



XXXIV

JULY 2025

ISSUE #7

CLERGY NEWS

WELCOME to **Mark Fitzhugh** who has accepted a call as Rector of Trinity, Mobile, effective September 1. Mark comes to us from the Diocese of Long Island, along with wife, Cheri, and children, Emma and Ella. Mark and family are no strangers to our diocese - Mark was the Rector at St. Simon's, Fort Walton Beach from 2010 - 2015. It's good to have them back among us and we wish them all the best in their new ministry.

NEW RK DAY TO HONOR BISHOP RUSSELL'S 10TH ANNIVERSARY

This summer marks 10 years of faithful, joyful ministry from our bishop, the Rt. Rev. Russell Kendrick. To honor this milestone, Bishop Russell has asked us not for a party, but for acts of love. From now through July 25, we invite you to celebrate his ministry by doing 10 acts of *Random Kindness* and tagging them with **#FriendsAndNeighbors10**. Share how you're living out his legacy of love and service by [filling out the form](#) and [reading full details here](#).

NEW SUPPLY CLERGY AND LAY LEADER RATES

Supply Clergy Rates

The following are the standard rates for supply clergy (unless negotiated otherwise by the parties) and are effective beginning January 1, 2025:

- \$200 for one service + travel
- \$250 for two services on the same Sunday (at the same location) + travel
- Travel expense: The 2025 IRS standard mileage rate for the business use of a vehicle is currently \$0.70 per mile. These rates are updated annually; mileage rates are published and updated by the IRS at year-end.

Lay Worship Leader and Lay Preacher Rates

The following are the standard rates for certified* lay leaders and are effective beginning **August 1, 2025**:

- Lay Worship Leader: \$50 for one service + travel
- Lay Preacher: \$50 for one service + travel
- For both, \$100 for one service + travel
- Travel expense: The 2025 IRS standard mileage rate for the business use of a vehicle is currently \$0.70 per mile. These rates are updated annually; mileage rates are published and updated by the IRS at year-end.

* Certification is required and is attained by completion of the appropriate program [Lay Worship Leader or Lay Preacher] in the diocesan School for Ministry. A [list of certified leaders](#) is kept on the diocesan website. If you have any questions or need additional information about minimum compensation or supply rates, please do not hesitate to contact the Diocesan Office at 850-434-7337.

NEW WILMER HALL SUNDAY ON JULY 27

Join us in honoring the long-standing mission and ministry of Wilmer Hall Children's Home, an agency of the Episcopal Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast. Each year on the last Sunday of July, we take this opportunity to celebrate this organization that has served the Church and its communities since 1864.

Wilmer Hall was founded in 1864 by Bishop Richard Hooker Wilmer, the second bishop of Alabama, as a home for orphans and widows. More than 160 years later, they continue to carry out their mission to serve young people in need. They serve children and young adults through residential and educational programs, all aiming to provide each individual with the skills needed to be successful, contributing members of the community. They serve up to 150 children in their education programs and up to 36 young people in their residential programs at any given time. The residential programs serve young men and women, as well as young women with children. Wilmer Hall also operates a delivery-based food pantry.

To learn more about the mission and ministry of Wilmer Hall, to schedule a tour and/or lunch, please contact Executive Director Pratt Paterson at ppaterson@wilmerhall.org or Director of Development Mindy Inge at minge@wilmerhall.org.

Please consider offering the following Wilmer Hall prayer, written in 2018 by Fr. Albert Kennington, in your Prayers of the People on July 27.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, whose Son Jesus welcomed and blessed children with love: We give you thanks and praise for this Children's Home, for the founders, for all who have served and supported this Home through the years, and for all who have found love and family in this Home. In the faith of our founders, we spread before you our prayers for all who live within the care of Wilmer Hall and for those who will do so in years beyond us. Raise up, we pray, in every generation, faithful people to support and sustain this Home following the way of our Savior Jesus Christ with whom we are bound in the best of bonds. Amen.

Additionally, Wilmer Hall would be appreciative if churches would consider donating a portion of the loose plate offering to support their programs. Donations can be made online at www.wilmerhall.org or sent to Wilmer Hall Children's Home, 3811 Old Shell Rd, Mobile, AL 36608. Thank you.

UPDATE ACOLYTE FESTIVAL ON SATURDAY, AUGUST 23

Gather your acolytes and join us for our **Acolyte Festival on Saturday, August 23, at Christ Church Cathedral** in Mobile. All churches are encouraged to send their acolytes, crucifers, thurifers, etc., for this interactive day of learning about the liturgical arts from the experts. Please share the date with your acolytes and anyone interested in becoming one. Registration is free, but please let us know you are coming! Donations accepted.

[REGISTER HERE](#)

NEW CURSILLO #173 WEEKEND IS SEPTEMBER 11-14

The purpose of the Cursillo Movement in the Episcopal Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast is to assist people in understanding and responding to their calling to Christian leadership in their parishes, social lives and workplaces by enriching and deepening their existing faith.

We invite you to explore a wonderful Cursillo getaway at God's Front Yard/Camp Beckwith. If you would like to know more, please reach out to the Cursillo #173 Lay Rector, Tonye Frith. 334-791-0831 OR visit www.coastalpilgrims.com.

UPDATE BILL PAYMENT CHANGES BY CHURCH PENSION GROUP (CPG)

The Church Pension Group (CPG) has announced the upcoming launch of the Online Billing and Payment platform through a new vendor partner, Paymentus. It was originally supposed to be effective August 2025. However, it has now been **postponed until October 1, 2025**. Starting in October, all billing and payments of CPG benefits and products will be done electronically only. CPG will no longer send paper bills through the mail for pension and group health, life, and disability products, and will no longer accept paper checks as payments. Any church institution that receives a bill (pension, group health/life/disability) will need a designated church administrator to access and pay their bills when they launch. Please stay tuned for

additional information the Diocese will send on identifying and adding a bill-paying administrator to the CPG system.

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 many standard formats, customizable letters from clergy, the Stewardship Committee, and wardens, and customizable pledge/promise cards. 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/>.

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>.

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.

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.
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.

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 \(recommended\)](#)

CONGREGATIONS IN TRANSITION (as of 7/1/2025)

Destin, St. Andrew's	Very beginning of process
Dothan, Nativity	Interviewing candidates
Mobile, Trinity	Call made
Panama City, St. Andrew's	In process; search committee formed
Pensacola, St. Christopher's	In process; search committee formed

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

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

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](#).

CHURCH LEADERSHIP DIRECTORY - SUBMIT UPDATES TO THE DIOCESAN OFFICE

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](#)

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.

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

WHAT	WHEN	WHERE
Bishop Kendrick 10 year Consecration Anniversary	Jul 25	10 Acts of Random Kindness
Wilmer Hall Sunday	Jul 27	Across the diocese
Jonathan Myrick Daniels Pilgrimage	Aug 9	Hayneville, AL Details & Registration
Diocesan Acolyte Festival	Aug 23	Christ Church Cathedral Details & Registration
Labor Day Holiday	Sep 1	Duvall Center closed

BISHOP RUSSELL'S SCHEDULE

WHAT	WHEN	WHERE
Vacation	Jul 6 - 18	Vacation
College for Bishops Board mtg	Jul 11	ZOOM
Visitation - Joint Service: St. Thomas, Laguna Beach and Grace Church, Panama City Beach	Jul 20	Grace, Panama City Beach
Bishop Kendrick 10 year Consecration Anniversary	Jul 25	10 Acts of Random Kindness
Visitation	Jul 27	St. Francis, Gulf Breeze

SAVE-THE-DATE FOR 2026 DIOCESAN CONVENTION

Please ensure that you add our next diocesan convention to your planning calendars. **The 55th Annual Diocesan Convention will be held February 27 and 28, 2026, at the Pensacola Beach Hilton and hosted by St. Francis of Assisi, Gulf Breeze.**

An essential part of our convention is electing delegates from your congregation. According to our diocesan canons, elections must be made and reported to the diocesan office no later than 60 days prior to the start of convention. Please plan accordingly!

Episcopal Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast
Green Sheet 2025
Treasurer's Report - June 2025
(Please Note: Report reflects funds received as of 6/30/25)

Congregational Pledges	MTD Actual (2025)	YTD Rec'd (2025)	YTD Budget Variance	Annual Pledge (2025)
Pledges				
Andalusia, St. Mary's	\$0.00	\$6,000.00	\$0	\$12,000.00
Apalachicola, Trinity	\$1,833.00	\$10,998.00	\$0	\$22,000.00
Atmore, St. Anna's	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0	\$0.00
Atmore, Trinity	\$0.00	\$0.00	(\$600)	\$1,200.00
Bay Minette, Immanuel	\$382.80	\$4,234.69	\$1,620	\$5,230.00
Bon Secour, St. Peter's	\$0.00	\$3,136.97	(\$1,702)	\$9,678.00
Brewton, St. Stephen's	\$757.90	\$12,244.38	\$2,095	\$20,299.00
Cantonment, St. Monica's	\$0.00	\$10,000.00	\$0	\$10,000.00
Chickasaw, St. Michael's	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0	\$0.00
Chipley, St. Matthew's	\$476.00	\$2,856.00	\$0	\$5,710.00
Citronelle, St. Thomas	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0	\$0.00
Coden, St. Mary's	\$0.00	\$0.00	(\$2,735)	\$5,470.00
Crestview, Epiphany	\$250.00	\$1,500.00	\$0	\$3,000.00
Daphne, St. Paul's	\$2,500.00	\$15,000.00	\$0	\$30,000.00
Dauphin Isld, St. Francis	\$950.00	\$5,700.00	\$0	\$11,400.00
DeFnk Spgs, St. Agatha's	\$534.70	\$2,556.75	(\$68)	\$5,250.00
Destin, St. Andrew's	\$0.00	\$2,000.00	(\$2,000)	\$8,000.00
Dothan, Nativity	\$9,500.00	\$28,500.00	\$0	\$57,000.00
Enterprise, Epiphany	\$0.00	\$4,397.00	(\$1,116)	\$11,026.00
Eufaula, St. James'	\$2,550.00	\$7,650.00	\$0	\$15,300.00
Fairhope, St. James'	\$6,666.67	\$33,333.35	(\$6,667)	\$80,000.00
Foley, St. Paul's	\$2,399.42	\$14,396.52	\$0	\$28,793.00
Ft. Wltn Bch, St. Simon	\$4,234.00	\$25,404.00	\$0	\$50,808.00
Greenville, St. Thomas	\$1,157.04	\$12,158.34	\$2,006	\$20,305.00
Gulf Breeze, St. Francis	\$755.00	\$6,482.00	\$808	\$11,347.50
Gulf Shores, Holy Spirit	\$2,812.50	\$16,875.00	\$0	\$33,750.00
Jackson, St. Peter's	\$0.00	\$1,500.00	\$750	\$1,500.00
Laguna Beach, St. Thomas	\$0.00	\$1,971.70	(\$922)	\$5,787.00
Lillian, Advent	\$795.00	\$4,770.00	\$144	\$9,252.00
Magnolia Spgs, St. Pauls	\$0.00	\$18,750.00	\$6,250	\$25,000.00
Marianna, St. Luke's	\$0.00	\$5,000.00	\$0	\$10,000.00
Milton, St. Mary's	\$0.00	\$1,953.75	(\$1,954)	\$7,815.00
Mobile, All Saints'	\$1,666.67	\$10,000.02	\$0	\$20,000.00
Mobile, Christ	\$3,483.33	\$20,999.98	\$100	\$41,800.00
Mobile, Good Shepherd	\$1,300.00	\$7,800.00	\$0	\$15,600.00
Mobile, Redeemer	\$1,002.00	\$6,012.00	\$0	\$12,024.00
Mobile, St. Andrew's	\$555.00	\$4,519.00	\$2,577	\$3,884.00
Mobile, St. John's	\$1,302.80	\$5,820.77	(\$1,279)	\$14,200.00
Mobile, St. Luke's	\$0.00	\$0.00	(\$3,000)	\$6,000.00
Mobile, St. Paul's	\$16,576.00	\$99,456.00	\$0	\$198,912.00
Mobile, Trinity	\$1,041.67	\$6,250.02	\$0	\$12,500.00
Monroeville, St. John's	\$218.12	\$1,631.87	(\$5,035)	\$13,334.00
Navarre, St. Augustine's	\$0.00	\$2,000.00	(\$500)	\$5,000.00
Niceville, St. Jude's	\$3,264.83	\$19,588.98	\$0	\$39,178.00
Ozark, St. Michael's	\$0.00	\$1,460.00	\$0	\$1,460.00
Pnma City, Holy Nativity	\$3,634.50	\$21,193.00	(\$307)	\$43,000.00
Panama City, St. Andrew's	\$894.00	\$9,484.00	(\$1,217)	\$21,401.00
Panama City, St. Patrick's	\$298.90	\$1,830.85	\$331	\$3,000.00
Panama City Beach, Grace	\$1,079.92	\$6,479.44	\$0	\$12,959.00
Pensacola, Christ	\$11,290.00	\$56,090.00	(\$11,660)	\$135,500.00
Pensacola, Holy Cross	\$2,000.00	\$12,000.00	\$0	\$24,000.00
Pensacola, Holy Trinity	\$1,178.78	\$7,072.68	\$0	\$14,145.00
Pcola, St. Christopher's	\$6,333.50	\$38,001.00	\$0	\$76,000.00
Pensacola, St. Cyprian's	\$0.00	\$750.00	(\$893)	\$3,286.00
Pensacola, St. John's	\$0.00	\$0.00	(\$8,500)	\$17,000.00
Pt St. Joe, St. James'	\$0.00	\$0.00	(\$750)	\$1,500.00
Robertsdale, St. John	\$135.00	\$810.00	\$0	\$1,620.00
SRB, Christ King	\$4,583.33	\$27,697.94	\$198	\$55,000.00
Troy, St. Mark's	\$833.00	\$5,002.00	\$0	\$10,000.00
Wewahitchka, St. John's	\$0.00	\$2,000.00	\$0	\$2,000.00
Total Pledges	\$101,225	\$633,318	(\$34,026)	\$1,321,224