the world as it should be. We need to make holy spaces, feed the animals, take care of the gardens, (echoing Adam and Eve and their call in garden). He goes on to say, a healthy marriage does more to save the world than marching into town to fight the bad guys. A group of neighbors who love each other and are at peace with others (as much as in us lies) can create spaces for righteousness to take root in the world and finally win over the forces of evil.

So that's what I'm thinking when Bishop Woodliff Stanley invites me to join this article. I'm thinking that what we're seeing going on around us is a sort of slow motion, stretched across a continent, Banquet at Belbury, when confusion has finally grown such that people simply cannot under-

stand each other, don't know their place in the world, and violence is the only possible outcome.

So, if I'm right, if I'm even close to right in that assessment, the question becomes, "What are we to do?" Or better, "Who are we to be?" So, we find ourselves in 2023, it's my turn to be the bishop of this Diocese.

And as this time begins to unfold, we find ourselves at the end of a very long road. Again, almost at the end—I'm with you three churches. I'm not forgetting that it's still hanging out there for you.

My predecessor, and I'm so grateful to say, dear friend, Bishop Mark Lawrence—may his name ever be honored among us—is back in the saddle with us. He spent his episcopacy fighting a good fight so that his successors, me and all who will follow, wouldn't have to. It's now given to us to get ourselves back to the task of being the church. So now that we're finally—not quite finally—free, two things I want to hold before you: something to do, something not to do.

First, we need to set ourselves to creating the world that should be establishing communities where righteousness can take root. We have to do and get serious more and more about church planting.

## Church Planting

I saw recently that states like California, Illinois and New York have been losing about 300,000 people a year for the last several years. And it seems to me that they've all decided to move to South Carolina.

And in many of the places where this movement is happening

and houses are being built and communities are growing up, we don't have parishes, and we need to have parishes. We need to have those places in those communities where righteousness can take root and grow.

In 1923, the Diocese of South Carolina was divided into two dioceses, and there's a boundary that runs right down the middle of the state, but we're no longer obligated to that boundary, and I think we need to explore what church planting across our entire state might look like. There are places like Aiken and Edgefield and Columbia and Greenwood that need churches, need good, healthy Anglican churches. Perhaps we don't get to that in 2023 or even 2024, but we need to set our sights on it, and we will need to explore what working cooperatively with our brothers and sisters in the Diocese of the Carolinas might look like.

And so we're beginning. I want to ask and challenge our Canon for





*My predecessor, and I'm so grateful to say, dear friend, Bishop Mark Lawrence—may his name ever be honored among us—is back in the saddle with us. He spent his episcopacy fighting a good fight so that his successors, me and all who will follow, wouldn't have to. Above, Bishops Edgar (left) and Lawrence.*

Church Planting, Todd Simonis, and their Canon for Church Planting, Seth Cain—both of them amazingly gifted guys, great guys who would do a great job—I want them to begin a conversation about what it looks like for us to cooperate on planting churches all over the state.

### Church Revitalization

But we can't just focus on churches that don't exist yet. We have to focus on our current churches. We need to undertake serious church revitalization. I believe it is possible that every single church in our diocese, whatever their current situation, whatever their location, whether they're in a big place or small place, every one of our churches can be strengthened to be a solid, self-sufficient place with an ASA (Average Sunday Attendance) of at least 75 or more, which is what I'm told is necessary to support a clergy person. I think that can happen even in our smallest towns. I figure if a town has 1200 people in it, we ought to be able to get 75 of them. And I want to help all of our smaller parishes and missions move toward that kind of independence and strength that will allow them to be those places of righteousness in their communities. I want to help and encourage the clergy in those places to do that work.

In sum, the first part of what we have to do with planting and revitalization is creating and strengthening communities for that kind of righteousness to take root.

### The Education and Continuing Education of Our Clergy

Another task lies before us, and this is a biggie for me, is the education and the continuing education of our clergy. As our clergy face an increasing social, cultural, and theological challenge amid a factionalizing society, we need to make sure we're helping each other address these challenges with as much shared conviction as we can achieve, but certainly with shared vocabulary and assumptions about those things. Seminaries matter and seminary education matters.

I'm reminded of a story about Dietrich Bonhoeffer and his friend, Eberhard Bethge. In the midst of all of the trouble that was going on in 1930s Germany, Bonhoeffer was led to begin a seminary, the seminary at Finkenwalde, and it was considered a very radical move. People thought, some of his friends, Bethge even, thought he was crazy for trying to

start his own seminary. And the story goes that Bethge came to visit him at Finkenwalde and they went out for a hike together. They came up on a ridge. On one side of which you could see the Finkenwalde seminary, on the other side was a Nazi training camp. And Bonhoeffer turned to his friend Bethge and said, "We have to be every bit as serious about what we do here as they are about what they do there."

And I believe that is the call for us in this generation. We have to be serious that we, and all the clergy we raise up, are trained and educated so that we can answer with a gospel informed answer the challenging questions that our society continues to throw at us. Part of that is going to be a renewed emphasis on continuing education for the clergy that are already ordained towards that.

One of the things we're going to do every year is to have a book we share together. I don't think you've been given it yet, but tomorrow at registration, all the clergy will be given two books, actually. The book I've chosen for us for this year is Michael Ward's *After Humanity*. It is a commentary and gloss on Lewis's *The Abolition of Man*. And because of the way the publisher is doing it, not only did we get a copy of the *After Humanity*, but you'll also get a copy of *The Abolition of Man*. Make sure you pick those up when you register tomorrow morning, Clergy, and when I come around to the deaneries we will spend some time, a morning together, talking about that book. So, for some of the deaneries I'm visiting sooner, I hate to tell you but you're going to have to get reading. Some of you have a little bit longer. But I want to spend time and have us grow together in continuing education.



*During Saturday's meeting Bishop Edgar thanked those who had worked tirelessly on behalf of the Diocese during the litigation. Above, he thanks Alan Runyan our lead attorney.*

### Rebuilding the Diocese

Finally, we need to begin rebuilding the diocese.

Recently, I found myself looking at a memorial plaque for Bishop William Bell White Howe, who was the Sixth Bishop of the Diocese of South Carolina. He was bishop during the years following the Civil War. In part, his plaque reads,

"A Godly man, apt to teach, a clear reasoner in theology, persuasive in discourse, firm of purpose, gentle in manner, endearing himself to his flock."

Oh, I only hope that I can be known as something like that. But here's the bit I'm connected with in kind, though not by any means an extent, I don't think, it went on to say,

"He bore through anxious years the burden of the diocese overcoming difficulties and restoring losses."

### Restoring Losses

Restoring losses. At the end of the legal battle of which we had been a part, we have suffered losses. We have lost several churches. In the wake of the Supreme Court decision of April 20th, not only did we lose parish property, but the diocese lost property as well, something like \$8 million in cash assets and probably over \$290,000,000 in real property. I think the biggest loss to us all commonly had to be St. Christopher Camp and Conference Center. It has long been the evangelistic center of our diocese, and we're going to have to work at beginning to rebuild that. I am so excited and so pleased with the progress that has been made so far with Camp Jubilee. It's a seed in the ground, that I trust will grow. We'll hear more about that tomorrow.

### Revising Our Constitution and Canons

A little bit less fun work that we have to do is to turn our attention over the next few years to our Constitution and Canons. And I know everybody loves it when you think you have to work through revising Constitution and Canons. But one of the things we have discovered is that, as you know, Constitutions and Canons are layered. There are national Constitution and Canons, there are Diocesan Constitution and Canons, and there are Parish Bylaws, and they all are supposed to line up. Things that are addressed in one don't have to be addressed in the others. Well, when we left TEC (the Episcopal Church), we left a national church that thought the best thing to do would be to put everything that could possibly be in their national canons. The net result

being that our diocesan canons are somewhat thin. We moved into the Anglican Church of North America, whose philosophy is exactly the opposite of the Episcopal Church's. In a principle called subsidiarity, The Anglican Church of North America believes that the national canons should be quite lean and that the dioceses should address more. So, we have found ourselves with huge gaping holes which our canons just don't address. There is a lot of work to be done over the course of the next few years. Whenever you come to convention and probably some

But their theological battle with the Presbyterian Church over, Frame contends "Machen's Children were theological battlers. And when the battle against liberalism in the PCUSA appeared over, they found other theological battles to fight." He lists 21 things that since 1923 reformed theology in the United States has broken itself up over. He goes on, "The Machen movement was born in the controversy over liberal theology, and I have no doubt that Machen and his colleagues were right to reject this theology and to fight against it. But it's arguable that



*We now need to be a diocese, not marked by our fighting ability... but desiring to proclaim the gospel alone and to build those places where righteousness can take root, where the world as we want it to be begins to take hold.*

other meetings as well, we will have to get together and consider how do we rebuild and how do we do this work that is necessary for our canonical life together. So that's what's ahead of us to do. That's the first thing.

### A Word of Caution

Now I want to offer a word of caution. Not that I see this in us, but I've learned this from others, and it may be important to just point it out and to tag it together as we go on in our life together.

We have now basically finished the battle to gain our independence from the Episcopal Church. We've suffered some losses, big losses. Think property, sure, but also think people, clergy and laity that surprised us when they decided not to be with us. They chose to stay in TEC instead of walking with us. Those are losses to our life, too. But we've had a common foe and a good cause that we believed in. Someone, something, over and against us, with whom we had to struggle. And that gave us a shared sense of identity. That's gone. We're free—again, three churches? Almost.

But now what? So, the second thing I want to talk about, having talked about things that we need to do, is something not to do.

In 2012, John Frame, who was a professor of systematic theology and philosophy at the Reformed Theological Seminary in Orlando, Florida, published an article entitled Machen's Warrior Children.

For years at Princeton, a battle was fought against the liberalizing theology from nascent modernism to full blown liberalism. People like A.A. Hodge and B. B. Warfield, and then finally, J. Gresham Machen, from about 1887 through 1923, they fought the good fight for the gospel in that place. Finally, in 1923, J. Gresham Machen led several faculty and many students out of Princeton to establish Westminster Theological Seminary, a very strong institution, great biblical and theological education.

once the Machenites found themselves in a true church, they were unable to moderate their martial impulses."

Being a church without liberals to fight, they turned on one another. Perhaps even more damningly, Frame adds that "The balance of truth and love was not characteristic of the Machen movement."

Now, it's important to be said that not everyone agrees with Frame's assessment. He's come under lots of criticism, but I want to keep that threat in mind.

We now need to be a diocese, not marked by our fighting ability, not hungry for the next enemy, but desiring to proclaim the gospel alone and to build those places where righteousness can take root, where the world as we want it to be begins to take hold.

The war is over. It's time to seek and save the lost. It's time to plant and revitalize. It's time to hone and consistently renew our minds, to answer the hard questions of the day. And it's time to rebuild what is lost.

It's time for us to commit to being that group of neighbors who love each other and are at peace with each other (as much as in us lies), to create a space for righteousness to take root in a world so that one day we win over the forces of evil. And I am so excited to report that it looks to me like that's who we are.

I don't know if you just saw the most recent issue of the *Jubilate Deo*, but amazing things are happening in this Diocese. Camp Jubilee is on! It is going strong, and all around our communities are working on buildings and capital campaigns and youth ministry and church planting and pilgrimages and mission trips, homeless ministry, support for pregnant women, food ministries, all kinds of things.

I mean, reading the *Jubilate Deo* got me so excited about what's going on in this Diocese. Amazing things! We are doing, what needs to be done. We need to continue and press on.

*In the name of the Father and of the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.*

# Two Historical James Island Churches Share Palm Sunday

By Virginia B. Bartels, Saint James Anglican Church, James Island



KATHY WOOLSEY

*“When we crossed the street together on Sunday, it was not the erasure of difference or history!” said Rector, Toby Larsen. “It was exuberant courage from black and white Christians in this country who have decided to walk in the same direction of love and friendship.”*

On Sunday, April 2, 2023, two historical churches on James Island, one primarily white and one primarily black, gathered as one body of Christ to celebrate their unity on Palm Sunday.

After extensive court proceedings, Saint James Anglican Church

lost its 302-year-old property in November 2022 to the National Episcopal Church. First Baptist, also on Camp Road, then offered its former church building to Saint James to remodel and rent the landmark building indefinitely until they buy land and rebuild.

Founded in 1869 four years after the Civil War, First Baptist was organized by some of the first emancipated Gullah people who needed a place to worship. They began meeting in the Ferguson family’s house on what is now Camp and Dills Bluff Roads. The congregation eventually built a chapel, and today that congregation worships in a new huge, beautiful church under the leadership of the Rev. Charlie L. Murray, Jr.

On Palm Sunday traffic stopped for Saint James members as they walked, with palms in hands, across Camp Road to join worshippers of First Baptist Church, where many of their members stood in front of their sanctuary to greet their guests. Before entering the church, the three pastors—the Rev. Toby Larsen, the Rev. Richard Grimball, and the Rev. Charlie L. Murray, Jr.—formed a close circle to pray together.

Throughout the service the small choir of Saint James joined the large choir of First Baptist, leading the two congregations in hymns

and songs of praise, accompanied by a number of musicians. The sanctuary was filled to capacity, but those seated in the back pews had the advantage of viewing the service on large screens. Worship was characterized by a perfect blend of dignity, formality, and spontaneity.

Prior to the sermon, the Rev. Grimball offered an invocation in which urged the brothers and sisters in Christ gathered, as God’s commandment instructs, “to love thy neighbor.”

Saint James’ senior warden Bruce McDonald began his presentation by saying “On behalf of your Christian family next door, I bring you warm greetings, much love, and an enormous amount of gratitude.” He praised the people of First Baptist for stepping forward “to extend the hand of friendship, comfort, and practical help in our hour of great need.” He went on to say we “serve the same God and His Christ and preach the same Gospel, although our traditions are not entirely the same.” Major McDonald closed by saying he anticipated many opportunities for the two congregations to work together and share fellowship.

Rev. Toby Larsen provided the sermon addressing both the Biblical account of Palm Sunday as well as the two congregations committed

to the Holy Spirit. Afterwards the Baptists and Anglicans shared both Communion and sincere personal greetings. Reflecting on the joint service, Rev. Larson commented, “I see a vision of the future of America on our shared corner of South Carolina. When we crossed the street together on Sunday, it was not the erasure of difference or history! It was exuberant courage from black and white Christians in this country who have decided to walk in the same direction of love and friendship.”

Adding to the significant histories of both churches, the two different denominations, predominantly consisting of two different races, united to worship, socialize, and serve. One founded in 1720 and the other founded in 1869, these two groups of mostly James Island residents are bonded in faith and community outreach. The expressions of joy on the faces of those gathered on Palm Sunday reflected the joy of Jesus.

## Vacation Bible School

Continued from Page 4

What was my goal? The answer shaped everything. Here’s the outcome we were after: meet people we don’t already know and invite them into a relationship with Jesus and his church.

This statement would drive every decision related to VBS up to this very day. If you have read this far, you must be wondering, “are you reaching your desired outcome?” The short answer is yes, but not at first. Were we meeting people we did not already know? Yes, somewhere between one quarter and one half of our attendees at any given location over the last three years were new participants. As our follow-up plans improved, so did the desired outcome. Last year, two families joined our church as a result of these events. One of these families is now faithfully serving in the children’s ministry. This is a perfect example of the desired outcome! We have every reason to expect stories like this to become more frequent in years to come. There was a lot of trial and error along the way. For those courageous enough to try something different, maybe I can save you a few years.

First and foremost, your senior leadership must be totally committed. Father Shay and I put together a video outlining our vision for the shift to a new VBS style. Some in your church will not understand a break from the norm. His resolve was essential when questions were raised. Choosing my locations was the biggest mountain to climb. Make it easy on yourself and start early in the year. We decided to start in communities where someone from our church already lived. This builds on a foundation of trust that currently exists between neighbors. An invitation from a known neighbor is easier to say yes to than an unknown church. It also gives you insight as to whether you will partner with the HOA.

Another key question to consider is whether you’re going to host a VBS exclusively for the people living in a certain neighborhood, or you’re going to invite your entire church to attend as well. Both options have pros and cons. Exclusive neighborhood events are smaller and easier to manage. They also give you more location options to choose from since your crowd is small. On the flip side, including your entire church in this off-site mission will make the transition easier. We started with exclusive events. Then moved to a one-day event for our church in addition to our other locations. Now we are reserving



COREY VERNON

**How to Start?** Meet with folks to understand the culture of how their neighborhood communicates. Do they have an active Facebook page or Next Door app? Is it acceptable to put signs in yards? Would flyers in the mail, or handed out on foot by volunteers be well received? Is there a common area to put up posters? There is no one-size-fits-all approach.

large city parks to accommodate our entire church along with local guests.

The importance of executing good promotion and follow-up plans cannot be overstated! For promotion, we always start with people we already know in any given neighborhood. Meet with these folks to understand the culture of how their neighborhood communicates. Do they have an active Facebook page or Next Door app? Is it acceptable to put signs in yards? Would flyers in the mail, or handed out on foot by volunteers be well received? Is there a common area in which to put up posters? There is no one-size-fits-all approach. I’ll just say this: leave no stone unturned.

Follow up plans need the same attention to detail. Register everyone who attends so you have contact information to utilize later. Put something in parents’ hands that points them to your church’s next event along with service times. Then follow up with an email containing the same information. All that said, a follow-up phone call to every new family might be your most fruitful option.

Another component we found valuable was to plan an afterparty for your event.

The purpose is to build in a reason for parents to stick around with their kids at the end of the event. This gives church leaders and VBS volunteers a chance to engage with parents in the casual environment of a shared meal. Some of our examples were pool parties at the neighborhood pool, bounce houses at a local public park, and even putt-putt golf at a country club where we hosted a one-day event. None of these options were better than

the others. The determining factor is always related to the amenities at or near your VBS location. Finally, you will need access to water, power, shade, bathrooms, and a field space for games. These few principles will put you at least two years ahead, should you choose to focus on an evangelistic approach. More could be said, but let’s close with a few points on the overarching role of VBS in the church and how you can support this effort.

### The role of VBS in the mission of the church

Designing a VBS experience to meet a specific spiritual need in the lives of your current kids and families is a respectable role for VBS to play. Building relationships with your flock feels necessary in what you might call the “slow season” of the church. But have you ever longed to see more young people pick up their cross and follow Jesus? Has a young family in your church ever left simply because they were longing for more young families to fellowship with? Are you concerned about

the general deterioration of Christian values among young people in our country? My guess is you could enthusiastically shout yes to at least one of these questions. If so, then here is my follow up question: “What event on the average church calendar specifically goes after the demographic of young families?” I am not talking about events or services designed to welcome a visiting family. I am talking about pursuit. This was a missing element for us as we prayerfully considered the way we lived out the Great Commission to go and make disciples. There are things you can do right now to help reach families in your community.

### Supporting the effort to pursue young families

Your church’s nursery, children’s ministry, and student ministry are the greatest ways your church has to reach and minister to young families! I promise you, the leaders of these ministries in your church are spending a great deal of time and energy praying for and worrying over ways to attract enough volunteers to keep the doors open and keep a quality ministry experience going. These leaders could be so much more effective in their ministry if this were not so.

Don’t wait to be asked. Right now, parishioners across the diocese could go fill these ministries to the brim. And I pray you will. Right now, parishioners could go sign up to serve on the VBS team if regular family ministry volunteering is not feasible. Right now, you could give a copy of this article to your church leadership and ask them to consider implementing this VBS method to pursue families. Right now, church leadership could ask their Children’s Director, “How can I support your VBS planning?” Right now, Children’s Directors can contact me for details and mark their calendars to attend the monthly meeting of their peers where we share ideas, offer encouragement, and provide coaching. These are just a few of the many ways the Church could put wind in the sails of family ministries across the diocese. I pray you would have the courage to act if God has moved in your heart. And I hope to have expanded your expectations of what Vacation Bible School is capable of.

## Hospitality

*Continued from Page 5*

there, and I bet you can find the cream. It's in the fridge."

One thing Ken Weldon told me his mom always said was, "If you treat people like guests, they'll feel like guests and act like guests. If you treat them like family, they'll feel like family." I really like that. It frees you up from thinking, "Oh, I've got to have everything just right."

### Do you ever get tired of having people over?

Hardly ever. And I wondered if I would, because we've had so much company. About five months ago I said to Chip, "This really doesn't bother me at all, having people in and out." I thought it would start to wear on me." I have thought it might be nice to have somebody come in to clean once in a while.

### You don't have anybody come in to clean? It's a huge house!

It is a huge house. And I would like to have somebody at some point, maybe when the girls are out of college. It doesn't really get that dirty. And nobody's looking at the floor. I mean, I certainly don't do that when I go to somebody else's house. I don't care if it's not particularly clean or if they're feeding me hot dogs. I'm just happy to be there. Think about how you feel. It's really not about that. It's about being with those people. That's why you're there.

### What gives you joy in offering hospitality?

All the great people we've gotten to meet over the years. One time our church in Chicago asked if J.I. Packer could spend the weekend with us and come preach at our church. That led to him spending weekends at our house four times a year for years. We also had Ken Boa stay in our carriage house recently. I didn't know him before, but I'm a huge fan now.

### What about having just family time?

I try to be mindful of that. If all our kids are going to be together and we haven't been together for a year, well, maybe we don't invite somebody else to Easter dinner that year, but our kids are so used to it. This past Easter my friend Cheryl texted and said, "Hey, is it still okay for Addison to come for Easter dinner?" And I said, "Yes, Addison can absolutely come! But remind me. Who is Addison?" He was her oldest son's former roommate, and he was going to be in Charleston by himself for Easter.

I always told my kids when they were younger, "Just be an includer, just include people." And something I learned when I had my second baby was that love always multiplies, it never divides. We found that, too, with hosting people and having an open home. It doesn't ever take away. That's not to say there aren't times when we need an evening just the two of us, but love multiplies. It doesn't divide. And it's taken me some years to really learn that.

### Any more tips for us?

Love people. Lower your expectations of yourself.

When we lived in Chicago, there was an older couple at our church. I think she's about 98 now. So when we were there, they were in their late 70's and they had people in and out of their house, staying for a couple of months, family, friends, friends of a friend who needed a place to stay. If you went to their house to eat, you'd often have sandwiches. They kept everything really simple. But they just loved having people. And once when we were at their house, we said to them, "You're 78. How are you still doing this?"

And she looked at me and thought for a minute and said, "Well, I guess we've never stopped."

I think that's like a lot of things, if you just keep doing it, it's your normal. I think that's a big part of it. Chip and I have just always done it. We've kept doing it, and hopefully we'll be 78 or 88 and still doing it.

# St. Philippians Share Faith at "Hope to Home" Ministry

*By Sandra Anderson, St. Philip's Church, Charleston*

One morning this past April, Suzanne and Gerry McCord's foyer group, along with several members of the St. Philip's Home Mission Team, had a blast volunteering at the Hope to Home Ministry (H2H), a Christian-based ministry whose mission is to collect new or gently used donated home goods and to purchase items such as mattresses and pillows, and then deliver these essential home furnishings to displaced or formerly homeless individuals and families who have recently secured housing. H2H transforms their empty living space into a comfortable "home," extending the love and hope of Jesus through delivering provisions, praying with recipients before leaving, and personally giving them a Bible. H2H follows up after delivery to be sure recipients are already connected to a church or, if they are not, offering contact information on nearby churches.

Our group met at the H2H warehouse in Charleston, learned more about the ministry, and then selected the area in which we each wanted to serve that day. Some of us helped load trucks with household furnishings from the donations stored in the warehouse and then delivered them to families. Some helped repair broken or "well-loved" furniture to get it ready for the next week's deliveries, while others helped unpack and sort donated items and place them in their designated section of the warehouse. Another job was to go "shopping" in the warehouse to collect the donated items on a list, then place them into individual kitchen and linen kits for future deliveries.

Jill Settle, Home Missions Team chair, commented, "I am blown away by this ministry which is being run entirely by volunteers, all of whom are sharing the hope of Jesus while providing basic needs to those who are without. I love how founder Tom Young put it, that 'we deliver hope as much as we deliver furniture.' It was a blessing and joy to serve with Hope to Home!" Home Missions Team member Connie Rink remarked, "What stood out to me was the enormous hope you could feel from each recipient ... the smiles, the joy, and the gratitude."



BOB TENNYSON

*"What stood out to me was the enormous hope you could feel from each recipient ... the smiles, the joy, and the gratitude," commented Home Missions Team member Connie Rink.*

As we were working in the warehouse, one of the lead H2H volunteers asked us to stop a minute and join her in a quick prayer. With tears in her voice, she prayed her gratitude for the donations that we were unpacking, stating that God had known the needs and brought just the right items that were specifically needed that day. Our group witnessed God's faithfulness to provide not only the donations but also the hope visible in the faces of the recipients who received the much-needed home furnishings. God's spirit was alive and active that morning, and it was a privilege to experience this together as a church community.

**About Hope to Home Ministry:** H2H works with 16 community service agencies and the recipients' case workers to get H2H goods into the hands of those who need them most, at no cost to the recipient. H2H partners with agencies such as One80 Place, Navigation

Center, My Sister's House, East Cooper Community Outreach, Charleston Police Department, James Island Outreach, Hope Lodge, I Am Voices, Formation Project, Seacoast Dream Center, Families First, Charleston County Schools, and more. Research shows that making a new house or apartment into a "home" for someone in need lowers the chance of slipping back into poverty and depression to below 10%.

**Donation and Volunteer Opportunities:** To see a list of needed new or gently used household items and how to donate them, and for information about volunteer opportunities and suggestions for gathering support and going as a group, visit <https://hopetohomes.org/>.

*This article first appeared in the e-news of St. Philip's Church.*

# Food Truck Spring Fling Draws Neighbors to St. Paul's

*By The Rev. Jason Collins, St. Paul's, Conway*

I am convinced that the weekend of April 29-30 will go down in the history books as a momentous weekend at St. Paul's Church. On Saturday, we hosted a "Food Truckin' Fun" Spring Fling on the church campus. It was a time to gather, invite our neighbors, and enjoy some fun together. The food provided by the seven food trucks was delicious, the three bouncy toys were fun for the kids, the music was outstanding, and the love for our neighbors was palpable.

Hundreds of our neighbors came and enjoyed a great evening. The event even provided opportunities to minister to people. Three people received healing prayer, a couple celebrating their 51st wedding anniversary was blessed, and countless others were invited

to come back to St. Paul's for worship.

Special thanks go to Sean Richard and Joe and Harriette Louis for putting the event together, to Badlander (especially Tim Underwood, Fran Humphries, Mark Stanley, and now Angie Pharr) for the music, to Ed Brennan for his magic tricks, and to our set-up, hospitality, and clean-up teams.

Great job, everyone! Jackie Browder was quoted as saying, "I've been a member of St. Paul's forever, and this is the best thing this church has ever done!"



JASON COLLINS

*Hundreds of our neighbors came and enjoyed a great evening. The event even provided opportunities to minister to people.*



JASON COLLINS

*Hundreds of our neighbors came and enjoyed a great evening. The event even provided opportunities to minister to people.*

*If that wasn't enough, on Sunday we had a Baptism Sunday and five people were baptized. The kingdom of God got a little bigger in front of our eyes. On top of that, this was the first time we were able to use the new baptistry purchased and painted and stained by several members of the church. This*

*now gives us the option to offer full-immersion baptism. The amount of water has little to do with salvation, but the word "baptize" does mean "to immerse", so we are returning to a deeper meaning of Scripture by offering full-immersion baptism. Congratulations to Mary Catherine and Roger Young, Drake Shelton, Emma Cross, and Judson Todd for being the newest baptized members of our church family. (See baptism article Pg. 2).*

*This article first appeared in the e-news of St. Paul's, Conway.*

# Partnering in Prayer with the Canons of the ADOSC

We asked each of our Ministerial Canons to share prayer requests with the Diocese.



**The Rev. Laura Bowman, Canon for Safe Churches**

Currently, we have a committee in place that is reviewing our past diocesan "church safety" policies and also looking at safety policies and procedures that are currently in use in other dioceses as we prepare new safety protocols for our diocese. We ask you to pray with our committee that we will effectively use our collective knowledge and experience to establish protocols that will ensure the safety, care, and well-being of everyone associated with The Anglican Diocese of South Carolina - including clergy, staff, lay leaders, and our congregants and visitors of all ages. Also, please pray with us that the churches of our diocese will be consistently viewed as safe, open and welcoming places, and that people will feel empowered to speak up if a situation arises where assistance is needed.



**The Rev. David Dubay, Canon for Hispanic Ministries**

Prayer is coveted for the formation of a commission on Spanish-speaking ministry within our Diocese. Pray that the Holy Spirit will help us and guide us to

transcend the hyper-political environment concerning Spanish-speaking people in our country with the healing and transforming words of the Gospel. Pray that we would learn to love our neighbor, even with a language barrier, to aid in the pursuit of multi-ethnic interaction and friendship in the name of Jesus Christ. Pray for the raising up of Christian leaders in the Spanish-speaking communities to minister to those who are disenfranchised and unchurched.



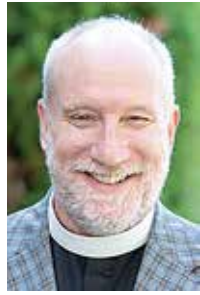
**Hunter Myers, Canon for Youth Ministry**

It's never been harder to be a teenager, parent, or student ministry leader. Pray for parishes that don't have a student ministry champion to discover, develop, and deploy Gospel-centered leaders, whether volunteer, part-time, or full-time. Pray for parents to prioritize their own discipleship in Christ! Parents already sacrifice so much for their children, but parents will struggle to disciple their kids if they are not being disciplined. Pray for current student ministry leaders to have God's heart and express God's love for their students and neighbors. Pray for students who are anxious, students struggling with their identity, and students whose home life is unsafe. No one should struggle alone. Finally, pray for revival. Our students are already missionaries, and they have the Holy Spirit. Let's empower them to follow Jesus all the days of their lives.



**The Rev. Todd Simonis, Canon for Church Planting**

Pray that we would be orthodox not just in what we say we believe, but also through how we live out the Great Commission that has been entrusted to us. My goal would be for church planting to be normative in our Diocese, rather than the exception. If we are a Diocese that makes disciples who make disciples, the outworking of that should be churches planting churches. As the church, we must continue to abide in Christ (John 15) while creating ways for new individuals to "taste and see that the Lord is good" (Psalm 34:8).



**The Rev. Ken Weldon, Canon for Clergy Care**

We would ask for your prayers for best practices to establish patterns of what biblical and faithful clergy health and wellness might look like. We also ask for your regular prayers for all of our diocesan clergy and we welcome new and creative ideas for what clergy care might encompass in The Anglican Diocese of South Carolina. Our hope is to develop and deepen pastoral relationships across the board within the diocese so that

no clergy ever feel alone or isolated either personally or in their ministry. It is far too common to feel isolated in ministry and it's important to know we are not alone; we are part of a diocese that is committed to loving and caring for one another.

## St. Thomas' Celebrates 10th Anniversary

"We have seen the Kingdom of God manifested in more ways than we could ask or imagine."

*By The Rev. Hamilton Smith, Rector, St. Thomas' Church, Mt. Pleasant*

On April 23, St. Thomas' Church in Mt. Pleasant, celebrated its 10th anniversary. The idea was born 12 years ago when an old and dear friend of mine from Camp St. Christopher, Dr. Ben Jackson, and I wanted to find a new way to reach people with the love of Jesus Christ. The answer came when the Rev. Shay Gaillard introduced us to the late Tim Keller's article "Why Plant Churches." Keller showed how starting a new, smaller, locally-focused, Gospel-centered church can best accomplish this goal. We believed God was calling us to be ambassadors of Christ's forgiving love where we live, work, play, and learn.

*Continued on Page 13*

## People News

It is with sadness for us, but joy for her that we announce that this coming July, Nancy Armstrong, our beloved Diocesan Administrator and Assistant Treasurer, will be retiring. Nancy has served our diocese since 1993 and will be missed not only for her tremendous



gifts and abilities, but also for her institutional memory and the breadth of knowledge she has for the diocese. She has been responsible for overseeing the finances of the diocese, Camp Jubilee, and the former Trustees. She works with parish administrators and clergy on a variety of administrative matters, and enjoys making presentations to treasurers, parish administrators, and vestry members on managing the temporal affairs of the church. Following her retirement, she is looking forward to spending time with her husband, Bob, their son, daughter-in-law, and two granddaughters. She also plans to remain active in the life of the diocese, just less so! Nancy and Bob live in Summerville. They are members of St. Paul's Anglican Church. "It has been the greatest honor and privilege to serve our diocese, including three wonderful Bishops, doing the work that God has called me to do."

Christ Church Anglican, Mt. Pleasant, has called the Rev. Clifford J. Ausmus to serve as their new Associate Rector. CJ, as he prefers to be called, came to Christ Church, Mt. Pleasant from Christ Church of Atlanta, where he had been the Associate Rector. CJ grew up in Louisville, Kentucky, and has a BS



in Psychology from Lincoln Memorial University (2014) and a Master in Divinity from Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary (2019). He's married to Katherine, a Memphis, Tennessee native and graduate of the University of Tennessee. They have two children, Julia, who is 2½, and Samantha, who is 8 months. They have settled into their new home in Mt. Pleasant, and CJ began on June 1. The Rev. Ted Duvall wrote in his recent congregational letter, "CJ will share with me in all aspects of ministry to the whole parish, and be given particular responsibility for leadership and ministry among our young families. I am confident that CJ, Katherine, Julia, and Samantha will be a blessing to our church."



The Cathedral of St. Luke & St. Paul in Charleston recently welcomed Jillian Barton as their Office Administrator and Events Coordinator. Jillian has experience with office administration and event coordination in both the marketplace as well as large church ministry settings. She and her husband, Zach, moved to the Charleston area this past June. They have four children.

Please keep the Rev. Ramsey Gilchrist, a member and adjunct clergy at Prince George Winyah in

Georgetown in prayer. Ramsey is undergoing cancer treatment at the MD Anderson Hospital in Houston TX. He asks for prayers for himself, his wife, Judy, and the medical team that the treatment will be complete and for a speedy recovery from surgery, radiation and reconstructive surgery.



The Rev. Jeff Hoffman recently joined the diocese. He served for 22 years in the Air Force where he received his degree as a Physician's Assistant, serving in that capacity for 40 years both while on active duty and within the civilian world. After retiring from the military Jeff went back to school, receiving his



MDiv from the University of the South, School of Theology. He and his wife, Margaret, have eight children, the youngest of whom is a 14-year-old son with autism. Just before moving south, the family lived in Elmira, New York where Jeff had a ministry on YouTube during the pandemic serving with the Jurisdiction of the Armed Forces and Chaplaincy and as chaplain for the Sisters of Hope. For fun, Jeff picks up a hammer and nail. "I love handyman work," he says. "It's what I do to calm down and relax." He is eager to take up supply work in the Diocese.

The Rev. Chip Holmes retired this past April following 21 years of service as a parish deacon. During his



tenure, Chip served in a number of churches, including St. John's Chapel and Holy Family, and, most recently, at Trinity, Pinopolis. He served on various Cursillo teams, attended Men's Ministry conferences and has always been an active member of our Diocesan Diaconate. Moving forward, Chip will pursue more time with Nancy and their family and with his motorcycle club, The Sons of God. Not being one to sit quietly, Chip is also extremely interested in working with the newly organized Berkeley County Community Organizations Active in Disasters.

Amy Kaylor has been called to serve as the Director of Women's Ministry at the Parish Church of St. Helena in Beaufort. Prior to taking that position she served as the church's Nursery Coordinator. Amy had already been working with the church's young moms' Bible study and their women's retreat team. "She brings a passion to see women of all generations connected to the Lord and to one another in the Body of Christ," says Rector, the Rev. Shay Gaillard. "As we are renewing and energizing our



Women's Ministry, Amy will continue to oversee the nursery ministry, but will be more and more involved in making sure that all of the women of the parish are aware of the small groups, Bible studies, and quarterly gatherings, as well as our annual retreat coming up in September. I am so thankful that God always brings the right person at the right time for the work to which we are called. Amy is just that kind of person, and I look forward to the growth and energy of our Women's Ministry under her leadership."

The Venerable Dr. Kelly O'Lear has been called to St. Luke's, Hilton Head, as their next Associate Rector, beginning August 1. He will come to St. Luke's from Nashotah House where he served as the Associate Dean of Formation and Affiliate Professor of Pastoral Care. Prior to that, Kelly served for almost 30 years in the United States Army, as a Medic initially, and then primarily as Chaplain. His combat detail included tours in Afghanistan, Africa, and Iraq, as well as training deployments in 19 countries. He served as Chaplain for the following units: Special Operations Command Africa, 82nd Airborne Division, 173rd Airborne Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division (Stryker), and Arlington National Cemetery. Kelly has a D.Min. from Wesley Theological Seminary, a Th.M. from Duke University, an M.Div. from the University of Dubuque, a B.S. from Lee University, plus other military school training. Kelly was ordained to the priesthood in the ACNA in



## FBI Presentation on Elder Fraud Helps Seniors at Holy Cross

By The Rev. Canon Laura Bowman, Canon for Safe Churches



JESSICA WILLIS

More than 50 attendees listened intently as Agent Mark McMahon and Forensic Accountant Cyndra Swinson spoke about “catfish” and romance scams, phishing emails, fake lottery scams, and much more. Above, participants greet one another prior to the presentation.

Scams seem to arrive at our doorstep every day. They come by email, snail mail, text message, and even phone calls. It never ends, and we all know we must safeguard our private information at all times. But, we are not called to simply protect ourselves! What about those around us - like our extended family members, and our elderly neighbors and friends? Do they know how to protect themselves from scammers? Are we helping them to remain vigilant?

On March 2, 2023, our Prime Timers Seniors’ Group hosted an FBI Agent and a Forensic Accountant from the FBI Field Office in Columbia, for an informative workshop on Elder Fraud and Protecting Yourself.

More than 50 attendees listened intently as Agent Mark McMahon and Forensic Accountant Cyndra Swinson spoke about “catfish” and romance scams, phishing emails, fake lottery scams, and much more.

Continued on Page 16

## Property Rights

Continued from Page 1

of principle of law has been either overlooked or disregarded, and hence, there is no basis for granting a rehearing.” The court on similar grounds denied the motion for relief of judgement as well.

The Anglican Diocese of South Carolina is grateful to see the final legal issues in these property disputes resolved and the rights of Old St. Andrews and Holy Cross affirmed. They join the other twenty-five parishes whose property rights were confirmed by the earlier rulings. To come to the conclusion of all litigation is a welcome blessing.

While grateful for these good gifts, we mourn the loss of property for Good Shepherd that this order dictates. Like the other seven congregations who received adverse rulings, Good Shepherd will continue on in faith. As their rector, the Rev. Will Klauber assured his congregation today, “The Lord will provide for us a community. He will provide facilities and space for his ministry to continue. We rest assured that Jesus is still seated at the right hand of the Father, and his Spirit is still with us as we navigate these uncharted waters.” This coming Sunday, we will celebrate Pentecost and the outpouring of God’s Spirit to build his Church. We remain confident that his work will continue apace through the Anglican Diocese of South Carolina and its 54 parishes and missions.

## The Slower Pace of Summer Stopping to Enjoy the Created World

By Chelsea Hamshaw, All Saints, Florence

Sometimes life affords opportunities that force you to pause and acknowledge the beauty around you. I confess that while I love the poetry of a bygone era, I rarely grant myself the time to enjoy the things around



I’m thankful for the slowing of the pace that forces me to pause and appreciate the created world and its maker who provides both the beauty and the opportunity to enjoy it.

Yet, for five-year-old Jack, the opportunity to play outside on a sunny afternoon led to hours of exploration and adventure. He came inside covered in all manner of outside muck, as he often does. But I noticed he was also covered in something new. He said, “It’s berries!” I had an immediate panicked response, realizing he had them all over his mouth. I asked him if he had eaten them (knowing

the answer) and he replied, “no...I drank them. I made berry juice!”

I quickly told him he needed to show me where the berries were, worried that they were poisonous. He led me to hundreds of blackberries! They had grown up out of the weeds leftover from our efforts to reclaim our backyard land. I stood amazed at what God can grow in the midst of thistles and thorns. Last night, we made ‘Jack’s Blackberry Crumble’, named in honor of our little explorer.

I’m thankful for the slowing of the pace that forces me to pause and appreciate the created world and its maker who provides both the beauty and the opportunity to enjoy it. So here’s to more of life’s interruptions and the adventurous little boy who causes them.

2010 and is canonically resident in the ACNA Jurisdiction of the Armed Forces and Chaplaincy. Kelly loves spending time with his family. He and his wife, Jennifer, have two adult children, two children at home, one daughter-in-law, and two granddaughters. In his spare time, Kelly enjoys sports and fitness.



Congratulations to the Rev. Drew and Jessie Miller on the birth of their son, Silas James Miller. Silas was born Tuesday, April 11 and weighed 8 lbs 12 oz. Mother and baby are both doing well. Drew serves as an Assistant Rector at St. John’s Church in Florence. Silas was born at McLeod Hospital in Florence, SC, where Jessie serves as a labor and delivery nurse.

The Rev. Jacob Rogers has accepted a call to serve as the curate at Old St. Andrew’s, Charleston, beginning in July. Jacob was ordained a priest on May 15 at his seminary, Nashotah House in Wisconsin. Jacob will be joining OSA as their family minister. In a note to the congregation



the Rector, the Rev. Marshall Huey, wrote, “He will lead the 9 o’clock Family Service, lead the 10 o’clock Parent Cafe class, will be involved in the lives of our young families, and will be responsible for the

weekly programs for Youth Group and youth activities. He will go to most youth group meetings and teach often at youth group, working with our part-time youth ministers. Jacob is not coming to us limited to being a ‘youth minister,’ but will be coming to minister to all aspects of our younger families as our Church continues to grow.” He and his wife, April, have two daughters.

Noted theologian, the Rev. Dr. Christopher Seitz, is now serving as Theologian in Residence at the Parish Church at Habersham, Beaufort.



Seitz is helping with ongoing teaching series, preaching and preparing confirmations. He is also working with Thad Bullock who is pursuing ordination. Seitz continues to supervise PhD students at Wycliffe College in the University of Toronto. His other occupation is running a French Travel and Culture business which he inherited from his late wife, Elizabeth. They were living in France before moving back to South Carolina. The Rev. Jamie Sosnowski, Vicar of the Parish Church at Habersham, says, “Dr. Seitz’s presence with us is a tremendous blessing to our young mission parish that allows us to press in towards God’s call in making disciples, and I am very glad to call him my friend and neighbor.”

Patrick Wieber has been called as the new Youth Minister for Saint Luke’s, Hilton Head. Patrick has been serving as the Youth Minister at Christ the King, Pawley’s Island, and will bring his considerable gifts



and talents to Saint Luke’s as they continue to minister to youth and families. He, his wife Danielle, and their daughter Jane (3) moved down in late May and started on June 5. Patrick recently wrote to the congregation of Saint Luke’s, “We’re so thrilled to be joining the Saint Luke’s family and we’re eager to spend quality time with you all in the coming weeks! We’re praising the Lord for this new, exciting door He’s opening for our family.”

Please keep the family and loved ones of Chris Wingard in your prayers. Chris, who served as the



Parish Administrator of St. Timothy’s, Cane Bay, died on April 23, following a battle with cancer. As her obituary notes, “In recent years, she found her calling, serving the Lord as Parish Administrator to St. Timothy’s Church in Cane Bay. She had a passion for serving others in need, and fulfilled that passion by overseeing the church’s Food Distribution, to provide food to families in need. Her marriage to Steve of 41 years was that of which fairy tales were made. Their love, faithfulness, and devotion to one another was a true testament to what marriage is supposed to be.”



Camp Jubilee, our Anglican Diocese of South Carolina summer camp, began June 7. Our staff, shown above, couldn’t wait to welcome campers! Keep the leaders, staff, interns and all campers in your prayers.

## St. Thomas’ Anniversary

Continued from Page 12

This started a two year process of discernment and planning coached by the Rev. Rob Sturdy and the Rev. Todd Simonis. We were launched with the help of The Diocese of the Carolinas (that put \$80,000.00 into St. Thomas over four years) as well as two churches: St. Andrew’s, Mt. Pleasant, and St. Michael’s, Charleston. These two churches provided additional financial resources as well as encouraging their members who felt called to join us. Christ Church, Mt. Pleasant, and St. Peter’s, Mt. Pleasant, have also been generous with their prayer and encouragement. There would be no St. Thomas’ without these partners.

Ten years on, we have seen the Kingdom of God manifested in more ways than we could ask or imagine. Many people have come to faith in Jesus. We have equipped people to be evangelists, to come alongside the broken hearted in practical help and prayer, to care for the poor and marginalized, and to

seek justice in our community. We have also helped many to encounter God through musical and visual art.

My greatest honor has been watching the “average” St. Thomas’ member take up the calling to be Christ’s ambassador. They have sacrificed time, money, and energy to reach people who may never encounter Jesus any other way. I see Christ in them as I never have before.

Please pray for St. Thomas’ Vestry and me. On May 26-28, we met to ask the Holy Spirit to chart out the next 10 years. Please ask the Lord to give us clarity and excitement for this next chapter.

Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we could ask or imagine, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Ephesians 4:20-21.

# LAMB Opens Residence for Children with Special Needs

By Grace Gehlken, the LAMB Institute



SUZY MCCALL

Judith, Yolani, and Elias, residents of Mirada de Jesus, see their forever home for the first time on its inauguration day.

Mirada de Jesus, translated “the Gaze of Jesus,” is LAMB’s newest ministry. This residence is a forever home for our precious children with special needs who have turned 18, aging out of God’s Littlest Lambs (GLL) Children’s Home. Where did the name “the Gaze of Jesus” come from? The New Testament is full of stories about Jesus going to the least of these – the lepers, the blind, the marginalized and the rejected – the unseen of society. But Jesus stopped and looked at them with compassion. In Honduran society, people with special needs are often marginalized, unseen. We want them to know they are loved by Jesus and by us and that we will always have a place for them at LAMB.

LAMB was founded by Suzy McCall, who grew up in our dio-

cese. In 1990, she packed her bags and took a leap of faith, moving from Barnwell, SC to Tegucigalpa, Honduras as part of a church planting team with SAMS. She quickly learned that being a missionary means completely trusting in the Lord, or as Revelation 14:4 puts it, “following the Lamb wherever he goes.” This continues to be a guiding principle for LAMB.

In 1999, following Hurricane Mitch, the Lord led Suzy to start a missionary training school in Flor del Campo, a poor community on the outskirts of Tegucigalpa that is known for violence and corruption. God continued to lead the ministry in new directions. Suzy realized a need for a daycare in Flor as children were often left at home unattended while their mothers struggled to earn money to feed

their children. At the same time, the Lord began bringing babies, who needed full-time care, into our growing LAMB family. Suzy and other LAMB friends brought these precious ones into their homes, and it became clear that God was calling LAMB to again expand its vision. In 2002, GLL Daycare opened its doors to the community, followed by GLL School. Then in 2005, GLL Children’s Home opened, becoming a place of rescue for those suffering from abuse, neglect, or abandonment. Currently, the Children’s Home serves more than 60 children.

Today, LAMB includes eight areas of ministry in Honduras: GLL Daycare, GLL School, GLL Children’s Home, Transition Program, Youth in Action, Holistic Community Development, Joy Christian Academy, and most recently, Mirada de Jesus.

Praying for this forever home became an integral part of our Children’s Home ministry around 14 years ago with the arrival of baby Yolani, who was born blind. Since then, other children with special needs have joined the LAMB family: Elias and Judith, siblings born with cerebral palsy; Melvin, now almost completely deaf and blind because of a degenerative disease; and Olympia, who has difficulties that prevent her from living on her own and make her vulnerable to the threat of human trafficking. We have always thanked God for each one of these precious lambs and prayed earnestly for His plan for their adult lives.

Enter Teresa and Guy Tarrant, long-time partners and faithful supporters of the ministry. Upon seeing a Facebook post about the vision

God had given LAMB for Mirada de Jesus, they too prayed, seeking the Lord’s will. As is often the case with prayers, we become part of the answer. As it turned out, about the time Yolani arrived at LAMB, Teresa was left an inheritance and had been seeking the Lord’s will for how to invest that gift in the Kingdom. This invitation to be a part of Mirada de Jesus was what they’d been waiting for. Once again, the Lord has expanded the services of LAMB with Mirada de Jesus by revealing a need and imparting the compassion to fill that need in His perfect timing.

We are overjoyed at LAMB to offer this forever home, Mirada de Jesus, to our beloved lambs with special needs. Ephesians 2:19-22 says, “you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God...being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.” Our hope for Mirada de Jesus, this dwelling place for the Lord, is that Judith, Elias, Melvin, Olympia, Yolani, and each of our precious lambs will know that they are seen by Jesus and loved by Him as treasures in the Kingdom of God.

For more information about The LAMB Institute, or to make a donation, find us online at [www.lambinstitute.org](http://www.lambinstitute.org). LAMB is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization and a member of ECFA.

## Little Church, Big Heart

### St. Bartholomew’s ACNA, Cares for the Needs of Neighbors

By Molly Hare, ADOSC Communications Assistant

The Rev. Bill Oldland ends every service reminding the congregation at St. Bartholomew’s ACNA, to “Go out into the world and tell someone about Jesus today!” And the congregation is doing just that!

Following the litigation in which the congregation lost their property, St. Bartholomew’s ACNA opened doors at their new, temporary, location on October 30 and just 10 days later embarked on their first outreach project delivering food to poll workers at the six different polling stations around town, all before noon. Later that day they hosted an open house supper for the community and served over 120 people.

This rhythm and commitment of serving and blessing with big hearts in the name of Jesus was just the beginning. Members of St. Bart’s went knocking on doors and calling around to neighbors, friends, and strangers with a warm invitation to the church’s pig picking. Fr. Bill Oldland is very clear that “If we wait for people to come to us, it will never happen. We have to do what Christ did, we have to go to them.”

With their “Fill-the-Tub” program, St. Bartholomew’s collects food items to fill three bins every month, which they bless and deliver to Hartsville Interfaith Ministries.

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## Churches in the Spotlight

Churches in our diocese are always actively caring for those in need. Does your church have a special outreach activity? Share it! Email [jhunter@adosc.org](mailto:jhunter@adosc.org) with the subject “Churches in the Spotlight.”



made up of parishioners from PGW, St. Paul’s, Summerville, and St. Helena’s, Beaufort, will be traveling to Kenya in July for the dedication of these efforts.

Christ St. Paul’s Teens Bake Cookies for Kairos

Christ St. Paul’s, Yonges Island, teens recently helped make somewhere near 3,000 cookies for Kairos prison ministry! What a fun way to be sweet to others. Like this idea? Ask them for their cookie recipe and get baking!

Holy Trinity, Grahamville, Provides Bibles for Children at Easter

The children of Holy Trinity, Grahamville, got a big surprise on Easter Sunday when they received *The New Bible in Pictures for Little Eyes*. Harold and Sheri Boyles, delegates to the Diocesan Convention in March, purchased a case of the books from Children’s Bible Story Books in Every Home, a Myrtle Beach-based ministry that had a display booth at the convention. However, when parents and grandparents were asked to reserve copies for the Easter presentation, response was so overwhelming additional books had to be ordered.

St. Philip’s Walks for Water

St. Philip’s, Charleston, had 141 registered walkers in Water Mission’s recent Walk for

Water. The Team raised \$10,550.88 to help end the global water crisis. To learn how you can get involved visit <https://watermission.org/get-involved/>

Holy Cross Raises Support for LAMB Institute Need

Five children were recently brought under the care and provision of the LAMB Institute in Honduras. Holy Cross, Sullivan’s Island and Daniel Island, responded by sending the first three months of living expenses for this family, \$11,360.

OSA Raises Summer Camp Funds for HALOS

Old St. Andrew’s, Charleston, collected funds for HALOS to send children in foster or kinship care to summer camp. Each year HALOS helps send over 200 children to summer camp. Without camp, many of these children will be left at home unsupervised. These camps are provided by the City and County at greatly discounted rates for HALOS kids.

St. John’s, Johns Island, Sends Love

St. John’s Parish, Johns Island, recently delivered 30 love-filled Easter bags to the youth at the Charleston County Juvenile Detention Center. The bags were packed full of much-needed toiletry items such as deodorant, bodywash, shampoo, and lotion as well as chocolate bars and various snacks.

### Congratulations to the Edgars on the Birth of their Second Grandchild

Bishop Chip and Beth Edgar are delighted to announce the birth of John Thomas Edgar. “Jack” was born just after midnight on May 26, 2023 to John and Amanda Edgar, son and daughter-in-law of Bishop Edgar and Beth. All are doing well.

Watch over your child Jack, O Lord, as his days increase; bless him and guide him, and keep him unspotted from the world. Strengthen him when he stands; comfort him when discouraged or sorrowful; raise him up if he falls; and in his heart may your peace which passes understanding abide all the days of his life; through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.



Prince George Winyah Helps Provide Solar Panels and Water Lines for Girls’ School in Kenya

Prince George Winyah (PGW), Georgetown, is pressing forward with its project providing clean, easily accessible water for the Huma Girls Boarding School in Sewa Village, Kenya. They recently sent \$20,000 for the project and Water Mission contributed an additional \$7,000. As a result, solar panels and water lines to the girls’ dormitory and cafeteria will soon be completed. A team

# Restoring Memorabilia Helps Restore Normalcy

## ARDF Disaster Relief Volunteers Help Families Rebuild Lives

By Tommy Lamb, National Disaster Network Director, Anglican Relief and Development Fund

After flooding, most people think of disaster response as mucking out flooded homes and clearing trees and other debris. While these are necessary tasks during emergency relief, additional long-term recovery involves so much more, and means a lot to survivors of a natural disaster. Such was the case this last April, as ARDF and four volunteers joined the North American Lutheran Church in Hazard, KY, to serve three families after the July 2022 flooding in Appalachia.

Deacon Betty Budyka from St. Luke's Anglican Church in Copley, OH, decided to join ARDF's disaster response trip at the last min-

ute. Not knowing what to expect, she arrived at the host church and joined one of three teams to rebuild a home on Lost Creek. With a gift of pastoral care and experience as a hospital chaplain, Betty sought the Holy Spirit to show her how to minister to the spiritual and emotional needs of the family.

From day one, it didn't take Betty long to see what was needed to make the partially reconstructed house a home again. She began collecting and cleaning personal belongings that had been lost to the rock, sand, and water of the flood, plucking them from the messy front yard or restoring previously collected items that were in boxes on the front porch - a front porch unusable because of the stacks of family items collected on it.

One item, a quilt, was discovered in the back of a tumbled and totaled SUV in the creek bottom. Upon inquiring about the quilt,



TOMMY LAMB

As items were cleaned, repaired and returned to their rightful places, the front porch was cleared off, and by the end of the trip the owners had a front porch on which to sit and enjoy each other's company... something they hadn't had in nine months. Above, Deacon Betty (seated, right) with team members.

Betty and another volunteer, Mary Beth Lee, learned it belonged to a young woman and was made for her by her great grandmother. While on break, Betty and Mary Beth delicately removed the quilt from the back of the SUV and washed it in the creek before hanging it out to dry. The week after leaving, the quilt was presented lovingly to the young woman, who never thought she would see that quilt again!

Many survivors give up hope of having a semblance of the life they had prior to the

event. They are forced to start over. That's why spiritual care is an integral and important part of disaster response. As physical houses are rebuilt, we can also help restore the memories represented in personal items lost, broken, or ripped apart by the water and wind of a storm. When Betty restored personal items, cleaning and drying things like curio cabinets or toys played with by grandchildren, the owner of the house could share her associated memories, restoring a sense of normalcy to her life. Simply listening is a beautiful ministry!

As items were cleaned, repaired and returned to their rightful places, the front porch was cleared off, and by the end of the trip the owners had a front porch on which to sit and enjoy each other's company, complete with vases of wildflowers - something they hadn't had in nine months.

Interested in volunteering with ARDF, but unsure if you have the right skill set? You may not feel equipped to serve in disaster response, but the testimony of Deacon Betty shows how even if you are unsure, simply saying Yes! to serving others in little ways can impact your life and help to restore normalcy in the lives of others. You do not need to know how to clear debris or use power tools to help - often the little things, like cleaning toys and listening to stories, become just as important to the ministry of disaster response. To learn more visit <https://ardf.org/volunteer>. Upcoming trips are scheduled for July 30-August 5 (in Madisonville, KY) and August-September 2023 (in Ft. Myers, FL).



TOMMY LAMB

## Creating Good and Beautiful Things

Continued from Page 3

the Ukuloonies. I thought it was a wonderful way of celebrating God's gift of creativity, so I set about doing the same thing at The Well.

### How do you experience the divide in creative expression between "secular" and "faith-centered" music?

Worship music is definitely the pinnacle of musical expression. I believe God created music for worship. But I also believe He allows us to utilize that gift for other, therapeutic purposes. Remember that David was the first music therapist when he would drive the demons away from King Saul with his music. I was a psychotherapist and psychology professor for 20 years before I became a priest, and it is a proven fact that the activity in your brain while listening to music is healthy and life-giving. But when you actually create or play music, your brain goes to the cognitive Super Bowl. It is incredibly therapeutic and helps develop neural pathways that fight depression, anxiety and a myriad of other disorders! I think this is just another one of God's gifts to His children, to help us along the way. I do not condone music that is vulgar, violent, or negative, but there is a lot of good music out there that can be very helpful to us on our human journey, and I believe God uses that for our benefit.

### When, why and how did you begin teaching ukulele? (Got a step-by-step guide we could share?)

Actually, I don't have a step-by-step formula for ANYTHING. My entire life is pretty much flying by the seat of my pants. That's my personality type. I instigate and re-

act, but don't plan. So my teaching the uke and starting the uke band at The Well just happened. Literally. I had started hanging out with some other uke players here in Myrtle Beach, just for some mindless entertainment. Then, one day I said, "I've been thinking about this, so let's put the word out for anyone who is interested to meet me at the church next Tuesday." I had about 20 people show up, so then I had to figure out what to do. I gathered up some music, got some help from a couple of local uke players that had some sheet music and just did it. And that's how it started. It's been so much fun. The ukulele is the happy instrument. You can't play it and frown for very long.

### Do you think everyone is creative? What if someone says, "I don't have a creative bone in my body?"

I do believe everyone is creative in one respect or another. Some have creative parenting skills. Some have creative solutions to problems. Some are writers, musicians, dancers, artists, or photographers. Some have creative farming abilities. Some can envision and build beautiful and useful structures. Others create delicious and appealing foods. The list goes on, but since we are all created in the image of God, and God is a master creator, then it stands to reason that we all have creative ability if we only recognize it and nurture it.

### What are the benefits of creative expression?

As I said before, not only is creativity fun and an excellent means of fellowship, but it is good for your brain, your soul, and your spirit. I believe that when we create

beautiful and helpful things, we can sense God's pleasure and we leave the world a little better place than how we found it. Creativity, in my opinion, should be encouraged at all ages and should be celebrated as one of God's greatest gifts to humankind.

### I have outlets for creativity, but life is so busy, ...it's hard to find time to be creative. Is it important to carve out time? And how would we do that?

For me, creativity in music and writing is the very fabric of my being. It has always been there for me and has carried me through some really tough times in my life. As I see it, if it is a gift of God and has so many life benefits that go along with it, how can we ignore it, especially for things that may have no eternal significance? I think we ignore and push our own creativity aside at our own peril. After all, if you're going to help others, you need to be healthy yourself, especially if you are helping people spiritually or psychologically. And, like most things, you have to make it a priority. Like I said recently, "When I have a little extra money, I buy guitars and ukuleles. If anything is left after that, I buy food and clothes."

### What do you do when "the well's run dry" creatively?

I just relax and wait. There have been times in my life when I would write 15 really good songs in three days or churn out five chapters in a book. Then, I wouldn't have anything for six or eight months. I don't try to push it or manufacture it. It's like that with music and with books. If I am inspired and it's there, I write it or play it. If it's not, I just relax and play somebody else's music or read

someone else's books. It's not a competition. It's a journey, and when you try to force it, it becomes something other than a blessing.

### Which creative outlet gives you the most joy?

Acoustic guitar music. Something about the "woody" sound of acoustic string instruments makes my heart leap. Lately, I have been learning a lot of old-time Appalachian String music. I'm planning on attending some festivals up in the mountains in the next year. That music is so easy and happy, even the "sweetheart murder ballads." It's just a joyful and very natural sound. It really speaks to me and brings healing and comfort.

### How would you encourage others who might say, "I know I can't (sing, play, write, draw, etc.) as well as so-and-so.... I'm just not going to try?"

Find what makes your heart smile and do it. Open yourself up to things you may not have thought were especially creative in your life. It may not be music. It may be flower gardening. It could be anything. Just do it. And the more you do it, the better you'll get at it. You may never be professional-quality, but being professional-quality brings its own set of pressures and troubles. Just set yourself free to know the Master Creator fully and enjoy Him every second of the day! Allow Him to share the gift of creating with you!

## Little Church

Continued from Page 14

Volunteers from St. Bartholomew's get out and serve every month in the local soup kitchen run by a Methodist Church in town as well as packing and delivering 33 bag lunches for those visiting the soup kitchen at the end of the month.

"We are always looking to work with other churches in the area," say Oldland, and the church is now teaming up with Cornerstone Baptist Church. Together they prepare and share around 400 free meals once a quarter along with offering Bibles and prayer.

St. Bartholomew's has also found ways to care for those in the Saleeby Center of Hartsville, an immediate care facility for individuals with intellectual and physical disabilities. At Easter they arranged for residents to have nail care packages and at Christmas adopted a wing of 14 residents to ensure each resident was given two presents.

The community of Hartsville is in full support of St. Bartholomew's and several have remarked that they can't believe just how much this little church is doing to serve others.

In addition to urging his congregation to reach out, Oldland has issued the same call to the members of the Greater Hartsville Ministerial Alliance of which he is a member. "We need to go out, find out what the needs are in the community and respond to them, not just with money but put people behind it because the community is watching."

The people of St. Bartholomew's ACNA are tirelessly and faithfully on a mission to discover the needs of their community and make Jesus known by the love and care they feed others with. Join in praying that God will continue to energize and strengthen St. Bartholomew's, and all of us, to keep going into the world.

## St. Paul's Tea Room, Gift Shop, Raises \$90,000 for Charity

By Vicki Harlan and Susan Haynes, St. Paul's, Summerville

The 18th St. Paul's, Summerville, Tea Room and Gift Shop held over two weeks this past March raised more than \$90,000 for those in need.

More than 100 volunteers from St. Paul's and our community worked each day to welcome and bless our guests with delicious food and beautiful items from St. Paul's Gift shop. Our takeout crew put together Tea Room meals for our friends to enjoy at home, their work place, or outside on the plaza. Led by the Holy Spirit, our amazing team worked hard as they shared the love of Jesus with our guests and each other.

Each day we experienced Philippians 4:13: "I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength."

To put some numbers to this feat, we welcomed 3,168 guests. We cooked and served 625 tomato pies, 900 pounds of chicken salad, 700 pounds of shrimp salad, 50 gallons of she crab soup, 45 gallons of okra

soup, as well as other salads and sandwiches. Our volunteer bakers brought beautiful desserts which were plated into more than 3,500 individual desserts for our guests to enjoy at the Tea Room or take home.

Our Gift Shop team made beautiful handmade items, solicited attic treasures and plants, and set up a lovely space where our guests could shop. God brought us the volunteers we needed just when we needed them, and He gave us strength to have servant hearts and spirits of cooperation as we served His people. God is good!

We thank all of our volunteers as well as all who came to eat and shop, enabling us to bring in over \$119,000 which netted \$90,258. All of these proceeds will be shared with our less-fortunate brothers and sisters, near and far. To God be the glory!



### FBI Presentation *Continued from Page 13*

They also spoke about how loneliness can result in older people being more susceptible to being taken in by a professional scammer, and how these same people are often hesitant to report they have been scammed because they are ashamed and embarrassed, and they don't want their family members to decide they are vulnerable or unable to handle their own financial affairs.

These difficult topics were discussed openly during the workshop, and the presentation was followed by an extended, lively question and answer period.

The attendees were encouraged to contact the FBI if they have been a victim of fraud, or if they believe a fraud may be in process (even if no money has been lost yet). To contact the FBI either visit [www.fbi.gov](http://www.fbi.gov)

or call 1-800-CALL-FBI or <http://tips.fbi.gov>. You will be asked to provide your name, first date of contact, method of contact, contact info provided and type of financial transaction.

If you are interested in receiving more information about scheduling a FREE FBI Elder Fraud presentation at your church, contact me at [Laura@HolyCross.net](mailto:Laura@HolyCross.net).

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## From Parsonage to Mental Health Promotion; Christian Counseling Services

By Lauren Weaver, The Church of the Cross, Bluffton

Next to The Church of the Cross' historic campus is a beautiful two-story house. This house has held many different roles during its tenure with the church. Much of the time it has been a parsonage that housed the families of the pastors as they



and depression, relational conflict, and other barriers to the journey. As a faith-based, non-profit organization, the counseling center seeks to provide affordable life-transforming resources to children, adolescents, and adults in a peaceful, safe, and confidential setting that honors individual religious and cultural differences."

Cross Counseling is a big step towards helping individuals in our church, school, and surrounding community move forward in healing. Our counselors are professionally trained and licensed with theological training on how to incorporate a client's faith walk into their healing journey if they desire.

We have two clinicians ready and available for clients today. We are in person at our offices at 9 Water Street in Old Town Bluffton as well as offering virtual sessions online. You can visit the website at [crosscounseling.org](http://crosscounseling.org) or set up an initial session by emailing [crosscounseling@thechurchofthecross.net](mailto:crosscounseling@thechurchofthecross.net) or calling (843) 707-4025. Please join us in prayer for this new church and community outreach ministry.

have helped lead the church spiritually. There was also a season when it served to provide offices for the church staff. To better meet the needs of our parish, it has now been officially transformed into the Cross Christian Counseling Center, a new mental health counseling ministry of The Church of the Cross.

The vision of The Church of the Cross is "to be a community of Christ-imitators in which people are respected, loved and called to God-honoring excellence as they serve the Lord and others in His name." Starting Cross Counseling was an extension of that vision. Part of helping people live out their faith walk is helping them find health holistically, "with all their heart, soul, mind, and strength" as Mark 12:31 states.

Cross Christian Counseling Center opened in January 2023. Director Andy Nix, a retired army chaplain and ordained minister, leads this mental health ministry and oversees the other counselors and staff.

"We have watched the need for mental health support grow over the years," says Nix, "and felt a calling to provide professional Christian counseling to our community. Faith and psychology have a unique connection to the healing process. In the church we teach forgiveness and life transformation towards Jesus. Some of us need professional help to work through the weeds of what transformation looks like amidst trauma, anxiety

and depression, relational conflict, and other barriers to the journey. As a faith-based, non-profit organization, the counseling center seeks to provide affordable life-transforming resources to children, adolescents, and adults in a peaceful, safe, and confidential setting that honors individual religious and cultural differences."

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### Daughters of the King Plan Fall Assembly and Spring Retreat

Opportunities abound for fellowship and retreat in The Order of the Daughters of the King. Their Fall Assembly is Saturday, September 23, at the Cathedral Church of St Luke and St. Paul in Charleston. This is their annual business meeting and they will be electing officers for their next Triennium. The speaker for the day will be the Rev'd Janet Echols. The Spring Retreat, Our Hope in the Holy Spirit, is April 12-14, 2024 and will be led by Sherry Schumann. This retreat will be at St. Christopher Camp and Conference Center. Both events are open to all women; additional information and registration will be available on the Assembly website at [www.doksc.org](http://www.doksc.org). Any questions may be directed to Kester Heaton (843) 6960-7434 or [kesterheaton@gmail.com](mailto:kesterheaton@gmail.com).

## Upcoming Events

View full calendar at [adosc.org/events/](http://adosc.org/events/)

- GrandCamp, June 26-30, pg. 14
- Kanuga Renewal Conference, June 25-30, pg. 11
- Kanuga Renewal Conference, June 25-30
- GrandCamp, June 26-30
- Cursillo 192, July 13-16
- ADOSC Night at Riverdogs, September 1
- Deacons' Day with Bishop Edgar, September 16
- DOK Fall Assembly, September 23
- Cursillo #193 October 12-15
- Mondo Weekend, October 13-15
- Anglican Women's Fall Retreat, October 20-22
- Clergy Retreat, November 6-8
- Regenerate, November 10-12
- 2024 Christian Men's Conference, Feb. 23-25

### St. James Anglican Inducts Members into Daughters of the Holy Cross

By Virginia Bartels, Saint James Anglican Church, Charleston

On January 29, members of the Ruth Chapter of the Daughters of the Holy Cross at Saint James Anglican Church in Charleston, had the great pleasure of inducting three new members: Donna Wooten, Judy Garvin, and Carol Galvan.

Following their extensive training and discernment period, these new Daughters were welcomed during our church service. Vestry members came forward and stood at the front of the church in honor of the new Daughters taking their vows. The Rev.s Toby Larson and Richard Grimball blessed their crosses and conducted the "Service for Admitting Members." "In Christ Alone" was included among the hymns sung in the service. The ministry of the Ruth Chapter will be enriched through our new members' prayers, service, study, and evangelism.

### Bowman Appointed

*Continued from Page 2*

Cross, Sullivan's Island. She has a background in law enforcement that particularly suits her for the difficult conversations and decisions such an office may demand. Her kindness, openness, and thoroughness make her especially suited for this role. I am grateful that she has accepted this critical appointment and look forward to serving with her—all the while praying that her unique giftedness will never need to be put to the test in our diocese.

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