



# SEEK!

Mission & Ministry in The Episcopal Diocese of Missouri | Winter 2023





# SEEK!

A publication of  
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# I LOVE TO TELL THE STORY

## *Get ready for an Episcopal revival in the Diocese of Missouri!*

Presiding Bishop Michael Curry will be in the Diocese of Missouri Nov. 2-3, 2023, to lead an Episcopal revival: a series of gatherings that combines inspiring worship, compelling teaching, honest faith-sharing, intensified prayer, and other forms of engagement with the mission of God – all for the sake of the spiritual renewal and transformation of people and society.

The theme for the revival is ***I Love to Tell the Story***. And that's a phrase you're going to hear often in our diocese over the next two years. The Rt. Rev. Deon Johnson, Bishop of the Diocese of Missouri, says he chose the theme to emphasize the importance of storytelling. "Stories are the launching pad for us to engage in evangelism," the bishop said.

***I Love to Tell the Story*** is not just the title of one special event. "At its heart," said Bishop Deon, "evangelism connects our story to the larger story of God."

We all have unique God-centered stories to tell – as a diocese, a parish, and as individuals. We are called by our faith to tell that story.

"This is not just a theme, but the connecting thread for us to live into the reality that we are one church in many locations," said Bishop Deon. "And our stories are connected to the one sacred story."

We have a lot of great stories to tell in the Diocese of Missouri! We hope you'll engage by telling your stories, hearing the stories of others, and discerning how those stories connect us to God.

We're excited to welcome our Presiding Bishop to DioMO and share our stories with him!



Presiding Bishop  
Michael Curry speaks  
during ReviveATL in  
Atlanta, Georgia, on  
Jan. 22, 2020.

*Photo: Diocese of  
Atlanta*







# Beginning in the wilderness

A reflection as we enter the season of Lent

by *The Rt. Rev. Deon K. Johnson,*  
*Bishop of The Episcopal Diocese of Missouri*



It all begins in the wilderness. God seems to have a special affinity for the wilderness. Things happen in the wilds of the wilderness.

Have you noticed that whenever God wants to do something new, whenever God wants to form a people, inspire a nation, prepare a prophet, or transform a people that it all starts in the wilderness? In the wilderness we are left bare, vulnerable, open. In the wilderness it stops being about us and starts being about the future that God is promising. We go into the wilderness to adjust our sight; to clear our vision, to find our focus. It is there that we seek glimpses of God, and we can hear more clearly the footfalls of the Divine. Things happen in the wilderness.

We all have our own wilderness experience that has shaped us, molded our outlook on life and formed the ministries that we share. Mine was on a crystal clear blue-skied Tuesday morning standing outside St. Paul's Chapel in lower Manhattan looking up to see a plane crash into the World Trade Center. Enter the wilderness.

What is your wilderness experience? Where have you been transformed in the crucible of the unexpected?

I am convinced that the most transformative and most pervasive and most persistent character in the Bible is the wilderness. Not just the places of sand, rocks, and stones, but the people and places that define and refine who we are.

If we are honest with ourselves, we know that we need this wilderness time. We know that we need to rediscover, reimagine, and refine who we are and who we follow in this itinerant preacher named Jesus. We need to be stripped bare of all the detritus and distractions so that we can be reformed by God. But to be reformed is hard. It means that we will have to let go. Letting go is not easy. But how we say goodbye, how we let go, says a lot about how we say hello, how we are formed for a new future.

It all begins in the wilderness.

My prayer, my hope, my dream for us as a church, as the body of Christ, as faithful followers of Jesus, is that we would have the courage to let this church die, die to the things that have held us back, kept us down, so that we can be set free and stand firm to become what God dreams for us to be. That we don't fall to the temptation, like the children of Israel, too long for the fleshpots and leaks that we knew, but that we might offer the hard, holy, and healing transformation that our Church and our world so desperately needs.



It all begins in the wilderness.





# THE BISHOP'S 2023 ANNUAL APPEAL

Bishop Deon Johnson invites you to support the mission and ministry  
of the Diocese of Missouri by giving to  
The Bishop's 2023 Annual Appeal.

Your generous gifts this year will go to the following diocesan ministries:

**The Deacon Chester Hines Racial Reconciliation Fund  
Diocesan Children and Youth Ministry  
Episcopal City Mission**

*The Bishop's Annual Appeal runs through the seasons of Lent and Easter.*

## Donate online:

[diocesemo.org/give](https://diocesemo.org/give)



## Send check to:

The Episcopal  
Diocese of Missouri  
1210 Locust Street  
St. Louis, MO 63103  
memo line:  
*Bishop's Annual Appeal*

*Every gift, great or small, becomes ministry and mission  
and helps us continue to live the Good News of Jesus Christ.*



## Lent, Holy Week, and Easter 2023

Ash Wednesday: February 22

Palm Sunday: April 2

Maundy Thursday: April 6

Good Friday: April 7

Holy Saturday / The Great Vigil of Easter: April 8

Easter Day: April 9

Get Lenten resources and  
see special events around the Diocese:

[diocesemo.org/lent2023](https://diocesemo.org/lent2023)





# Jubilee Ministry: Taking it to the streets

by the Rev. Deacon Barbi Click,  
Diocesan Missioner for Jubilee Ministry

Jubilee Ministry was established by the 67th General Convention in 1982 as "a ministry of joint discipleship in Christ with poor and oppressed people, wherever they are found, to meet basic human needs, and to build a just society." It continues to live out its mandate within the Episcopal Diocese of Missouri.

As Jubilee Ministry is a ministry of listening to the needs of the people rather than assuming those needs, we heard the cry of hunger from the neighborhoods where chronic food insecurity is a daily concern. That cry is leading us to a new venture:

**the Just Food Truck.**



# JustFood

**Jubilee Ministry  
in the Diocese of Missouri  
is weaving a network of the  
existing ministries of charity and  
advocacy within this diocese, living out  
the Jesus Gospel according to Matthew:**

..for I was hungry and you gave me food,  
I was thirsty and you gave me something to  
drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed  
me, I was naked and you gave me clothing,  
I was sick and you took care of me, I was in  
prison and you visited me."

Then the righteous will answer him, "Lord,  
when was it that we saw you hungry and  
gave you food, or thirsty and gave you  
something to drink? And when was it that  
we saw you a stranger and welcomed you,  
or naked and gave you clothing? And when  
was it that we saw you sick or in prison and  
visited you?"

And the king will answer them, "Truly I tell  
you, just as you did it to one of the least of  
these who are members of my family, you  
did it to me."

- Matthew: 25:35-40







As manager of Trinity Food Ministry, a Jubilee Ministry Center, I see many people whose lives are compromised by food insecurity. The idea of the Just Food Truck was born from the sacred stories of so many who are homeless or who live in neighborhoods with little or no access to food pantries, meal programs, or grocery stores with healthy food options. The Just Food Truck will go into those areas on a regular schedule to offer hot, healthy meals.

This truck will not only offer good food to people who are hungry, it will offer a ministry of presence in areas that the Episcopal Church rarely goes -- into neighborhoods of high poverty. It is about meeting the people where they are.

As the Just Food Truck begins its operations to bring awareness to the levels of poverty in which many in our diocese live, we will seek to visit parishes on Sundays to share the sacred stories of the truck. The same type of meals which are offered on the road will be available to parishioners for a donation. A later plan is to have the Just Food Truck attend festivals held throughout the Diocese as a way to raise funds.

To get this food truck up and running will take \$50,000. We have already received a \$25,000 New Ventures in Community Ministry grant and \$20,000 in pledges. Other grant sources are being explored.

The plan is to have the food truck fully operational no later than early summer. A longer-term plan is to obtain a second truck to be available for rural areas.

There are many ways that people can participate:

- donate funds
- sign up to be on the ministry team: to be a ministry of presence wherever we are
- sign up to be part of the onsite cooking team
- sign up to be a part of the organizational team: helping book visits to parishes, festivals, food truck events; helping to procure donations needed for meals; etc.

First things first, if you know of anyone who has a food truck that is for sale, please let me know!

If your parish is interested in learning more about Jubilee Ministry and the Just Food Truck, I encourage you to email me at [jubilee@diocesemo.org](mailto:jubilee@diocesemo.org).

Left & right photos: Volunteers cook and prepare to serve at Trinity Hot Lunch.



Above photo: Deacon Barbi Click and volunteers prepare food for Trinity Hot Lunch, Jan. 29, 2023.



**Use this QR code to donate  
to the Just Food Truck**







# Grace Hill: New life and ministry in Old North St. Louis

*by Clark Davis,  
Chair of Grace Hill Task Force*

Our historic Grace Hill campus in Old North St. Louis is once again serving its community.

The Diocese has signed a one-year lease with St. Patrick Center for its "Safe Haven" program. The respected nonprofit organization has refurbished the ground level of the south wing of our campus (the "Gymnasium" building) for this purpose. The space will function as a center for assessment and referral of unhoused people to other appropriate housing locations.

The center will be staffed 24/7, but will not be an emergency residential shelter. Most access will be on the east side of the campus, at the doors on North 11th Street.

St. Patrick Center is paying for most of the required building improvements, security for the whole

campus, utilities, and nominal rent from its program funds.

Anthony D'Agostino, CEO of St. Patrick Center, has assured us that our support for this program will save lives among unhoused people this winter.







## About Grace Hill:

The Grace Hill property has been owned by the Episcopal Diocese of Missouri since 1845. It has housed active congregations, health clinics, and a variety of social services. The property has been maintained but remained vacant following the merger of Grace Hill Settlement House with the Urban League of Metropolitan St. Louis. Affinia Health, a descendant of community health services founded at Grace Hill, occupies its own building on a portion of the site leased from the Diocese.



The Grace Hill Task Force held an open house at the property in Old North St. Louis for a listening session and to offer tours of the building.

The property includes the original Grace Church building from 1923, a south wing known as the “gymnasium” built around 1960, an older north wing known as the “Jennie Wahler Building,” a former clinic building at 13th and Benton, and a rectory on the west side of the site. Parts of the area were used as a burying ground as Old North St. Louis developed in the 19th Century. A detailed history of the Grace Hill area is available from Sue Rehkopf, our Diocesan Archivist.



## About the Grace Hill Task Force:

Bishop Deon appointed a task force to explore future uses of the Grace Hill property and present recommendations to the Diocese. Task force members include the following:

- The Rev. Deacon Barbi Click, Missioner for Jubilee Ministry
- Mary Ann Cook, Church of St. Michael & St. George, Clayton
- Clark Davis, Chair, St. Peter's, Ladue
- Susan Fazio, St. Stephen's, Ferguson
- The Rev. Renee Fenner, All Saints & Ascension, Northwoods
- Shawntelle Fisher, CEO, Soulfisher Ministries
- The Rev. Mtipe D. Koggani, Christ Church Cathedral, St. Louis
- Rick and Mary Jane Kuhn, Emmanuel, Webster Groves
- Julie Manton, St. Barnabas', Florissant
- Valerie Patton, All Saints & Ascension, Northwoods
- Sue Rehkopf, Diocesan Archivist
- Aaron Rogers, Seminarian
- The Rev. Canon Doris Westfall, Canon to the Ordinary

The Task Force has engaged individuals and organizations across St. Louis as stakeholders and potential partners in programs that will restore Grace Hill to service of the surrounding community. Many of them attended an “open house” at Grace Hill on September 12, 2022, and interested organizations were invited to make specific proposals. The Task Force will consider opportunities as they are received.

In exploring potential futures for Grace Hill, the Task Force has discussed educational, housing, cultural, and health services for youth and families in addition to an active church congregation in this resurgent St. Louis neighborhood. These ideas all reflect the history of Grace Hill as well as current community needs. Our recommended vision for Grace Hill is:

*A place of love and peace  
in Old North St. Louis,  
fostering community support  
through collaboration  
to nurture and enrich lives.*



# Beginning to reckon with our past

Delegates to the diocesan convention confront and discuss the concept of reparations.

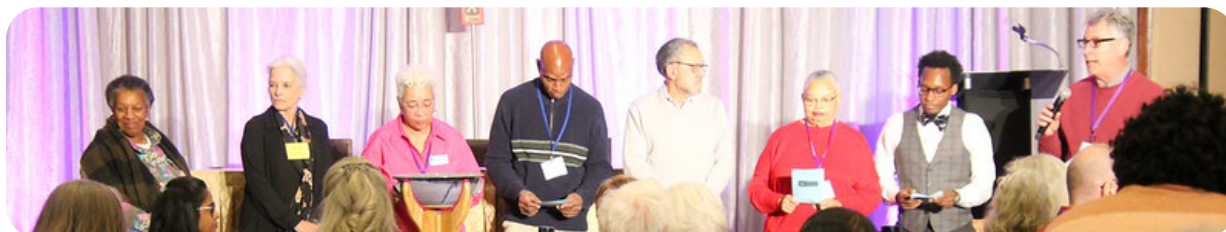
By Kurt Greenbaum,  
Co-facilitator, Dismantling Racism Commission



Repairing, restoring, and truth-telling. Accountability, fear, and justice. These were some of the words that resonated with delegates during a discussion of reparations at the Episcopal Diocese of Missouri's annual convention on November 18, 2022.

The exercise followed the viewing of a nearly 29-minute sermon on the topic by The Rt. Rev. Eugene Sutton of the Diocese of Maryland, a sermon he originally delivered to delegates at the 80th General Convention of the Episcopal Church on July 10, 2022.

In that address, Bishop Sutton used the metaphor of walls to examine slavery and other historical wrongs committed in the United States against Black Americans—and the debt owed as a result. He also walked listeners through a process his diocese began in 2019 “to commit itself to reparations as one of the means of reckoning with our collusion with and participation in the enslavement of peoples on our soil, and the hundred-plus years of slavery and racial discrimination after it.”







Following that address, the Diocesan Commission on Dismantling Racism facilitated a discussion with delegates from the Diocese of Missouri at their tables. They asked delegates to consider four questions:

- In the context of “walls” as physical structures and as social fabrications, what walls exist in your church, your diocese, and your community?
- What power or agency do we have as individuals, parishes, convocations, or as a diocese?
- What does “reparations” mean to you? How has Bishop Sutton’s narrative affected your perspective?
- What is the church’s responsibility? Why?

Table leaders collected notes after a brief but impassioned period of discussion. Those notes revealed a need for further collective discernment about the concept of reparations. Yet Bishop Sutton’s talk created ease among delegates with the concepts of “righting a wrong,” “repairing a breach,” and “repaying what was withheld.”

There was also, in those notes, an acknowledgment of an openness to a further conversation—and that connecting reparations to “loving thy neighbor” comes with pain because it requires sacrifice and building trust. Delegates also demonstrated varying levels of understanding about the role systemic racism has played in shaping our country and furthering inequity, which suggests a further need for truth-telling.

The Dismantling Racism Commission works to heal racial divisions among God’s people.

Watch Bishop Sutton’s video and review notes from the convention discussion:  
[diocesemo.org/blog/beginning-to-reckon-with-our-past](https://diocesemo.org/blog/beginning-to-reckon-with-our-past)

Learn more and watch for opportunities to engage:  
[diocesemo.org/dismantling-racism-commission](https://diocesemo.org/dismantling-racism-commission)







# Diocesan







# Convention



Episcopalians from throughout our diocese gathered November 18 - 19, 2022, for the 183rd Convention of The Episcopal Diocese of Missouri.

The convention was held at the DoubleTree Hotel in Chesterfield and was our first in-person convention since 2019!

From budgets and amendments to the constitution, to oak trees and dance parties, the 2022 diocesan convention was a wonderful time to celebrate our life together as a community of faith!

Get all the news from the convention at: [diocesemo.org/2022-convention](https://diocesemo.org/2022-convention)







# Planting trees in the Communion Forest



Bishop Deon Johnson presents an oak tree to the Rev. Mtipi Koggani and his new mission, Grace African Christians Connection during our annual convention. Every congregation in our diocese received a tree to be planted this spring.

What if every bishop, every congregation, and every member of The Episcopal Church and The Anglican Communion committed to the work of environmental restoration?

The Rt. Rev. Deon Johnson, Bishop of The Episcopal Diocese of Missouri, has launched an intentional effort to be good environmental stewards by giving every congregation in our diocese an oak tree to plant as part of the "Communion Forest."

The Communion Forest is a global act of hope which involves a wide range of creation care activities. The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, spoke of the possibility of the Communion Forest becoming the "most widespread and diverse" environmental project in the world.

Archbishop Welby and other bishops attending the Lambeth Conference planted the first tree of that forest in the garden of Lambeth Palace on Aug. 3, 2022.

Bishop Deon Johnson was at that tree planting and brought the idea back home. During our annual convention, the bishop gave a young oak tree to each of our congregations and instructed them to care for the tree until it can safely be planted.

The bishop hopes to organize a diocesan-wide event to bless and dedicate the trees on April 22, 2023 – Earth Day.

"Each congregation could see this as a seed towards being more cognizant of environmental stewardship," said Bishop Deon.

The trees will take approximately 30 years to mature. What will our diocese look like in that time? What will happen in the life of that tree and your congregation – births, weddings, baptisms, deaths, construction, storms, additional creation care activities? Bishop Deon is asking every congregation to record the "story" of your tree. We'll collect your stories and share them at the 2023 diocesan convention.

The trees came from Forest ReLeaf of Missouri, which operates the only nonprofit community-assisted tree nursery in the region. We received the trees at no cost (because we are a nonprofit). The only requirement is that the trees be planted in public spaces (churches are public spaces), and we provide information on where each tree was planted.

We encourage everyone to provide a lot of TLC to their trees over the winter! In the meantime, take a look at the Communion Forest website – what else can you and your community do to grow the forest?

[communionforest.org](https://communionforest.org)







# Rockwell House:

## Repairs, renovations, and dreams for the future

By the Rev. Hope Welles Jernagan  
Chaplain, Rockwell House Episcopal Campus Ministry



As many of you know, we discovered some urgent repair issues at Rockwell House last fall and we've had to vacate the building. The students and I used this opportunity to dream about the future of the house and how it

could continue to serve as the hearth and home of our community. In late October, we launched our campaign, "Let Your Light Shine," with the goal of raising \$250,000 to support two phases of repair and renovation.

The first phase of the project was to address immediate safety concerns and much-needed repairs. This included fully upgrading our electrical system, converting our heating and cooling system from a boiler and window-units to HVAC, and replacing all of the original windows in the house with new, energy-efficient, working windows.

We are excited to report the work for Phase One is nearly complete! If you have ever done any renovation work, you might know our excitement at seeing new overhead lighting and a beautiful new thermostat on the wall.

We have continued to accept the gracious hospitality of our neighbors, LuMin St. Louis (the ELCA campus ministry), while repairs are being completed. This has led to wonderful and creative shared ministry that we are excited to continue even after returning to our house.

We hope to move back into the house this winter.

Phase Two of our renovations will take place over the summer and include a full renovation of the kitchen, and an overhaul of the backyard to create more green space, a permanent outdoor chapel, and a parking pad.



We are also excited to share that we have raised 80% of our \$250,000 goal! We have been recipients of generous grants from the Diocese of Missouri, Christ Church Cathedral, and Grace Episcopal Church in Kirkwood, as well as many individual donors. I'm also excited to note that over 35% of the individual donations we've received have been from Rockwell House alumni. This speaks to the lasting impact Rockwell House has on its members throughout their lives.

We are still raising funds to support this project. Please consider making a gift. On a personal note—as I reflect on my first 18 months as Chaplain at Rockwell House, I can't help but just be in awe of how special this ministry is. I have had several students tell me that Rockwell House is the primary or only place where they can feel like their truest and best selves. They express how grateful they are to have a chaplain and trusted adult in their lives whose sole interest is their well-being and spiritual growth. The students are equally dedicated to one another and their faith. This, I believe, reflects the best of the church. Because of ministries like this one, the future of the church is bright.

**Make a donation:**

**[rockwellhouse.org/give](https://rockwellhouse.org/give)**



## A new mission in the Diocese of Missouri

by the Rev. Mtipe Koggani,  
Curate, Christ Church Cathedral, St. Louis  
Church planter, Grace African Christians Connection, St. Louis



2022 was a great year for the Church and the African Diaspora in the Diocese with the launching of a new missional community: Grace African Christians Connection (GACC).

The plant team for GACC spent the first half of 2022 holding listening sessions which helped us understand the broader needs of the African Diaspora in the greater St. Louis area. On October 23, 2022, the community was officially launched by the Rt. Rev. Deon K. Johnson, 11th Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Missouri. Nearly 200 people attended the first service in-person and many others online.



The community was officially named "Grace African Christians Connection" at that service and was then recognized as a new missional community of the Diocese at the 183rd Convention on November 19. Also at convention, GACC was named as one of the recipients of a New Ventures in Community Ministries Grant. This grant will help GACC to purchase music equipment, which is the back-bone of this ministry.







So far, the community has held African-style worship services and other gatherings in August, September, October, November, December, and January at Deaconess Anne House and Christ Church Cathedral in St. Louis.

We have also started an international student ministry. Through the generosity of our community members, our friends across the Diocese, churches, and other organizations, we have been able to support several international students with groceries, furniture, clothing, laptop computers, transportation, and places to stay. Churches, individuals, and local organizations like the Office of the Director of Health for the City of St. Louis, Rock Hill Ministries, and East Africa Grocery are supporting this ministry.



We also have been able to start to find ways to create a relationship between Grace African Christian Connections and Christ Church Cathedral (our sponsoring parish), and the Diocese. We have started a joint Bible study program, we have created a team to design youth and young adult programs, and we are coming together to read the entire Bible in a year. We also have started a conversation with the Diocese and the Cathedral about sharing an audio and video recording studio.

Our biggest challenge so far has been transportation. Most of our members, especially international students, do not drive. We make arrangements to pick them up whenever we meet in-person, but it is still a challenge. We do believe that if we manage to get a mini bus, it will help us greatly.



Our plans for 2023 include continuing to host African-style worship services at least once a month, designing and launching more programs in the community to reach more African Diaspora in the Diocese, building relationships with other African nonprofit organizations in the area, and raising funds to run our programs -- especially for transportation and music ministry.

We are grateful to Bishop Deon Johnson for his vision, Dean Kathie at the Cathedral, and everyone throughout the Diocese who continues to support this mission.

I continue to be inspired by the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians, Chapter 3, verse 7 which says, "So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth." Amen.



# Grace African Christians Connection





# Diocesan Gathering Space

Share your ideas and opinions  
with the Gathering Space Task Force

by Betty Bowersox,  
Co-chair of the Gathering Space Task Force

Most of us first met the 11th Bishop of the Diocese of Missouri at one of the walkabouts held in early November of 2019. Then-candidate Deon Johnson shared one of his visions for us – to help bring the Diocese of MO together. "One church, many locations," he said.

During the 182nd Convention in 2021, Bishop Deon began to lay the foundation to begin filling our mission and live into our new strategic plan. He appointed a task force to investigate the feasibility of a Diocesan Gathering Space: should we pursue creating a space for the Diocese of Missouri to gather together for shared ministry, formation, recreation, and fun? And if so, just what do we envision for our gathering space?



In the first year the task force, co-chairs Betty Bowersox (Grace, Kirkwood) and the Rev. Andrew Archie (Church of St. Michael & St. George, Clayton) plus 10-14 others, deliberated on possible features of such a place: what might a gathering space be or consist of, and how might it help us grow in ministry? We identified nearly 100 people across the Diocese and beyond who might offer ideas for and experiences about using a shared gathering space, and developed a list of standardized interview questions with which to gather their ideas and input on the need, use, and types of diocesan gathering spaces. [The members of the task force are listed in

the Gathering Space Task Force Ministry Report, found on the 2022 Convention webpage of the [www.diocesemo.org](http://www.diocesemo.org) website.]

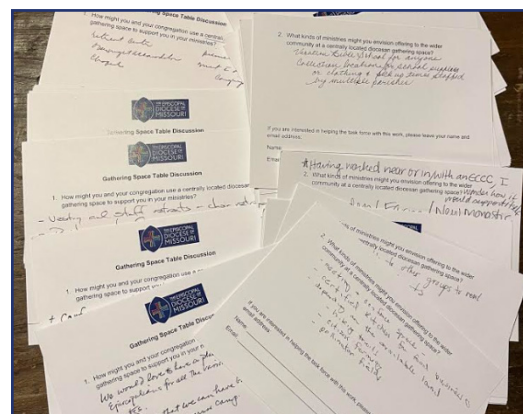


At the 183rd Convention last November, all delegates, priests, and guests participated in table conversations about this potential gathering space and were asked to answer two questions to help assist the task force in our work. Close to 130 response cards were gathered and with the added help of an additional task force co-chair, the Rev. Kevin McGrane (Trinity, St. James), and Ms. Katie Ong, a consultant for our diocese, we're processing through those responses for common themes and priorities. But we need more input from everyone in the Diocese!

If you and your family have not yet had the opportunity to fill out the survey, please take it now! You can find it on the diocesan website:

[diocesemo.org/blog/survey-from-the-gathering-task-force/](http://diocesemo.org/blog/survey-from-the-gathering-task-force/)

We need your input! Share your thoughts and ideas about a Diocesan Gathering Space with the task force as we continue to discern the feasibility of such a wildly, wonderful, audacious dream!







# Bishop's Medal Recipients

The Rt. Rev. Deon Johnson, Bishop of the Diocese of Missouri, awarded Bishop's Medals Friday, Nov. 18, 2022, during our annual diocesan convention.

## Congratulations to the 2022 Bishop's Medal Recipients:

- **The Rev. Edie Bird**  
Retired / Christ Episcopal Church, Cape Girardeau
- **The Rev. Dn. Paula Hartsfield**  
Grace Episcopal Church, Jefferson City
- **Janet Hinson**  
St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Sikeston
- **Mickey Harrison**  
Hope Episcopal Church, Town & Country
- **Sharon Meusch**  
Christ Episcopal Church, Rolla
- **Clark Davis**  
St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Ladue
- **The Rev. Dn. Betty Bowen**  
Retired / Trinity Episcopal Church, St. Charles
- **Lyn Ballard**  
Grace Episcopal Church, Kirkwood
- **The Rev. Dn. Barbi Click**  
St. Paul's Episcopal Church, St. Louis
- **The Rev. Lu-Anne Conner**  
The Episcopal Church of the Transfiguration, Lake St. Louis
- **Rick Kuhn**  
Emmanuel Episcopal Church, Webster Groves
- **William Young**  
The Episcopal Church of All Saints & Ascension, Northwoods
- **Harold Burroughs**  
Diocesan Chancellor / St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Ladue
- **Canon Desiree Brattin**  
Diocesan Canon for Finance & Administration
- **Trinity Episcopal Church**  
Central West End / St. Louis

The medals are given to individuals and congregations for their outstanding service in our diocese and their community.

Read their stories at  
[diocesemo.org/blog/bishops-medal-recipients](https://diocesemo.org/blog/bishops-medal-recipients)



# New Leadership at Episcopal City Mission

Nathan Ivy becomes new executive director at ministry serving youth in detention



Nathan Ivy, a nonprofit professional with more than two decades of experience serving the disadvantaged and marginalized, is the new executive director at Episcopal City Mission (ECM).

Nathan takes over the leadership of ECM following the retirement of Elizabeth Goad, who served as executive director for 10 years.

Nathan's first day on the job was Jan. 3, 2023. He says he is looking forward to partnering with the ECM board to develop a shared vision and goals for the future. He'll also be working with the staff to facilitate effective operation of ECM, and building relationships with the people critical to the success of the organization.

"Inevitably there will be some changes made," Nathan says, "but only after a thorough assessment of ECM has been conducted."

Nathan is a lifelong St. Louisan, born and raised in Webster Groves. The vast majority of his spiritual upbringing has been in the Church of God In Christ.

You can reach Nathan Ivy at [ecmdirectorstl@gmail.com](mailto:ecmdirectorstl@gmail.com)

**The Diocese celebrates ECM Sunday:  
February 19, 2023**

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ECM's mission is to provide positive programming and caring support for children and teens (up to age 18) in the juvenile justice system.

ECM chaplains offer spiritual programs, guidance and support, and a ministry of presence to children in St. Louis City and County Detention Centers.



Photos: Friends from Emmanuel Episcopal Church in Webster Groves and Christ Church Cathedral in St. Louis hosted the January birthday celebration for youth in detention.





# Stories of Transformation

Inspirational moments from the chaplains at ECM



**EPISCOPAL  
CITY MISSION**

Providing Hope & Healing for Children in Detention

## *Cookies, Cookies and More Cookies*

Can God work through a cookie? Trinity Episcopal Church of St. Charles provided a cookie shower for the kids at the City and County Detention Centers.

On November 18, as I delivered the freshly baked cookies, there was much excitement as I entered each unit and the kids saw all of the various cookies on the cart. I was tickled to watch these teenage guys who are usually pretty "cool" and laid back, get so excited over cookies.

The questions began almost immediately - What kind is that (pointing to one of the bags)? How many can I have? Do you have any brownies? Chocolate chip? What's a snickerdoodle? Other comments came as they ate them: Man! These are fire (meaning really good!) Bro, you should try these! That's what's up! All expressions in their language of slang phrases meaning they really enjoyed them!

Whenever the kids receive gifts, they are encouraged to write thank you notes to show their appreciation. God is at work in the giver and the receiver of the

gift. While reviewing some of the notes, it was awesome to see God at work through this cookie shower provided by Trinity. While all of the notes expressed appreciation, a couple of the notes really touched my heart; because the kids recognized that the cookies were a demonstration of God's love.

"As I bit into those scrumptious cookies, I tasted the love of Jesus."

"I haven't had a cookie that good since my grandmother passed, it really felt and tasted good, thanks for bringing me that feeling again."

"Thank you for keeping us on your heart. God bless your soul."

"Thank God you can bring us cookies and (in) jail."

The expression of the love of God can take many forms. Yes, even in a cookie.

- The Rev. Deborah Burris, ECM Chaplain  
(St. Louis County Juvenile Detention Center)

## *One Kid at a Time*

I recently ran into a boy who had been in detention about five years ago. He is now 21, and I was happy to learn that he is on the right track. He has a job. He has an apartment and is soon to be married!

When I run into kids who have made it out, I always want to know what worked for them. I want to know what enabled them to turn their lives around so that I can use that information to help the children I see in the centers every day.

So, when I asked Effram this question, I was humbled to hear his answer. "It was the fact that you, Chaplain

Dietra, and Chaplain Jeff didn't give up on me."

He continued to say, "I want to thank you for not judging me. I want to thank you for not putting us kids down."

God gives us small victories! It's for this reason that I keep going back into the juvenile detention center – helping one kid at a time!

- The Rev. Kevin Aldridge, ECM Chaplain  
(St. Louis City Juvenile Detention Center)



# Holy Orders

The Diocese of Missouri celebrates the ordinations of new priests and deacons



Erin Pickersgill, Jessica Wachter,  
Ryan Missel, Mtipe Koggani

Dec. 17, 2022

Christ Church Cathedral, St. Louis

## Garron Daniels

Jan. 7, 2023

Chapel of the Apostles  
University of the South  
Sewanee, TN

Transitional Deacon  
Senior at University of the South  
School of Theology

Erin Pickersgill - Priest

Diocesan Staff: Ministry Developer for Children & Youth  
St. Timothy's, Creve Coeur (until June)

Jessica Wachter - Priest-in-Charge  
St. Alban's Episcopal Church, Fulton  
St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Portland

Ryan Missel - Transitional Deacon  
Senior at Virginia Theological Seminary

Mtipe Koganni - Curate & Church Planter  
Christ Church Cathedral, St. Louis  
Grace African Christians Connection, St. Louis



The sacraments  
are outward and  
visible signs of inward  
and spiritual grace,  
given by Christ as  
sure and certain  
means by which we  
receive that grace.

(BCP, 857)







Ordination is the rite in which God gives authority and the grace of the Holy Spirit to those being made bishops, priests, and deacons, through prayer and the laying on of hands by bishops.

(BCP, 860-861)







THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF MISSOURI

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# DioMO Clergy

Bishop Deon Johnson with the priests and deacons of the Diocese of Missouri at the 2022 annual convention.

