

Diocesan Council Report
Grandparenting Ministry
August 28, 2025

GrandCamp 2025 was held June 16 – 20 at Epworth by the Sea on St. Simon's Island, Georgia. It was the 12th annual gathering in our Diocese of grandparents with their grandchildren. This year we had 76 total participants (29 families). There were 35 grandparents, 32 grandchildren, 4 junior staff and 5 adult staff without grandchildren. We enjoyed intergenerational devotions every morning, led by Sherry Schumann. Workshops for the grandparents were led by John and Patti Sosnowski and Peter Rothermel. During the workshops, the children participated in a rotating system of small groups in Bible Study, Bible focused crafts/activities and outdoor games. There was an emphasis this year on all participants learning to navigate their way through the Bible. A big competition was held at the end of the week to see who could find certain Biblical passages the quickest. The grandkids beat the grandparents! The week culminated with a powerful Blessing Ceremony.

Plans for GrandCamp 2026 have begun. The dates of June 15 – 19 at Epworth by the Sea have been reserved with a \$5000 deposit. Registration online at our Diocesan website begins December 1st. NOTE: Camp is often fully booked by early March! So, get your registrations in early.

The Very Reverend Karl Burns summed up his first time GrandCamp experience: "Over the years, I've spent many summers at camps and retreats, but this one? This one topped them all. We laughed, played, prayed, and made memories that will last far beyond our time at Epworth by the Sea on St. Simons Island, Georgia. It wasn't just the highlight of my summer—it was a heart-filling adventure that brought Lewis and me closer to each other and to God." (If you want to read more of Karl's "grand" adventures at GrandCamp, go to the Grandparenting Ministry page on adosc.org).

Fall will be busy for grandparents at various parishes. September 7 is the national day for recognizing grandparents. Several parishes will observe Grandparent's Day by inviting grandparents to join their grandchildren for special Sunday School/Kids Church. During the services, special prayers will be offered on behalf of this senior generation. A few of our parishes are continuing with either weekly or monthly "Grandparents at Prayer" (G@P). Other parishes are planning monthly workshops and presentations to inform and encourage grandparents in their walk with the Lord. Next summer, some grandparents will be joining Sherry Schumann in running a pilot GrandCamp in the Diocese of Maseno South Africa.

Prayerfully submitted,
Catherine Jacobs