

THE GREEN SHEET

A newsletter for clergy and lay church leadership

XXXII

October 2023

ISSUE #9

CLERGY NEWS

ORDINATIONS - The following ordinations of our Transitional Deacons to the Priesthood, have been scheduled:

The Rev. Ryan Lee was ordained September 28th at St. Bede's Church in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Ryan will continue to serve there, now as their Curate. Congratulations Ryan!

The Rev. Deacon Stephen Pecot October 7th at Trinity Church in Apalachicola, Florida.

Stephen will continue to serve there, now as their Priest-in-Charge

The Rev. Deacon Brad Clark October 11 at St. Paul's Church in Mobile, Alabama.

Brad will continue to serve there, now as their Curate

The Rev. Deacon John Fountain October 25th at St. Christopher's Church in Pensacola, Florida.

John will continue to serve there, now as their Curate

The Rev. Deacon Jen Leahey November 15th at Emmanuel Church in Alexandria, Virginia.

Jen will continue to serve there, now as their Assistant for Children's Ministry

NEW WINE SKINS New Wine Skins is an orientation process for clergy new to the diocese. The Revs. Will Lowry and Richard Proctor will facilitate the meetings. If you are a clergy person who did not participate in any kind of orientation process when you started in the diocese and you would like to join the New Wine Skins group, please contact Canon Ashley Freeman at ashley@diocgc.org.

CLERGY CONFERENCE begins on Wednesday, October 4. Clergy should have received a Clergy Notes email from Bishop Russell last week (September 28) with information and schedule. If you are registered and did not receive that email, please send a note to jenn@diocgc.org.

NEW 53RD ANNUAL DIOCESAN CONVENTION - DATE AND DELEGATE ELECTIONS

The 53rd Annual Diocesan Convention is scheduled to be held February 23-24, 2024, at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Daphne. Save-the-date on your calendars! Now is the time to plan for your delegate elections! **All delegates must be elected and certified by Sunday, December 24, 2023** (no later than 60 days prior to the start of the diocesan convention, in accordance with Canon 3, Sections 4 and 5). An informational packet will be sent to church leadership in late October.

NEW REGISTER NOW FOR DISCIPLESHIP DAY, OCTOBER 28

Discipleship Day is back! All are invited to this day of workshops designed to equip and inspire you for ministry inside and outside your church. Each attendee will have the opportunity to participate in two out of the six workshops being offered. Our keynote guest is the Rev. Steven Tomlinson, Ph.D., deacon, who is the Associate Professor of Leadership and Administration at Seminary of the Southwest. Our host is St. Jude's Episcopal Church, located at 200 N Partin Dr, Niceville, FL. The event is free but registration is needed. See workshop lineup and descriptions and register on our website at www.diocgc.org/2023-discipleship-day.

ANNUAL ENROLLMENT FOR 2024 HEALTH BENEFITS Annual Enrollment for 2024 Medical / Dental plans for eligible clergy / lay employees will run from October 11 to November 1. Information will be mailed out shortly to all churches. CPG will mail information to all current members one week prior to enrollment start. Once CPG provides us with 2024 premiums, you will be able to visit our Diocesan Annual Enrollment webpage for premium rates, plan / benefit summaries, and other helpful information at www.diocgc.org/benefits. Otherwise, visit CPG's Annual Enrollment homepage for additional in-depth information when released at: www.cpg.org/annualenrollment; stay tuned for more info.

NEW YOUNG ADULT RETREAT

The Episcopal Diocese of Alabama would like to extend an invitation to young adults (18-22ish) in our diocese for an upcoming event: [Fall College Retreat | Song & Silence: Hearing God's Voice in a Busy World, October 20-22 at Camp McDowell](#)

REMEMBER MURRAY HOUSE SUNDAY ON OCTOBER 8

This year on October 8, we will celebrate and honor the ministry of Murray House, an assisted living residence in Mobile. Murray House is an agency of our diocese serving men and women since 1829. We ask you to join your prayers with ours for Murray House:

Creator God of us all, we give thanks for our older adults who call Murray House their home. We give thanks for the joy they have brought us, the laughter and the tears we have shared with them. We give thanks for their compassion, for their teaching, mentoring, and friendship. We name memories we have made with them, both the happy and joyous ones and the painful and lonely ones that have bonded us closer together and to you. We name service we have shared with them that has allowed us to be a community, drawn from an amazing array of talents, and shaped us for your kingdom. We name learning moments where their insights inspired ours and our thoughts inspired their learning to even greater heights. We have been richly blessed by your loving generosity in sharing these older adults with us, and we name them in our hearts and give thanks for them in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

If you would like to make a gift to Murray House, [follow this link](#). Select 'Diocese (general fund)' and be sure to include Murray House Sunday in the note/memo box.

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH WRITING STYLE GUIDE

The Episcopal Church has released a newly updated writing style guide is a reference tool intended to provide professional guidance, consistency, and clarity in church-related publications, including newsletters, press releases, website copy, email announcements, video text, and other printed materials. The guide is designed especially for use by Episcopal Church Center staff and Episcopal communicators. It is a dynamic document, with updates made as needed.

[WRITING SYLE GUIDE](#)

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.)**

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 Anytime is a good 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 10/1/2023)

[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
New Wine Skins	Oct 3	Beckwith
Clergy Conference	Oct 4-6	Beckwith DETAILS & REGISTRATION
Canceled: Clergy Spouse Retreat	Oct 6-8	Beckwith
Priesthood Ordination [Stephen Pecot]	Oct 7	Trinity, Apalachicola
Murray House Sunday	Oct 8	Across the diocese
Priesthood Ordination [Brad Clark]	Oct 11	St. Paul's, Mobile
Diocesan Staff Retreat	Oct 20	Evergreen, AL
Pilgrimage to EJI Museum & Memorial	Oct 21	Montgomery DETAILS & REGISTRATION
Priesthood Ordination [John Fountain]	Oct 25	St. Christopher's, Pensacola
Discipleship Day	Oct 28	St. Jude's, Niceville DETAILS & REGISTRATION

BISHOP RUSSELL'S SCHEDULE

WHAT	WHEN	WHERE
Visitation	Oct 1	St. John, Robertsdale
Fall Clergy Conference	Oct 4 - 6	Beckwith

Priesthood Ordination [Stephen Pecot]	Oct 7	Trinity, Apalachicola
Visitation	Oct 8	St. Luke's, Marianna
Priesthood Ordination [Brad Clark]	Oct 11	St. Paul's, Mobile
Funeral for The Rev. Jerry Huft	Oct 14	St. John's, Wewahitchka
Visitation	Oct 15	St. Christopher's, Pensacola
College for Bishops Board meeting	Oct 16 - 18	St. Stephen's, NC
Diocesan Staff Retreat	Oct 20	Evergreen, AL
Lay Worship Leader Class	Oct 21	Epiphany, Crestview
Visitation	Oct 22	St. Stephen's, Brewton
Priesthood Ordination [John Fountain]	Oct 25	St. Christopher's, Pensacola
Discipleship Day	Oct 28	St. Jude's, Niceville
Visitation	Oct 29	St. Luke's, Mobile
Weekday Visitation	Nov 1	All Saints, Mobile
Visitation	Nov 5	St. Thomas, Greenville
Visitation	Nov 12	St. James, Eufaula
Wine Skins - new Clergy Orientation	Nov 14	Duval Center
Wilmer Hall Board Eucharist service	Nov 14 pm	Wilmer Hall
Priesthood Ordination [Jen Leahey]	Nov 15	Alexandria, VA

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

Treasurer's Report - September 2023

(Please Note: Report reflects funds received as of September 29, 2023)

Congregational Pledges	MTD Actual (2023)	YTD Rec'd (2023)	YTD Budget Variance	Annual Pledge (2023)
Pledges				
Andalusia, St. Mary's	\$1,000.00	\$7,000.00	(\$2,000)	\$12,000.00
Apalachicola, Trinity	\$1,666.00	\$14,994.00	\$0	\$20,000.00
Atmore, St. Anna's	\$0.00	\$0.00	(\$450)	\$600.00
Atmore, Trinity	\$0.00	\$1,200.00	(\$600)	\$2,400.00
Bay Minette, Immanuel	\$491.00	\$3,994.90	\$816	\$4,238.00
Bon Secour, St. Peter's	\$518.50	\$4,221.05	(\$84)	\$5,740.00
Brewton, St. Stephen's	\$1,287.20	\$14,690.68	\$1,255	\$17,914.00
Cantonment, St. Monica's	\$0.00	\$2,500.00	\$2,050	\$600.00
Chickasaw, St. Michael's	\$0.00	\$0.00	(\$388)	\$517.00
Chipley, St. Matthew's	\$550.00	\$6,538.00	\$1,588	\$6,600.00
Citronelle, St. Thomas	\$0.00	\$50.00	(\$115)	\$220.00
Coden, St. Mary's	\$0.00	\$5,296.20	\$1,171	\$5,500.00
Crestview, Epiphany	\$200.00	\$1,800.00	\$0	\$2,400.00
Daphne, St. Paul's	\$0.00	\$31,100.00	(\$14,425)	\$60,700.00
Dauphin Isld, St. Francis	\$0.00	\$8,176.00	(\$1,024)	\$12,266.00
DeFnk Spgs, St. Agatha's	\$278.90	\$3,783.25	(\$607)	\$5,854.00
Destin, St. Andrew's	\$0.00	\$3,750.00	(\$1,875)	\$7,500.00
Dothan, Nativity	\$0.00	\$36,000.00	(\$4,500)	\$54,000.00
Enterprise, Epiphany	\$875.00	\$7,875.00	\$0	\$10,500.00
Eufaula, St. James'	\$1,275.00	\$11,475.00	\$0	\$15,300.00
Fairhope, St. James'	\$7,915.09	\$80,850.00	(\$16,650)	\$130,000.00
Foley, St. Paul's	\$2,239.17	\$17,913.36	(\$2,239)	\$26,870.00
Ft. Wltn Bch, St. Simon	\$4,321.25	\$38,891.25	\$0	\$51,855.00
Greenville, St. Thomas	\$1,228.55	\$16,382.31	\$2,522	\$18,481.00
Gulf Breeze, St. Francis	\$705.32	\$9,967.32	(\$1,971)	\$15,918.00
Gulf Shores, Holy Spirit	\$0.00	\$22,500.00	(\$2,813)	\$33,750.00
Jackson, St. Peter's	\$0.00	\$1,900.00	\$850	\$1,400.00
Laguna Beach, St. Thomas	\$0.00	\$2,738.54	(\$1,881)	\$6,160.00
Lillian, Advent	\$792.00	\$7,128.00	\$0	\$9,504.00
Magnolia Spgs, St. Pauls	\$0.00	\$10,000.00	(\$5,000)	\$20,000.00
Marianna, St. Luke's	\$7,000.00	\$10,500.00	\$3,000	\$10,000.00
Milton, St. Mary's	\$0.00	\$3,615.25	(\$7,231)	\$14,461.00
Mobile, All Saints'	\$1,666.67	\$15,000.03	\$0	\$20,000.00
Mobile, Christ	\$3,483.33	\$31,349.97	\$0	\$41,800.00
Mobile, Good Shepherd	\$500.00	\$2,540.00	\$583	\$2,609.00
Mobile, Redeemer	\$1,261.76	\$8,691.22	(\$1,809)	\$14,000.00
Mobile, St. Andrew's	\$0.00	\$3,021.00	(\$99)	\$4,160.00
Mobile, St. John's	\$1,786.90	\$10,002.78	(\$1,247)	\$15,000.00
Mobile, St. Luke's	\$0.00	\$13,333.66	(\$1,666)	\$20,000.00
Mobile, St. Paul's	\$16,250.00	\$146,250.00	\$0	\$195,000.00
Mobile, Trinity	\$1,333.00	\$11,997.00	\$0	\$16,000.00
Monroeville, St. John's	\$337.78	\$3,253.10	(\$3,785)	\$9,384.00
Navarre, St. Augustine's	\$453.00	\$1,812.00	(\$719)	\$3,375.00
Niceville, St. Jude's	\$2,800.00	\$25,200.00	(\$218)	\$33,890.00
Ozark, St. Michael's	\$0.00	\$2,278.00	\$570	\$2,278.00
Pnma City, Holy Nativity	\$3,025.00	\$27,225.00	\$2,475	\$33,000.00
Panama City, St. Andrew's	\$1,352.00	\$13,400.00	\$2,900	\$14,000.00
Panama City, St. Patrick's	\$224.70	\$2,136.38	(\$489)	\$3,500.00
Panama City Beach, Grace	\$1,036.00	\$9,324.00	\$0	\$12,429.00
Pensacola, Christ	\$10,591.00	\$81,899.00	(\$14,851)	\$129,000.00
Pensacola, Holy Cross	\$2,000.00	\$18,000.00	\$0	\$24,000.00
Pensacola, Holy Trinity	\$682.73	\$6,144.57	\$0	\$8,193.00
Pcola, St. Christopher's	\$5,638.33	\$50,744.97	\$0	\$67,660.00
Pensacola, St. Cyprian's	\$0.00	\$896.25	(\$1,793)	\$3,585.00
Pensacola, St. John's	\$0.00	\$1,500.00	(\$11,039)	\$16,718.00
Pt St. Joe, St. James'	\$0.00	\$0.00	(\$1,125)	\$1,500.00
Robertsdale, St. John	\$135.00	\$1,215.00	\$0	\$1,620.00
SRB, Christ King	\$0.00	\$29,162.00	(\$8,338)	\$50,000.00
Troy, St. Mark's	\$1,500.00	\$13,500.00	\$0	\$18,000.00
Wewahitchka, St. John's	\$0.00	\$4,000.00	\$2,500	\$2,000.00
Total Pledges	\$88,400	\$920,706	(\$88,749)	\$1,345,949