

CLERGY NEWS

CONGRATULATIONS to **The Rev. Thomas Heard**, who will retire effective August 1, 2023. We wish Thomas and Cheryl much enjoyment and all the best in their retirement; to **The Rev. Deacon Jen Leahey**, our transitional deacon who is serving at Emmanuel Church in Alexandria, VA and was called to be the Assistant Rector once approved and ordained Priest; to **The Rev. Deacon Ryan Lee**, our transitional deacon who is serving at St. Bede's in Santa Fe, New Mexico and was called to be Curate once approved and ordained Priest.

NEW HAPPENING REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN

Happening #61 will be held Friday, September 8 to Sunday, September 10 at St. Simon's on the Sound in Ft. Walton Beach. All 10th, 11th, and 12th graders are invited to attend this spiritual retreat weekend led by previous Happeners under the guidance of adult staff. Happening is designed to help youth feel the love of God and their Christian community. We hope, at the end of the weekend, everyone goes home knowing how to continue growing a relationship with God and having a group of fellow believers to rely on. It's a weekend full of fun, games, sharing, surprises, and most of all, spiritual renewal and empowerment.

Youth that already attended Happening may apply to be on staff. See link below.

Contact: Meghan Johnson, diocesan youth coordinator, meghantj02@gmail.com

[DETAILS & REGISTRATION](#)

DIOCESAN ACOLYTE FESTIVAL ON AUGUST 19

All acolytes, crucifers, and thurifers throughout the Central Gulf Coast are invited to attend. Bishop Russell and other experts in the "liturgical arts" will share their knowledge, skill and wisdom, along with games and a very special closing Eucharist. The festival begins at 8:30 a.m. and will end at the conclusion of the Eucharist around 3:30 p.m. There is no charge for the festival, but we do ask that you register at the link below.

[REGISTER HERE](#)

LAY SCHOOL APPLICATIONS ACCEPTED NOW UNTIL AUGUST 25

If you have felt the nudge of the Holy Spirit or would like to "seek out" more in the exercise of your Baptismal call and covenant, please take a look at what our Lay School has to offer. We begin in September 2023 (10am-2pm) and will meet one Saturday a month until June of 2024. The cost per course is \$300. If you are interested in the School this fall, now is the time to reach out to your rector or priest-in-charge and your vestry. We are offering canonical certification in the following areas: Worship Leader, Preacher, Pastoral Care Leader and Evangelist.

[COURSE OFFERINGS AND APPLICATION](#)

For more information, please contact Dean Joy Blaylock: joyblaylock@diocgc.org.

NEW WEBINAR: SAFETY AND SECURITY IN OUR CHURCHES

Monday, August 14 | 2 p.m. CT

Join EPN for a conversation with representatives from three parishes across the country who have planned and prepared for violence events in churches. Lay and clergy leaders will share how they are engaging in safety planning and reimagining security in their churches and on their campuses. Among those joining will be leaders who have faced this situation. They will share how their community coped with and is recovering from the now imaginable that took place in their community. Leave this session with practical ideas on how to be prepared while being open to all. **Please register here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/675706264627>**

NEW CHANGE IN DENTAL INSURANCE

Currently the Church Pension Group offers dental insurance through Cigna Dental; eligible / retired clergy and lay employees are offered 3 different dental plans. Over the past year CPG completed an RFP to determine future dental plan offerings. As such, they have selected a new dental provider, effective January 01, 2024. This is a network change so when Annual Enrollment (AE) comes around in October, members will be required to make new selections for 2024. We are giving you an early head up as if you don't sign up during AE for one of the new plans that will be offered, you could lose your dental insurance. Much more information will be shared / mailed in by September so stay tuned.

2023 STEWARDSHIP MATERIALS AVAILABLE FROM TENS

Annual pledge campaign materials are available on the TENS website: This year's theme is "More Than Enough: Annual Pledge Campaign". Resources include: Graphics and Logos in many common formats; Customizable letters from Clergy, Stewardship Committee, and Wardens; Customizable pledge / promise cards, etc. All churches have access to TENS materials as they are included in our diocesan membership. The login credentials change each year for members. LOGIN at: <https://www.tens.org/>. **2023 password: Jeremiah17:8** (Note: a username is no longer required.)

NEW UPCOMING STEWARDSHIP WEBINARS

- **Preparing for Stewardship Season: Best Practices (TENS)**
Saturday, July 29 | 11 a.m. CT
Consider this your pre-campaign pep talk for committee members, stewardship chairs, and clergy alike! Join us for a session where we walk through this year's campaign theme and materials and talk about best practices for effective campaigns. [Register today for webinar](#)
- **Churches and ERC - Do you qualify? (EPN)**
Wednesday, August 9 | 2 p.m. CT
There are so many myths regarding the Employee Retention Credit. Come hear a CPA expert on the subject dispel the myths and tell us what we need to know to obtain our refund. If you or your church has decided you do not qualify for ERC, come listen and reevaluate that decision. If you do not know what ERC is – you should; it is money refunded by the IRS for a church that usually makes a profound difference in your budget this year. If you have a school or other auxiliary organization, you especially should attend. **Please register here:** <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/662509903957>
- **Breaking Through the Pledge Plateau (TENS)**
Saturday, August 26 | 11 a.m. CT
There comes a time with each congregation when the campaign plateaus: when members make the same gift year after year; when the pledges are on autopilot. What can you do to shine a new light on your programs and ministries to help your members make their best gifts? Right as you return from your summer break, [learn best practices](#) for breaking through the plateau and increasing the impact, gift size, and cheerfulness of your members so that your ministries can flourish. [Sign up for a free webinar](#)

CHURCH LEADERSHIP DIRECTORY UPDATES

Annually, we request churches to update their leadership directory for the diocesan database. The update is especially important to report changes in vestry membership. Please submit your completed form, linked below, as soon as possible. Thank you! Direct questions to jenn@diocgc.org. [CHURCH LEADERSHIP DIRECTORY FORM](#)

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS RESOURCES As we head into hurricane season, now is the perfect time to review your church's emergency preparedness plan and procedures. It is critical to have updated contact information readily available for church leadership and to identify your church's most vulnerable population in the event of a local emergency situation - like extreme weather or medical issues. Equally important is to have a checklist of how to secure your church facility and property. The diocese has curated a list of helpful resources, available at www.diocgc.org/emergency-response

PROPERTY/LIABILITY INSURANCE CHANGES

Unfortunately, the cost of property / casualty insurance in the Gulf Coast states have skyrocketed, especially in Florida. Many of our churches have maintained a very low AOP deductible (eg. \$1000). That means you are paying much higher premiums now to potentially pay less out of pocket with a future claim. However, paying higher premiums for this coverage may not be your best option. Please contact Dwight in the diocesan office; he can request AOP deductible options from CIC and/or additional recommendations that can provide more effective ways to secure premium savings.

RESOURCE: LAY LEADERS DIRECTORY

The list of Lay Leaders who have been canonically certified as Lay Worship Leaders and Lay Preachers is available on the diocesan website. We have provided this list for many of our smaller parishes that have occasional need of assistance when supply clergy are not available. Bishop Kendrick and Dean Joy Blaylock work in conjunction with those who are invited to lead worship or preach at a church different than their own. This has been found to be a joyful fruit of the Lay School as it deepens the bonds of relationship and ministry across our diocese.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Dean Joy Blaylock at joyblaylock@diocgc.org. You can find the Lay Leader list here: <https://www.diocgc.org/lay-ministry>.

CHANGES TO THE ONLINE SAFEGUARDING / RISK MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Our Safeguarding system has migrated to a new platform. You can find links and guidelines on the diocesan website at: <https://www.diocgc.org/administrative-resources> The name of this program changed from "Armatus" to "Praesidium Academy." Each church must identify church Administrators; Admin's can be added to the system by contacting the Diocesan Office. These Admins will add their church members to the Academy system and generate "invitations" to those needing to take Safeguarding modules.

To Sign Up for new Safeguarding system:

1. E-mail the Safeguarding Online Administrator assigned to your parish.
2. Your designated church Administrator will facilitate your access to Praesidium Academy by generating an "invitation email" which will be sent to you from donotreply@praesidiuminc.com.
3. Fill in the required information (including your desired password).
4. Click Accept Invite.
5. You will be redirected to the login screen - please log in with your email address and the password you just created.
6. You can now proceed to find and complete the required modules.

If your coursework is over 4 years old, it will be considered dated/expired and may not have been moved over into your new account. If you have any questions, please contact Dwight Babcock or Mary Poss at 850-434-7337.

TECHNOLOGY SAVINGS FOR NON-PROFITS

Remember that all churches have an account created for them on TechSoup, a technology non-profit that provides access to many tools for other non-profits donated by key companies such as Microsoft, Intuit, Adobe, Dell, etc. This allows your church to purchase software, hardware, courses, and other technology services at greatly discounted rates. Please contact the diocesan office to receive your association code and to provide the name/email of who will be your TechSoup administrator (required if you want to place an order). Visit www.techsoup.org to look over products.

CONGREGATIONS IN TRANSITION (as of 8/1/2023)

[Mobile, St. Paul's](#)

In process

Panama City Beach, [Grace Chapel](#) and [St. Thomas](#) (joint search)

Interim in place; profile on parish website, receiving names

[Panama City, Holy Nativity](#)

In process

Please do not contact the openings directly. For information, please contact: The Rev. Ashley Freeman, Canon to the Ordinary, at ashley@diocgc.org.

JOB POSTINGS

No postings at this time

INSURANCE UPDATES

- Please visit our website for additional insurance info:
 - [Congregational Resources](#)
 - [Risk Management & Insurance Basics for Religious Organizations \(recommended\)](#)
 - [Safety and Insurance Handbook for Churches \(recommended\)](#)

COMMUNICATIONS QUICK LINKS

[Submit an article for publication](#)

[Submit a church/community event](#)

[Submit a job posting](#)

LINK TO SUBSCRIBE TO DIOCESAN EMAIL LIST

We would be so grateful if you would consider adding the link below to your regular church communications and on your websites so that members can subscribe and stay connected to news from around the diocese. Thank you! [SUBSCRIBE TO DIOCESAN COMMUNICATIONS](#).

MUSIC LICENSING

If your church offers music during services, it is important to follow all copyright guidelines, which include maintaining a license to perform, broadcast, or print copyrighted music. Review your church's licensing agreements, and be sure to add the streaming option if you are broadcasting services online. Recommended licensing companies include [One License](#), [Christian Copyright Licensing International](#)(CCLI), [Christian Copyright Solutions](#).

CYCLES OF PRAYER FOR DIOCESE AND PRISON MINISTRY

Congregations are invited to include both our Diocesan Cycle of Prayer and our Prison Ministry Cycle of Prayer in their Prayers of the People, newsletters, and/or bulletins. Both are available at www.diocgc.org/cycle-of-prayer.

DID THE BISHOP VISIT YOUR CHURCH?

If Bishop Russell made a visit to your church for confirmation, reception or other special event, we would love to have a group photo or two on file for our records and sharing in our newsletters! Send high resolution images (1MB or larger file size) to jenn@diocgc.org, including the photographer's name for credit.

UPCOMING DIOCESAN EVENTS Stay up-to-date on diocesan events by bookmarking our calendar: <https://www.diocgc.org/calendar-of-events>.

WHAT	WHEN	WHERE
Standing Committee Meeting	Aug 8	TBD
Jonathan Myrick Daniels Pilgrimage	Aug 12	Hayneville, AL DETAILS
Diocesan Acolyte Festival	Aug 19	Christ Church Cathedral, Mobile DETAILS & REGISTRATION
Becoming Beloved Community - Sacred Conversations	Aug 26	Redeemer, Mobile DETAILS & REGISTRATION
Happening #61	Sep 8-10	St. Simon's, Ft Walton Beach DETAILS & REGISTRATION

BISHOP RUSSELL'S SCHEDULE

WHAT	WHEN	WHERE
Officiating at Wedding	Aug 5	St. Thomas, Greenville
Visitation	Aug 6	St. Andrew's, Panama City
Standing Committee mtg	Aug 8	TBD
Jonathan Myrick Daniels Pilgrimage	Aug 12	Hayneville, AL
Visitation	Aug 13 am	St. Michael's, Ozark
Visitation	Aug 13 am	Epiphany, Enterprise
2023 Acolyte Festival planning mtg	Aug 14	Christ Church Cathedral, Mobile

2023 Acolyte Festival	Aug 19	Christ Church Cathedral, Mobile
Visitation	Aug 20	St. Mary's, Coden
Happening Staff Retreat	Aug 25-26	St. Simon's, Ft. Walton Beach
Diocesan School for Ministry Orientation	Aug 26	St. Cyprian's, Pensacola
Visitation	Aug 27	St. Mark's, Troy

**Episcopal Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast
Green Sheet 2023**

Treasurer's Report - July 2023

(Please Note: Report reflects funds received as of July 31, 2023)

Congregational Pledges	MTD Actual (2023)	YTD Rec'd (2023)	YTD Budget Variance	Annual Pledge (2023)
Pledges				
Andalusia, St. Mary's	\$2,000.00	\$6,000.00	(\$1,000)	\$12,000.00
Apalachicola, Trinity	\$1,666.00	\$11,662.00	\$0	\$20,000.00
Atmore, St. Anna's	\$0.00	\$0.00	(\$350)	\$600.00
Atmore, Trinity	\$200.00	\$1,200.00	(\$200)	\$2,400.00
Bay Minette, Immanuel	\$209.70	\$3,203.90	\$732	\$4,238.00
Bon Secour, St. Peter's	\$0.00	\$2,817.75	(\$531)	\$5,740.00
Brewton, St. Stephen's	\$321.50	\$11,352.18	\$902	\$17,914.00
Cantonment, St. Monica's	\$0.00	\$2,500.00	\$2,150	\$600.00
Chickasaw, St. Michael's	\$0.00	\$0.00	(\$302)	\$517.00
Chipley, St. Matthew's	\$550.00	\$5,438.00	\$1,588	\$6,600.00
Citronelle, St. Thomas	\$0.00	\$50.00	(\$78)	\$220.00
Coden, St. Mary's	\$0.00	\$0.00	(\$3,208)	\$5,500.00
Crestview, Epiphany	\$200.00	\$1,400.00	\$0	\$2,400.00
Daphne, St. Paul's	\$5,100.00	\$31,100.00	(\$4,308)	\$60,700.00
Dauphin Isld, St. Francis	\$1,022.00	\$7,154.00	\$0	\$12,266.00
DeFnk Spgs, St. Agatha's	\$477.70	\$3,095.95	(\$319)	\$5,854.00
Destin, St. Andrew's	\$1,875.00	\$3,750.00	(\$625)	\$7,500.00
Dothan, Nativity	\$4,500.00	\$27,000.00	(\$4,500)	\$54,000.00
Enterprise, Epiphany	\$875.00	\$6,125.00	\$0	\$10,500.00
Eufaula, St. James'	\$1,275.00	\$8,925.00	\$0	\$15,300.00
Fairhope, St. James'	\$13,016.00	\$62,690.24	(\$13,143)	\$130,000.00
Foley, St. Paul's	\$4,478.34	\$13,435.02	(\$2,239)	\$26,870.00
Ft. Wltn Bch, St. Simon	\$4,321.25	\$30,248.75	\$0	\$51,855.00
Greenville, St. Thomas	\$1,341.55	\$11,343.86	\$563	\$18,481.00
Gulf Breeze, St. Francis	\$0.00	\$8,173.00	(\$1,113)	\$15,918.00
Gulf Shores, Holy Spirit	\$2,812.50	\$19,687.50	\$0	\$33,750.00
Jackson, St. Peter's	\$0.00	\$1,900.00	\$1,083	\$1,400.00
Laguna Beach, St. Thomas	\$334.80	\$2,738.54	(\$855)	\$6,160.00
Lillian, Advent	\$792.00	\$5,544.00	\$0	\$9,504.00
Magnolia Spgs, St. Pauls	\$0.00	\$5,000.00	(\$6,667)	\$20,000.00
Marianna, St. Luke's	\$0.00	\$3,500.00	(\$2,333)	\$10,000.00
Milton, St. Mary's	\$0.00	\$3,615.25	(\$4,820)	\$14,461.00
Mobile, All Saints'	\$1,666.67	\$11,666.69	\$0	\$20,000.00
Mobile, Christ	\$3,483.33	\$24,383.31	\$0	\$41,800.00
Mobile, Good Shepherd	\$300.00	\$1,540.00	\$18	\$2,609.00
Mobile, Redeemer	\$1,261.76	\$7,429.46	(\$737)	\$14,000.00
Mobile, St. Andrew's	\$371.00	\$2,591.00	\$164	\$4,160.00
Mobile, St. John's	\$816.70	\$7,422.06	(\$1,328)	\$15,000.00
Mobile, St. Luke's	\$1,666.66	\$10,000.34	(\$1,666)	\$20,000.00
Mobile, St. Paul's	\$32,500.00	\$113,750.00	\$0	\$195,000.00
Mobile, Trinity	\$1,333.00	\$9,331.00	\$0	\$16,000.00
Monroeville, St. John's	\$356.53	\$2,662.29	(\$2,812)	\$9,384.00
Navarre, St. Augustine's	\$0.00	\$1,359.00	(\$610)	\$3,375.00
Niceville, St. Jude's	\$2,800.00	\$19,600.00	(\$169)	\$33,890.00
Ozark, St. Michael's	\$0.00	\$2,278.00	\$949	\$2,278.00
Pnma City, Holy Nativity	\$3,025.00	\$21,175.00	\$1,925	\$33,000.00
Panama City, St. Andrew's	\$1,233.00	\$9,882.00	\$1,715	\$14,000.00
Panama City, St. Patrick's	\$235.35	\$1,540.50	(\$501)	\$3,500.00
Panama City Beach, Grace	\$2,072.00	\$7,252.00	\$0	\$12,429.00
Pensacola, Christ	\$10,591.00	\$60,558.00	(\$14,692)	\$129,000.00
Pensacola, Holy Cross	\$2,000.00	\$14,000.00	\$0	\$24,000.00
Pensacola, Holy Trinity	\$682.73	\$4,779.11	\$0	\$8,193.00
Pcola, St. Christopher's	\$5,638.33	\$39,468.31	\$0	\$67,660.00
Pensacola, St. Cyprian's	\$0.00	\$0.00	(\$2,091)	\$3,585.00
Pensacola, St. John's	\$0.00	\$1,500.00	(\$8,252)	\$16,718.00
Pt St. Joe, St. James'	\$0.00	\$0.00	(\$875)	\$1,500.00
Robertsdale, St. John	\$135.00	\$945.00	\$0	\$1,620.00
SRB, Christ King	\$8,332.00	\$29,162.00	\$0	\$50,000.00
Troy, St. Mark's	\$1,500.00	\$10,500.00	\$0	\$18,000.00
Wewahitchka, St. John's	\$2,000.00	\$4,000.00	\$2,833	\$2,000.00
Total Pledges	\$131,368	\$719,425	(\$65,701)	\$1,345,949