

## Bishop MacPherson shares plans for his retirement in 2012

It had been expected by most, but with little enthusiasm. At the Tuesday, April 26 meeting of the Diocesan Council at St. James, Alexandria, the Rt. Rev'd D. Bruce MacPherson, third Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Western Louisiana, signaled his intention to resign his post as Bishop Diocesan when he reaches the mandatory retirement age of 72 in July of 2012.

Bishop MacPherson's plans were contained in a letter to Council, read aloud by Canon James Boyd, M.D., who is Vice-chair of the Council. The text of the letter follows:

April 26, 2011  
Tuesday in Easter Week

To the Members of Diocesan Council  
The Episcopal Diocese of Western Louisiana

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

*Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.*

Nine years ago this past Wednesday, April 20, 2002, through the power of the Holy Spirit, and the action of the laity and clergy of this diocese, God called me to serve as the Third Bishop of this wonderful faith community.

The call was accepted with the understanding that I would serve as Bishop Co-adjutor for a period of four months (July 1 through November 1, 2002), and would then become Bishop Diocesan effective All Saints' Day, November 1, 2002. It was further understood, God Willing, that I would serve the diocese until engaging the mandatory resignation requirement of the Constitution and Canons of General Convention.

In anticipation of the anniversary of my 72nd year of life, I formally share with you this day, my intent to resign the Office of Bishop in July 2012 in keeping

with the Canonical provision. This announcement was shared officially with the Standing Committee at their meeting of Tuesday, April 19, 2011. Immediately following the announcement of this day, I will advise the Presiding Bishop of the action taken, and my call for the election of a Bishop Diocesan. The consecration of the Bishop-elect and my resignation will be carried out in conjunction with one another in July 2012.

In keeping with my sharing of this news with the people of Western Louisiana, I have asked the Standing Committee to meet with me in order for them to begin the process for the election of the Fourth Bishop of Western Louisiana. To this end I have already taken counsel with the Chancellor, Vice-Chancellor, and the Chair of the last Elections Committee, John G. McLure, Stephen R. Yancey, and the Honourable Canon D. Dee Drell, respectively.

At the time of my departure as your Bishop, God will have blessed Susan and

me with thirty-two and half years of ordained ministry across three dioceses. I cannot think of a finer place for our active ministry to conclude than in the Episcopal Diocese of Western Louisiana, nor of more faithful people in which to share the work of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Needless to say, more thoughts and reflections will follow, but in the interim, Easter blessings to each of you.

Faithfully in the joy of the Resurrection,

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

Please look for election details in *ALIVE!* and on the Diocesan Web site [www.diocesewla.org](http://www.diocesewla.org).

**The Bishop's Conference on Stewardship ... May 21st . See page 8**

## Shared with humble thanksgiving ...

Dear Diocesan Family:

As many will recall, in the context of my address to the 31st Annual Diocesan Convention this past fall (*October 8, 2011*), I shared that in the early days of



### The Bishop's Message

By the time you receive this issue of *ALIVE!*, I will have met for a second time with the Standing Committee (*the meeting was held on May 4, 2011*) and they have started the weighty task before them with the Honourable Canon D. Dee Drell having accepted the invitation to serve as Chair of the

Spring 2011, I would be calling for the election of the fourth Bishop of Western Louisiana. The hour is upon me, and in keeping with this, the letter above was presented to Diocesan Council on April 26, 2011. A letter was also presented to the Standing Committee the previous week (*April 19, 2011*).

Elections Committee. I know the Standing Committee will be advising you very shortly as to the process and timetable. The date for the conclusion of this process and my ministry here will be, as stated above, July 2012.

We will have an opportunity to reflect on these things together in the coming weeks, but in the interim, I felt it important to share this with you.

In the words of St. Thomas More, I ask you to "*Pray for me as I will for thee.*"

Faithfully in the promises of Christ,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "+Bruce". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly stylized font.

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



# THE RT. REV'D D. BRUCE MACPHERSON'S AROUND THE DIOCESE

The Rev'd **John D. Bedingfield** will be instituted by me as rector at **St. Barnabas, Lafayette** on Thursday evening, May 5, 2011 as the parish gathers for the celebration of new ministry at 7:00 p.m.

The Rev'd Dr. **Robert N. Cooper** will complete his part-time ministry at **Christ Church, St. Joseph** on Sunday, May 8 when he retires *once again*. We wish the Cooper's well as they set out to do some traveling and to truly be able to enjoy their retirement. *Congratulations, and know of our appreciation for your faithful service to the people of St. Joseph and Waterproof these many years.*

Also embarking upon retirement for the second time is the Rev'd **Roy C. Myers**. He has been serving the congregations of **St. David's, Rayville** and **St. Columba's, Winnboro** on a part-time basis. *Congratulations!*

With my permission, the Rev'd **Michael W. Millard** has been elected rector at

**Christ Memorial Church, Mansfield.** He has been serving the parish as priest-in-charge *under special circumstances* for the past year. A date for his institution and the celebration of new ministry will be scheduled soon.

The Rev'd **Ronald C. Robertson** died at his home in Denton, Texas, this past month following a lengthy battle with cancer. Please join me in prayers for his wife, **Vicki**, and their daughter, **Kim**. The Robertson's served for many years as missionaries to Peru. *"May his soul, and the souls of all the departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen."*

Travels about the diocese have embraced Sunday visitations at **St. Paul's, Abbeville; St. James, Alexandria; St. Timothy's, Alexandria; St. Mark's Cathedral, Shreveport; and the Chapel of the Holy Spirit, Big Lake.** The service at Holy Spirit was most meaningful as I had the privilege of dedicating and consecrating the new chapel and altar. As some know, the previous chapel was totally destroyed by Hurricane Rita, and then Hurricane Ike demolished the foundation. Thus built anew, a grand

time and glorious celebration was shared by a standing-room congregation.

The closing days of Lent provided a number of opportunities for special services and Lenten presentations. Included in this was **St. Thomas, Monroe; St. Mark's, Beaumont, Texas; and Grace, Monroe.**

**St. James, Alexandria** provided a gracious welcome to the clergy of the diocese as we gathered there on Tuesday of Holy Week for the annual Mass of Collegiality. This is a time when the clergy of the diocese gather with the bishop to share in the renewal of our ordination vows and for the oils of unction and chrism to be blessed by me for use in the coming year. My thanks to Dean **Fred Tinsley** and the many people of St. James who made this a wonderful day for all.

It was my privilege to preside at the closing services for **Cursillo 141** and **CLEY** weekends at Hardtner Camp and Conference Center in the past couple of weeks. Also in keeping with special ser-

See *Around the Diocese*, page 7



## The Season of Easter

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



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Robert Harwell ..... Editor

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## THE BISHOP'S CALENDAR

### Bishop MacPherson's Calendar for May and June 2011

#### May 2011

- 1 Holy Spirit, Big Lake – *visitation and consecration of altar and building*
- 2 Episcopal School of Acadiana, Cade – *Board of Trustees*
- 4 Standing Committee, *Diocesan House*
- 4 Immigration Center Advisory Board, *St. Joseph Catholic Center, Alexandria*
- 5 *National Day of Prayer*
- 5 Mount Olivet Chapel, Pineville – *Eucharist*
- 5 St. Barnabas, Lafayette – *institution and celebration of new ministry, the Rev'd John D. Bedingfield*
- 8 *Mother's Day*
- 8 St. Barnabas, Lafayette – *visitation*
- 11 Northern Region Office, *St. Mark's Cathedral, Shreveport*
- 12 Mount Olivet Chapel, Pineville – *Eucharist*
- 14 Ministry Discernment Program, *Diocesan House*
- 15 St. Mark's Cathedral, Shreveport – *visitation*
- 19 Mount Olivet Chapel, Pineville – *Eucharist*
- 21 Bishop's Conference on Stewardship, *St. James, Alexandria*
- 22 St. Paul's, Winnfield – *visitation*
- 25 Grace Episcopal School, Monroe - *Eucharist*
- 26 Mount Olivet Chapel, Pineville - *Eucharist*
- 27 Episcopal School of Acadiana, Cade – *Senior Eucharist*
- 27 Episcopal School of Acadiana, Cade – *Senior Banquet*

28 Episcopal School of Acadiana, Cade – *Commencement*

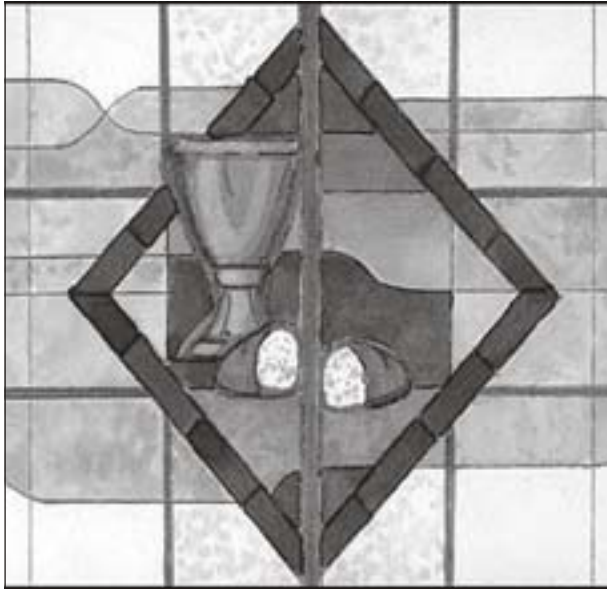
29 Redeemer, Oak Ridge – *Rogation Day visitation*  
30 *Memorial Day*

#### June 2011

- 1 Standing Committee, *Diocesan House*
- 2 Mount Olivet Chapel, Pineville – *Eucharist*
- 4 St. Thomas, Monroe – *congregational development workshop*
- 5 Polk Memorial, Leesville – *visitation*
- 8 Northern Region Office, *St. Mark's Cathedral, Shreveport*
- 9 Mount Olivet Chapel, Pineville – *Eucharist*
- 9 Commission on Ministry, *Diocesan House*
- 11 Presiding at wedding - *Yuba City, California*
- 16 Mount Olivet Chapel, Pineville – *Eucharist*
- 18 Ministry Discernment Program, *Diocesan House*
- 19 Epiphany, New Iberia – *visitation*
- 23 Mount Olivet Chapel, Pineville – *Eucharist*
- 26 St. Paul's, Shreveport – *visitation*
- 27 St. James, Shreveport – *speak at Legacy Luncheon*
- 30 Mount Olivet Chapel, Pineville - *Eucharist*

## Upcoming Events

### Lay ministries workshops to be held at multiple sites in 2011: *First workshop St. Michael's, Pineville, May 14*



#### **Worship leaders must attend a workshop for licensure by the Diocese**

St. Luke's Chapel, Grambling; St. Michael's, Pineville and St. Luke's in Jennings will be the sites of workshops on lay ministry to be conducted in 2011. Presentation of the workshops will be a cooperative effort by the Commission on Liturgy and Music and the Institute of Lay Ministry at the Bishop's Centre for Ministry, announced Canon Jim Boyd, M.D.

Participants must register for the event and each must have the endorsement of their priest to participate in the event. This year's offerings will be patterned after workshops held in 2009 and 2010.

Go to the Diocesan Web site ([www.diocesewla.org](http://www.diocesewla.org)) to download a registration form. These forms will also be available in all parishes and missions in a timely fashion.

Attending one of the workshops will qualify an attendee, upon recommendation of his/her priest to Bishop MacPherson, for a 3-year license in any or all of the following lay ministries: Eucharistic Minister, Eucharistic Visitor or Worship Leader.

For reasons of convenience, attendees may attend any of the workshops, choosing a site that is most convenient.

Conducting the workshops will be Canon Jim Boyd of St. Mark's Cathedral and other members of the Commission on Liturgy and Music and the Institute of Lay Ministry. All sessions are from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

*The schedule for workshops is as follows:*

**Pineville** - May 14 at St. Michael's Episcopal Church, **Grambling** - August 27 at St. Luke's Chapel

**Jennings** - September 10 at St. Luke's Episcopal Church

Questions concerning the upcoming workshops should be directed to Canon Jim Boyd at 318-222-1902 or by email: [jdbgyn@aol.com](mailto:jdbgyn@aol.com). Completed registration forms should be mailed to: Canon James D. Boyd, M.D., 2551 Greenwood Road, Suite 130, Shreveport, LA 71103.



#### **Paper cranes sent to Japan signify Grace Episcopal School children's prayers**

After earthquakes recently ravaged areas in Japan, the fourth grade class at Grace Episcopal School in Monroe, folded over 1,000 paper cranes, blessed them and asked Bishop MacPherson to send them to the people of Japan.

The idea comes from the book *Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes* by Eleanor Coerr. About a young girl in Japan who becomes ill following the atomic bomb attack, the book tells of a belief that folding a thousand paper cranes and praying with each, will make the ill person well.

The cranes were sent by the Grace fourth graders as a sign of the children's prayers for those in Japan. Additional cranes were folded and sold to other students for \$1 each.


The Grace middle school also held a carwash to raise money, and collections were also taken up during the weekly school Mass. In addition to sending the cranes, \$2,000 is also being sent from the school for aid efforts in Japan.



#### **May 19-May 21, 2011**


The Diocese of Western Louisiana and the Diocese of Louisiana will hold a mentor training event Thursday, May 19 through Saturday, May 21 at the Solomon Episcopal Conference Center in Loranger, Louisiana. Both basic and formational training will be offered. The cost of tuition and a double room is \$200, or \$275 for a single room.

For more information please contact Brenda Milam at 318/487-0982 or [Brendamilam@suddenlink.net](mailto:Brendamilam@suddenlink.net).



### Diocese of Western Louisiana

## Bishop MacPherson's Office Days



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

*Those in the southern portion of the diocese are encouraged to make an appointment with Bishop MacPherson at Diocesan House in Pineville.*

**For an appointment at either location, please contact Dianne White, assistant to the Bishop, 318.442.1304 or [ladydiwhi@aol.com](mailto:ladydiwhi@aol.com).**

## News of the Diocese

### STARS over Southfield

#### St. Paul's acolytes stage Dinner Theater "Stars over Southfield"

A packed house of parishioners and guests dined on fine steak dinners then guffawed and cheered a multi-act presentation entitled "Stars over Southfield" Sunday evening, May 1 at St. Paul's, Shreveport on Southfield Rd.

The brainchild of St. Paul's verger and acolyte master, Susan Sherwin, the event was a fund-raising vehicle to defray costs of St. Paul's acolyte attendance at the National Acolyte Festival in Washington, D.C. in the fall. Dozens of volunteers

See *Stars over Southfield*, page 7



#### "Old Glory" to soon be aloft at Hardtner

The Hardtner Camp and Conference Center will soon have "Old Glory" flying overhead: the campaign to fund the installation of a flag pole has been successful. Bishop MacPherson's and Canon Gregg Riley's flagpole construction campaign has raised the necessary funds.

Canon Riley has asked Dudley Beene, St. Matthais, Shreveport, and a member of the Hardtner Board of Trustees to supervise the installation of the new pole.

If you intended to contribute to the campaign, but have yet to do so, please send your contribution. Additional donations will be used to fund the cost of flags. Send contributions to:

The Episcopal Diocese of Western Louisiana,  
Post Office Box 2031, Alexandria, LA 71309-2031  
Please make out your checks to the Diocese and mark them "Camp Hardtner Flag Pole Fund."

**Your invited to Gather at Camp Hardtner**  
**On May 7, 2011**  
**For the Second Annual MusicFest**  
**Food, Fellowship, Music, FUN**  
**and Silent Auction**

**Lunch 11:30 - 1** **Music 9-3**  
**Rain or Shine! Lawn chairs Suggested**  
**Face painting and Fun Slide for the Children**  
**Come one come all and**  
**Make a Joyful noise to the Lord!!!**

## Grambling Canterbury Association members initiate contemporary service at St. Luke's, Grambling

The Canterbury Association (CA) of St. Luke's Chapel at Grambling was in charge of the 10:00 a.m. worship service at St. Luke's, Grambling on April 3, 2011. St. Luke's vicar, the Rev'd Thomas Nsubuga informed the congregation present that the first Sunday of every month had been designated to contemporary worship where students at Grambling State University could come and serve or lead worship.

In this first service of its kind, the Canterbury Association took the lead with Jermilia Charles and Joanne Felix reading the first and second Lessons respectively while Phillip James chanted the Psalm.

The rest of the Canterbury members served as acolytes and performed a skit dramatizing the Gospel lesson from John 9:1-11. Each character wore an outfit to portray a particular character. Narrators were Brittany Scales and Melody Uche. The Rev'd Connie Breaux, director of campus ministry at Grambling State University (GSU) delivered the sermon.

See *Grambling Canterbury*, page 7



## Centenary Canterbury Club's last service of the spring term

Above, left-to-right: Rob Grand (Canterbury student resident), Bishop MacPherson, Canon Andrew Benko and Deacon Kay Hunter. Left: A Canterbury Deck Party, picnicking on the new deck at Canterbury House.

## New Stations of the Cross created by St. Mark's EYC

The St. Mark's EYC created a new set of Stations of the Cross and led the Stations on Good Friday. Participants included: Meredith Owensby, JB Atkins, Christina Powell, Anne Deupree, Alix Powell, Lindsey Humphrey, Blain Lewis, Quintin Hardtner, David Newtown, Ellis Deupree, Roger Kalmbach, Sarah Lewis, Patrick Owensby, Brant Lewis, Ashley Humphrey, Adriana Beruvidas, Morgan Ersoff, Sarah Wagner, Catherine Humphrey, Sarah Margaret Shemwell, Dorothy Kalmbach, Nelson Liles, Lauren Petrosch, Kelsi Cox, Sarah Margaret Shemwell, David Cox and McKenzie Pugh.



# HARDTNER NEWS



THE  
HARDTNER CAMP  
& CONFERENCE  
CENTER

## Get ready for Saturday May 7; it's a Camp Hardtner Work Day

### Camp Hardtner Work Day

Saturday, May 7 will be a Camp Hardtner Work Day. The hours are 9:00 to 3:00 p.m. Please bring your tools and join others to help fix up our Camp and Conference Center! Lots of projects will be available as we "spruce up" the place.

Let the camp office know if you are planning on helping out, and let us know how many people and what kind

of skills you have. We especially need some carpentry and electrical skills, but will have something for everyone. Lunch will be provided to all workers.

Some folks got a head start on the



Higgins

workday. Hardtner repairs under way or recently completed include new roofs on Cabins 8, 9 and 10. Cabin exteriors are being prepped for painting by replacing damaged lattice, trim and boards. The buildings are being pressure washed. A major effort is underway to paint the exterior of all of the camp's buildings this year. Work is also proceeding on some of the pool deck that has settled over the years. We are very grateful to Bishop MacPherson and others who have made all this possible. The upgraded facilities will be something we can all be very proud of.

### April at Camp Hardtner

April was a busy month at Hardtner. In addition to all the maintenance and improvement projects the following groups spent time with us:

- Alpine Tower training
- Kairos Outside
- Baton Rouge St. Luke's School
- Cursillo
- Charlie Adkins and dock repair crew
- CLEY youth weekend
- Women's Time for Joy

### Tower facilitators trained

Seven men recently went through a weekend of extensive training for facilitators on our Alpine Tower Challenge course. The facilitators learned how to safely lead groups through exercises designed to build self-confidence and teamwork using the concept of "challenge by choice." The course included safety, belaying, coaching, use of the Giant Swing, knot tying, rescues, equipment care, climbing techniques and much more. Those completing the training



were Cedric Holden, Lamar Briggs, Barry LaFluer, Chris Warner, Hawkins Holden, Jim Etheredge and Rodney Brown. Thanks to these men for volunteering their time and services. The Tower and Challenge course is available to groups for use under the guidance of trained facilitators. The Tower and Challenge course is great for youth groups, clubs, organizations and businesses who want to build confidence and teamwork. Our tower is the only one of its type in the state of Louisiana.

### Summer Camping 2011

Summer Camp enrollment is off to a tremendous start. Many people took advantage of the early registration discount program and signed up by April first. In fact over twice as many people signed up in March this year as compared to 2010! It is expected



First Camp	May 27-29	\$ 120/\$130/person
Senior High	June 2-9	\$ 440/\$460
Junior High I	June 14-20	\$ 400/\$420
Primary	June 23-28	\$ 350/\$370
Junior High II	July 6-12	\$ 400/\$420
Family Camp	July 15-17	\$240/\$260 for two people \$280/\$300 for three people \$320/\$340 for four or more
Middle High	July 20-26	\$ 400/\$420

to our current and future operations. Monies raised help make up the shortfall not covered by campers' fees and other support. We would love for all congregations in the diocese to have a Hardtner Sunday. On that Sunday, the Camp Hardtner story can be told and a request for donations to support camp can be made. Individuals are also encouraged to give donations. Please consider a gift to Camp Hardtner if you are able to assist us.



### The Dock Builders

Board Chair Charlie Adkins and a crew from St. Michael and All Angels, Lake Charles, spent a weekend building new canoe docks on Lake Bordelon. The crew consisted of Larry and Royia Bell, Tom Sanders, Cedric Holden, George Heard and Jackie and Charlie Adkins. Not only did St. Michael's furnish great labor, they even paid for the materials. Thanks Charlie, the docks look great!

### The Fill the Canoe Campaign

Our Fill the Canoe 2011 fund-raising campaign is underway. This annual giving and awareness campaign is very important

## Around the Diocese

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VICES were the school Eucharist at **St. Mark's Cathedral, Shreveport** and **Canterbury Ministry at Centenary College, Shreveport** where we probably had the largest turnout yet.

Closing out the past days in April was the **Diocesan ECW "Time for Joy"** weekend at **Hardtner Camp and Conference Center**, and a funeral reenactment at **Mount Olivet Chapel** that was a part of the 150th commemoration of the Civil War. The Very Rev'd **Fred H. Tinsley** and the Rev'd Canon **Gregg L. Riley** assisted me with this historical service that was attended by over 200 people.

And lastly, as the academic year draws to an end, and many look toward a new year

before them, I leave you with the following prayer:

*"Almighty God, the fountain of all wisdom: Enlighten by your Holy Spirit those who teach and those who learn, that, rejoicing in the knowledge of your truth, they may worship you and serve you from generation to generation; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen."* [BCP p.261]

## Grambling Canterbury

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Previously, during the week of the Transfiguration, 14 members of the Canterbury Association were accompanied by their coordinator Grace Tatem, the Rev'd

Connie Breaux, and members of Campus Ministry to a four-day community work project in New Orleans where they provided community services to a Methodist and an Episcopal church during their stay. After attending and taking part in the worship services at St. Mark's United Methodist Church, they served meals to the homeless. At St. George's Episcopal Church the group performed chores that will assist the church in raising funds for the poor in that community.

After the contemporary service at St. Luke's, Canterbury members and other students from the GSU campus, along with members of St. Luke's, remained for a period of fellowship and refreshments.

During this time, the members of CA showed a video of their New Orleans experiences. Other students who participated in the St. Luke's service included, Luestar Felix, Mary Walker, Ridele Ejoh, Carlton Regis, Yaemi Fevrier, Dimitri Coates, Marcus Leon Jr. and Sherryann McVane.

## Stewardship Conference

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must be visible. This will then provide the opportunity for vestries and Bishop's committees, under the leadership of the clergy, to work toward the development of the local budget to reflect the biblical standard

of the title. This in turn places the diocese in a position to do likewise nationally.

After meeting with the Commission on Stewardship, Bishop MacPherson called for a diocesan-wide Bishop's Conference on Stewardship to be held Saturday, May 21, 2011.

Speaking to the importance of the conference, Bishop MacPherson said that passage of the resolution "reflects a statement of importance and priority on the part of the clergy and leadership of this diocese. As such, my expectation is that every clergy person, vestry and Bishop's committee member will be present for this event, along with many other members of our congregations."

"If we truly believe what we have expressed through this resolution, I am confident we will want to demonstrate that commitment by being present on May 21," added Bishop MacPherson.

If you would like to be a part of the group that will be attending from your congregation, contact your church office or your priest. A registration fee of \$5, which covers the cost of the continental breakfast and lunch will be charged. Registrations should be sent to The Rev'd Canon Gregg L. Riley, P. O. Box 2031, Alexandria, LA 71309. Questions on the Conference should be addressed to Canon Riley, e-mail: [canonwla@aol.com](mailto:canonwla@aol.com). The registration process should be complete by the end of the day, Friday, May 13.

## DIOCESAN DATES OF NOTE

### May 2011

- 1 — Bishop's visitation, *Holy Spirit, Big Lake*
- 4 — Standing Committee, *Diocesan House*
- 5 — *National Day of Prayer*
- 5 — St. Barnabas, Lafayette, *institution and celebration of new ministry —the Rev'd John Bedingfield*
- 7 — Camp Hardtner Work Day, *9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Camp*
- 8 — *Mother's Day*
- 8 — Bishop's visitation — *St. Barnabas, Lafayette*
- 11 — Bishop's Northern Region Office Day — *St. Mark's Cathedral, Shreveport*
- 14 — Ministry Discernment Program, *Diocesan House*
- 15 — Bishop's visitation — *St. Mark's Cathedral, Shreveport*
- 21 — Bishop's Conference on Stewardship, *St. James, Alexandria*
- 22 — Bishop's visitation — *St. Paul's, Winnfield*
- 27-29 — First Camp, *Hardtner Camp and Conference Center*
- 29 — Bishop's visitation — *Redeemer, Oak Ridge*
- 30 — *Memorial Day*

### June 2011

- 1 — Standing Committee, *Diocesan House*
- 2-9 — Senior High Camp, *Hardtner Camp and Conference Center*
- 5 — Bishop's visitation, *Polk Memorial, Leesville*
- 8 — Bishop's Northern Region Office Day — *St. Mark's Cathedral, Shreveport*
- 9 — Commission on Ministry, *Diocesan House*
- 14-20 — Junior High I Camp, *Hardtner Camp and Conference Center*
- 18 — Ministry Discernment Program, *Diocesan House*
- 19 — Bishop's visitation, *Epiphany, New Iberia*
- 23-28, Primary Camp, *Hardtner Camp and Conference Center*
- 26 — Bishop's visitation, *St. Paul's, Shreveport*

### July 2011

- 6-12 — Junior High II Camp, *Hardtner Camp and Conference Center*
- 15-17 — Family Camp, *Hardtner Camp and Conference Center*
- 20-26 — Middle High Camp, *Hardtner Camp and Conference Center*

### August 2011

### September 2011

- 23-25 — Celebration of Women's Ministries Weekend, *Hardtner Camp and Conference Center*

### October 2011

- 14-15 — Annual Convention of the Diocese of Western Louisiana, *Alexandria*
- 20 - 23 — Cursillo #142, *Hardtner Camp and Conference Center*

## Stars over Southfield

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transformed the normally utilitarian parish hall into a dramatically decorated and lighted dinner theater. St. Paul's EYC members, the acolytes and a dedicated kitchen crew served their guests beautifully,



Above: "Stars boss" Susan Sherwin and Emcee Caldwell Roberts. Top right: Abbott and Costello's "Who's on First" with Bill Duncan and Father Paul. Bottom right: The "Von Vickers family," sings and sways.

and set the stage for 12 acts of singing, dancing, and comedy. A still-to-be-identified mystery guest reprised his famous "Billie Jean" number and brought down the house.

Dozens of volunteers labored for weeks in preparation for the show. Those who had "rolled their eyes" when first told of the plans to stage the show, were standing and cheering as act after act were a hit.



There were even door prizes for lucky attendees.

Father Guido Verbeck and Father Paul Martin both showed possible second career talent: Father Verbeck as a troubadour and Father Martin in stand-up comedy.

What a grand night for the "Family of St. Paul's."



# Unlocking your congregation's potential!

## Bishop Peter Beckwith will be keynote speaker at May 21 Bishop's Conference on Stewardship

The Rt. Rev'd Peter H. Beckwith, retired, the tenth Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Springfield (Illinois) will be the keynote speaker at the Bishop's Conference on Stewardship, Saturday, May 21 at St. James in Alexandria.

The idea for a stewardship conference arose when the Thirty-first Annual Convention of the Diocese of Western Louisiana passed a resolution to establish the "Biblical Tithe" of ten percent as the norm for giving. The resolution was offered by priests of the Shreveport Clericus.

Commenting later on the resolution Bishop MacPherson said, "In the course of discussion, (at convention) it was pointed out by a priest from the southern part of the diocese of the need to be mindful that the average pledge in the church is about three percent .... a large step away from a ten-percent tithe."

Bishop further said: "As I subsequently shared with the gathered convention, in order for us as a diocese to come to a place of fulfilling that which we have declared through the passage of the resolution, we had a lot of work to do together. Personally, every one of us must look at our giving as it relates to the biblical standard adopted; and as congregations, there is much teaching that will need to take place locally to help the members in this growth process. Thus the work before us must start locally with the clergy, vestries and Bishop's committees making the teaching of a theology of stewardship a priority."

The Bishop continued: "Through this effort, the members of the congrega-

tions will be able to begin to grow and live into a committed understanding of the biblical tithe. The demonstrated endeavour to grow into the principle of this commitment

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(Top) The Rt. Rev'd Peter H. Beckwith is the Conference keynote speaker. (Bottom left) Clergy section leader, the Rev'd Guido Verbeck, III is rector of St. Paul's, Shreveport. (Bottom right) Lay section leader, Bob Brown, of Ascension, Lafayette, has broad experience in Stewardship at the parish level.

**The Bishop's Conference on Stewardship**  
Saturday, May 21, 2011. St. James, Alexandria

### Agenda:

**8:30 - 9:30 a.m.**—Registration and Continental Breakfast - *St. James Parish Hall*

**9:30 a.m.**— Welcome by Bishop D. Bruce MacPherson and Introduction of the keynote speaker

**10 - 10:45 a.m.**— Keynote Address by the Rt. Rev'd Peter H. Beckwith

**11 - 12 noon** — Joint First Session in the Gym, "*The Biblical Concept of Stewardship*"

**12 - 12:45 p.m.** — Box Lunch in the Gym

**1 - 2:00 p.m.** — Second Session (*separate sessions on "Leadership"*)

• Session for the clergy led by the Rev'd Guido Verbeck, III, (*Sanctuary*)

• Session for the laity led by Bob Brown, (*Gym*)

**2 - 3:00 p.m.** — Joint Third Session, "*Stewardship 101*" - led by *Father Verbeck and Bob Brown (Gym)*

**3 - 3:30 p.m.** — Conference Wrap-up by Bishop Beckwith with Blessing and Dismissal by Bishop MacPherson

### The specifics of the Conference

**First Session** - "The Biblical concept of Stewardship"

• Historical Approach - Old Testament concept; New Testament—The Tithe

**Second Session** - "Leadership"

• The role of the clergy in Stewardship Education - sermons, teaching, modeling, witness • The role of the vestry in Stewardship education - modeling, program, mission statement, witness

**Third Session** - "Stewardship 101" - "How to, When to, and Who?" • When to start?—calendar, letters, announcements • Choosing the right program—

format, i.e. cottage meetings, parish dinners, guest speakers, every member canvass, etc.

## Our keynote speaker: the Rt. Rev'd Peter Hess Beckwith, tenth Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Springfield

On February 29, 1992, Peter Beckwith was consecrated the tenth Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Springfield. Bishop Beckwith was born in 1939, in Battle Creek, Michigan. In 1961, he graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree from Hillsdale College, Hillsdale, Michigan, from which he also received an Alumni Achievement Award in 1982 and a Doctor of Theology degree (*honoris causa*) in 1989.

He attended the School of Theology,

University of the South, Sewanee, Tennessee, graduating in 1964 with a Master of Divinity degree. In 1999, he also received a Doctor of Divinity degree (*honoris causa*). In 1974, Bishop Beckwith received a S.T.M. degree and in 1992 the degree of Doctor of Humane Letters (*honoris causa*) from Nashotah House Seminary, Nashotah, Wisconsin.

Bishop Beckwith was ordained to the diaconate in 1964 and to the priesthood in 1965. He served Episcopal parishes in Michigan and Ohio before his election as the tenth bishop of the Diocese of Springfield (Illinois) in 1991.

While engaging in parish ministry, Bishop Beckwith was involved in community, youth, and prison work, and served on numerous diocesan councils, commissions and committees including the Commission on Ministry. Having had an active ministry as a United States Naval Reserve Chaplain beginning in September of 1972, he retired in September 1999 as the Deputy Chief of Chaplains for Total Force holding the rank of Rear Admiral (Lower Half).

Under Bishop Beckwith's leadership, the Diocese of Springfield experienced a renewal in mission and ministry. "Vision 2000" was developed, adopted and is continuing to be updated and implemented in the Diocese of Springfield.

Bishop Beckwith is married to the former Melinda Jo Foulke of Hillsdale, Michigan, and they have two sons: Peter, II, of Columbus, Ohio, and Michael of Edwards, of Colorado, and three granddaughters.