

REPORTS TO CONVENTION FROM THE AGENCIES, GENERAL OFFICERS, BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, AND COMMITTEES OF THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF THE CENTRAL GULF COAST

Note: If you are the president, chair, or coordinator for a diocesan agency, board, commission, committee, or organization and would like to submit your report for inclusion in the Reports to Convention and the Journal of Convention, please contact jenn@diocgc.org.

STANDING COMMITTEE

President *John Griffing | St. Francis, Gulf Breeze

Members

Class of 2026

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Lolly Holk | St. Paul's Chapel, Magnolia Springs
The Rev. Sara Phillips | St. Mary's by the Sea, Coden
*The Rev. Randy Sellers | Nativity, Dothan

Class of 2027

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*The Rev. Eric Mancil | St. Mary's, Andalusia
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*Rodney Duggins | Good Shepherd, Mobile
*The Rev. Michael Hoffman | Christ Church, Pensacola
Jeannie Kienzle | All Saints, Mobile
Eric Stevenson | Christ Church, Pensacola

*nominated by the bishop

REGISTRAR-HISTORIOGRAPHER

When Bishop Kendrick asked me to consider being the Diocesan Registrar-Historiographer and Archivist, I was delighted to accept the invitation. I had actually held that position several years ago, so it was not entirely new and strange to me. Also, I will add that, as an academic historian, I have worked in a number of different archives in the United States ranging from the National Archives in Washington to a number of university and state archives from Florida, Alabama, North and South Carolina, and Texas I am familiar with different types of archives and collection practices.

Thankfully, I inherited the outstanding organization and collection of materials and documents of my predecessors, Mrs. Kit Caffey and the Rev. Albert Kennington.

Rev. Kennington met with me and several others at Christ Church Pensacola and explained in wonderful detail the scope and activity of the archives along with the importance of keeping accurate and as complete as possible records and documents. On occasion, church archivists have been asked to present records relating to legal matters, hence the emphasis on careful documentation and preservation. Well organized and careful inventories are also very helpful in finding needed information and materials. Much of my time this year in the archives has been spent becoming familiar with our holdings.

The archives are located physically in the diocesan office building in Pensacola. I am always eager to respond to inquiries about information and items that we have. Given the legal and sometimes sensitive nature of some materials, however, we ask

that individuals come to the archives in the diocesan offices and work with the archivist to locate and read the documents there. In addition to paper materials, the archives also contain a few items such as films, photos, and recorded interviews.

To date, I have not had many opportunities to work with interested individuals, but I did spend the morning with one delightful woman who was interested in the records we have relating to the Poarch Creek Native Americans and more especially, the clergy and church of St. Anna's. The story of the Episcopal Church mission among the Poarch people is an example of outreach which was truly remarkable in helping the Creek people recover their identity as a Native American group. I am hoping to continue the archival outreach in the future.

May I encourage interested individuals in parishes and missions not only to use the archives but to work on their own collections. I will be happy to consult with anyone who is interested in historical collections and materials. If someone in the parish is compiling a history of the church, I would also be glad to help in any way that I can. Please feel free to contact me through the diocesan office.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jane Dysart

COMMISSION ON MINISTRY

The Commission on Ministry has two primary responsibilities. The first is to assist individuals in their response to God's call to ministry. In particular, the Commission seeks to support those who are discerning a call to ordained ministry. The second responsibility is to advise the Bishop, when requested, in matters concerning discernment and formation.

COM Mission Statement

The COM seeks to prayerfully ascertain, discriminate, and discern a sense of God's call in a person's life and in the life of the church for his/her *lay or ordained vocation and ministry*.

The Commission on Ministry will

- be a resource for aspirants for ordination*
- be an advisor to the bishop concerning aspirants, postulants, and candidates*
- be a shepherd and advocate for those being prepared for ordination, providing pastoral care and guidance on an individual basis*
- assist the bishop in developing and furthering continuing education for the clergy of the Diocese.*

In this diocese, individuals called to ordained ministry may follow one of two separate paths. One path is for those who are called to the Priesthood and the other for those called to the vocational Diaconate.

Ordinations: In March, four (4) individuals were ordained to the Transitional Diaconate (Drew Downey, Antwon Lewis, Salem Saloom, and Mark Waddell). Salem and Mark were ordained to the Priesthood in October; Antwon and Drew in November of 2025.

We had three (5) persons accepted as Postulants in the Priesthood track (Necie Borroni, Ericca Caldwell, John Hunt, Dianne Jordan, and Ginny Leebrick; one (1) person accepted as a Postulant in the Diaconate track (Vivian Silliman).

Seminary: At present, seminarians enrolled from this diocese at Virginia Theological Seminary (Ericca Caldwell, Jimmy Holcomb, Ginny Leebrick), Seminary of the Southwest (Ellen Huckabee), and Sewanee (Dianne Jordan).

Diocesan School for Ministry: We currently have three (3) students enrolled in the Priesthood track (Necie Borroni, John Hunt, Jessica Walker and one (1) in the Diaconate track (Vivian Silliman).

Discernment for those called to the Priesthood and for those called to the Diaconate requires participation by many from the community, as the individuals prayerfully seek God's direction for their lives. The Commission is grateful for the willingness of so many within this diocese to support and assist those who are examining their call to ordained ministry.

Respectfully submitted,
The Rev. David Chatel, Chair/mrp

BECKWITH BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Things are truly alive and thriving on the shores of Weeks Bay! Beckwith continues to be a place where faith is renewed, community is strengthened, and joy is shared. Our dedicated staff and volunteers once again created meaningful experiences for people of all ages, and we are deeply grateful for the many ways you support this sacred space.

Throughout the year, Beckwith welcomed a wide variety of retreat groups—parishes, youth groups, families, and community organizations—each finding rest, renewal, and connection in God’s front yard. Our reservations calendar stayed busy, and as we look ahead, Rhona is already booking parish retreats, youth weekends, and parish picnics. We invite you to plan your next gathering at Beckwith and be part of the ongoing magic.

Summer Camp 2025 was filled with laughter, growth, and unforgettable moments. Beckwith served **780 campers**, awarded **\$25,098 in scholarships and discounts**, and received **\$8,500 in grants and donations**, ensuring that camp remained accessible to all who wished to attend. Under the leadership of Program Director Ben Linder, our exceptional summer staff created safe, joyful, and transformational experiences that campers will carry with them long after the last campfire. The impact of summer camp continues to be at the heart of Beckwith’s ministry.

One of the true highlights of the year was an **amazing BayLights weekend**. Families and friends gathered for a joy-filled celebration of community, fun, and fellowship by the bay. From shared meals and laughter to meaningful worship and time together outdoors, BayLights once again reminded us why Beckwith is such a beloved place. We are already looking ahead—**save the date for BayLights 2026: September 25–27**—and we hope you will join us for another unforgettable weekend.

As part of our commitment to steward and enhance this sacred campus, the **Because Love Creates Magic Campaign** continues to support important capital improvements that ensure Beckwith remains welcoming, safe, and vibrant for generations to come. This campaign reflects the belief that love—expressed through generosity, vision, and care—truly does create magic at Beckwith.

Mark your calendars for **Beckwith Sunday, April 26, 2026**. This year we plan to celebrate the opening of our new pool with a service, cookout, and pool party. Mark your calendars and plan to worship with us, have lunch, and celebrate the new pool.

As we prepare for 2026, the Beckwith team is stronger than ever—planning, dreaming, and preparing for another outstanding year of retreats, summer camp, and community gatherings. Thank you for your continued support, encouragement, and love for Beckwith.

Respectfully submitted,
The Beckwith Board

WILMER HALL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Wilmer Hall, an agency of the Diocese located in Mobile, Alabama, has been serving young people in need since 1864. It was founded by Bishop Richard Hooker Wilmer, the second Bishop of Alabama. We currently have six programs: Transitional Living (TLP), Transitional Family (TFP), Education4Life, the Philippa Stirling Hamilton Education Center, the Max Miller Education Program, and The Cynthia Tucker Feeding Ministry.

In 2023, we had a total of 59 residents in our three residential programs (TLP, TFP). We served 60 students in our on-site Education Program and 75 students in our two community-based education programs (the Hamilton Education Center and the Max Miller Education Program). **Our total number of children and young adults served in 2025 was 194.**

We currently serve 60 students in our on-campus education program, called Education4Life. In the 16 years since its inception, the students in the program have a 100% graduation/promotion rate. We expanded our successful education model into other areas of our community in 2018 and 2019. Our community-based education programs serve students on-site at three local middle schools. All of our tutors are local college students, supported by our education staff.

We launched a delivery-based food pantry in 2019 and dedicated in honor of our outgoing board president Cynthis Tucker. In 2025, we delivered groceries to over 500 individuals and families.

Our staff and board continue to be good stewards of our resources as we recently passed a balanced budget as we care for our residents and historic campus. We charge no fees for our services, of course, and receive funding from the Diocese and from many donations and grants.

We greatly appreciate the support from the Diocese, its churches, and their congregants as we carry out our Mission in helping the homeless, the poor, and the needy.

We welcome visitors from around the diocese for a visit to campus, and we are also happy to come talk to your parish or group about our mission and ministry. Please contact Pratt Paterson (ppaterson@wilmerhall.org).

Respectfully submitted,

The Rev. Deacon D. Pratt Paterson, Executive Director

Cynthia Tucker, Board President

The mission of Wilmer Hall Children's Home is to provide a safe home and educational resources for children and young adults in need due to poverty, abuse, neglect, and homelessness. We serve all children and young adults without regard to race, ethnicity, or religion.

Wilmer Hall extends warm and nurturing care to every child and young adult in its care, ensuring they are surrounded by people who love and support them. Our goal is to help children succeed in four areas: physical health, emotional stability, academic achievement, and spiritual maturity.

Wilmer Hall serves children and young adults through five programs: the Residential Living Program, the Transitional Living Program, the Transitional Family Program, the on-campus Education Program, and the Community-Based Education Programs.

CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL

Christ Church Cathedral Prayer

Gracious God, today we give thanks for the ministry you have entrusted to us as the cathedral church of our diocese. Help us to be faithful in answering the sacred calling to be ministers of hospitality for your people and leaders of worship to your honor and glory. May this place be a beacon of your light and love for the world. All this we ask through your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

As we enter our third century as Christ's Church in this place, it is our honor to continue to serve as the Cathedral Church for our diocese. We were joined in ministry this year by Dr. Joshua Coble, who arrived just after Easter to become the Cathedral Director of Music.

The Cathedral Foundation was founded in 2006 as an endowed fund whose interest is used to pay for Diocesan events at the Cathedral. The Cathedral Agreement specifies that diocesan events such as ordinations, diocesan meetings, and choir and acolyte festivals held at Christ Church Cathedral will be funded by the Cathedral. The Foundation was created to provide those financial resources for the Cathedral mission and ministry and to promote investment of gifts by members and friends of the Cathedral for its ministry to the Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast. Thank you to all of the parishes who contributed to the Cathedral Foundation in support of Diocesan Cathedral events.

The following is a brief account of Cathedral functions over the past year.

The Ordination to the Diaconate for Jonathan Drew Downey, Antwon Cyril Lewis, Salem George Saloom, and Mark Allen Waddell was held on Saturday, May 3, 2025.

On May 4, Bishop Russell Kendrick joined us for the Cathedral Celebration Eucharist celebrating our 20th year as the Cathedral of the Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast.

The Reverend Marshall Craver meets with local clergy at the Cathedral on Mondays in his role as Diocesan Clergy Spiritual Director.

The Diocesan Acolyte Festival was held on Saturday, August 23. Bishop Russell Kendrick welcomed over seventy-five youth, mentors and parents from throughout the diocese and beyond to enjoy the day. It was a fun-filled day of learning, games, and food that culminated with an acolyte-filled service of Eucharist. We give thanks for our diocesan ministers and clergy who helped lead the day: Lee Dorsey, The Revs Mike Ballard, Lydia Johnson, Salem Saloom, and Mary Alice Matheson, as well as Cathedral clergy The Rev. Thomas Heard and The Rev. Pratt Paterson, Deacon. We give thanks for all of the volunteers for their work that day and in the planning stages helped make the day a success. We also thank all of the Cathedral volunteers who acted as hosts for the day. We will see you again for the next Diocesan Acolyte Festival in 2027.

The Betty Coale Young Musician Scholarship grants financial awards to promising middle and high-school instrumentalists and singers from throughout our diocese and region. Recipients of this scholarship are featured during Christ Church Cathedral's summer services. Betty Coale was a cherished member of the Cathedral choir, and we are grateful that her memory lives on in the support of education & performance opportunities for aspiring music students. It is our hope that young musicians and singers from parishes across the diocese will apply for the scholarship.

The Cathedral Family supports all of our diocesan agencies. This year the Cathedral served as a sponsor for the Wilmer Hall Pancake Breakfast, and for the Friday evening Cookout for Bay Lights at Beckwith. For Back to School, we provided backpacks and school supplies for students who are tutored by Wilmer Hall, and at Christmas, we provided coats for many of these students.

Cathedral leaders continue to serve in a number of capacities within the diocese. Jill Showers Chow served on the Executive Committee of the General Convention. Jill also serves on the Commission on Racial Justice and Reconciliation and on the Wilmer Hall Board. Leigh Rendfrey serves on the Commission for Ministry, as well as on the Boards for Beckwith Camp and Conference Center and Wilmer Hall. Other Cathedral members also serve on the Wilmer Hall Board are Jacob Fuller and Douglas Kearley, Sr. We are grateful for the diocesan representatives who serve on the Cathedral Chapter; The Rev. Mike Ballard, Immanuel, Bay Minette; Phyllis Findley, St. Andrew's, Mobile; and Amy St. John Hamilton, All Saints, Mobile.

The Very Reverend Beverly F. Gibson, Dean of the Cathedral, began the Spiritual Guidance Program with the Shalem Institute for Spiritual Formation. Dean Gibson also serves on the Shalem Board of Directors.

The Diocesan Choir Festival is being planned for Saturday, August 15, 2026. We look forward to hosting the musicians of our diocese on that day.

As we continue to grow into our ministry as Cathedral, it remains a joy for us as we serve the diocese.

Cathedral Mission Statement

Christ Church Cathedral lovingly welcomes all people to traditional Episcopal worship, to deepen our relationships, serve our community, and grow closer to God.

Institution Statement for the Cathedral Church of the Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast

The Cathedral is the spiritual center of the Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast. The Cathedral is a dynamic and evolving church that serves as a liturgical, educational, and pastoral center for Diocesan life. It serves as a visible symbol of unity and promotes growth, hope, and a deepening trust in the Lord. The Cathedral is a place where the Gospel of Jesus Christ will be faithfully preached and responded to, and it will model new concepts and ideas for education, evangelism, and outreach to which the Gospel calls us.

Respectfully submitted,
The Very Reverend Beverly F. Gibson, Dean
Carolyn S. Jeffers, Provost

MISSIONER FOR DEVELOPMENT & EVANGELISM

Over the past year, I have been deeply grateful for the opportunity to walk alongside our congregations as they live more fully into God's call in their communities. It has been a joy to support collaborative ministry between clergy and lay leaders and to help churches navigate change with faith, creativity, and hope. Much of this work has centered on listening carefully, responding to changing circumstances, and helping churches find sustainable and faithful ways forward.

I continue to work closely with small churches and congregations using less traditional models of clergy employment. This includes helping churches develop healthy rhythms of worship that integrate both clergy and lay leadership. As congregational needs shift and churches move through seasons of transition, I meet regularly with churches to help them discern next steps and build structures that support long-term vitality. Our transitions workshops are one way we support this work, offering guidance for both onboarding and offboarding clergy in ways that are healthy, transparent, and grounded in care for the whole community.

One way we have supported smaller congregations this year is through monthly Zoom gatherings. Topics are identified by the churches themselves and include music, pastoral care, and liturgical planning. Out of these conversations, we developed our pastoral care support list — a network of clergy willing to provide presence when needed in churches without clergy, including

hospital visits, home visits, and other pastoral care support. I am especially thankful for the clergy who have offered themselves in this way, helping ensure that every congregation has access to pastoral care in moments that matter most.

Another important focus has been walking alongside churches as they explore new ways of connecting with their surrounding communities. It is exciting to see congregations try new things, build relationships, and discover fresh ways to be present where God has placed them. The fourth year of the Licensed Lay Evangelist class continues to support this work by equipping lay leaders to help congregations build meaningful relationships in their communities and share the good news in authentic, relational ways.

The Invite Welcome Connect program continues to be an important resource. This year we are moving to a scholarship and grant-supported model rather than providing a free code to everyone. Congregations will be able to apply for assistance to help cover access to the online materials, and we will also offer small grants to help implement pieces of the program locally with diocesan support. Applications will be available soon.

We are also developing a ministry to the military in collaboration with Matt Williams. Please visit his booth in the exhibits to learn more.

A particularly wonderful opportunity for ministry I had this year was to serve as Chaplain to the summer staff at Beckwith. We developed ways to support staff both in their ministry roles and in their own spiritual formation and faith journeys. I have also recently begun serving as Chaplain at Wilmer Hall, supporting the spiritual life and pastoral needs of the residents and staff who live and work there. I am grateful for the privilege of being present in these ministries of care and formation.

To learn more or get involved in any of this work, please contact me at lydia@diocgc.org.

I am truly thankful to serve alongside you in this diocese and look forward with hope to the year ahead.

Respectfully submitted,
The Rev. Lydia Knizley Johnson, Missioner for Development and Evangelism

MISSIONER FOR DISCERNMENT & CANON TO THE ORDINARY

“Let There Be Light.” When I reflect on our convention theme this year, it feels both timely and deeply familiar. From the opening words of Genesis to the life and ministry of Jesus, light remains one of the clearest ways scripture describes God’s presence and activity among us. Light reveals, guides, and gives life.

Over the past year, across the Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast, I have witnessed many expressions of that light. I have had the continued privilege of walking with vestries, clergy, and lay leaders as they engaged the faithful work of discernment. In moments of transition, uncertainty, and decision-making, I have seen congregations seek clarity, wisdom, and grace — trusting that God’s light continues to lead us forward.

One of the most visible ways we experience this discernment is through clergy transitions and calls. In the past year, several of our churches have engaged prayerfully in this holy work:

Carl Saxton	Rector - Nativity, Dothan
Ted Kirchharr	Rector - St. Monica's, Cantonment
Alice Sawyer	Priest in Charge - St. Andrew's, Mobile
Mark Fitzhugh	Rector - Trinity, Mobile
George Young	Interim Rector - St. Christopher's, Pensacola
Steven Miller	Interim Rector - Christ the King, Santa Rosa Beach
Antwon Lewis	Curate - St. Mary's, Andalusia
Salem Saloom	Priest in Charge - St. Anna's, Poarch
Mark Wadell	Priest in Charge - St. Augustine's, Navarre
Leanne Beaumont	Rector - St. Mary's, Milton

Several seminarians will graduate later this spring and will begin their ordained ministries later this year throughout the diocese:

Ellen Huckabay	Seminary of the Southwest (placement TBD)
Jimmy Holcomb	Virginia Theological Seminary (placement TBD)
Jessica Walker	Diocesan School for Ministry (placement TBD)

In addition to these transitions, several clergy have discerned God's call to retirement or transition, and several congregations have entered intentional seasons of discernment and search:

Susan Sowers	Retired – St. Christopher's, Pensacola
Neil Kaminski	Retired – St. James, Eufaula
Jim and Joe Popham	Retired – St. Andrew's, Destin
Sara Phillips	In transition – St. Mary's, Coden

Congregations in Transition

St. Christopher's, Pensacola
St. James, Eufaula
Christ the King, Santa Rosa Beach
St. Andrew's, Destin
St. Stephen's, Brewton
St. John's, Monroeville
St. Mary's, Coden

As in years past, I continue to be encouraged by the faithful leadership present throughout our diocese. Whether navigating transitions, exploring new ministry opportunities, or discerning future direction, our churches consistently demonstrate patience, courage, and hope.

It remains a privilege to accompany our congregations and leaders in this work. I give thanks for the many ways God's light continues to shine through the life of this diocese, often in ways both expected and surprising. May that same light continue to guide and sustain us in the year ahead.

Respectfully submitted,
The Rev. Ashley Freeman, Canon to the Ordinary & Missioner for Discernment

SCHOOL FOR MINISTRY DEAN AND MISSIONER FOR DISCIPLESHIP

As Missioner for Discipleship and the Dean of our local School for Ministry, I say thank you. This past year has brought challenges to us all. Yet I remain proud and encouraged by those in our Lay and ordained tracks in the School for Ministry.

I am truly awed that we have so many people, lay and ordained candidates, saying "yes" to the call in their life. Bishop Kendrick asked me to share some statistics at our last clergy conference:

We have 118 Licensed lay ministers.

- 39 or 65% of the parishes/congregations have participated in the lay school in some form;
- 12 parishes/congregations have 3 or more that have participated in the lay school;
- 28 individuals across the dioceses have been licensed in more than one lay track.

As I look around and see the students who have been graduated from the ordained tracks in our local School, I counted, that by the end of this next three-year cycle, 20 people will have been ordained priests or deacons since 2017. That makes approximately 1/3 of the active clergy in this diocese.

When the School began, Bishop Kendrick followed the vision written in his heart. It was a new thing, something wholly different than many of you had ever seen or experienced. And new things are not always comfortable or even accepted. It is my call and passion to teach, mentor, and support the students who trust me with their discernment and ministries and to do so with a commitment to integrity and academic excellence.

Most seminaries are in great flux right now as they navigate sustainability and new pedagogical tools in this complex society. I talk with and coordinate with other leaders weekly. I do this to serve and honor our people and their resounding commitment to making this world a better place.

We have 29 enrolled in the lay school this year and 5 for ordained ministry. I may be biased, but I think we are living in a teaching moment. Teachers hold on to a special type of hope, patience, persistence and passion for students. We have

gathered with our graduates of the local School to check-in and see how we can be better, how we can meet changing needs, and how we can hopefully be sustainable and effective in the future. We can and will always strive to be relevant and adaptive.

When Bishop Kendrick asked our clergy at the start of this year what we would like God to bless in our ministries, my response was “faithful formation”. As your Missioner for Discipleship, I am studying theologians, historians, and sociologists to provide resources to assist in varying seasons of the year.

As I ponder the challenges to faithful formation and discipleship in our divided culture, I find encouragement in Dr Brene Brown’s new book, *Strong Ground*, in which she says:

Humans get so uncomfortable straddling the tension and uncertainty that surfaces when two seemingly opposing ideas are both valid, that we often simply give up. We let go of the tension and pick one idea, normally the one most familiar, and make ourselves feel better by discounting or diminishing the competing idea and/or the idea holder.

I hope we all find the courage to continue speaking our truth to power; to use our agency to shine light in dark spaces and to encourage one another, build one another up; to stay the course in this present tension of what is and what can be. We need each other to do this, so thank you again for the grace to continue with you in this work, united as we are by our baptismal covenant.

Respectfully submitted,
Joy H. Blaylock, PhD
Dean, School for Ministry
Missioner for Discipleship

REPORTS OF THE COMMISSIONS

CURSILLO

The purpose of the Cursillo Ministry in the Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast is to help individuals understand and respond to their calling to Christian Leadership, whether in their parishes, social lives, or in the workplace. Join us!

Cursillo Ministry. The Commission on Cursillo hosted two weekends at Camp Beckwith, with #172 in March 2025 and #173 in September 2025. As expected, and with the help of the Holy Spirit, the weekends were extremely successful. Future Cursillo weekends are currently scheduled twice/year in the months of March and September. Special thanks to the Lay Rectors and key staff for the weekends:

Position	Cursillo #172	Cursillo #173
Lay Rector	Bryan Whitehead	Tonye Frith
Head Cha Cha	Lisa Hicks	Dianne O'Connor
Head Logistics	Steve Brown	Natalie Smith
Head Music	Rev Forbes Sirman	Charlie Roose
Head Spiritual Advisor	Bishop Russell Kendrick	Rev Lydia Johnson

Communications. The *Cursillo in the Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast* Facebook page currently has 633 followers.

Cursillo Newsletter. There are currently 1,030 online subscribers to our newsletter.

Website. We reworked the *Coastal Pilgrims* website in August 2025 and 189 Cursillistas have used it since implementation. Peak view windows being just before the March and September Cursillo weekends.

Rev Mark H. Wilson (MHW) Scholarship. In memory of the late Fr Mark, and in honor of his inspiring wife Beth, a one-time \$2,500 seminary scholarship is available for a first-year postulant enrolled in an accredited three-year Master of Divinity program or a one-time \$1,000 scholarship for a first-year postulant enrolled in the Diocese School for Ministry. Candidates must have been active in the Cursillo Ministry in the Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast and anticipate continuing to serve as Cursillo weekend clergy upon ordination. Unfortunately, the funds are nearly exhausted. A donation can be made any time,

for any amount, with a check made out to the Cursillo Duvall Fund and note in the memo line: MHW Scholarship and mail your check to: Episcopal Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast, PO Box 13330, Pensacola FL 32591-3330.

Cursillo #174 will be held from March 12 – 15. There still is space available for more pilgrims! Please remember this weekend, its pilgrims, and Lay Rector David Adams from Holy Spirit, Gulf Shores, in your prayers.

Cursillo #175 will be led by Lay Rector Michelle Anchors, St Simon's Church, Fort Walton Beach, and is scheduled to begin on Sep 17th. Interested staff and prospective pilgrims can apply online at coastalpilgrims.com. Before submitting the pilgrim form, sponsors should talk with clergy about the suitability of the prospective pilgrim. When the form is submitted, the clergy will get an email asking them to officially approve the registration.

Respectfully submitted,
Van Fuller, Chair

GLOBAL MISSION ENGAGEMENT

This past year the Commission has sponsored in whole or in part, to the extend our manpower and budget would permit, the following:

- a. Concluded a successful Medical / Quality-of-Life mission effort in **Baluba, Zambia**
- b. Provided funds to help supply medicines to stock the pharmacy in **Baluba, Zambia**
- c. Supported an Education Mission to the **Dominican Republic**
- d. Sponsored a successful Construction Mission trip to build furniture for two needy Episcopal churches in the **Dominican Republic**
- e. Built furniture need to establish a chapel in the diocese office in the **Dominican Republic**
- f. Concluded our mission efforts to the **USA/Mexican border**
- g. Made a commitment to partner with the mission ministry known as "Live2serve" in **Guatemala** to provide housing and vocational training
- h. Individual members of the Commission donated funds to build 4 houses for homeless families in **Guatemala**
- i. Made plans for long-term support and made a donation to help rebuild the hospital **Al Alhi in Gaza** following the hospital's suffering extensive damage as a result of recent wars.
- j. Provided funds to the **Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem** to provide Christmas presents to church children suffering from the aftermath of local wars
- k. Provided funds to build a water well at **Iglesia San Andres de Santo Domingo in the Dominican Republic**.

Following is additional information about each of these projects:

1. Baluba, Zambia, Africa:

Baluba is in a rural setting with 3000 people in its "community" area. Health care was miles away and for most residents accessible only by walking. Many locals still practiced witchcraft and had no notion of Jesus.

We teamed with a local pastor, Victor Chimfwembe, and his wife Rachael, who were Christians, capable, and anxious to do something to bring Christ, good medical care, and a higher standard of living to the Baluba community.

The common diseases the area encounters are: -malaria, respiratory infections, oral disease, muscular skeletal disease, skin diseases, digestive and ear/eyes diseases.

Health Care, Pharmacy, School and Church: Since beginning our partnership with Victor and Rachael we have been successful in helping establish a local stocked pharmacy, a medical clinic with a private birthing room, water for the birthing room, a school, and a church.

Through Victor's initiative he has been instrumental in bringing agricultural and farm animals to the community thus making healthy food sustainable and more easily available.

Nursing School and Midwifery for Rachael: Over the course of four years we sponsored a full tuition scholarship for Rachael to attend a certified three-year nursing program and a fourth year to obtain a midwife certification. In exchange Rachael's commitment to us is that she will return to Baluba and provide nursing care and midwife services at no charge to the locals.

Rachael has completed her schooling with high marks and now is a RN and certified midwife. She is faithfully fulfilling her commitment to provide services to the Baluba and surrounding communities free of charge.

This Baluba ministry has given the community renewed hope, access to good health care and medicines, and restored a sense of self-esteem and given them the opportunity to know of the love and saving grace of our Lord.

Pharmacy Support for Baluba: We gave financial support to provide necessary medicines for the Baluba pharmacy throughout the year.

2. United States / Mexico Borderland Ministries:

Since September 2021 the Commission has been working with local Episcopal churches and ministries to provide support of much needed services to legal emigrants who had been displaced from their homeland.

This ministry has run its course and it is no longer needed due to the change in government policy regarding immigration at the border.

3. Education Mission to the Dominican Republic:

Our Commission has been instrumental in establishing a ministry where a group of highly qualified educational professionals travel to the Dominican Republic to hold workshops for teachers and administrators in the Episcopal Church school system. An objective of these trips is to help the local teachers and administrators be better at their jobs and thus offer the students a better quality of education.

Next Education Mission Trip Planned for 2026:

The team plans to continue this mission in 2026. Plans for the coming year include providing support for the following:

- a. Launch a plan to engage groups at selected schools in designing and implementing programs for excellence in English teaching / learning and the uses of technology.
- b. Provide support in the planning, implementation, and assessment of the project.
- c. Create an electronic resource bank that teachers and administrators can access using the Internet.
- d. Continued encouragement for the DDG (Dominican Development Group) to increase fund-raising for student scholarships to the schools in the DR.
- e. Construction projects to create safe learning environments for children and add classroom space for fast growing schools.

4. Furniture Construction Mission to the Dominican Republic:

Since 2006 our Diocese has sponsored construction teams to the Dominican Republic. These teams build furniture for Dominican Episcopal Churches. During the last 20 years they have furnished many churches with pews, pulpits, lecterns, altars, credence tables, baptismal fonts, acolyte benches, clergy chairs, bishop's chairs, bookcases and other items requested by local churches. The team's goal is to provide all the furniture needed to enable an empty room to become an attractive, comfortable and functional house of worship.

The last such trip was in March 2025 and was met with much success.

The next trip is scheduled for February-March 2026 when the team will build furniture for the Iglesia La Gran Comisión de San Pedro and Iglesia Santo Nombre de Jesús de Bani.

5. **Mission to Guatemala:** We have made a commitment to partner with the missionary ministry known as Live2Serve in Guatemala. We will work with them toward building houses for homeless families and to establish a trade school where locals can learn employable skills such as welding, electrical, plumbing, construction and sewing.
6. **Hospital in Gaza:** Provided financial aid toward rebuilding the hospital Al Alhi in Gaza that had been severely damaged as a result of recent local wars.
7. **Water Well for San Andres, Santo Domingo, DR:** It was learned that the church and school at San Andres, Santo Domingo did not have running water and that its absence contributed to unsanitary conditions for the students, faculty and church. The Construction team provided funds for the church to drill and install a water well.

Respectfully Submitted.
Geary Gaston, Commission Chair

INTEGRITY OF CREATION

Members of the Commission on the Integrity of Creation hosted a workshop on “[Practical Ideas for Creation Care Ministry](#)” at the 2025 diocesan convention. The workshop was generally well received, although it was apparent from comments afterward that people needed a more basic understanding of creation care, especially from a spiritual perspective. Bishop Kendrick asked for input from the commission regarding speakers for the 2026 convention to provide a focus on the spirituality of creation care. Names were submitted for his consideration.

The Commission continued to send a monthly newsletter to all subscribers, suggesting options for education, worship, action and advocacy on creation care. Back issues of the newsletter are archived on the commission [webpage](#).

Rev. Salem Saloom again sponsored Worship in the Woods and Rev. Bob Donnell sponsored an evening liturgy at All Saints, Mobile in recognition of Earth Day. Other parishes sponsoring event for Earth Day include: St. Mary’s, Andalusia; Redeemer, Mobile; and St. Christopher’s, Pensacola. Salem also sponsored an Easter retreat, “Living in View of the Resurrection” and “Classroom in the Forest” at Saloom Properties.

Holy strolls (prayer walks) were hosted throughout the year by All Saints, Mobile; Redeemer, Mobile; and St. Christopher’s, Pensacola. Lella Lowe did a presentation on church divestment for the Province IV/V environmental network, and spoke at the Daughters of the King spring assembly about creation care and to groups at St. Paul’s, Daphne and St. Stephen’s, Brewton about developing/expanding their green teams.

Many churches were active in creation care activities during the summer, including St. Mary’s, Andalusia; Trinity, Apalachicola; St. Stephen’s, Brewton; All Saints, Mobile; Redeemer, Mobile; and St. Christopher’s, Pensacola. See our [July newsletter](#) for a listing of all of those activities. The Green Team at St. Christopher’s also held a weekend team retreat and members take turns writing articles about creation care for the church’s monthly newsletter.

Churches in the diocese participated in the Season of Creation (SoC) by using the special liturgy approved for the season. The Commission shared a [long list](#) of resources to use in celebrating the season. Nearly a dozen Alabama churches participated in the Sun Day postcard campaign, advocating for greater access to solar power in the state. St. Christopher’s covered creation care extensively in their [September newsletter](#) in honor of the SoC. The Commission’s [October newsletter](#) provided extensive coverage of SoC activities throughout the Diocese.

Sonja Crawford was co-leader of a nature contemplation retreat day for the Center for Sacred Space in November. Lella Lowe is serving as a co-leader for the Province IV creation care network and is using the CIC’s Constant Contact account to produce the monthly newsletter for that group, serving creation care advocates throughout the nine-state region.

The Commission has used the November 2025 – February 2026 newsletters to explore the theme of Living More Simply, opening with a [moving reflection](#) by commission member Michelle Bende’s Gen Z daughter Elyssa and moving through the high consumer seasons of Advent and Christmas and then into Lent, with suggestions and resources for simplifying our lives. We then reported on the many ways our congregations experimented with promoting a simpler lifestyle.

The number of green teams throughout the diocese continues to grow, but commission members would love to see that number double in the next year. To that end, Travis Pecot worked with a Trinity, Apalachicola parishioner to produce a video

about creation care in this diocese to share at convention and beyond. The commission continues to research installation of solar panels on churches, schools and other diocesan buildings as a way to reduce our carbon emissions in accordance with 2022 General Convention resolution A087 – Carbon Net Neutrality by 2030.

Respectfully submitted,
Lella Lowe, Chair

PRISON MINISTRY

2025 started with some fanfare, as I was invited to speak by Bishop Kendrick at the diocesan convention. I had offered to speak to any and all parishes in 2024 about the ins and outs of prison ministry and especially its rewards. No one invited me to speak in 2024, so I was especially encouraged by Bishop Kendrick's support in giving me an opportunity to speak. No invitation to speak at an individual parish was forthcoming in 2025, except at my home parish, St. James.

With covid our committee meetings were suspended and entry into the prisons was halted. After covid we switched from in-person committee meetings to Zoom. The number of committee members dwindled to four at any one zoom meeting. After Wayne Verry retired as chairman John Kendall took over as Chair. John, with his busy schedule, was unable to resurrect the committee. I have been the chair for all of 2025 and have been equally unsuccessful in finding a group willing to serve on the committee. That doesn't mean that there isn't a group willing, but I will have to try a new approach to enlist group members.

My recommendation for this new approach would involve a change in emphasis as to the committee's direction. Before covid we focused on in-prison involvement mostly in conjunction with Kairos and with re-entry of released inmates. Kairos is an important ministry to those in prison, (I have been involved since 1993), but it has become less and less dependent on outside groups. Attendance at a Cursillo, or some similar group, used to be mandatory to join Kairos, but that is no longer the case. Membership is more or less the result on one-on-one or small group networking and passing relatively simple (though very important) DOC tests. At Saint James we still use the parish hall for team meetings, and monetary contributions need to be raised. We should support Kairos.

Re-entry has limitless opportunities. Our diocesan committee spent a large amount of our efforts learning about the re-entry process and trying unsuccessfully to involve parishes/ parishioners. We learned the ins and outs of re-entry, but it requires a different set of skills, and as it is a less controlled environment, it can be intimidating. And to my surprise working together towards helping in the re-entry process can become political in a way that is not possible in the controlled prison environment. If we had found success in recruiting parishioners in the opportunities that we surfaced, I would be all for pushing the envelope. As we did all the research, but failed to find support interest, I vote to put re-entry on the back burner.

So, what is it that I am suggesting as a new focus for the diocese? In 2018 I wrote a bible study on a book written by Ray Hinton, an innocent man imprisoned for 30 years in Alabama's death row. The committee loved it, and Bishop Kendrick asked all parishes to consider offering it. I'm not sure how many parishes did the six-week study, but it met with some interest and success.

The idea that I would like to pursue will involve approval of each individual prison (probably not hard) for the diocese to sponsor a bible study led by at least one (one is sufficient) parishioner. I have written a topic driven bible study and have included it in 27 files attached with this email. In Holman Death Row we had a bible study for years, originally one night a week. After covid we switched to Thursday afternoons. Last fall Kairos International stopped us from doing this bible study as their "program" does not support bible studies (Probably due to a potential conflict of denomination theology).

The bible study that I am recommending is called "Questions of a Faithful Heart," and I have led it at St. James throughout 2025. Every other week we have looked into a Christian topic to help members clarify their thinking. There is not a book to read, but with the help of a 2 page write up (1 sheet, both sides), the group looks into the topic until the next time with the idea that every participant will come prepared to discuss the topic. The bible study is meant for small groups of 6 to 12.

In Fountain prison I lead Thursday afternoon chapel time with anywhere from 30 to 70 inmates from 1995 to 2011. As a part of chapel time, we broke up into small groups to discuss the Kairos 4th day meeting card (officially labelled the "listen-listen-love-love questions"). The 5 questions never changed and were a good way to start discussion of group interest. (ex. "Can you share any moment when you have known that Christ's presence was with you?"). The prisons are used to bible studies by various groups, and small group engenders the most individual involvement.

The small group that I am recommending will not be looking for “the” right answer to the “Questions.” The main focus is to help individuals grow in their relationship with God through encouragement of a combination of reading, reflecting, and discussing. Some will on their own use the bible or other materials available in the chapel. Others will listen and perhaps add their thoughts/ questions.

This is not an attempt to start a “Ditmas” like parish (Fountain) in every prison, though the bible study is definitely to be done under the Episcopal banner. My hope is to meet with Bishop Kendrick to discuss this idea and change of emphasis for 2026.

Respectfully submitted,
John Olson, Chair

RACIAL JUSTICE & RECONCILIATION

Mission Statement

As members of the Jesus Movement, our mission is to dismantle individual and institutional racism by sharing resources and creating opportunities that inspire and empower faith communities and the larger community, resulting in reconciliation and restoration of all God's People.

In furtherance of our mission, the Commission engaged in a wide range of activities in 2025.

Martin Luther King Birthday Celebration. In January, we celebrated the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, participating in a Community Worship Service at Trinity Chapel AME Church in Bay Minette, Alabama, and the MLK Day March in Fairhope, Alabama.

Trip to Alabama Shakespeare Festival. As part of our ongoing efforts to explore how the visual and performing arts can help (or hurt) the cause of racial and social justice, the Commission sponsored a trip to the Alabama Shakespeare Festival in Montgomery in February, where participants saw a performance of “The Watsons Go to Birmingham.” The play is based on a book that was both a Newbery Medal winner and a Coretta Scott King Honor Book. It tells the story of an African American family from Flint, Michigan, who travels south to visit relatives, only to find themselves caught up in a horrific moment in American history: the bombing of the Sixteenth Avenue Baptist Church in Birmingham.

Selma Bridge Crossing Jubilee. In March, the Commission hosted a trip to participate in the Selma Jubilee, the annual bridge-crossing in commemoration of Bloody Sunday. The event is held annually to keep alive the memory of the events of March 7, 1965, when state and local police attacked hundreds of civil rights activists who were marching from Selma, Alabama, to the state capitol in Montgomery.

SPEAK Poetry Conference. In April, the Commission was a sponsor of the SPEAK Poetry Conference, which took place at St. Paul’s Episcopal School. SPEAK was a youth poetry and spoken word conference bringing together high school students, educators, community leaders, and creatives from across Southwest Alabama for a transformative experience in art, culture, and empowerment. Designed to amplify youth voices, cultivate storytelling skills, and provide mentorship, the one-day conference featured competitions, workshops, panels, networking, and a keynote speech by Agenia Walker Clark, President of Fisk University and the first Black graduate of St. Paul’s. Panelists – who included Bishop Kendrick, several Diocesan clergy, and several Commission members, as well as other community leaders, authors, and public figures committed to creating positive change – explored racial reconciliation, community building, transgenerational unity, youth empowerment, and bridging economic and social divides.

Pilgrimage in Mobile. Having sponsored numerous pilgrimages over the years to civil rights sites outside of our Diocese (Birmingham, Montgomery, Mississippi, Louisiana), the Commission decided that it was time to explore racial history in our own backyard. In April, we held a pilgrimage in Mobile. More than 50 pilgrims joined

us for a full day of learning and understanding, beginning with a boat trip to the site where the Clotilda lies beneath the water. On the boat, we heard from a Clotilda descendant, and at the site there was time for reflection and discussion of the meaning of what we were experiencing. Lunch followed, hosted by the Church of the Good Shepherd, the only historically African American Episcopal church in Mobile. The afternoon comprised a guided bus tour with the Dora Franklin Finley African American Heritage Trail, visiting the Africatown Heritage House Museum and other sites in Africatown, historic Davis Avenue, the Historic Avenue Cultural Center, the Isom Clemon Civil Rights Memorial Park, and the Historic Franklin House & Gallery.

Jonathan Myrick Daniel Pilgrimage. Each year, the Dioceses of Alabama and the Central Gulf Coast jointly host the annual remembrance of Jonathan Daniel and the Martyrs of Alabama. The pilgrimage takes place in Hayneville, Alabama, to honor Jonathan Daniel, a seminarian who had come to Alabama in 1965 to register

Black voters. He was killed by a county deputy while in the act of shielding 17-year-old Ruby Sales from gunfire, saving her life. The two dioceses alternate being in charge of the event, and 2025 was our year to organize, with our Commission taking the lead. This year marked the 60th anniversary of the murder of Jonathan Daniel, and we were able to host a very special observance, with Rt. Rev. Michael Curry, 27th Presiding Bishop and Pri-mate of The Episcopal Church, as preacher. In addition, the Rev. Dr. Kelly Brown Douglas, Canon Theologian of Washington National Cathedral and former Dean of Episcopal Divinity School, and Ashley M. Jones, Poet Laureate of the State of Alabama, were featured at a vigil the evening before the pilgrimage. Pilgrims came from all over the country – including many from our Diocese – to participate in this anniversary weekend.

Speaker Series. The Commission presents an ongoing series of speaker events, featuring persons who are notable for their work and experience in some aspects of racial justice. In October, we hosted a presentation by Dr. William A. Smith, Distinguished Professor at the University of Utah with appointments spanning

the Departments of Psychiatry, Education, and African American Studies. Internationally renowned for his pioneering work on Racial Battle Fatigue, a concept he coined in 2003, Dr. Smith addressed for our audience how systemic racism and racial aggressions — both micro and macro — affect the mental and physical well-being of minority individuals.

Racial Reconciliation Workshops. One of the central components of our Commission's ministry is our Becoming Beloved Community workshop. We offer this full-day seminar to all churches within the Diocese as a basic conversation about racism and its history and component factors. At the workshop, attendees can gain insights into the causes and effects of racism, unconscious bias, prejudice, white privilege, and ways to work together to Become Beloved Community. Since all parish vestry members and all members of Diocesan commissions and committees are required by the Bishop and the Standing Committee to attend this training, we attempt to make it available a number of times a year and at a variety of locations within the Diocese. In 2024, we conducted four workshops: in January at Christ Church Cathedral, Mobile; in March at St. James, Eufaula; in May at St. Paul's, Foley; and in September at St. Christopher's, Pensacola.

Coastline Articles. A Commission member is assigned to write an article for the Coastline each month on a topic related to racial justice. An informative and thought-provoking article was published in the Coastline every month in 2024.

For more information, go to: www.diocgc.org/racial-justice-and-reconciliation

Respectfully submitted,
Joe McDaniel, Jr., and Valerie Mitchell, Co-Chairs

REPORTS OF THE DIOCESAN COORDINATORS

EDUCATION FOR MINISTRY (EfM)

Since its beginning in 1975, more than 120,000 participants have deepened their faith and discerned their calling through the Education for Ministry program. Developed by the School of Theology at the University of the South (known by many as Sewanee), EfM equips Episcopalians and others for lay ministry through theological reflection, Scripture study and Christian formation.

While celebrating its 50th year, Sewanee staff unveiled the fifth major revision of EfM's curriculum, deepening its theological foundations, expanding global perspectives, utilizing multimedia sources, and engaging emerging questions in ministry and discipleship. In addition to its core four-year curriculum, the program is launching two new offerings:

- EfM: Reflections, five-to-ten-week formation courses for small-group study and congregational use. They invite people to gather onsite or online to theologically reflect upon experience, church tradition, cultural sources, and deep questions. The first two courses in the Reflections curriculum are Catharine Meeks: Meditations for Racial Healing (8 weeks) and Tara Soughers: a Theology for Trans Allies (5 weeks).

- EfM: Wide Angle, a new one-year format for those looking to experience a spiritual introduction to EfM and Christian formation in the 21st century. This seminar allows an opportunity to try EfM without the four-year commitment of the classic program.

These new offerings from School of Theology at Sewanee come in response to requests for programs designed to include those not able to make the commitment to the traditional four-year EfM program due to financial or time constraints, while still offering the classic program to those who want an in-depth study leading to growth in their lay ministries.

I am encouraged that these and other similar programs will revive the interest in EfM in the Central Gulf Coast. As the in-person small-group format has faced both internal and external challenges (such as the restrictions experienced during Covid and the rising costs of books and other material), these new offerings will hopefully encourage more people in the diocese to look at EfM as a way to equip themselves to meet the challenges of ministering to the needs of others and spread the Gospel as much by action and example than by words alone.

Currently, we have several mentors accredited to lead congregational EfM groups, but only three active groups. I encourage both lay leaders and clergy in the diocese to look into these new offerings to their congregations, as well as the traditional four-year EfM program to build both clergy and lay ministries in the diocese.

Respectfully submitted,
The Rev. David M. Clothier, Coordinator

EPISCOPAL RELIEF & DEVELOPMENT

Episcopal Relief & Development has been inspired by the faith and compassion of its supporters and partners to work together for lasting change. Its mission is to seek and serve Christ in all persons and respect the dignity of every human being.

Episcopal Relief & Development, originally known as the Presiding Bishop's Fund for World Relief (PB Fund), was founded in 1940 by General Convention. It first aimed to help refugees escaping Europe during World War II, but soon after, its work grew to include broader humanitarian aid, with a strong focus on disaster relief.

This past year Episcopal Relief & Development:

- Responded to wildfires in Southern California
- Launched programs to combat violence against women and girls in Liberia
- Helped families affected by flooding in Kentucky
- Responding to deadly Texas flooding
- Released toolkits to help faith communities respond to critical global challenges
- Supported partners in the Caribbean in response to Hurricane Melissa

These and many other natural disasters require dedicated individuals and targeted responses. All of this was made possible thanks to the generous support of people from the Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast and other Episcopalians across the United States.

Respectfully submitted,
Eugene Johnston, Coordinator

UNITED THANK OFFERING REPORT

There is no way to describe the impact UTO has on the mission work of our church. Since its beginning in 1889, UTO has awarded 5,475 grants totaling \$145,318,512.13. Last year, UTO gave out 27 grants totaling \$1,079,748.37 for projects that center around water. These grants went to make clean water available to communities, provided sanitation services to congregations, and helped to establish educational materials on water conservation and creation care. Your gifts of gratitude make a difference to people here in the US and around the world. I have read letters of gratitude and met people whose lives have been changed because of UTO. I encourage everyone to adopt the practice of daily gratitude and give to UTO. Remember, 100% of your gifts go towards funding grants.

If you are interested in participating in UTO at your parish, I am available to come speak to you. You can order materials for your parish at <https://unitedthankoffering.com/> and they are now shipped free of charge. The website contains many resources and sample newsletter articles for your use including materials for children and families to use at home. We are in the process of collecting prayers for our new prayer book to be released next year. You can submit your prayer to <https://unitedthankoffering.com/gratitude/pray/>. You can also find the QR code for this at the UTO table in the exhibit hall. Please come by and look at the amazing grants that were funded last year.

Here is the list of your gifts from 2025:

St. Peter's, Bon Secour, AL	\$252.00
St. Paul's, Daphne, AL	\$2137.90
St. Mary's, Milton, FL	\$600.00
St. Jude's, Niceville, FL	\$482.00
St. Anrew's, Mobile, AL	\$230.00
St. Matthew's, Chipley, FL	\$459.29
Church of the Nativity, Dothan, AL	\$484.00
St. Paul's, Mobile, AL	\$3,452.00
Christ Church, Pensacola, FL	\$455.00
St. James, Eufaula, AL	\$438.66
Trinity, Apalachicola, FL	\$35.05
St. Patrick's, Panama City, FL	\$253.50
St. Mark's, Troy AL	\$165.10
Individual donors	\$25.00
Total	\$9,969.50

Respectfully submitted,
Joyce Landers, Coordinator
jlanderscgc@gmail.com

CONVOCATION DEAN REPORTS

CONVOCATION V

Convocation V of the Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast comprises Florida's Bay, Walton, Okaloosa, Washington, Gulf, and Franklin Counties.

The clergy of Convocation V convene several times throughout the year as *Clericus*, which is an opportunity to meet over lunch for fellowship, the sharing of mutual concerns, and occasionally a program or speaker beneficial to the ordained ministry.

On January 9, 2025, the clergy and their spouses enjoyed an Epiphanytide luncheon at Triple J Steaks and Seafood in Panama City Beach as the guests of Bishop Kendrick, and the surviving spouses of clergy who reside in our Convocation were also invited to join us that day.

On May 15, 2025, the clergy gathered for lunch at Alice's on Bayview in the historic Saint Andrew neighborhood of Panama City, and welcomed the Reverend Forbes Sirmon, Rector of Holy Nativity, to our Diocese and Convocation.

On September 4, 2025, the clergy enjoyed a luncheon at Saint Andrew's Church in Panama City.

On January 8, 2026 the clergy were invited to participate in Bishop Kendrick's monthly Zoom Conference at Holy Nativity, Panama City, and then reassembled for lunch as his guests at the Sailing Center of the nearby Saint Andrew's Bay Yacht Club.

Respectfully submitted,
Joseph Hagberg, Dean