

EPISCOPAL DIOCESE *of the* CENTRAL GULF COAST



FEBRUARY: OUR HISTORY

Why is “Our History” Important to Us?

Taking time to remember the beginnings of our diocese provides insights into the innovative work and leadership involved in bringing together two groups of churches located in two different states. Using a historical perspective enables us to identify and consider major events and social changes reciprocally impacting our churches, our diocese and The Episcopal Church across five decades.

To preserve our histories it is crucial to have written accounts, documents and photos safely secured so that they are not lost to future congregations. The diocese has resources available to assist those churches that wish to establish an archive. The materials in the History section of this toolbox provide information on how to get started.

Collect for the Year of Our Jubilee

Lord God of all creation, fill us with your grace as we remember your kindness and goodness towards us, through providence and through struggle; and let the trumpets proclaim the year of Jubilee, a year of the Lord's favor, as we dedicate ourselves to reorient our mission efforts to renew your Gospel in our midst. May your Spirit inspire us, we pray in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Options for Congregational Participation

Plan an event, workshop or discussion among different generational groups around your history and how it has molded your church identity.

Organize and invite congregants to participate in a photo-scanning session. Scan the photographs they bring onto a flash drive or computer hard drive so photos can be stored electronically.

Contact the diocese for guidance on how to properly organize and store historical information and documents.

Identify a church historian and assist them in preparing a presentation on the history of your church.

Start an outreach ministry that reflects the current needs of your particular community - today's news is tomorrow's history.

Carry on traditions unique to your church.

Upcoming Diocesan Events for February

7-8 Diocesan Convention at Christ Church Cathedral

14-16 YOUTH: Happening at St. Paul's, Daphne

22 WORKSHOP: Racial Reconciliation Sacred Conversations at St. Paul's, Magnolia Springs

29-Mar 2 PILGRIMAGE: Civil Rights sites in Montgomery, Selma, and Birmingham, AL

Toolkit Materials

Optional Prayers or Collects

In addition to the Jubilee Collect, we invite you to include any of the optional collects to use in the Prayers of the People or wherever you see fit.

62 Stories - Church Histories

Make copies of this flyer, post on your bulletin board, and give out to members who may be interested in curating, caring for, and preserving your church's historical treasures.

Guidelines for Access and Use of the Diocesan Archives

Share this document with your church's historian, and keep as a reference for anyone in your church who asks about the diocesan archives.

Archival Records Collection

Share this document with your church's historian, and keep as a reference for anyone in your church who asks about the diocesan archives.

Upcoming Audiovisual Series

Share this flyer to promote our upcoming audiovisual program series available on the diocesan website, and shared in our special 50th Jubilee Celebration e-newsletter publication.