

THE SECC RENOVARE



The Solomon Episcopal Conference Center

June 2014

Letter From the Director:



It's not often we are blessed to be able to celebrate longevity and loyalty in the work environment. The days of the employer—family long term relationships seem to be all but gone. But here at the Solomon Center, at our most recent annual employee crawfish boil and pool party, Warren Fandal, our Maintenance Director and Cindy Stevens, our Housekeeping Supervisor, each celebrated 25 and 20 years of service, respectively.

Now, you may be asking how Warren could have 25 years of service when the Solomon Center is only 21 years old...well, Warren was hired by Walter Bankston (Grace Church, St. Francisville), the primary developer for the Solomon Center, to begin selectively clearing the land for the buildings, esplanade, parking and pool - pavilion areas. That means Warren is employee number 1, and with the help, love and support of his bride,

Doris, Warren is ready to continue his service well into the future. There is not enough space in this article to describe all he does here. Let's just say he takes care of this place. Period.

Another amazing individual who is responsible for the success of the Solomon Center is Cindy Stevens. She has tirelessly helped keep the lodging rooms and other common areas of the facility clean and maintained for over 20 years. She leads the housekeepers who have one of the toughest jobs here...laundering sheets and towels, cleaning bathrooms and vacuuming carpets, as well as special window work, inventory and minor maintenance to fixtures (sometimes Warren is busy, so you just fix the leak yourself :-)). Cindy works closely with the scheduling of groups to ensure her team is here at the right time to refresh and clean each time a group departs to get ready for the next group.

Both Warren and Cindy received engraved watches for their years of service. The next time you see them, you too can say thanks. We all pray for their continued health and for blessings to their families. Peace.

Frank Hall



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COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Trinity Educational Enrichment Program

The Trinity Educational Enrichment Program (TEEP) hosts a Summer program that aims to increase children's aspirations and provide the tools necessary to reach their full potential and achieve their dreams. Their goal is to teach children that learning can be fun; to enrich today's youth in culture and diversity; to develop personal growth, self-esteem, and critical thinking and decision making skills.

This six-week program has been around New Orleans for 47 years now, and continues to grow. They provide further instruction in science, math, creative writing, music, and art. for 5th and 6th graders. They have touched the lives of over 2000 students in the Irish Channel.

Each summer here at the Solomon Center, TEEP students spend one day of fun and swimming in the pool. The center donates their facility and time for the TEEP students and faculty to enjoy and we are proud to have them here! God Bless TEEP!



THE SECC RENOVARE

THE HANDS THAT FEED YOU!!

One of the best perks about working at The Solomon Center is the dining area. There is something to be said for home cooked meals that you did not have to make or clean up after. It makes the food that much better –not that it needs any help. They have an extensive collection of recipes that can be found in our SECC Dining Hall Cookbook, but of course we all have our favorites. If you have not tried the fried catfish, you have not lived! Let us not forget the cookies which are always the perfect consistency.

So who do we have to thank for making sure our bellies are full and our taste buds satisfied? The dining staff of course! Dianne Wood and her team work tirelessly to make sure that all the meals are ready and prepared on time and always pay close attention to any special food requests or dietary needs. The dining hall staff always welcome you with a smile and love it when they see their hard work being enjoyed via the tell tale signs of second servings and empty plates. Their friendly and open attitudes and the plate of cookies they just gave me make them the spotlight of the month!

Thank you ladies!



~Lauren

Stay tuned for the next Renovare where we thank the ones who make sure we have fresh linens, toilet paper, and the best sight you will ever see after a packed full day of fun away from home, a clean bed.



THE SECC RENOVARE

Men of the Diocese and the 3rd Annual Men's Retreat

The men of our Diocese had a great time the last weekend in May for their 3rd Annual Men's Retreat held at the Solomon Center . This and the previous two retreats were generously sponsored by Christ Episcopal Church (Covington). The men of Christ Church are looking forward to another worshipping community picking up the baton and sponsoring the next diocesan wide men's retreat, scheduled for the last weekend in May, 2015.



This year's retreat was facilitated by Deacon Don Furlow, a Catholic deacon discerning a transition to the Episcopal faith. Men from several worshipping communities around the diocese attended, including St. Martin's Episcopal Church (Metairie), All Saints Episcopal Church (River Ridge), St. Luke's Episcopal Church (Baton Rouge), Grace Church of West Feliciana Parish (St. Francisville), and Christ Episcopal Church (Covington). Each participant accepted the challenge to bring at least one friend to next year's retreat. Could that person be you? For information about

the 2015 Men's Retreat, please contact Rhene Cervantes, Sr. Warden at Christ Episcopal Church (Covington) or Kelly Root, Sr. Warden at St. Luke's Episcopal Church (Baton Rouge).



**In happy moments, praise God. In difficult moments, seek God.
In quiet moments, trust God. In every
moment, thank God.**

-Latoya Monique 2012

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Testimonials

"Please accept my thanks for the great hospitality you and your staff showed my family during College of Presbyters."

"Thanks so much for the wonderful service rendered. May God forever bless the staff for their love and attention. Our prayers are forever with you."

"Thank you so much for the great sanitation that all of the rooms had. The beds were perfectly made and everything was very orderly and welcoming. Thank you so much for doing this job. I'm sure most people don't realize/ appreciate all of the hard and honest work that you do. We would like to truly thank you for that."

-Youth Group

"Once again our Vineyard Women's Spring Retreat was amazing! Several in our groups had never been on the beautiful grounds, slept in the lovely accommodations, eaten the delicious food, so they were won over and look forward to when we do it again."

THE SECC RENOVARE

One Fish Two Fish Red Fish Blue Fish



Our watering hole is one of the best kept secrets in the area. The Solomon Episcopal Conference Center is home to a 12 acre man made lake. You may find yourself catching large mouth bass and bluegill perch in our waters. If your line breaks, or you need to borrow hooks or tackle, our hostesses have spare rods and all other fishing necessities in the main office.

Whether you like to play for keeps or enjoy to catch and release, our fish will keep you entertained. With the promise of a peaceful fishing spot and scenery worthy of a postcard there has to be a catch. We ask is that you call in advance unless you are already here on retreat. Our campus hosts a variety of events. Some of the retreats request complete privacy which we honor to the best of our abilities. We also ask that you respect the values this campus stands for and leave our grounds as you found them. We work hard to keep the grounds clean and keep the SECC a place for your soul to rejuvenate.

“May the holes in your net be no larger than the fish in it”

~Irish Blessing

Over the years, our grounds have become home to a family of ducks. Our staff and guests take great pleasure in feeding them the day's crumbings. We have continued to watch their own family grow and with a brood of new ducklings each year! We hope they continue to enjoy our waters and food offerings as much as we enjoy watching them swim and play in the lake.



The Solomon Episcopal Conference Center Wish List:

- Low ropes course equipment and storage area
- A maintenance utility vehicle
- A new range (gas) stove and oven for the dining hall kitchen

A monetary or in-kind gift for an item on the wish list helps our guests have a more comfortable and memorable stay. We thank you and appreciate any help you may offer.

[Click here](#) to donate on our website.

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JEWELS FROM THE SECC KITCHEN

STUFFED MUSHROOMS:

2 dozen large fresh mushrooms	2 T. mayonnaise	2 cloves garlic, minced
3 T. green onions minced	4 T. butter	1 t lemon juice
3 T. onion minced	2 beaten eggs	1/2 lb cooked crabmeat
Parmesan cheese	Salt and Pepper to taste	

Preheat oven to 400°. Remove stems from mushrooms, chop stems and sauté in butter with garlic and onions. Brush mushrooms with melted butter. Mix together crab meat, eggs, mayonnaise, onion and garlic and cook for 6 min. Fill mushrooms with mix and sprinkle cheese on top. Bake in greased glass casserole dish for 15 min.

PRALINE CHICKEN:

6 skinless and boneless chicken breasts	1 T. vegetable oil	2 t. Cajun seasoning
1/3 c. maple syrup	2 T. brown sugar	1/4 c. melted butter
1 c. chopped toasted pecans		

Sprinkle both sides of chicken breasts with Cajun seasoning. Heat butter and oil in large skillet over medium-high heat until hot. Add chicken, and cook 4-5 minutes on each side or until done. Remove chicken, reserving drippings in skillet. Place chicken on serving platter and set aside, keeping warm. Add maple syrup and sugar to drippings in skillet and bring to a boil. Stir in pecans, and cook 1 minute or until thoroughly heated. Spoon pecan mixture over chicken and serve!

CHILDHOOD THUMBPRINT COOKIES (~3.5 dozen)

1 c. softened butter or margarine	1/2 t. vanilla extract	2/3 c. sugar
2 1/4 c. all purpose flour	1/2 t. salt	2 egg yolks

Cream butter, gradually add sugar, beating until light and fluffy. Add egg yolks, beat well. Stir in vanilla. Combine flour and salt and add to creamed mixture. Mix well and chill. Roll dough into 1 inch balls, place 2 inches apart on ungreased cookie sheets. Press thumb into each cookie leaving an indent. Bake at 300° for 20-25 minutes. Do not brown. Place about 1/2 t. of chocolate frosting in each indentation.

CHOCOLATE FROSTING: 1 c. sugar 1/4 c cocoa , milk, butter 1/2 t. vanilla extract

Combine sugar, cocoa and milk in heavy saucepan . Boil for 1-2 minutes stirring constantly. Remove from heat. Stir in butter and vanilla. Beat until mixture is spreadable.



These recipes and more can be found in our SECC Dining Hall Cookbook. For more information, contact Dianne: 985-748-5054 or dwood@solomoncenter.org
Personal recipes are always welcome.



THE SECC RENOVARE

OUR MISSION

We receive and welcome everyone to a serene, peaceful, beautiful and well maintained conference and retreat facility. We are committed to first class hospitality in a faith based, safe and secure environment. We enable large and small groups, adult and youth, to experience retreats, conferences, meetings, and events in a church, corporate or athletic context, to explore and discover renewal, education and growth.

OUR VISION

We aspire to be the premier leader in providing an open sanctuary where lives can be changed and even transformed. We welcome diversity, embrace hospitality and firmly believe that each of us can help make a difference in others' lives. Individuals, groups, churches, families, teams and businesses can interact with each other in a relaxed environment, away from their daily grind, to help better themselves spiritually, emotionally and physically.

BRING YOUR GROUP TO SECC:

Located on rolling acres of piney woods just north of Robert, Louisiana, the Solomon Episcopal Conference Center (SECC) is a peaceful retreat into nature for businesses, churches, families, individuals and groups of all sizes and denominations.

Owned and operated by the Episcopal Diocese of Louisiana, the SECC welcomes guests year-round to enjoy a warm and inviting atmosphere. We offer indoor and outdoor meeting spaces; sports and recreation facilities; overnight, hotel-style lodging accommodations; and complete onsite dining services. Our beautiful grounds and thriving facilities are privileged to host conferences, retreats and gatherings of all kinds, including corporate meetings, spiritual retreats, professional seminars and workshops, conventions, sports clinics, youth and leadership camps, and company and family picnics. Special social events like family reunions, weddings and private parties are available as well.

For additional information contact Cindy Schmidt, Director of Guest Services:
985-277-5381 | cschmidt@solomoncenter.org