



# Episcopal Diocese

— OF CENTRAL FLORIDA —

## Fifty-sixth Annual Diocesan Convention January 24 - 25, 2025

**Topic:** Central Deanery Report

**Presenter:** The Rt. Rev. Dr. Justin S. Holcomb

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**The Very Rev. Dr. Dave Johnson**

*Rector, Episcopal Church of the Resurrection, Longwood*

*Installed October 2022*

*Dean as of 2024 Diocesan Convention*

**Mrs. Terri Sims, Deanery President**

*President as of 2022 Diocesan Convention*

Number of Churches in Deanery:	25
Number of Priests in Deanery:	60
Number of Deacons in Deanery:	22
Number of Schools in Deanery:	6
Number of Parishioners in Deanery:	8,389

### Deanery Ministry

In February we had a clericus gathering at Good Shepherd, Maitland and were honored to be joined by the late Bishop Dabney Smith. In April we had a lunch at Holy Cross, Sanford and three of our colleagues (Rev. Alison Harrity, Very Rev. Dr. Reggie Kidd, and Rev. Tom Rutherford) shared about avoiding clergy burnout. In May we had a clergy and spouse dinner at Good Shepherd, Maitland and were honored to have the late Bishop Dabney Smith and his wife Mary Wallis share about marriage and family care for clergy. In July we had a lunch at Resurrection, Longwood with the Very Rev. Dr. Paul Zahl, who shared about "Grace in Pastoral Ministry." Our scheduled September gathering was cancelled due to a hurricane. In November we had a gathering at Emmanuel, Orlando for the Installation of the Most Rev. Sean Rowe as the new Presiding Bishop. In December we had a lunch gathering at Seasons 52 in Altamonte

Springs. We were also honored to attend the ordinations to the priesthood of the Rev. Jim Christoph at St. Richard's, Winter Park and the Rev. Stephanie Soper at Ascension, Orlando.

### **Lilly Grant Report**

Lilly grant funds allocated to the Central Deanery were used to cover the costs of some of the events mentioned above - specifically the April lunch at Holy Cross, Sanford, the May clergy and spouse dinner at Good Shepherd, Maitland, the July lunch at Resurrection, Longwood, and the December lunch at Seasons 52.

In addition, the allocated funds were used to cover the costs of many lunches I had with Central Deanery clergy for collegiality and pastoral support.



# Episcopal Diocese

— OF CENTRAL FLORIDA —

## Fifty-sixth Annual Diocesan Convention January 24 - 25, 2025

**Topic:** Northeast Deanery Report

**Presenter:** The Rt. Rev. Dr. Justin S. Holcomb

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**The Very Rev. Jason Murbarger**  
*Rector, St. Mary's, Daytona Beach*  
*Installed November 2016*  
*Dean as of 2023 Diocesan Convention*

**Dr. Rick Lentz, Deanery President**  
*President as of 2024 Diocesan Convention*

Number of Churches in Deanery:	11
Number of Priests in Deanery:	20
Number of Deacons in Deanery:	13
Number of Schools in Deanery:	2
Number of Parishioners in Deanery:	2,775

### Deanery Ministry

Our Deanery began 2024 with a Clericus hosted at St. Mary's and led by Bishop Dabney Smith. Bishop Dabney wanted to use it as an opportunity to call us to focus on becoming more interrelated as clergy in the Diocese. It was a well-attended event, and everyone enjoyed our time together. We also discussed Outreach dollars and shared projects that we could participate in. At our next Clericus we decided as a deanery to allocate shared funds for the purpose of strengthening three local ministries: Kairos Outside, Grandparents Raising Grandchildren of Volusia County, and Barracks of Hope.

Two other Deanery events were held in the fourth quarter, one was a Healing and Forgiveness Workshop held in mid-October at St. Barnabas in Deland featuring The Rev. Rose Sapp-Bax as the guest speaker and then in early November, St. Mary's Daytona Beach held a Grieving

Through the Holidays program with an Intro to Walking the Mourner's Path led by Connie Wilson and Simone Hoover.

On November 8th, all of the active Clergy in the Deanery were invited to a special dinner event at Chucherias in Daytona Beach. This meal was scheduled at the request of Bishop Dabney, who passed before the event was held. We used the time to continue to build our relationships with each other, which was one of his great desires for the Diocese of Central Florida. The evening began with a prayer and a toast in Bishop Dabney's honor offered by our former Dean, The Rev. Fr. Roy Allison of St. James, Ormond Beach.

### **Lilly Grant Report**

The Northeast Deanery was able to use approximately \$10,000 in Lilly Grant funds for all of our shared outreach ministry projects, our Clergy Dinner, and for our two workshops. The funds provided by Lilly have been a true blessing to us in 2024, and we pray that we will have continued opportunity to help them use and multiply the strength of their resources in a way that will bless others in the future.



# Episcopal Diocese

— OF CENTRAL FLORIDA —

## Fifty-sixth Annual Diocesan Convention January 24 - 25, 2025

**Topic:** Northwest Deanery Report

**Presenter:** The Rt. Rev. Dr. Justin S. Holcomb

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**The Very Rev. Lisa Wimmer**

*Rector, St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Belleview*

*Installed April 2015*

*Dean as of 2022 Diocesan Convention*

**Mr. Frederick Heitman, Deanery President**

*President as of 2023 Diocesan Convention*

Number of Churches in Deanery:	14
Number of Priests in Deanery:	36
Number of Deacons in Deanery:	17
Number of Schools in Deanery:	2
Number of Parishioners in Deanery:	3,926

### **Deanery Ministry**

In 2024 the Northwest Deanery of the Diocese of Central Florida offered three deanery-wide training events for meeting Continuing Education requirements. These training events were ecumenical, organized by the Dean of the Society of the Holy Trinity, a Lutheran Order under the leadership of the Dean and Priest-in-Charge at St. Frances Episcopal Church in Bushnell, Fr. Lawrence Recla. The participants are mostly Lutheran priests and deacons with Episcopal clergy regularly in attendance. Parishioners and spouses were also welcome to attend these retreats.

Three retreats were offered in 2024, one in March, one in June and one in November: The March retreat topic was Developing Character, Reflections from Aristotle, Ignatius of Loyola, and Others led by The Rev. Dr. Wollom Jensen. The June retreat was by The Rev. Dr. John Eric

Hurtgen, Dean, School of Theology, Campbellsville University. The November retreat was led by The Right Rev. Matthew L. Riegel, Bishop, West Virginia-Western Maryland Synod, ELCA.

The retreats were held at San Pedro in Winter Park and included opportunities to build community among the clergy of the Northwest Deanery. The lectures given at each retreat provided 4.25 hours of Continuing Education.

Fr. Matthew Perreault of St. Thomas Episcopal Church in Eustis led our Deanery in a Book Study of the Book, “Growing Young: Six Essential Strategies to Help Young People Discover and Love Your Church” by Kara Powell, Jake Mulder, et al. Together we met monthly on a Zoom call, offering prayer requests, sharing and discussing the book, chapter by chapter. The study continues.

Two Clericus gatherings were held at St. Mary’s, Belleview in 2024. The first was held in April with our guest, The Right Rev. Dabney Smith. The second was held in November.

### **Lilly Grant Report**

Lilly Grant funds designated for Continuing Education were used to provide scholarships for all clergy and spouses to attend the retreats at San Pedro, which included the lectures, the worship and room and board for one night and a day.

Lilly Grant funds designated for Outreach were used to support Deacon John Clark’s mission in Beliz, “No One Hungry.” Funds were allocated to help to build a kitchen there.

In addition, the Northwest Deanery supported Fr. James Giles and “Gateway to Hope,” a feeding ministry in Ocala.

Finally, the Northwest Deanery supported the Kairos ministry – both the men’s and women’s at Sumpter and Lowell, as well as Kairos Outside.



# Episcopal Diocese

— OF CENTRAL FLORIDA —

## Fifty-sixth Annual Diocesan Convention January 24 - 25, 2025

**Topic:** Southeast Deanery Report

**Presenter:** The Rt. Rev. Dr. Justin S. Holcomb

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**The Very Rev. Dr. Porter Taylor**

*Rector, St. David's By-the-Sea, Cocoa Beach*

*Installed August 2020*

*Dean as of 2022 Diocesan Convention*

**Mrs. Heather Barlow, Deanery President**

*President as of 2023 Diocesan Convention*

Number of Churches in Deanery:	19
Number of Priests in Deanery:	48
Number of Deacons in Deanery:	17
Number of Schools in Deanery:	5
Number of Parishioners in Deanery:	4,540

### **Deanery Ministry**

There were seven clericus deanery meetings held in various parish locations in 2024, including St. David's (Cocoa Beach), St. Augustine of Canterbury (Vero Beach), Christ Church Suntree Viera (Melbourne), St. Sebastian's (Melbourne Beach), and Our Saviour (Okeechobee), in addition to the 2024 diocesan pre-convention meeting. Topics covered included Clergy Care (facilitated by our late Assisting Bishop Dabney Smith), Stewardship & Generosity, Outreach & Mission, and Sharing our Testimony.

## **Lilly Grant Report**

Lilly grant funds were used to:

- (1) Host a Zoom Webinar featuring The Rev. Amy Peeler (*Author, Professor of New Testament and the Kenneth T. Wessner Chair of Biblical Studies at Wheaton College, and Associate Rector at St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Geneva, Illinois*) on the Book of Hebrews;
- (2) Host a program on C.S. Lewis by The Rev. Andrew Lazo;
- (3) Host a diocesan-wide ecumenical all-day preaching seminar and luncheon featuring Andrew McGowan (*Dean and President of Berkeley Divinity School and McFaddin Professor of Anglican Studies and Pastoral Theology*), Joy J. Moore (*Professor of Biblical Preaching, Luther Seminary and Co-host of the Sermon Brainwave Podcast*), Khalia J. Williams (*Associate Dean of Worship and Spiritual Formation; Associate Professor in the Practice of Worship; Co-Director of the Baptist Studies Program*), and Will Willimon (*Professor of the Practice of Christian Ministry, Duke Divinity School*).





# Episcopal Diocese

— OF CENTRAL FLORIDA —

## Fifty-sixth Annual Diocesan Convention January 24 - 25, 2024

**Topic:** Southwest Deanery Report

**Presenter:** The Rt. Rev. Dr. Justin S. Holcomb

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**The Very Rev. Deke Miller**

*Vicar, Holy Cross, Winter Haven*

*Installed January 2018*

*Dean as of 2023 Diocesan Convention*

**Robert Miller, Deanery President**

*President as of 2024 Diocesan Convention*

Number of Churches in Deanery:	12
Number of Priests in Deanery:	27
Number of Deacons in Deanery:	17
Number of Schools in Deanery:	1
Number of Parishioners in Deanery:	2,400

### Deanery Ministry

- March 5, 2024: Clericus Meeting
- April 23, 2024: Clericus Meeting with Bishop Dabney Smith
- September 7, 2024: Invite, Welcome, Connect Conference at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Winter Haven with Mary Foster Parmer.

This event was hosted by the Southwest Deanery, but all church leaders were invited from around the Diocese. Over sixty leaders, both lay and clergy, attended and we spent the day learning new ways in which to share the Gospel and bring people into active participation in our Churches.

## **Lilly Grant Report**

We used \$3,732 of designated Deanery funds for the Invite, Welcome, Connect event. This was an educational opportunity for church leaders, both lay and clergy, to learn and discuss ideas on how to reach out to our communities with the Gospel message and, in turn, to grow our congregations.

Thank you to Bishop Justin Holcomb, Canon Dan Smith, and the late Bishop Dabney Smith for their support and encouragement for this conference. They each highly recommended Mary Foster Parmer's book and program.