

Bishop Don E. Johnson's Journal - 2017

January

1 Sunday The Holy Name. We begin another year in West Tennessee. The typical pattern of office hours continues with my taking Monday as a 'sabbath' or 'day off.' On this first day of the New Year, I preached and celebrated at St. Edward's Chapel, Trezevant Manor, Memphis.

2 Monday Day off

3 Tuesday Met with Ben Toole, Canon Chip Davis, the Rev. Noah Campbell and husband of person in discernment for Holy Orders. Visited person in hospital twice.

4 Wednesday Met with the Rev. Amy George, staff, phone conference regarding Task Force on the Episcopacy to which Presiding Bishop Curry has appointed me as his representative. Visited priest on personal matter. Visited person in hospital.

5 Thursday Conference call on Task Force on the Episcopacy, met with the Rev. Bob Van Doren, the Rev. Neil Raman, sermon preparation.

6 Friday Task Force member consultation, sermon preparation.

7 Saturday Sermon preparation. Joined Jeannie attending 12th Night Party at Thane Mueller's home.

8 First Sunday after the Epiphany. Baptism of Our Lord. Visitation at Calvary, Memphis at which I preached and celebrated at two services. Officiated at Eucharist for Feast of Lights, St. Mary's Cathedral, Memphis.

9 Monday Day off

10 Tuesday Met with Ben Toole, Canon Chip Davis, Task Force member consultation.

11 Wednesday Met with Bill Craddock, staff, the Rev. Ben Badgett, consult with Presiding Bishop's Canon, Jay Philpot (member of St. Columba's Board), the Rev. Tom Momberg, consult with Task Force member.

12 Thursday Picked up vestments from St. John's and visited with the rector, met with the Rev. James Newsom, met with Treasurer Joshua Shipley, Chancellor Andy Cobb, and a priest from Nashville regarding a parishioner.

13 Friday Drove with Jeannie to Sewanee for wedding rehearsal and rehearsal dinner for Elizabeth Gassler and Neil Raman.

14 Saturday Officiated and celebrated at Nuptial Mass for Elizabeth Gassler and Neil Raman at Sewanee at the seminary's chapel.¹⁵

15 Second Sunday after the Epiphany. Open Sunday. Returned from Gassler-Raman wedding at Sewanee.

16 Monday Day off

17 Tuesday Met with Ben Toole, Canon Chip Davis, Sherry Fairbanks, and Vestry leadership of Annunciation, Cordova.

18 Wednesday Met with Roger Wolcott, Finance Committee, and members of Annunciation, Cordova. Met with Canon Chip Davis.

19 Thursday Met with Miranda Nelson, and the Rev. Smokey Oates regarding his work at St. Francis.

- 20 Friday Met with group working on revised diocesan Canons. Met with group from United Way regarding possibility of St. Francis' Society funding of local ministry project. Inauguration day for Donald Trump as President.
- 21 Saturday Sermon preparation. Joined Jeannie in the Women's March in Memphis.
- 22 Third Sunday after the Epiphany.** Met with Faith Community at Annunciation, Cordova.
- 23 Monday Day off
- 24 Tuesday Met with Ben Toole, Canon Davis, and Alicia Anderson. Sermon preparation.
- 25 Wednesday Met with the Rev. Jamie Cubine, Mary Margaret Winn, and staff.
- 26 Thursday Preached and celebrated a Eucharist and then chaired Bishop and Council meeting. Began Pre-Lenten retreat preparation.
- 27 Friday Pre-Lenten retreat preparation. Met with members of the Standing Committee. Continued Pre-Lenten retreat preparation.
- 28 Saturday Sermon preparation.
- 29 Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany.** Preached and celebrated at two services at St. Elisabeth's and then took rector and wife to lunch with Jeannie.
- 30 Monday Day off.
- 31 Tuesday Met with Ben Toole, the Rev. Lisa McIndoo, Canon Chip Davis, Jay Philpot.

February

- 1 Wednesday Met with Colleen Butterick, staff. Preparation for immigration protest statement.
- 2 Thursday Met with the Rev. Broderick Greer. Picked up the Rev. Eric Law from airport and Jeannie and I took him out for dinner.
- 3 Friday Met with Joe Naimie; visited St. Ann's for portion of Eric Law's "Holy Currencies" workshop, paperwork, and attended opening of Pam Hassler's art show with Jeannie.
- 4 Saturday Sermon preparation.
- 5 Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany.** Preached and celebrated at St. James', Bolivar visitation. Took Eric Law back to airport.
- 6 Monday Day off. Visited lay person in hospital.
- 7 Tuesday Met with Ben Toole, Canon Chip Davis, ran errands for EfM workshop materials for Jeannie.
- 8 Wednesday Met with staff, office paperwork. Continued preparations for Pre-Lenten retreat.
- 9 Thursday Office. Met with rector and vestry members from St. Luke's, Jackson and with Mayor Franklin of Christ Church, Brownsville.
- 10 Friday Went by St. John's, Memphis to meet with Rector. Office. Sermon preparation.
- 11 Saturday Sermon preparation.

- 12 Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany.** Preached and celebrated twice at Holy Apostles', Collierville visitation.
- 13 Monday Day off.
- 14 Tuesday Met with Ben Toole, returned vestments to St. John's, Canon Chip Davis and took Jeannie to Valentine's Day dinner.
- 15 Wednesday Met with staff. Attended Sewanee fund raiser at Loftin Yards with the Rev. Lisa McIndoo as Diocesan communications officer.
- 16 Thursday Met with Chancellor Cobb. Office. Took car to be serviced.
- 17 Friday Family Systems' Group meeting on line. Visited clergy at Grace-St. Luke's.
- 18 Saturday Sermon preparation. Met with vestry persons at Ravenscroft Chapel.
- 19 Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany.** Preached and celebrated twice at St. Andrew's, Collierville visitation. Celebrated and preached at Happening closing service at St. Columba.
- 20 -22 Monday- Wednesday Flew to Baltimore for meeting of Task Force on the Episcopacy at the Maritime Institute. Returned on Wednesday the 22nd.
- 23-24 Thursday-Friday Diocesan work from home. Pre-Lenten retreat preparation.
- 25 Saturday Sermon preparation.
- 26 Last Sunday after the Epiphany.** Preached and celebrated at St. Mary's, Dyersburg visitation.
- 27 Monday Led Pre-Lenten retreat for clergy at St. Columba.
- 28 Tuesday Met with Ben Toole, Canon Chip Davis.

March

- 1 Ash Wednesday Attended Ash Wednesday service, met with staff, met with rector on personnel matter.
- 2 Thursday Office. Met with Met Crump.
- 3 Friday Office.
- 4 Saturday Sermon preparation. Attended event sponsored by the Memphis Islamic Center.
- 5 First Sunday in Lent.** Preached and celebrated at All Saints', Memphis visitation.
- 6 Monday Day off.
- 7 Tuesday Met with Ben Toole, Canon Chip Davis, and EfM group gathering, and with the Rev. Jerry Crook.
- 8-13 Wednesday – Monday Attended House of Bishops' meeting at Kanuga Conference Center in North Carolina.
- 14 Tuesday Met with Ben Toole, and Canon Chip Davis.
- 15 Wednesday Met with staff, Finance Committee
- 16 Thursday Office.
- 17 Friday Office. Met with Canon Chip Davis.
- 18 Saturday Sermon preparation. Drove Jeannie to Ravenscroft Chapel to present information concerning Kaleidoscope Institute initiative for the Diocese.
- 19 Third Sunday in Lent.** Preached and celebrated at Trinity, Mason visitation.
- 20 Monday Day off. Met with priest regarding a deployment issue.

- 21 Tuesday Met with Ben Toole, Conference call with Task Force on the Episcopacy, met with Canon Chip Davis.
- 22 Wednesday Met with staff, sermon preparation. Met with Treasurer Joshua Shipley, and Chancellor Andy Cobb.
- 23 Thursday Preached and celebrated at Eucharist before chairing Bishop and Council meeting. Met with priest regarding parish issues.
- 24 Friday Office.
- 25 Saturday Sermon preparation. Met with couple for pre-marital counselling. Attended jazz concert with Jeannie and EfM friends.
- 26 Fourth Sunday in Lent.** Preached and celebrated at Christ Church, Brownsville visitation. Attended an art show of pieces by Jerry Williamson at the Memphis Jewish Community Center. Hosted with Jeannie a pre-wedding party for Elizabeth Gassler and Neil Raman at our home.
- 27-31 Monday-Friday Flew to Los Angeles to be with my friends, Bishop Jon and Mary Bruno.

April

- 1 Saturday Return from Los Angeles. Sermon preparation. Celebrate with Jeannie and the Rev. Sam Cross our 40th anniversary of ordination to the priesthood by going out to dinner. While not on this date, it was as close to the anniversary date as we could all get together.
- 2 Fifth Sunday in Lent.** Preached and celebrated at St. Matthew's, Covington visitation.
- 3 Monday Day off.
- 4 Tuesday Met with Ben Toole, and Canon Chip Davis.
- 5-6 Wednesday-Thursday Flew to New Bern, North Carolina for College for Bishops' Board meeting.
- 7 Friday Office. Interviewed candidate for chaplain at St. George's Independent School.
- 8 Saturday Sermon preparation. Drove Jeannie to Ravenscroft Chapel for presentation on Kaleidoscope Institute materials.
- 9 Palm Sunday** Start of Holy Week cycle. I attended services at St. John's, Memphis.
- 10 Monday Day off.
- 11 Tuesday Celebrated at Chrism Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral. Lunch for clergy followed. Met with Canon Chip Davis. Met with Cathedral Committee.
- 12 Wednesday Met with staff.
- 13 Maundy Thursday Attended liturgy at St. Andrew's, Collierville.
- 14 Good Friday Attended liturgy.
- 15 Saturday Sermon preparation. Visited with the Rev. Amy George. Met with Colleen Butterick.
- 16 Easter Sunday** Preached and celebrated at St. Mary's Cathedral, Memphis.

17-22 Monday-Saturday Jeannie and I are taking a few days off together visiting Bishop Jon and Mary Bruno in Los Angeles. Sermon preparation and work on draft Missions' Manual for Diocese.

23 Second Sunday of Easter. Preached and celebrated at Immanuel Church, LaGrange.

24 Monday Day off. Recalling with thanksgiving today that this is the 40th anniversary of my ordination to the priesthood. Met with Lynn Schmissrauter, diocesan consultant to the Standing Committee for the election of my successor bishop.

25 Tuesday Drove to Meridian, Mississippi for funeral of Bishop Chip Marble.

26 Wednesday Met with staff. Speak with bishop about deployment of one of our priests. Met with candidate for Rector of Calvary. Met with Priest about personal matter. Met with priest about deployment and with Faith Community about clergy placement.

27 Thursday Office and sermon preparation. Met with leaders at Grace-St. Luke's, Memphis.

28-29 Friday – Saturday Jeannie and I drove to Nashville to celebrate the 50th anniversary of my high school graduation from Battle Ground Academy. We expanded the scope of the trip to allow us to take Bishop Bill Sanders and his wife, Marlin, to lunch for a long overdue visit.

30 Third Sunday of Easter. Preached and celebrated at visitation to Church of the Holy Communion, Memphis. Went to dinner with Chip and Cathy Davis'.

May

1 Monday Day off.

2 Tuesday Met with Ben Toole, the Rev. Ben Badgett, Chancellor Andy Cobb, and Canon Chip Davis.

3 Wednesday Met with staff. Met with Methodist pastor regarding a ministry partnership possibility. Met with couple about getting married at Trinity in the Fields, Mason. Met with Dean Andy Andrews.

4 Thursday Office. Drove to Brownville to meet with Mayor Franklin Smith regarding the needs for medical coverage in the area where clinics and hospitals have closed.

5 Friday Office. Met with Chancellor Andy Cobb. Sermon preparation. Met with Senior Warden about a parish matter.

6 Saturday Sermon preparation. Drove to Union City to meet with Vestry after stopping by St. Anne's to support the efforts of local faith communities to use the Kaleidoscope Institute materials to assist in addressing local ministry development needs.

7 Fourth Sunday of Easter. Preached and celebrated twice at St. James, Union City visitation. Joined Canon Davis and Province IV Deployment Officers for their dinner as part of their gathering in the Diocese.

8 Monday Day off. Joined Province IV Deployment Officers for Eucharistic celebration.

9 Tuesday Met with Ben Toole.

10 Wednesday Met with staff. Met with recently ordained clergy.

11 Thursday Office. Worked on Task Force on the Episcopacy. Attended with Jeannie the wedding dinner for John Leach and his fiancé, Sarah, at the Memphis Country Club.

- 12 Friday Office. Met with staff. Met with Brad Thompson regarding St. Columba development efforts. Attended wake for Joyce Cobb's sister.
- 13 Saturday Sermon preparation.
- 14 Fifth Sunday of Easter.** Preached and celebrated at St. John's, Memphis visitation. Joined rector, his wife and other parishioners for lunch with Jeannie. Sermon preparation.
- 15 Monday Day off. Wedding rehearsal for Ms. Elizabeth Dunnam and Ms. Kelsey Cook. Then Jeannie and I joined the brides with their family and friends for a wedding feast at Interim Restaurant.
- 16 Tuesday Met with Ben Toole, and Canon Chip Davis. Officiated, preached at and celebrated Nuptial Mass of Elizabeth Dunnam and Kelsey Cook's at Grace-St. Luke's. It was a lovely occasion, and I was honored to be part of it. Jeannie and I felt that in some ways were able to be surrogate parents for Elizabeth since her parents, Dottie and the Rev. Mark Dunnam were not able to be present for the occasion, but were serving St. James' in Florence, Italy. Attended wedding at St. Mary's Cathedral.
- 17 Wednesday Met with staff. Attended Finance Committee.
- 18 Thursday Visited clergy as Grace-St. Luke's, and Holy Apostles. Sermon preparation. Met by phone with the Dean of the Seminary of the Southwest regarding the possibility of a placement for a seminarian at the Seminary as a student. Met with Justin Merrick, new youth director at St. Mary's Cathedral, Memphis. Met with the Rev. Clay Calhoun from the Diocese of Kansas.
- 19 Friday Met with the Rev. Steve Montgomery. Staff meeting. Jeannie and I drove to Bon Terre in Nesbit Mississippi for the wedding rehearsal and rehearsal dinner for Brent Matseas and Lori Bidwell.
- 20 Saturday Preached and officiated at wedding of Brent Matseas and Lori Bidwell. Sermon preparation.
- 21 Sixth Sunday of Easter.** Preached and celebrated at Holy Trinity, Memphis visitation. Attended farewell party honoring the Rev. Richard Lawson and his family as they leave Grace-St. Luke's, Memphis for Colorado where Richard will become the Dean of the Cathedral. He will be missed.
- 22 Monday Day off. Participated in the St. Mary's School graduation.
- 23 Tuesday Conference call with Task Force on the Episcopacy, met with Ben Toole, and Canon Chip Davis. Visited lay person in hospital. Later I returned to visit two lay persons in hospital.
- 24 Wednesday-Friday Jeannie and I drove to the high school graduation of our nephew, Connor.
- 27 Saturday Sermon preparation.
- 28 Seventh Sunday of Easter.** Preached and celebrated at St. Anne's, Millington visitation. Hosted the Rev. Sandy Webb and his fiancé, Jessica Johnson for dinner.
- 29 Monday Day off. Memorial Day.
- 30 Tuesday Met with Ben Toole, and Canon Chip Davis. Assisted with Jeannie's EFM dinner party.
- 31 Wednesday Met with staff. Reviewed Barth House renovation plans. Jeannie and I celebrate our 42nd wedding anniversary today.

June

- 1 Thursday Preached and celebrated before chairing Bishop and Council meeting. Office. Joined Jeannie and visited with Charleton and Dianne Lyons to see their lovely home and gardens.
- 2 Friday Office. Attended the Diocesan Night at the Redbirds' Stadium. This was accomplished by the enthusiastic leadership of Ruthie McLain of Calvary, Memphis.
- 3 Saturday Sermon preparation. Attended the "Against Gun Violence" rally. Attended the St. Columba Feast fund raiser.
- 4 **Day of Pentecost.** Celebrated at Holy Apostles' 50th Anniversary.
- 5-10 Monday-Saturday Drove to Kanuga Conference Center for Province IV House of Bishops' meeting followed by Province IV Synod meeting followed on Saturday, June 10 the blessing of the marriage of Alex Harris and her husband who were previously married in a civil ceremony in New Zealand.
- 11 **First Sunday after Pentecost. Trinity Sunday.** Preached and celebrated at Trinity in the Fields, Mason.
- 12 Monday Day off.
- 13 Tuesday Met with Ben Toole, and Canon Chip Davis. Conference Call with Task Force on the Episcopacy. Visited with lay person to request financial support of St. Columba capital expansion project.
- 14 Wednesday Met with staff.
- 15 Thursday Office. Today I met with the Standing Committee to inform them that I have decided to call for the election of my successor as Bishop of West Tennessee. They were gracious in receiving the information and began to move immediately to put in place the mechanisms needed for this transition. I have emphasized that I will not be part of this process and that while I would be available to clarify any questions that I could, I would be entrusting the process to them as is provided for in the canons.
- 16 Friday Office. Met with person to request financial support of St. Columba capital expansion project. Dropped off food at the Men's Shelter.
- 17 Saturday Attended St. Columba's Camp Able 'graduation' from this year's summer camp. Moving experience indeed. I attended the wedding of Lizzy Holt and Matt Yatsula at the Church of the Holy Communion.
- 18 **Second Sunday after Pentecost.** Father's Day. I preached and celebrated at St. Mary's Cathedral.
- 19 Monday Day off. Took car in to be serviced.
- 20 Tuesday Met with Ben Toole, and Canon Chip Davis. College for Bishops' conference call with Director and Lee Davis Thames, another Board member.
- 21 Wednesday Office. Met with the Rev. John Sewell, and with a priest about visitation planning.
- 22 Thursday Met with newly ordained. Office. Drove to Jackson to visit lay person in hospital. Met with the Rev. Katherine Bush. Met with Wardens from St. John's, Memphis. Met with a rector about parish and personnel issues. Met with staff.
- 23 Friday Met with Bill Craddock, with Doug Smith, drove to Jackson to visit three lay persons in hospital.

- 24 Saturday
- 25 Third Sunday after Pentecost.** Attended Education for Ministry graduation at St. John's, Memphis with Jeannie.
- 26 Monday Day off. Took phone to Apple Store.
- 27 Tuesday Met with Ben Toole, and Canon Chip Davis. Met with College for Bishops Executive Committee by conference call. Met with clergy regarding personal matter. Met with representative of St. Francis regarding possible sites for Thistle and Bee ministry that would use buildings at Good Shepherd, Memphis.
- 28 Wednesday Met with financial representative of person I have asked to support the capital expansion plan at St. Columba. I received a strong and generous gift that will be announced before long to the Diocese. Drove back to Jackson to visit persons in hospital.
- 29 Thursday Dropped by food donation to Men's Shelter. Met with priest regarding deployment. Staff meeting.
- 30 Friday Met with clergy person and his fiancé. This is my sixteenth ordination anniversary as Bishop of West Tennessee in 2001. It is a great privilege and a great diocese in which to serve.

July

- 1 Saturday
- 2 Fourth Sunday after Pentecost.** I worshipped today at St. Louis Roman Catholic Church. It is always a bit strange to not receive the Sacrament, but being in the Presence of God is not a bad fallback position! I enjoyed meeting the Rev. Sam Cross and Jeannie for lunch after the liturgy at St. Louis.
- 3 Monday Day off.
- 4 Tuesday Independence Day. Day off.
- 5 Wednesday Attended and spoke at Mud Camp with campers. Made the plunge into the Mud Hole. Met with staff. Met with priest regarding personal and parish matters.
- 6 Thursday Met with Ben Toole, with the Rev. Eyleen Farmer and did a walk around tour of the property at the Church of the Good Shepherd to test whether it might be a good site to assist in the development of a ministry. Met with staff and current diocesan Treasurer to begin work on 2018 diocesan budget. Met with Matt Crow, former Diocesan Treasurer. Met with lay person regarding parish matter.
- 7 Friday Office. Met with representatives of the Church of the Good Shepherd. Met with Chancellor Andy Cobb.
- 8 Saturday Sermon preparation.
- 9 Fifth Sunday after Pentecost.** Preached and celebrated at the Church of the Annunciation. Afterward, I joined the Rev. Noah Campbell and Alyson Campbell for lunch.
- 10 Monday Day off.
- 11 Tuesday Met with Ben Toole, and Canon Chip Davis. Met with priest at Good Shepherd regarding the use of church properties to develop a community outreach partnership at Good Shepherd.
- 12 Wednesday Met with staff. Met with the Rev. Gayle McCarty, and Chancellor Andy Cobb.

- 13 Thursday Office. Dropped off food at the Men's Shelter. Met with priest concerning a personal matter.
- 14 Friday Office.
- 15 Saturday Paperwork.
- 16 Sixth Sunday after Pentecost.** Open Sunday.
- 17 Monday Day off.
- 18 Tuesday Met with Ben Toole, and Canon Chip Davis.
- 19 Wednesday Met with staff. Met with Amanda McGriff regarding discernment for Holy Orders.
- 20 Thursday Office. Visited clergy person in hospital.
- 21 Friday Office. Met with staff.
- 22 Saturday Paperwork.
- 23 Seventh Sunday after Pentecost.** Open Sunday.
- 24-26 Monday-Wednesday Task Force on the Episcopacy meeting at Maritime Institute, Maryland.
- 27 Thursday Office.
- 28 Friday Met with Ben Toole, and Canon Chip Davis (at the Davis' new home in Senatobia, Mississippi.)
- 29 Saturday Sermon preparation.
- 30 Eighth Sunday after Pentecost.** Preach and celebrate at Calvary, Memphis visitation.
- 31 Monday Day off. Met with Ben Toole. Attended the Rev. Reynolds Cheney's funeral.

August

- 1 Tuesday Office. Attended meeting concerned with the effect of ICE raids in Memphis area against immigrants and non-immigrants as a means of intimidation.
- 2 Wednesday Office. Met with priest regarding staffing issue, with candidate for Holy Orders, and with priest about interim work.
- 3 Thursday Office.
- 4 Friday Office.
- 5 Saturday Sermon preparation.
- 6 The Transfiguration of our Lord.** Preached and celebrated at St. Paul's, Mason visitation.
- 7 Monday Day off. Attended Immigration welcome event for children starting back to school at Oak Forest School.
- 8 Tuesday Met with Ben Toole, and Canon Chip Davis. Met with group working on immigration issues.
- 9 Wednesday Met with staff. Met with Doug Smith, former Diocesan Treasurer and Brad Thompson regarding St. Columba development efforts. Met with Canon Chip Davis.
- 10 Thursday Office.
- 11 Friday Office.
- 12 Saturday Sermon preparation

- 13 Tenth Sunday after Pentecost.** Preached and celebrated and baptized two at Immanuel, Ripley visitation. Dedicated the newly completed Immanuel parish hall.
- 14 Monday Day off. Met with Canon Chip Davis.
- 15 Tuesday Met with Ben Toole.
- 16 Wednesday Met with staff, and Finance Committee.
- 17 Thursday Office. Met with staff.
- 18-20 Friday-Sunday Drove to Laymen's Conference at DuBose. Preached and celebrated on Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost.
- 21-22 Monday-Tuesday Clergy Conference. Met with Canon Chip Davis. Met with Ben Toole.
- 23 Wednesday Met with staff. Met with priest about a deployment matter.
- 24 Thursday Preached and celebrated before chairing Bishop and Council meeting. Met with priest about a ministry development matter.
- 25 Friday Office. Took car to dealership for repair. Made pastoral call on non-Episcopalian.
- 26 Saturday Sermon preparation.
- 27 Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost.** Preached and celebrated at Calvary, Memphis.
- 28 Monday Day off.
- 29 Tuesday Met with Ben Toole, and Canon Chip Davis. Met with Dean Andy Andrews.
- 30 Wednesday Met with staff. Conference call with College for Bishops' Board. Met with person considering discernment for Holy Orders.
- 31 Thursday Office. Met with lay person regarding ministry development option.

September

- 1-19 Friday-Tuesday Jeannie and I were on vacation during this time. I did meet by phone with the Task Force on the Episcopacy, but otherwise it was a relatively relaxing 'staycation'. On the 3rd, I attended the funeral visitation of Bess Vieron, Fr. Vieron's wife of many years. I met with Ben Toole on the 5th, 12th and 19th. On the 5th, I assisted Jeannie host an EfM dinner to kick off the EfM group's fall meeting schedule. I contacted Gary Meade, the President of the Standing Committee regarding my call for the election of my successor bishop. I met with Colleen Butterick regarding a psychological exam matter with which she had been assisting for some time. I met by phone with the episcopal election process consultant on the 13th. On the 14th, I attended a Thistle and Bee dinner in support of that ministry. I met with Good Shepherd's vestry on the 17th.
- 20-30 Wednesday-Saturday I attended the House of Bishops' meeting in Fairbanks, Alaska. I will continue to unpack this remarkable experience through sermons and other writing. By the 30th I was home and able to assist the Rev. Sam Cross move into his new home in Collierville.

October

- 1 Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost.** I preached and celebrated at the St. Thomas Somerville visitation.

- 2 Monday Day off.
- 3 Tuesday Met with Ben Toole, and Canon Chip Davis. Staff meeting. Jeannie and I celebrated with son, Gordon, and his wife, Emily, their wedding anniversary.
- 4 Wednesday Met with staff. Sermon preparation. Celebrated grandson's birthday.
- 5 Thursday I flew to Atlanta and back for a meeting of the College for Bishops' board.
- 6 Friday Office. Met with Bill Craddock.
- 7 Saturday
- 8 Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost.** Open Sunday. Jeannie and I had lunch with the Rev. Sam Cross.
- 9 Monday Day off. Celebrated Goddaughter Margaret Rose Stilling's first birthday.
- 10 Tuesday Met with Ben Toole, and Canon Chip Davis.
- 11 Wednesday Met with staff.
- 12-14 Thursday- Saturday Flew to Chancellors' and Bishops' Conference in Wilmington, North Carolina. Returned to do sermon preparation. Drove to Paris for visitation.
- 15 Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost.** Preached and celebrated at Grace, Paris visitation.
- 16 Monday Day off.
- 17 Tuesday Met with Ben Toole, and Canon Chip Davis.
- 18 Wednesday Met with staff. Met Treasurer, Joshua Shipley. Conference call for the Task Force on the Episcopacy. Attended Finance Committee meeting. Sermon preparation.
- 19 Thursday Office. Met the Rev. Patrick Williams, newly arrived to serve on St. Mary's Cathedral staff.
- 20 Friday Drove to Nashville to celebrate my mother's 90th birthday.
- 21 Saturday Mother's birthday celebration. Sermon preparation.
- 22 Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost.** Preached and celebrated at annual Harvest Festival, Immanuel, LaGrange.
- 23 Monday Day off.
- 24 Tuesday Met with Ben Toole, and Canon Chip Davis. Sermon preparation. Conference call with Province IV Officers where I serve as Vice-President.
- 25 Wednesday Met with staff. Sermon preparation. Met with Treasurer, Joshua Shipley.
- 26 Thursday Preached and celebrated before chairing Bishop and Council meeting. Consulted with bishop about priest's deployment.
- 27 Friday Office. Sermon preparation.
- 28 Saturday Sermon preparation. Preached and celebrated at healing Eucharist for St. Andrew's, Collierville.
- 29 Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost.** Preached and celebrated at Ravenscroft Chapel visitation. Preached at the Reformation Sunday celebration at Church of the Holy Communion, Memphis.
- 30 Monday Day off.
- 31 Tuesday Met with Ben Toole, and Canon Chip Davis, Joshua Shipley, Doug Smith and Matt Crow for lunch to work on draft Diocesan budget for 2018 and discuss other projects with funding implications.

November

- 1 Wednesday Met with staff. Met with Jack Gibson.
- 2 Thursday Took auto to dealership. Convention preparations.
- 3 Friday Office. Met with Election Consultant for West Tennessee. Conference call with Task Force on the Episcopacy. Met with Jack Gibson. Drove to St. Luke's, Jackson to meet with Vestry and Priest in Charge.
- 4 Saturday Sermon preparation. Met with Kaleidoscope Institute diocesan staffers. Convention preparations.
- 5 Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost.** Preached and celebrated at Good Shepherd, Memphis visitation.
- 6 Monday Day off. Conference call with Province IV Officers.
- 7 Tuesday Voted on Election Day. Met with Ben Toole, and Canon Chip Davis. Visited priest in hospital.
- 8 Wednesday Met with staff, and Finance Committee. Sermon preparation. Convention preparation.
- 9 Thursday Preached and celebrated before chairing Bishop and Council meeting. Attended Thistle and Bee fundraiser. Dropped off food at Men's Shelter.
- 10 Friday Office.
- 11 Saturday Sermon preparation.
- 12 Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost.** Preached and visited twice at Grace-St. Luke's, Memphis visitation. Taught adult Sunday School class. Provided luncheon for St. Mary's Young Adult group luncheon at Restaurant 1912.
- 13 Monday Day off.
- 14 Tuesday Met with Ben Toole, and Canon Chip Davis. Convention address preparation.
- 15 Wednesday Met with staff. Daughter, Laura, celebrates her birthday today at home in Washington, D.C.
- 16 Thursday Office and sermon preparation. Convention preparation.
- 17-18 Friday-Saturday Chaired Annual Diocesan Convention at St. Luke's, Jackson. The preparation by the folks at St. Luke's was thorough and it was a positive experience of the Diocese working together. St. Luke's rector, the Rev. Gayle McCarty, did a fine job organizing the workers who in their own turn did great work in organizing the Convention activities. I chaired the convention and preached and celebrated at the Convention Eucharist as well as delivered the Convention address. Visited lay person in hospital.
- 19 Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost.** Open Sunday
- 20 Monday Day off. Met with priest about deployment.
- 21 Tuesday Met with Ben Toole, and Canon Chip Davis. Conference call for Task Force on the Episcopacy.
- 22-24 Wednesday-Friday Thanksgiving Holiday for staff.
- 25 Saturday Sermon preparation.
- 26 Last Sunday after Pentecost.** Preached and celebrated at Emmanuel Church, Memphis and met with Vestry. Visited lay person in hospital.
- 27 Monday Day off. Flew to Charlotte, North Carolina for funeral of Ann Daniel, spouse of Bishop Clifton Daniel and truly a lovely human being.
- 28 Tuesday Met with Ben Toole, and Canon Chip Davis. Met with staff.

- 29 Wednesday Met with staff. Met with priest concerning deployment. Met with priest about personal matter.
- 30 Thursday Office. Met with priest about staffing matter.

December

- 1 Friday Drove to Knoxville for ordination of the Rev. Brian Cole as Bishop of East Tennessee.
- 2 Saturday Returned from Knoxville. Sermon preparation. Daughter in law, Emily, celebrates her birthday today.
- 3 First Sunday of Advent.** Preached and celebrated twice at St. Philip, Memphis.
- 4 Monday Day off. Conference call with Task Force on the Episcopacy. Met with Ben Toole.
- 5 Tuesday Office. Consultation regarding parish matter. Purchased supplies for upcoming Clergy Advent Party.
- 6-14 Wednesday-Thursday Left with Jeannie for Province IV House of Bishops' meeting at the conference center of the Diocese of Alabama, conference call with Task Force on the Episcopacy, flew to ordination of the Rev. Kevin Brown as Bishop of Delaware who I have now had the privilege of ordaining three times: deacon, priest, and now as bishop. Took train with Jeannie to New York City to attend Council of Advice for the Presiding Bishop. Due to flight cancellation Jeannie and I returned on the 14th just in time to host the annual Clergy Advent Party at our home. Our son, Gordon, and our daughter in law, Emily, and John Denton pulled all the preparations together for the party, and it went off without a hitch.
- 15 Friday Met with Ben Toole, and Canon Chip Davis. Office.
- 16 Saturday Sermon preparation.
- 17 Third Sunday of Advent.** Preached and celebrated twice at St. George's, Germantown visitation and taught Sunday School Class. Jeannie and I joined the rector and her husband for lunch.
- 18 Monday Day off. Conference call with Task Force on the Episcopacy.
- 19 Tuesday Met with Ben Toole, and Canon Chip Davis. Assisted Jeannie in hosting the Education for Ministry Christmas dinner at our home.
- 20-22 Wednesday-Friday Christmas break for Diocesan staff. Met with priest about deployment. Delivered food to the Men's Shelter. Met to discuss wedding plans for the Rev. Sandy Webb and Jessica Johnson. Took food to Constance Abbey. Office. Delivered Christmas gifts. Sermon preparation.
- 23 Saturday Sermon preparation.
- 24 Fourth Sunday of Advent / Christmas Eve.** Preached and celebrated at Christmas eve Eucharists at Ravenscroft Chapel and at St. Mary's Cathedral.
- 25 Christmas Day.** Christmas day spent at home with family.
- 26 Tuesday Met with Ben Toole.
- 27-28 Wednesday-Thursday Office closed for Christmas holiday. Met with the Rev. Jerry Crook. Attended wedding rehearsal and dinner for the Rev. Sandy Webb and Jessica Johnson.
- 29 Thursday Celebrated and blessed the marriage of Sandy Webb and Jessica Johnson at Grace-St. Luke's, Memphis.

30 Saturday Sermon preparation.

31 First Sunday after Christmas Day. Preached and celebrated at St. Edward's Chapel at Trezevant, Memphis visitation.

2017 Official Acts – Bishop Don Johnson

Celebrant for Holy Eucharists: 56
Sermons preached: 60
Sunday School classes: 3

Confirmations: 113
Receptions: 17
Reaffirmations: 18

Officiant for:

Baptisms: 14
Weddings: 5
Funerals: 1
Other: 4

Consultations:

Clergy: 47
Lay: 81

Meetings:

Diocesan groups: 24
Diocesan officers: 12
Staff: 84
Other: 82

House of Bishops: 40
The Episcopal Church: 13

Hospital / Pastoral visits:

Clergy: 5
Lay: 21