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FEBRUARY 2026

ISSUE #2

CLERGY NEWS

NO NEWS

UPDATED DIOCESAN CONVENTION FEBRUARY 27-28

REGISTRATION remains open for retired clergy, clergy spouses, and all other visitors to the 55th Annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast to be held February 27-28, 2026, at the Hilton Pensacola Beach, and hosted by St. Francis of Assisi, Gulf Breeze. For all convention-related details, forms, etc., please visit the convention webpage at www.diocgc.org/2026-diocesan-convention.

NOMINATIONS FOR STANDING COMMITTEE MEMBERS/GENERAL CONVENTION DEPUTIES EXTENDED TO FEBRUARY 9. Do you know someone who would be a good leader in our diocese? Clergy and Lay Delegates are eligible to nominate members in good standing to serve on the Standing Committee (the bishop's council of advice and planning) and deputies to the next General Convention of The Episcopal Church. More details and nomination form are available on the convention website listed above.

2025 PAROCHIAL REPORTS DUE (Filed in 2026)

Remember that 2025 Parochial Reports are due March 1, 2026. This is only one of two items that are canonically required by TEC, so please complete it in a timely manner. The Parochial Report is found online at: <https://reports.dfms.org>. Each church will log in to this site with its unique login (an email) and password. A reminder with your login ID was emailed to you by the General Convention Office in December. If you need your login ID again, please contact the diocesan office, and we can provide it. Instructions, blank forms, and helpful instructions can be found at: <https://generalconvention.org/forms-and-instructions/>.

***A reminder that your reports are due online using the DFMS Filing website; paper documents are not accepted. If you wish, you can use the blank PDF version of the form as your working document, but it must be entered online to be officially submitted as complete.**

NEW VESTRY RESOURCES FROM CHURCH PUBLISHING

Looking for some new reading material focused on strengthening your vestry? Church Publishing offers some helpful resources, available at Church Publishing or on Amazon:

- "Vestry Reflections: Cultivating Spiritual Growth in Church Leaders" by Marc D. Smith
- "The Vestry Handbook, Fourth Edition" by Christopher L. Webber
- "Meditation for Vestry Members" by Colleen McMahon
- "Financial Management for Episcopal Parishes, Revised Edition" by James B. Jordan
- "Transforming Vestries" edited by James Lemler
- And more...

NEW ITEMS AVAILABLE FROM CHURCHES

Two churches have free items available on a first come-first served basis. Reach out directly to the contact listed.

Altar Risers: Risers are four parts, two levels and 16 feet across. [Click here for images](#). Contact Kathy Vail at kathyvail53@gmail.com. The risers are located at St. Monica’s, 699 Hwy 95A South, Cantonment, FL.

Choral Risers: Risers are 18” deep and 66” wide, with three step sections. [Click here for image](#). Contact Jan Pruitt at admin@stpaulsms.org. Risers are located at St. Paul’s Chapel, 14755 Oak St, Magnolia Springs, AL.

UPDATE 2026 CHURCH PLEDGES

The attached 2026 Pledge Report will be published in the Convention booklet - please verify and/or send updates via email to kim@diocgc.org before the cutoff on February 9th.

The annual pledge requests have been mailed to all churches with a follow-up email. The mailing includes a message from the Bishop that we ask you to share with your vestry. **The pledge form has been updated to include a section requesting vestry sign-off.** We ask that your contribution be a ten percent (10%) tithe of the most recent full year Operating Revenue (plate/pledge) as reported on your annual Parochial Report. If you believe that the most recent filed Parochial Report (completed in 2025 for the calendar year 2024) does not fully reflect your current financial status, use the comment section on the form to provide additional information. Please do your best to meet your annual pledge commitment for 2026; most of the annual diocesan mission/ministry budget (88%) comes from your direct financial contributions. Thanks again for your support.

BILL PAYMENT CHANGES BY CHURCH PENSION GROUP (CPG)

Remember that CPG now only accepts bill payments online (no paper checks). The Online Billing and Payment platform is provided through a new vendor partner, Paymentus. **Effective October 1, all billing and payments of CPG benefits and products will be done electronically only.** Any church institution that receives a bill (pension, group health/life/disability, and property/liability) will need a designated church administrator to access and pay their bills electronically (no checks). All our churches now have a bill pay administrator. If changes/additions are needed, please contact Kim Weinstein (kim@diocgc.org) to update your administrator access to the bill pay portal.

CLERGY REMINDER: NEW ASSIGNMENT FORM

Remember that clergy/employers need to submit updated employment/compensation changes with CPG. Clergy/employers need to submit this form to CPG when:

- A cleric's employment status has changed, including retirement, beginning a new assignment, changing employers, etc.
- A cleric’s or lay employee’s compensation changes, including when a one-time payment is made (such as an end-of-year bonus or “love” offering).

You can find the CPG form at: <https://www.diocgc.org/administrative-resources> or call Kim at the diocesan office.

CONGREGATIONS IN TRANSITION (as of 2/1/2026)

Brewton, St. Stephen’s	In process; starting transition
Destin, St. Andrew’s	Very beginning of search process
Eufaula, St. James	Search committee formed; building profile
Monroeville, St. John’s	In process; starting transition
Panama City, St. Andrew’s	Accepting applications

[Pensacola, St. Christopher's](#)

Accepting applications

[Santa Rosa Beach, Christ the King](#)

Search committee formed; building profile; interim in place

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

ONLINE SAFEGUARDING / RISK MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Our Safeguarding system uses a program from Presidium Academy. You can find links and guidelines on the diocesan website at: <https://www.diocgc.org/administrative-resources>. Each church must identify church Administrators; Admins 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.

1. **To Sign Up for the Safeguarding System:**

- E-mail the Safeguarding Online Administrator assigned to your parish.
- 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.
- Fill in the required information (including your desired password).
- Click Accept Invite.
- You will be redirected to the login screen - please log in with your email address and the password you just created.
- 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.

STEWARDSHIP MATERIALS AVAILABLE FROM TENS

2025 password: **Luke1:46** (Note: a username is no longer required)

Annual pledge campaign materials are available on the TENS website. This year's theme is "Tell Out My Soul: Annual Pledge Campaign." Resources include graphics and logos in various standard formats, customizable letters from clergy, the Stewardship Committee, and wardens, as well as customizable pledge/promise cards. All churches have access to TENS materials as they are included in our diocesan membership. The login credentials are changed annually for members. LOGIN at: <https://www.tens.org/>.

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 occasionally need 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>.

SUPPLY CLERGY LIST

[Here is the link to the supply clergy list.](#) Should you need help securing a supply priest for church services, please contact the Rev. Lydia Johnson at lydia@diocgc.org.

LINK TO SUBSCRIBE TO THE DIOCESAN EMAIL LIST

Please consider adding the link below to your regular church communications and website 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), and [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, www.diocgc.org/cycle-of-prayer.

CHURCH LEADERSHIP DIRECTORY - SUBMIT UPDATES

Annually, we request that churches 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](#)

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

WHAT	WHEN	WHERE
Happening #63	Feb 6-8	St. Christopher's, Pensacola www.diocgc.org/happening .
Workshop: Becoming Beloved Community Sacred Conversations	Feb 14	Grace, Panama City Beach www.diocgc.org/event-registration
55th Annual Diocesan Convention	Feb 27-28	Hilton Pensacola Beach www.diocgc.org/2026-diocesan-convention
Men's Conference	Feb 27-Mar 1	Beckwith www.diocgc.org/event-registration
Workshop: Pastoral Care-How to Cover Your Future	Mar 7	Holy Nativity, Panama City www.diocgc.org/event-registration
Cursillo #174	Mar 11-15	Beckwith www.coastalpilgrims.com

BISHOP RUSSELL’S SCHEDULE

WHAT	WHEN	WHERE
Visitation	Feb 1	St. John's, Pensacola
CGC Prayer Vigil	Feb 2	ZOOM
St. Paul's Men's breakfast	Feb 3	St. Paul's, Mobile
Province IV Bishops' meeting	Feb 3	ZOOM
Virginia Mathison funeral	Feb 3	Christ Church, Pensacola
Happening #63	Feb 6 - 8	St. Christopher's, Pensacola
Westminster Episcopal Community – Eucharist & lunch	Feb 11	Westminster Village
Monthly Clergy Zoom Meeting	Feb 12	ZOOM
Lay Worship Leader class	Feb 14	Duvall Center
Visitation	Feb 15	Trinity, Apalachicola
College for Bishops Executive Commission meeting	Feb 19	ZOOM
Visitation	Feb 22	Nativity, Dothan

55th Annual Diocesan Convention	Feb 27-28	Hilton Pensacola Beach
Visitation	Mar 1	St. Augustine, Navarre
Visitation	Mar 8	St. Anna's, Atmore
Visitation	Mar 8	Trinity, Atmore
Florida Bishop's meeting	Mar 10	ZOOM
Monthly Clergy ZOOM Meeting	Mar 12	ZOOM
Lay Worship Leader class	Mar 14	Duvall Center
Visitation	Mar 15	St. James, Fairhope

DIOCESAN CONVENTION TIMELINE

WHAT	WHEN	WHERE
Registration opens	Dec 2	Online: https://www.diocgc.org/2026-diocesan-convention
Deadline for Election of Lay Delegates	Dec 29	Certification is made during the online registration process
General Resolutions due	Jan 13	closed
2026 Congregational Pledge Request due	Jan 13	Email to kim@diocgc.org
Standing Committee Member Nominations due	Jan 28 Feb 9	SUBMIT USING THIS FORM
General Convention Deputy Nominations due	Jan 28 Feb 9	SUBMIT USING THIS FORM
Voting Clergy and Lay Delegate Registration closes	Jan 28	
Pre-Convention Meeting	Feb 1	Zoom
Visitor Registration closes	Feb 12	
Diocesan Convention	Feb 27-28	Hilton Pensacola Beach Hosted by St. Francis, Gulf Breeze

2025/2026 PLEDGE REPORT

Headings and Account	2026* PLEDGES	2025 PLEDGE ACTUAL**	2025 PLEDGE BUDGETED	2025 PLEDGE VARIANCE
Pledges				
Andalusia, St. Mary's	\$14,000	\$12,000	\$12,000	\$0.00
Apalachicola, Trinity	\$27,000	\$22,000	\$22,000	\$0.00
Atmore, St. Anna's	*	\$0	\$0	\$0.00
Atmore, Trinity	*	\$500	\$1,200	(\$700.00)
Bay Minette, Immanuel	\$6,250	\$6,380	\$5,230	\$1,150.29
Bon Secour, St. Peter's	\$8,221	\$7,779	\$9,678	(\$1,898.92)
Brewton, St. Stephen's	\$17,000	\$19,976	\$20,299	(\$322.97)
Cantonment, St. Monica's	\$8,500	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$0.00
Chickasaw, St. Michael's	*	\$0	\$0	\$0.00
Chipley, St. Matthew's	\$5,806	\$5,712	\$5,710	\$2.00
Citronelle, St. Thomas	*	\$0	\$0	\$0.00
Coden, St. Mary's	\$528	\$5,470	\$5,470	\$0.00
Crestview, Epiphany	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$0.00
Daphne, St. Paul's	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$0.00
Dauphin Isld, St. Francis	\$18,389	\$12,350	\$11,400	\$950.00
DeFnk Spgs, St. Agatha's	\$5,500	\$5,591	\$5,250	\$340.75
Destin, St. Andrew's	*	\$2,000	\$8,000	(\$6,000.00)
Dothan, Nativity	\$58,600	\$57,000	\$57,000	\$0.00
Enterprise, Epiphany	\$10,511	\$11,031	\$11,026	\$5.00
Eufaula, St. James'	\$15,300	\$15,300	\$15,300	\$0.00
Fairhope, St. James'	\$90,000	\$80,000	\$80,000	\$0.00
Foley, St. Paul's	\$29,409	\$28,793	\$28,793	\$0.00
Ft. Wltn Bch, St. Simon	\$50,516	\$50,808	\$50,808	\$0.00
Greenville, St. Thomas	\$17,670	\$22,422	\$20,305	\$2,117.32
Gulf Breeze, St. Francis	\$15,000	\$12,119	\$11,348	\$771.50
Gulf Shores, Holy Spirit	\$33,750	\$33,750	\$33,750	\$0.00
Jackson, St. Peter's	\$1,400	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$0.00
Laguna Beach, St. Thomas	*	\$6,069	\$5,787	\$282.30
Lillian, Advent	\$10,500	\$9,540	\$9,252	\$288.00
Magnolia Spgs, St. Pauls	\$15,000	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$0.00
Marianna, St. Luke's	\$14,426	\$14,000	\$10,000	\$4,000.00
Milton, St. Mary's	\$9,688	\$7,815	\$7,815	\$0.00
Mobile, All Saints'	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$0.00
Mobile, Christ	\$61,800	\$41,800	\$41,800	\$0.00
Mobile, Good Shepherd	\$15,810	\$15,600	\$15,600	\$0.00
Mobile, Redeemer	\$13,117	\$12,024	\$12,024	\$0.00
Mobile, St. Andrew's	*	\$6,637	\$3,884	\$2,753.00
Mobile, St. John's	\$10,868	\$13,890	\$14,200	(\$310.16)
Mobile, St. Luke's	\$0	\$0	\$6,000	(\$6,000.00)
Mobile, St. Paul's	*	\$198,912	\$198,912	\$0.00
Mobile, Trinity	*	\$12,500	\$12,500	\$0.00
Monroeville, St. John's	\$4,730	\$3,592	\$13,334	(\$9,742.25)
Navarre, St. Augustine's	\$6,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$0.00
Niceville, St. Jude's	\$39,958	\$39,178	\$39,178	\$0.00
Ozark, St. Michael's	\$1,631	\$1,460	\$1,460	\$0.00
Pnma City, Holy Nativity	\$45,290	\$43,000	\$43,000	\$0.00
Panama City, St. Andrew's	\$20,000	\$18,848	\$21,401	(\$2,553.19)
Panama City, St. Patrick's	\$3,000	\$4,581	\$3,000	\$1,580.85
Panama City Beach, Grace	\$14,703	\$12,959	\$12,959	\$0.00
Pensacola, Christ	\$143,500	\$135,500	\$135,500	\$0.00
Pensacola, Holy Cross	\$24,000	\$24,000	\$24,000	\$0.00
Pensacola, Holy Trinity	\$15,370	\$14,145	\$14,145	\$0.00
Pcola, St. Christopher's	\$71,200	\$76,000	\$76,000	\$0.00
Pensacola, St. Cyprian's	\$3,500	\$3,050	\$3,286	(\$236.00)
Pensacola, St. John's	\$18,700	\$17,000	\$17,000	\$0.00
Pt St. Joe, St. James'	*	\$0	\$1,500	(\$1,500.00)
Robertsdale, St. John	*	\$1,620	\$1,620	\$0.00
SRB, Christ King	*	\$55,198	\$55,000	\$197.92
Troy, St. Mark's	*	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$0.00
Wewahitchka, St. John's	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$0.00
Total Pledges	\$1,051,141	\$1,306,399	\$1,321,224	(\$14,825.00)

* 2026 pledge form outstanding as of January 30, 2026

** Actual 2025 pledge amounts received as of 01/22/2026