

The Alabama EPISCOPALIAN

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HOPE AMID THE RUBBLE

Our Diocese Responds to the Haiti Earthquake

Also In This Issue: Celebrating Our 179th Annual Diocesan Convention

The Alabama Episcopalian

March-April 2010



Inset photo of nurse C.J. Ross and Dr. Robert Serio treating an earthquake survivor, by the Rev. Deacon Dave Drachlis; photo of the rubble of Holy Trinity Episcopal School in Port au Prince, by Janet Quillin

Janet Quillin and the Rev. Deacon Dave Drachlis took the photos used for the cover of this issue while they were in Haiti in late February. Bishop Duracin requested that our diocese send a small team to help provide medical care for some of the more than 23,000 earthquake refugees the Diocese of Haiti is caring for in Port au Prince and other locations. Our group served as part of a Haitian/American medical team to test a model for long-term recovery efforts. You can read the team's firsthand account and see some of the photos they took on pages 12-15 and page 24. You can see more photos and read personal reflections by nurse C.J. Ross and Dr. Serio on our diocesan Web site, www.dioala.org.

In a letter to our diocesan family, Bishop Parsley thanked us for providing more than \$100,000 for helping the "injured, homeless, and children in need of schools and nutrition" (please see page 24). Bishop Duracin, who is living in a tent city with the people of his diocese, expressed his heartfelt gratitude to Bishop Parsley at the recent House of Bishops meeting.

Our 179th Annual Diocesan Convention focused on the theme "One Hope in God's Call to Us." In his address, Bishop Parsley encouraged us to "be ready with those who have come before us to say 'yes' to the one hope of God's call to us and go forth in the power of the Spirit to change lives and be salt and light in the world. This is our heritage. This is our vocation. This is our enduring joy." (Please see pages 3-5.)

In his sermon at the opening Festival Eucharist, Bishop Sloan reminded us that "it's not our differences and controversies that define us, but how we respond to our Lord's call to love and to serve: One Hope in God's Call to Us." He invited "each of us to help all of us be more and more fully who we 'yam': a community of faith filled with love and joy and hope, which are our gifts, our inheritance as Christians." (Please see Bishop Sloan's Sermon on pages 6-8 and the convention reports on pages 8-11.)

Please send stories and photographs (color, if available) for *The Alabama Episcopalian* to Editor Norma McKittrick at apostledit@aol.com or 2156 Kent Way, Birmingham, AL 35226. The submission deadline for each issue is the 1st of the month prior to publication.

Visit Our Diocesan Web Site

For the most current news about our diocese please visit www.dioala.org.

"One Hope in God's Call to Us"

Haiti Mission, Jon Meacham, and Bishop's Retirement Plans Mark Our Diocesan Convention

By the Rev. Michael Rich, Rector of St. Luke's in Jacksonville

Mission partnerships in earthquake-ravaged Haiti dominated discussion during the 179th Annual Convention of the Diocese of Alabama, held February 11-13 in the Shoals area. Delegates also heard a mission-minded address by *Newsweek* Editor Jon Meacham and learned that Bishop Parsley plans to retire.

"A little more than 15 years is a good, long tenure for a bishop," Bishop Parsley noted when he announced his retirement planning at the end of his Address (please see page 3). "I believe that such an orderly transition is in the fullness of time for us both." Bishop Parsley said he expects our diocesan Standing Committee to arrange for an electing convention in the summer of 2011, with a new bishop taking office before the end of the year.

In spite of Bishop Parsley's news, the focus of the convention remained on mission and the convention theme of "One Hope in God's Call to Us." "The Gospel we proclaim changes lives. Let us never forget that," Bishop Parsley emphasized in his Address. "The love of Christ has the power to transform the human heart and bring hope and new possibility to this broken world."

Our companion diocese relationship with Haiti received the most attention. Our diocese has already given \$100,000 in aid to Haiti, with more in the works.

On the Friday of convention, the one-month anniversary of the earthquake that devastated much of Haiti, Bishop Parsley delivered a message from Haiti's bishop, the Rt. Rev. Zache Duracin: "The darkness that has covered the land since January 12 has not and will not overcome the Light of Christ, for the people of Haiti are people of faith, and they know that God *has* been with them, that God *is* with them, and God *will* be with them until the ages of ages."

Our diocese announced that a mission team was head to Haiti the following week at the invitation of Bishop Duracin and in coordination with Episcopal Relief and Development. The team, which included two doctors and two nurses, was to act as a "pathfinder" mission to test the role of future mission teams.

Our diocese works directly with the six-church parish of St. Simeon and its priest-in-charge, the Rev. Fritz Valdema, who addressed delegates via Internet video connection. As the videoconference concluded, Valdema

blessed the assembled delegates in Creole, and everyone responded by singing the Doxology in English.

The Rev. Hyvenson Joseph, a priest from Haiti, addressed the convention in person and reported that the diocese had lost much of its infrastructure in the earthquake: a convent, the cathedral, a trade school, a hospital, and the bishop's house. Despite those losses, he added, outdoor services held at the cathedral have served as a symbol: "This tells us that the buildings are not the church. We are the church."

The convention's keynote speaker, *Newsweek* editor and Pulitzer prize-winner Jon Meacham, also addressed convention via the Internet because of a blizzard that canceled flights out of New York. "My challenge to you," he told the delegates, "is connecting your care for the matters of the Church with your care for what happens beyond the Rose Window." Meacham emphasized that the Church is at its best when it wrestles with the hard questions of the world, not just questions within the Church. "Internal strife and division is inevitable,"

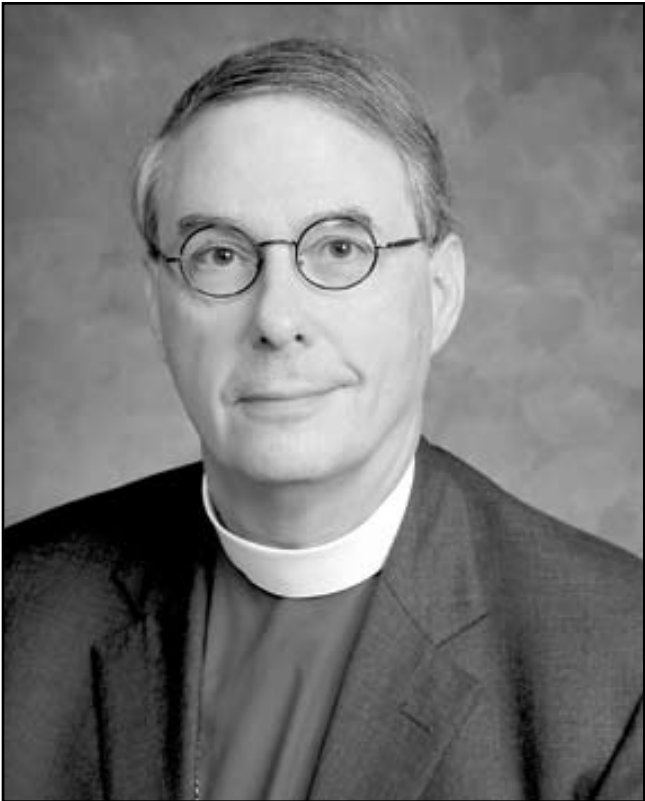


Celebrating the acceptance of Calvary Church in Oneonta as the newest parish of our diocese; photo by the Rev. Deacon Dave Drachlis

he reminded us, "but the moment it becomes all-encompassing and all-consuming, we are back to fighting over whether our clubhouse should have new curtains. That's not what matters."

In other action, convention approved a balanced budget of \$2,681,288 and passed a number of resolutions (please see page 8). One of the final acts of the delegates was the joyful acceptance of Calvary Episcopal Church in Oneonta as the newest parish of our diocese.

A longstanding "For Rent" sign outside Calvary's temporary meeting place had prompted church members to call their parish "St. Available." "I think that's appropriate," said Bishop Parsley. "We should all let people know that we are St. Available!"



Photograph by Billy Brown

I greet you in the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ as we meet together to renew our life and mission in the Diocese of Alabama. This annual gathering of the people of God is always a joyful occasion as we see dear friends from the heights of Lookout Mountain to the piney woods of the Canebrake, and as we listen for God’s call to us. It is excellent to be in Florence again, and we salute the clergy and people of Trinity Church for their superb hospitality and hard work.

Let us thank our diocesan staff for their excellent leadership in preparing this convention and especially in beginning to reduce the expense of our gathering this year and next so that we can be better stewards of God’s money. This has not been easy at times. We are richly blessed by their gifts and dedication.

I am especially grateful for Bishop’s Sloan’s ministry as our Suffragan. We are good companions in the work of the episcopate and Kee’s pastoral touch, compassion, and insightful good humor bless us. We deeply miss Bishop Miller who died last summer and we give hearty thanks together in this convention for his faithful ministry among

Bishop Parsley’s Address

us. For him, for the Rev. Milt Glor our dedicated diocesan secretary, and for the witness of the clergy and lay leaders of our diocese who have been members of this convention and who we have lost in the past year we say “Thanks be to God.”

It is my hope that we will seriously engage the theme of this convention “One Hope in God’s Call to Us.” These words of our baptismal liturgy taken from Ephesians draw us to one of the scriptures’ richest themes—the call of God in our life. It is only as we hear God’s call and respond that we can be who we are meant to be and do what the Lord means us to do.

The story of the people of God begins with God’s call to Abram and Sarai recorded in Genesis: “Go forth from your land, from your kindred. . . . to the land that I will show you. . . . I will bless you so that you will be a blessing.” The next words of the Jahwist writer, Thomas Cahill says, changed the world: “*wayyelekh Avram*” (“Abram went”). Cahill writes, “Out of the human race, which knows in its bones that all its strivings must end in death, comes a leader

who says that he has been given an impossible promise—a dream of something new, something better, something yet to happen, something in the future.” With this hope and faith Abram and Sarai went. They did not sit still, they went; and they became heirs and servants of the promise. Their passion for hoping, their inability ever to stop hoping, has characterized the people of God ever since.

So it was also with Jesus’ ministry, which began with the call of the fishermen, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of people.” God’s reign has come near, Jesus said, a new order of grace and salvation is breaking into life. Follow me and we will blaze a new trail of hope and healing. Like Abram they went. They did not sit still; they left their nets and followed.

The call of God is like this from age to age. It is the seed of all faith and ministry, our “one hope” as the Prayer Book says. Without God’s call we can do nothing. In obedience to it, God can do extraordinary things through ordinary people like Abraham and Sarah, and the Galilean fishermen—and us. Even us.



Photo by the Rev. Deacon Dave Drachlis

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

In the Diocese of Alabama
About 33,000 baptized members in 92 parishes and worshipping communities and 8 college campus ministries. Established in 1830.



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The Rt. Rev. Henry Nutt Parsley Jr.
Bishop Suffragan
The Rt. Rev. John McKee Sloan

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The Most Rev. Rowan D. Williams
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England SE17JU



The call of God is given to diverse individuals who offer their gifts in God’s service in different ways. “There are many gifts,” Paul says, “but one Spirit,” and we need them all. Absolutely all.

But the call is also given to us corporately as a church. God calls us as Episcopalians in particular ways, both in concert with the whole Christian Church throughout the world as stewards of the one Gospel and also in the unique character and charism of our Anglican heritage. How does God mean to use us and our particular gifts in this great community of faith and service called the Episcopal Church? Ours is a distinct Church, uniquely gifted in certain ways, and we must value and embrace our identity as Episcopalians as we seek to answer God’s call. We must not let the headlines define us. We must define ourselves and have confidence in who we are.

God’s call is not always easy to discern, is it? Hearing it requires prayer, paying attention, and deep listening—and sometimes a kick in the pants. Elijah had to get through the storm to hear the “still, small voice.” Isaiah

had to have the foundations of the temple shaken. Paul had to be knocked off his horse on the road to Damascus.

Always God's call would lead us to where God needs us to be and where we most need to be. As Frederick Buechner so memorably said, it is where the voice of the world's deep need meets the voice of our deep gladness.

It is seductive to be satisfied with the status quo, with our comfortable lives and with the mere maintenance of our churches. But God's call is always to mission, to go out with Abraham and Sarah and the fishermen and the saints of every age to new fields of hope and healing for the world. ***Churches that sit still quietly diminish, and churches that live to themselves die to themselves.*** The famous philosopher Alfred North Whitehead said, "Without the high hope of adventure, religion easily degenerates into the mere appendage of a comfortable life." God's call is always to the high hope of adventure.

In my last convocation at Sewanee, as I gave up the reins as the university's 22nd Chancellor, Robert Eames, former Primate of All Ireland and passionate peacemaker, told the story of being in the home of one of his clergy for supper. As they sat in the living room after supper suddenly there was a great crash upstairs. The cleric bounded up the stairs three at a time and rushed into his son's room where he found the boy sitting on the floor laughing and rubbing his head. "What on earth happened?" his father asked. "I fell out of bed," his son said. "How on earth did you do that?" his dad asked. "I don't know how," the boy said. "I didn't have a bad dream. I think I stayed too near the place where I got in."

It is very tempting for us as the Church to stay too near where we got in. This never enlivens our mission or solves our problems. We have to let God move us forward and engage new opportunities if we wish to be faithful and fruitful. We may not exactly be called with Peter to walk on water, but we do have to get out of the boat.

As a diocese we are trying our best to do this. The wonderful new Chapel of St. Francis we dedicated joyfully last May; the purchase of two tracts of land for future church planting; the excellent communications work pioneered by the Rev. Deacon Dave Drachlis, including the inviting new *Alabama Episcopalian*; a congregational development initiative led by Bishop Sloan, Pat Wingo, and the Department of Parish Development and Evangelism to help strengthen especially our smaller, developing churches; and the launching of trained consultants to help parishes embrace fresh horizons of ministry are all steps in the right direction. The ACTS 2 campaign continues to provide invaluable resources for such new endeavors and is helping us embrace some of our ministry dreams in the early years of the 21st century. In 2010 it will help us build our new campus center at Montevallo and launch a training program for lay ministries, as well as seek additional land in the right places for new Episcopal churches in the years ahead.

We have begun training a new class of deacons to be ordained in 2011. They will join our current deacon community in helping us be more a servant church. I am always humbled by the many ways that



Bishop Parsley leading an Internet conversation with the Rev. Fritz Valdema (Pere Val), the priest in charge of the six-church parish of St. Simeon in Haiti; photo by the Rev. Deacon Dave Drachlis

our deacon clergy serve in the world, and am grateful for their devotion to Christ and selfless offering of their gifts. Among the things that we will discuss at our annual deacons retreat next week will be how to work for systemic change in our state as we try to address patterns of injustice and neglect that keep people from

our state's systemic problems. God calls us outward to be active in the transformation of our society and to strive for justice and peace among all people.

The development of our Hispanic ministry has been especially encouraging. Last year St. Michael's parish in Huffman determined that it should close and give its property to the diocese as a home for Iglesia de la Gracia, which it had generously hosted for many years. Now we have our first free-standing Hispanic congregation in the diocese's history, full of wonderful people well-shepherded by the Rev. Dr. Hernan Afanador.

We are enormously grateful for St. Michael's life and ministry for over 50 years and their faithfulness in providing their church property for the ministry of La Gracia. This convention needs to thank St. Michael's and act on the canonical requirements for this transition in Huffman. La Gracia will need all the help we can offer in making this venture in faith a sustainable success. For them we say "gracias a Dios."

Obviously, as the council report and our treasurer have stressed, the past year has been one of significant financial challenge for us all. I realize that many of us have had to struggle with our parish budgets more than usual. In our diocesan ministry we have had to eliminate one Carpenter House staff position and reduce our Montgomery campus ministry to half-time, as well as freeze compensation for all diocesan staff—except for our small support staff and our Youth Ministry Assistant to let them know how very much we value them.

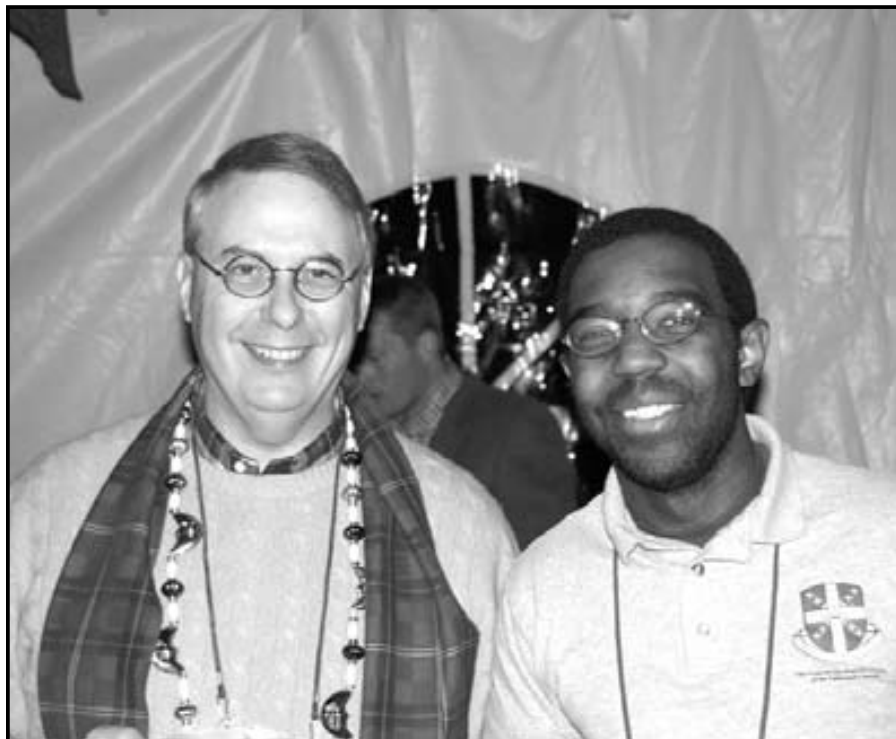
This has been hard but necessary to balance the budget in the face of declining revenue from parish covenants. I especially regret having to reduce our Montgomery campus ministry as campus work continues to be absolutely one of the top priorities and greatest strengths of our diocese, unmatched by any diocese I know. Literally hundreds of college students worship each week in our campus ministries and share in Christ's work in many ways thanks to our dedicated chaplains.

The economy has created tough going on a number of levels, and many of us have been caring for those who have lost jobs and are living on reduced incomes. ***It is to be hoped that we will all remember God's abundance in the midst of leaner times and be as generous as God is generous.*** I encourage you to use the Alabama Plan for stewardship education more vigorously and to strengthen your stewardship efforts to include person-to-person contact and visitation, not just passive mailing out of pledge cards. The shift in our economy, I believe, is one of those godly "kicks-in-the-pants" calling us to increase our attention to Christian financial stewardship.

I also believe that the diocese would be well served by undertaking a careful study of our covenant giving system for funding our diocesan ministry. It is not working as effectively as it should and is creating some imbalances in giving that are not healthy. I hope that you will affirm my intention to ask the diocesan council to appoint a committee

of diocesan leaders to undertake such a study and report to the 180th Annual Diocesan Convention.

No matter how challenging our finances have been, it pales in comparison to the plight of our dear friends in Haiti. The suffering and loss caused by the January



Bishop Parsley with seminarian Brandt Montgomery; photo by Scotty Bobo

the abundant life God means for them to have. Two key issues before us in the State of Alabama are the movement to eliminate the grocery tax and the effort to adopt a new state constitution. I ask you to be actively involved in these important efforts to address some of

earthquake has been heart-rending in that already-struggling land. Our companion diocese in Haiti, though it has lost many and much, is courageously ministering to their neighbors with the help of Episcopal Relief and Development and our diocese and many others. In spite of it all, the light of faith and of Christ's love is burning brightly there, as Bishop Duracin has written in a moving message to us:

Thank you for your love. Thank you for your prayers. Thank you for your incredible generosity. You know of the dark night that descended on Haiti . . . of our tremendous loss of life, the ruins of our buildings, of the suffering of our people. The darkness that has covered the land since January 12 has not and will not overcome the Light of Christ, for the people of Haiti are people of faith, and they know that God *has* been with them, that God *is* with them, and God *will* be with them until the ages of ages. In Haiti we have a saying “*Bondye di ou: Fe pa ou, m'a fe pa 'm*” (“God says to you: You do your part, I'll do mine”). The people of Haiti have always done their part, and they believe, they know, that God has always done God's. Now your Haitian brothers and sisters in Christ, related to you not by their birth but by the waters of their baptism, ask you to join them so that together we can all do our part.

I give enormous thanks to you for the many things we have been doing in your parishes for our companion diocese and now in raising assistance for them after the earthquake. In the days to come we will be reaching out in new ways, beginning with a medical mission in two weeks at Bishop Duracin's invitation and by sending funds to him and the Valdemas to help them reach out to the some 23,000 people they are sheltering in camps provided by the Church. ***Our diocesan gifts for Haiti are now more than \$100,000, thanks be to God.***

Another Haitian saying goes, “*Se le ou nan mali, pov-u konnen si-w qen bon zanmi*” (“Only when you are in bad shape, you will know your best friends”). May we together be such friends courageously, generously, and patiently in the months and years to come. Surely this is God's call to us.

Finally, I rejoice to be in my 14th year as your bishop and have received more blessings than I can ever count in this ministry among you—as well as no lack of challenges! It continues to be a great privilege and high honor. I have been praying and listening carefully for God's call in my life and in our ministry together, and I believe that the time has come to plan for an orderly transition in the office of diocesan bishop. For reasons of “mission strategy” in our canonical language, ***it is my intention to retire at the end of 2011 and call for the election of the 11th Bishop of Alabama in the summer of next year.*** A little more than 15 years is a good, long tenure for a bishop, and I believe that such an orderly transition is in the fullness of time for us both.

I know that it is not easy for us to grasp all the mysteries of our Episcopal processes, so let me be careful to remind you that Bishop Sloan's ministry as your Suffragan continues unaffected by such a transition, and likewise the ministry of our excellent diocesan staff. It is customary for the Standing Committee to be responsible for designing an election process, appointing a Nominating Committee, and other transition matters.

The members of the Standing Committee and I



Photo by the Rev. Deacon Dave Drachlis

have discussed all this quietly in recent weeks, and they have affirmed my vision that the election of a diocesan bishop would take place in early summer 2011, with the 11th Bishop of Alabama taking office four to five months later, depending on the consent process. Following that I will take the weeks of sabbatical time accrued to me in order to complete my affairs and retire at the end of the year. I would ask this convention to affirm this plan and by resolution to charge the Standing Committee to oversee this important process.

Now before any purple haze falls over us or thoughts of saying good-bye arise, let me emphasize that I have no desire to be a lame duck nor do we need to say any farewells until next year. It is my expectation that the mission of the diocese will not miss a beat in the months ahead—and indeed that we will strengthen our life together in preparation for new beginnings to come. To echo Bill Yon's immortal words, transition is “prime time for renewal.”

When I retire it will be 41 years since I entered seminary and my 38th year of ordination, which is part of what I mean by the fullness of time. It *continues* to be an inestimable gift to serve God in this way. ***We are a strong and healthy diocese, and I continue to salute you for your commitment to God's mission and, in the midst of our challenging times, for your spiritual maturity and steadfast unity in diversity.*** I look forward to celebrating our partnership in ministry next year and working with you to ensure a smooth way forward.

Let me conclude by renewing my challenge to you to take seriously our convention theme. Tomorrow Jon Meacham, a leading Episcopal layman and gifted editor and Pulitzer prize-winning author, will join us to speak of our identity and special vocation as Episcopalians. Jon is a person of deep conviction and an articulate observer of the role of religion in our time, and it is a privilege to have him with us. ***We will reflect on his words together and continue to engage our homework question, “What are the gifts that the Episcopal Church has to offer to the world.”***

It is my deepest hope that we will find in this 179th Convention a clearer sense of God's call to us

in this great Church and be energized for the mission that God places before us. ***I believe that we need to be more passionate Episcopalians. The Gospel we proclaim changes lives. Let us never forget that. The love of Christ has the power to transform the human heart and bring hope and new possibility to this broken world.*** The gracious balance and generosity of our tradition is a precious gift to the world of the 21st century, in which too much religion is sadly becoming identified with extremism and fierce judgmentalism. ***Our Episcopal balance of faith and reason and our historic recognition that we must be both firm in our biblical faith and always open to the force of new learning are precious hallmarks of our Church and strong attractors to those around us in our time. As I like to say, there are many people around us who are Episcopalians but do not know it yet.*** Our task is confidently to hold up the great faith and love of this Church and invite them to share with us in God's work.

When the call of God came to Abram and Sarai and to the Galilean fishermen they did not sit still. They got up and went. God's call surely comes to us in our day, and we must not sit still nor “stay too near where we got in.” We must go, as they went, to be servants and heirs of the promise—the dream of something new, something better for the world. The world seeks nothing more than such hope.

Let us leave this place tomorrow proud (in the best sense of the word) to be Episcopalians and confident in our Christian vocation. Let us be ready with those who have come before us to say “yes” to the one hope of God's call to us and go forth in the power of the Spirit to change lives and be salt and light in the world. This is our heritage. This is our vocation. This is our enduring joy.

God bless you and keep you always.

The Rt. Rev. Henry Nutt Parsley Jr.

Bishop Sloan's Sermon

Preached at the Opening Festival Eucharist



Photo by the Rev. Deacon Dave Drachlis

A couple of weeks ago the family dinner conversation turned to the most embarrassing things Miss Tina and I have ever done to our children. Our son, McKee, was home from college and had some pretty good stories to tell—some not strictly limited to the way I had remembered things. But I was dismayed to find out that I've never really ever done anything that was an embarrassment to our daughter, Mary Nell . . . yet. I thought about that and tried to imagine how terribly left out she must feel: no really good juicy stories about her goofy father embarrassing her.

I wondered if it might help if I announced to all of you that today is Mary Nell Sloan's 16th birthday, but I decided not to. It *is* her 16th birthday—I'm just not announcing it, because . . . Nobody Likes to Be Embarrassed. Oh we could all stand up and sing the song, and Mary Nell would turn 11 shades of red . . . and she would have a great parental-embarrassment story to tell for the rest of her life, but . . . you've been embarrassed, I've been embarrassed—Nobody Likes To Be Embarrassed. So we'll move on.

But before I leave that subject altogether . . . Mary Nell, I know you're probably trying to crawl under a pew out there somewhere, but you need to know that your mother and I love you more than the world and that we are very, very proud of you. I think good healthy pride is an antidote to embarrassment.

“Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night” (John 3:1).

Nicodemus had a lot to lose. He was a man of prominence and standing in the community, being “a leader of the Jews” and all. You have to be careful about how you're perceived when people think you're a person of standing and prominence; you're not really as free to do

or say what you might want to say or do as others. People are always watching, they might not understand—you know how rumors spread—better to go and visit Jesus by night, safer to keep it quiet. You wouldn't want people to talk: Nobody Likes to Be Embarrassed.

Nicodemus was polite to Jesus, respectful. He'd heard stories about signs and wonders: they said he'd changed water into wine, they said he went into the Temple and turned over the moneychangers' tables. “Rabbi,” he said, using a term of great esteem, “we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.”

And then, before he could even get to what he was there to talk about, Jesus said in what seemed like a non sequitur, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.”

Poor Nicodemus had to be bewildered; I imagine he was frustrated. He said, “How can anyone be born after having grown old?” Bless his heart, he just wanted a straight answer; maybe he was looking for easy answers to difficult questions. We know what this is like; as familiar as we are with confusion and frustration: how many times have you heard, how many times have you said, “Just tell us in plain words. Give us the simple truth.”

But Nicodemus came away from that encounter knowing something about Jesus, something that caught his imagination and inspired his faith. In spite of not being satisfied with the answers he got, even though Jesus did not make it all simple and easy, there was something about Jesus that was compelling enough for Nicodemus to step outside of himself and overcome his self-conscious embarrassment. Nicodemus became more fully who he was because he met Jesus.

Just four chapters later, when some of the chief priests and Pharisees were trying to have Jesus arrested, Nicodemus stood up to them. He said, “Our law does not judge people without first giving them a hearing to find out what they are doing, does it?” The self-serving leadership did what self-serving leaders always do, they said, “Surely you are not also from Galilee, are you?” Rather than address the question, they attacked the questioner.

Still Nicodemus was faithful: after the religious leaders succeeded in having Jesus crucified, when Pontius Pilate gave Joseph of Arimathea permission to remove the body from the Cross, John writes: “Nicodemus, who had at first come to Jesus by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, weighing about a hundred pounds.” His disciples had betrayed him, and denied him, and deserted him, but Nicodemus was there: not afraid, not confused, not frustrated, not embarrassed.

He saw something in Jesus, heard something in Jesus, something that delivered him from being paralyzed by what other people thought, that rescued him from being frozen by his fears. ***After he met Jesus, it was no longer about what he had to lose; Nicodemus was able to understand that he was called out of himself, called to serve.***

You and I are no strangers to fear, frustration, confusion, or embarrassment. We know that fear can leave us unable to move, that frustration and confusion can blind us and make us lose our way, and that shame will eat us up. It's hard for us to make progress when we feel like the wind's been taken out of our sails, when it seems like we don't know who we are anymore, when all we want to do is hide.

Yes, I am talking about the Church; thank you for wondering. Yes, I am talking about our beloved Episcopal Church, embroiled in and paralyzed by the Great Controversy of the Day. Most of us are confused, all of us are frustrated, many of us are afraid, some are even embarrassed. How can we sing the Lord's song, how can we share the great Good News of the love of God in Jesus Christ when we are confused, frustrated, fearful, or ashamed? Nobody likes to be embarrassed.

Maybe one place to find an answer is in the story of Nicodemus, who came to Jesus by night and then found that it wasn't about what he had to lose, but what he had to gain. Our hope, the hope we share with one another in a wide variety of theological assumptions and preferences, is that we are most fully who we are when we come together in God's call to us in Christ. We are not called to uncomplicated certainty; we are not called to hold opinions because they are shared by all or because they protect the status quo.

You and I are called to truth, even when it's compli-



Photo by Scotty Bobo

cated, even when it's inconvenient, even when our neighbors don't understand or approve because what Nicodemus saw and heard in Jesus is also offered to us and through us: love without conditions, redemption beyond our deserving, the invitation to put ourselves aside in His love and service—Amazing Grace.

Before I went to seminary, I lived in Oxford, Mississippi, and was involved in St. Peter's Church there—I was an EYC advisor. In the winter of 1977, I drove a car full of 7th, 8th, and 9th graders down to Camp Bratton-Green, the diocesan camp and conference center, for some sort of gathering for junior-high kids. I don't remember most of the people who were there or what the program was supposed to be about. I don't remember what cabin I stayed in. But I do remember that

it was a cold rainy weekend in a place that was built for summertime activity—and I remember Billy.

A recurring theme there was that if it rained, or if the wind blew, or sometimes for no apparent reason at all, the power would go out. So whenever you made plans for activities, especially in the evening, you always needed a Plan B, something that didn't require electricity. On the last night of this particular gathering, the rains came and the winds blew and the electricity failed. Plan A, the Big Dance in the chapel, was scuttled. Plan B was to gather everybody in the Rec Hall, a big sort of screened-in porch with a stage at one end, and have skits by cabins, using various items we'd gathered from around Camp and put into paper bags, just in case.

The priest in charge of the program announced the plan, and apparently it was not well received. I was lining up the paper bags and making sure they all had a roll of toilet paper in them (you can't do these things without toilet paper), when I heard the commotion: a hundred junior-high kids in full rebellion—it was a fearsome sound. They didn't want to do bag skits, they'd already done bag skits—it was Plan B last time we were here.

So the priest gathered the staff and invited us to invent Plan C right there on the spot. Somebody suggested that we could sing camp songs, but there was no real strong support for that. I suggested that could ask the kids to get up and tell jokes on the stage. The priest was concerned that some of the jokes might be inappropriate. After I got to know that group of kids better, I realized he could have been right.

We were discussing how we could screen the jokes before the kid got up on stage—and worrying about whether we could trust them to tell the joke they'd already told us—when one of the cool junior-high kids came up to tell us that they had come up with a plan. Their idea was that the kids could come up on the stage and tell everybody what famous person they would like to be. We could all shine our flashlights on the kid on stage, and that person would tell us what real or fictitious person they'd like to be and why.

Well it wasn't a real good idea, but it was a desperate moment. We felt like we couldn't afford another rebellion, and we were happy to think that since this was a cool kid's idea, it would automatically have a lot of support. And if it didn't work out so well, it wouldn't be our fault.

So the priest introduced Plan C, which not surprisingly was broadly viewed to be just exactly what we ought to be doing. The popular, good-looking extroverted kids went first, of course, and told us they'd like to be a variety of famous athletes, movie stars, and celebrities. They wanted to be Spider-Man, Wonder Woman, Luke Skywalker, Princess Leia. I remember that one girl announced she wanted to be like Scarlet O'Hara and me thinking that she was well on her way.

Before long we ran out of kids who actually wanted to get on stage and have flashlights trained on them. Then the cool kids started to pressure some of the other kids to get up there, and they started to make fun of what they said. Things were getting ugly.

I was on my way to tell the priest that it would be better for us to have free time than to allow this to continue when I heard the chant begin: "Bil—ly! Bil—ly!" And then I saw Billy, his face fiery red, desperately trying not to cry, reluctantly making his way to the stage. Oh, no, I thought—not Billy.

Billy was a sweet, chubby, quiet little guy who looked like his mother still cut his hair—with no visible skill. He

was not athletic, not musical, not funny, and certainly not somebody who would want to call attention to himself. Every time I ever saw him he was wearing a striped shirt, with the stripes running horizontally, to accentuate his chubbiness. Billy got up on the stage, and 30 flashlights lit him up for all of us to see: the bad haircut, the off-brand jeans and cheap tennis shoes, the unflattering stripes on his shirt.

One of the cool guys called out, "**Hey, Billy—who do you want to be?**" I thought, c'mon, Billy, name a football player, be Batman or Paul McCartney or Robert Redford . . . **Billy said, "I want to be Popeye."**

I thought, oh man, not Popeye—there's nothing cool about Popeye the Sailor Man. A few of the kids laughed loudly enough for me to hear, and I knew Billy must have heard them too. My heart was just breaking for poor Billy. One of the popular girls said, "Why Popeye?"

Billy cleared his throat and said, "**Because Popeye says, 'I am what I am, and that's all that I am.'**" All right, Billy—my hero!

Now I know how you folks are about quotes, so I did a little work—the line comes from a song in a Popeye cartoon made in 1934: *The Man on the Flying Trapeze* (it's amazing what you can find on the Internet). The full quote is:

I yam what I yam,
And that's all what I yam.
I'm Popeye the sailor man.
I'm strong to the finitch,
'Cause I eats me spinach.
I'm Popeye the sailor man.

It would make a better story if I could tell you that Billy became popular and cool that night, that he gained the other kids' respect and affection. He did not—but he sure gained mine and taught me something that's been precious to me ever since: Who do you want to be? I yam what I yam, and that's all that I yam.

I yam proud to be a member of the Episcopal Church. I yam proud that we are willing to address the questions, even when they are difficult, even when I get confused, even when we get frustrated. ***Please hear me because I think these are words that need to be said: I am proud to be an Episcopalian. And I hope you are too.***

Not that we don't have problems. Yesiree Bob, we got problems—we got issues, concerns, dissent, maybe even a heresy or two. We tend to fixate on the things that divide us and let ourselves be derailed by things that might be important but are not the most important things. We fret and haggle to state our positions and pass our resolutions. But all of that, *all of that* is nothing compared to the love of God we share in Jesus Christ. That's what holds us together; that's the most important thing; that's who we yam.

I'm proud to be an Episcopalian because we offer a genuine response to the love of God, with true and beautiful worship, with honest present-tense theology, with authentic community, with real and heartfelt compassion for all of the children of God.

Healthy pride is an antidote to embarrassment. But too much pride, of course, becomes a different obstacle; we all know Christians who are haughty, smug, arrogant, or condescending. Good Lord, deliver us. But surely ***instead of looking only for things that divide us, allowing the distraction to become the focus, don't we need to claim the gifts and joys of being Episcopalians, of being part of the Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Alabama? We need to recognize that even in the midst of the difficulties of the day, we have so much to be proud of, programs and ministries and people and places for which we are grateful.***

Your list will be different from mine probably, and mine is too long to fit in the time you're willing to sit there and listen, but as a beginning we give thanks to God and God's faithful servants that the Gospel of Jesus Christ is being shared in the Sawyerville Day Camp; in Cursillo, Happening, Vocare, and New Beginnings; in our companion relationship with the Diocese of Haiti and their people; in the best group of college chaplains and campus ministries in the Episcopal Church; in creative youth ministers, energetic youth groups, and all sorts of programs in parishes and in our diocese for our younger members; in talented, faithful clergy and their long-suffering and patient spouses and families who share them with us; in a diversity of people brought together in the love of God—people of a wide array of backgrounds and experiences who sing their own notes to enrich the harmony of this part of God's choir; in the summer camping program at Camp McDowell and, since this is my list, the Special Session for people with disabilities; in a rich history of capable and gifted



Since Caroline McCord woke up with a fever and was confirmed when Bishop Parsley made his annual visit to Trinity Church in Florence, the bishops confirmed her following the close of this year's convention. (From left) Wilson McCord, Bishop Parsley, Worth Stuart, Caroline McCord, the Rev. Andy Keyse, Bishop Sloan, Shelia McCord, and Kelly McCord; photo by the Rev. Deacon Dave Drachlis.

bishops—Cobbs, Wilmer, Barnwell, Beckwith, and McDowell in the beginning, more recently Carpenter, Murray, Stough, and Miller, and now our much-loved Henry Parsley (you just can't do no better than that); in an extraordinary array of outreach programs in parishes large and small, ministries that touch people far and near; in a host of volunteers who serve our Lord in thousands of different ways.

We give thanks for this diocese and the strong leadership we have provided our state and our Church. We have so much to be proud of. This is some of the best of who we are. *It's not our differences and controversies that define us, but how we respond to our Lord's call to love and to serve: One Hope in God's Call to Us.*

Nicodemus had a lot to lose. He came to Jesus by night. But what he saw and what he heard led him to put away his frustration, confusion, fear, and embarrassment. Our faith is that we receive that same Jesus, that same Incarnation of God—at our baptism, in Bread and Wine, in our hearts, in our lives.

Billy had nothing to lose. He went on stage because he was forced to. But he was armed with a profound truth—that the answer to the question “Who do you want to be?” is “I am who I am, and that's all that I am.”

I invite you, the lay and ordained members and leaders of the Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Alabama, to put away whatever keeps you from seeing Jesus Christ as the most important part of our Church, as the most important part of our lives. I invite you to put aside

false pride, rigidity of thought, partisanship, and the need to be right. I've been right a couple of times over the years, and I can tell you that it's way overrated. It's better to be faithful, better to be loving, better to know that none of us have all the answers, better to know that we need God, and that we need each other.

I invite you to put away your fears for the sake of your faith. We are called to proclaim the hope of the resurrection of Jesus Christ—how can we be afraid? *I invite you to put away your frustration and anxiety and put your trust in God,* who continues to be at work among us in this part of the One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church. It is His Church; we are His servants; we are His stewards.

I invite you to disagree when you need to; there are issues to be addressed. *I invite you to disagree with me,* especially when I'm wrong. Please disagree—it's part of who we are. But disagree honestly, with the love and respect that you and your brothers and sisters deserve as the children of God.

In times of controversy and at all times, I invite you to be patient with each other, with your priests, with

your parishioners, with your bishops. *I invite each of you to help all of us be more and more fully who we yam: a community of faith filled with love and joy and hope, which are our gifts, our inheritance as Christians.*

“For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, ‘Abba! Father!’ it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him” (Romans 8:14-17).

Thanks be to God. Amen.



The Rt. Rev. John McKee Sloan

Resolutions Passed

The lay and clergy delegates passed the following resolutions during convention.

#1 THE 2010 PROPOSED PROGRAM AND BUDGET

See Pie Chart at right. For the Budget Summary please visit our Web site, www.dioala.org.

#2 THE PROPOSED CAMP MCDOWELL BUDGET

For the Budget Summary please visit our Web site, www.dioala.org.

#3 AMENDING DIOCESAN CANON 3, SECTION 9

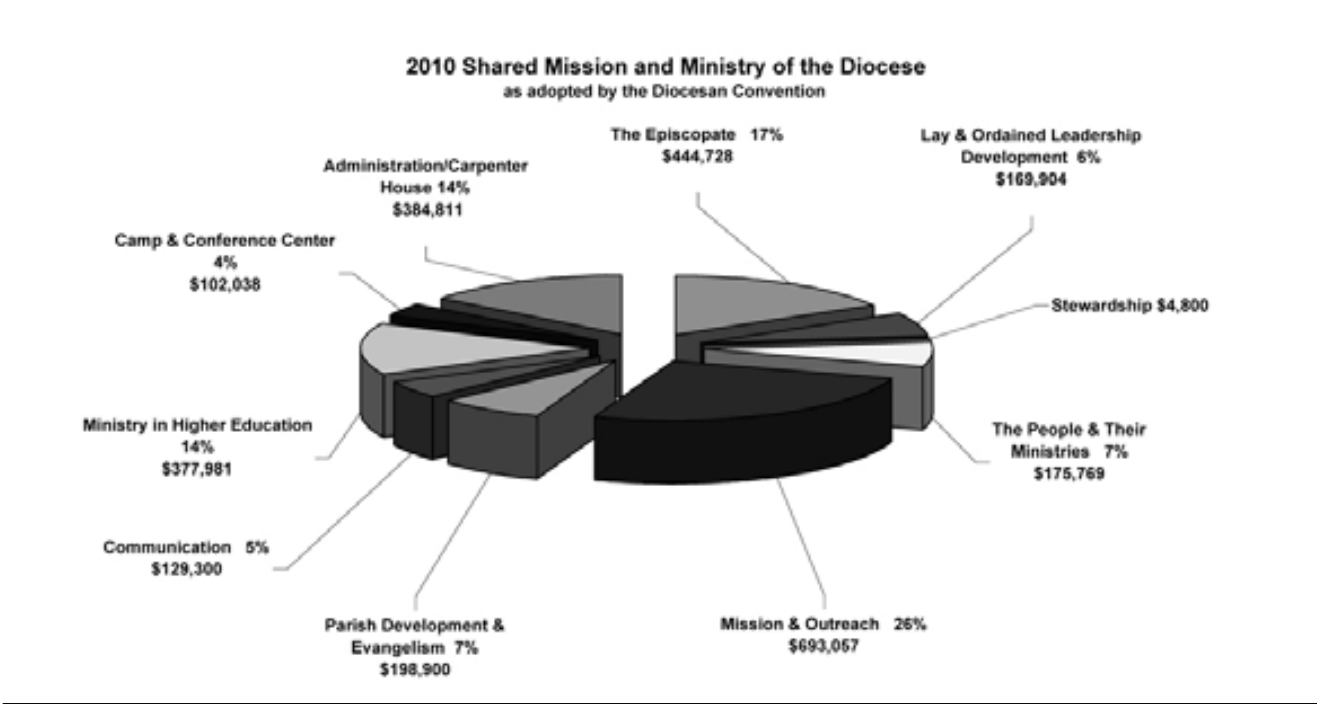
Be it resolved that Canon 3, Section, *General Convention Deputies*, be amended as follows.

Current Version:

The annual Convention, when appropriate under the General Canons, shall elect Deputies to represent the Diocese in General Convention. One (1) Presbyter and one (1) lay confirmed communicant in good standing shall be selected who is resident in each Electoral District so long as the Diocese is entitled to as many as such Deputies as there are Electoral Districts in the Diocese.

Proposed Change:

The annual Convention, when appropriate under the General Canons, shall elect Deputies to represent the Diocese in General Convention. One (1) Presbyter **or Deacon** and one (1) lay confirmed communicant in good standing shall be selected who is resident in each Electoral District so long as the Diocese is entitled to as many as such Deputies as there are Electoral Districts in the Diocese.



#4 AMENDING DIOCESAN CANON 9, SECTION 2

Be it resolved that Canon 9, Section 2 (b) shall be amended as follows.

Current Version:

(b) Authority. The Rector, when present, shall preside (or designate the member of the Vestry to preside) at all meetings of the Vestry and shall be entitled to cast the

Proposed Change:

(b) Authority. The Rector shall preside (or designate the member of the Vestry to preside) at all meetings of the Vestry and shall be entitled to cast the deciding vote in case of a tie.

#5 REVISION TO DIOCESAN CANONS

Section 10 ECCLESIASTICAL DISCIPLINE

Be it resolved that the following proposed revision to Diocesan Canons become effective July 1, 2011.

(a) Title IV of General Canons.

Those provisions of Title IV of the General Canons, as amended from time to time, which are applicable to the Diocese are hereby incorporated as part of this Title. To the extent, if any, that any of the provisions of this Title are in conflict or inconsistent with the provisions of Title IV of the General Canons, the provisions of Title IV of the General Canons shall govern.



Holy Trinity in Auburn being recognized as a Jubilee Ministry Center: (from left) the Rev. Allison Liles, Parker Lewis, the Rev. Deacon Steve Shanks, and the Rev. John Fritschner; photo by the Rev. Deacon Dave Drachlis

Existing Canon 6, Section 10, shall be replaced, effective July 1, 2011, by the following:

(b) Discipline Structure

Section 1.01 Disciplinary Board. The Board shall consist of three Lay and four members of the Clergy.

Section 1.02 Clergy Members. The Clergy members of the Board must be canonically and geographically resident within the Diocese.

Section 1.03 Lay Members. The lay members of the Board shall be adult Communicants in Good Standing, and geographically resident in the Diocese.

Section 1.04 Election. The members of the Board shall be elected by the Convention. Each member shall be elected for a three (3)-year term; except, if a member is elected to fill a vacancy, the term of such member shall be the unexpired term of the member being replaced. The terms of office of the Board shall be staggered and arranged into three classes, two or three of which shall expire each year, as the case may be.

Section 1.05 Vacancies. Vacancies on the Board shall be filled as follows:

(a) Upon the determination that a vacancy exists, the President of the Board shall promptly notify the Bishop of the vacancy and request appointment of a replacement member of the same order as the member to be replaced.

(b) The Bishop shall appoint a replacement Board member in consultation with the Standing Committee.

(c) Persons appointed to fill vacancies on the Board shall meet the same eligibility requirements as apply to elected Board members.

(d) With respect to a vacancy created for any reason other than pursuant to a challenge as provided below, the term of any person selected as a replacement Board member shall be until the next annual Convention. With respect to a vacancy resulting from a challenge, the replacement Board member shall serve only for the proceedings for which the elected Board member is not serving as a result of the challenge.

Section 1.06 Preserving Impartiality. In any proceeding under this Title, if any member of a Conference Panel or Hearing Panel of the Board

shall become aware of a personal conflict of interest or undue bias, that member shall promptly notify the President of the Board and request a replacement member of the Panel. The Respondent's Counsel and the Church Attorney shall have the right to challenge any member of a Panel for conflict of interest or undue bias by motion to the Panel for disqualification of the challenged member. The members of the Panel not the subjects of the challenge shall promptly consider the motion and determine whether the challenged Panel member shall be disqualified from participating in that proceeding.

Section 1.07 President. Within forty-five (45) days following the annual Convention, the Board shall convene in person or by telephone conference call to elect a President to serve for the following calendar year.

Section 1.08 Intake Officer. The Intake Officer shall be appointed from time to time by the Bishop after consultation with the Board. The Bishop may appoint one or more Intake Officers according to the needs of the Diocese. The Bishop shall publish the name(s) and contact information of the Intake Officer(s) throughout the Diocese.

Section 1.09 Investigator. The Bishop shall appoint an Investigator in consultation with the President of the Board. The Investigator may but need not be a Member of the Church.

Section 1.10 Church Attorney. Within forty-five (45) days following each annual Convention, the Bishop, with the advice and consent of the Standing Committee, shall appoint an attorney to serve as Church Attorney to serve for the following calendar year. The person so selected must be a Member of the Church and a duly licensed attorney.

Section 1.11 Pastoral Response Coordinator. The Bishop may appoint a Pastoral Response Coordinator, to serve at the will of the Bishop in coordinating the delivery of appropriate pastoral responses provided for in Title IV.8 of the General Canons and this Title. The Pastoral Response Coordinator may be the Intake Officer, but shall not be a person serving in any other appointed or elected capacity under this Title.

Section 1.12 Advisors. In each proceeding under this Title, the Bishop shall appoint an Advisor for the Complainant and an Advisor for the Respondent. Persons serving as Advisors shall hold no other appointed or elected position provided for under this Title, and shall not include chancellors or vice chancellors of this Diocese or any person likely to be called as a witness in the proceeding.

Section 1.13 Clerk. The Board shall appoint a Board Clerk to assist the Board with records management and administrative support. The Clerk may be a member of the Board.

(c) Costs and Expenses

Section 1.14 Costs Incurred by the Church. The reasonable costs and expenses of the Board, the Intake Officer, the Investigator, the Church Attorney, the Board Clerk and the Pastoral Response Coordinator shall be the obligation of the Diocese.

#6 PETITION FOR PARISH STATUS

By the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, in the love of God and in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, we whose signatures appear affixed below, being baptized members of Christ's Body and Calvary Episcopal Church in Oneonta, do hereby petition the Rt. Rev. Henry N. Parsley Jr., Bishop of Alabama, that Calvary Episcopal Church, located in



Banner made by parish member Frances Sellers; photo by the Rev. Deacon Dave Drachlis

Blount County, Alabama, and in the City of Oneonta, be admitted as a parish in the diocese of Alabama. We furthermore, by our signatures, do solemnly engage to conform to the doctrine, discipline, and worship of the Episcopal Church and ask the Rt. Rev. Henry N. Parsley Jr. favorably to report this petition at the 179th Convention of the Episcopal Church in the diocese of Alabama and meeting in Florence, Alabama in February in the Year of Our Lord 2010.



Photo by Scotty Bobo

7 IN RESPONSE TO THE HAITI EARTHQUAKE

In response to the devastating earthquakes in Haiti and the destruction caused to our companion diocese there,

Be it resolved that this 179th Convention of the Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Alabama express its continuing love and prayers to our brothers and sisters in Christ who live and work in Haiti;

And be it further resolved that this 179th Convention of the Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Alabama give thanks to all those who have made offerings of money and prayers for relief in Haiti and especially for the work of Episcopal Relief and Development in the Diocese of Haiti.

Continued involvement in Haiti is essential, and the support of The Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Alabama is vital to their rebuilding efforts.

Therefore be it further resolved that this 179th Convention of the Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Alabama continue to offer money, prayers, and all resources available to assist the Diocese of Haiti during this time of extreme need.

#8 IN APPRECIATION OF THE RT. REV. ROBERT O. MILLER

Be it resolved that the 179th Convention of the Diocese of Alabama does recognize and acknowledge that the Rt. Rev. Robert O. Miller, Ninth Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Alabama, was a much beloved bishop in our diocese. He was a devoted pastor to many, a champion of the Church's ministry among the poor and persons in special need, and a leader in expanding the ministry of the Episcopal Church in Alabama;

And be it further resolved that this convention recognizes how much he is greatly missed and gives hearty thanks for his faithful ministry among us.

#9 COVENANT SYSTEM COMMITTEE

Be it resolved that this convention affirm the Bishop's appointment of a committee to determine the effectiveness of Standing Resolution 8 concerning voluntary contributions from parishes, which has been in effect since 1981, and explore possible alternatives for raising and providing funds for the program of the Diocese of Alabama as contemplated by Canon 3, Section 8;

And be it further resolved that the committee report its findings and suggestions to the next annual diocesan convention.

#10 EPISCOPAL ELECTION PROCESS

Be it resolved with sincere gratitude for the outstanding leadership and ministry of the Rt. Rev. Henry N. Parsley Jr., the tenth Bishop of Alabama, we regretfully accept his request to retire as Bishop effective December 31, 2011, and hereby authorize the Standing Committee of the diocese to effect the orderly transition and election process for the eleventh Bishop of Alabama;

And be it further resolved that the Standing Committee commence the election process in the summer of 2010 and appoint a Nominating Committee and a Transition Committee to establish all necessary time schedules to accomplish the goal of conducting the election on or after July 1, 2011, and a consecration to take place before December 31, 2011.



Clergy introduced at convention: the Rev. Eric Stelle, the Rev. Lee Schäfer, the Rev. Joan Henrick, the Rev. Betsy Powell, the Rev. Jack Alvey, and the Rev. David Powell; photo by the Rev. Deacon Dave Drachlis

#11 ST. MICHAEL'S IN HUFFMAN

Be it resolved that in response to the letter from the congregation of St. Michael's Episcopal Church in

Birmingham requesting permission to cease continuing its status as an active parish of the diocese, we do hereby declare it be closed as an active parish of the Diocese of Alabama and so be declared dormant;

And be it further resolved that this convention expresses our gratitude for St. Michael's life and ministry for more than 50 years and their faithfulness in providing their church property for the ministry of La Gracia;

And be it further resolved that all property, parish records, and possessions of St. Michael's be placed under the direct authority and control of the Bishop of Alabama to be used as the home of the ministry of Iglesia Episcopal de la Gracia or such other uses as the Bishop of Alabama deems appropriate and in accordance with the General Canons of the Episcopal Church, USA, and the canons of the Diocese of Alabama.

#12 GRATITUDE AND SUPPORT FOR BISHOP PARSELEY

Be it resolved that the 179th Convention of the Diocese of Alabama lift up our hearts and rejoice in the faithful ministry of the Rt. Rev. Henry N. Parsley Jr. As our shepherd, he leads us deeper into the heart of Christ, for which we remain eternally grateful. His fruitful, faithful response to his call in Christ continues to lead us into God's future of abundance for the Diocese of Alabama and all people everywhere;

And be it further resolved that we will strive as we are taught to strive by Bishop Parsley—steadily, confidently, faithfully—for the upbuilding of the body of Christ and to carry on Christ's mission in the world. Mission will remain at the forefront of every endeavor, for Christ's sake;

And be it further resolved that we step lively with Bishop Parsley on the narrow way of God's all-embracing love each remaining day of his episcopate and every day we have together in God's eternal Kingdom;

And be it further resolved that the Diocese of Alabama thank Bishop Parsley, in the words of the poet W. B. Yeats, from our "deep heart's core."

#13 INVITATION TO THE 180TH CONVENTION

Be it resolved that the convention does hereby recognize that St. Luke's Church, 3736 Montrose Road, having started in a farmhouse in Crestline Village, now celebrates 61 years of active ministry in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ in Birmingham, Alabama;

And be it further resolved that the convention does hereby recognize that St. Luke's Church remains faithful in her mission to glorify God and to bring others to Christ through piety, study, and action; and that she demonstrates this by continuing to be an active part of the community, doing the work of Christ through her worship and outreach ministries;

And be it further resolved that the convention does hereby recognize that St. Luke's Church delights in sharing her gifts of the Spirit, her hospitality, her generous facilities, and her love of the Lord with all by welcoming the Diocese



The Rev. Dex Bender with the Rev. Marc Burnett; photo by the Rev. Deacon Dave Drachlis

of Alabama to her vibrant city in the heart of the state of Alabama. And while there are physical limitations to any parish hosting a convention of this size, St. Luke's looks forward to hosting the family and the coffee will be cheap;

And be it further resolved that this convention joyfully accepts St. Luke's Church in Birmingham's invitation for the 180th Convention of the Diocese of Alabama to Birmingham, February 11-12, 2011.

#14 IN RECOGNITION OF MR. JON MEACHAM

Be it resolved that the convention does hereby recognize that our honored guest, Mr. Meacham, is the editor of *Newsweek* magazine and a recent recipient of the Pulitzer Prize for biography;

And be it further resolved that the convention does hereby recognize that he is a dedicated lay leader of the Episcopal Church, an eloquent spokesman on the role of religion in our society, a communicant of St. Thomas' Church in New York, and a vestry member at that historic church and at Trinity Church Wall Street;

And be it further resolved that the convention does hereby recognize that he has served his alma mater on both the Board of Trustees and the Board of Regents of the University of the South in Sewanee, Tennessee;

And be it further resolved that the 179th Convention of the Diocese of Alabama extends welcome and thanks to our virtual guest speaker, Mr. Jon Meacham. We appreciate his inspiring words about our Episcopal identity and shared mission and his thoughts on how we can proclaim and live the Gospel in our day and time.

#15 IN RECOGNITION OF THE REV. HYVENSON JOSEPH

Be it resolved that the convention does hereby recognize that the Rev. Hyvenson Joseph is from our companion diocese of Haiti and is currently in residence and studying at The University of the South in Sewanee, Tennessee;

And be it further resolved that we deeply appreciate his moving words about the life of the Church in Haiti and for reminding us that the Church is its people and not just its buildings;



Photo by Scotty Bobo

And be it further resolved that the Diocese of Alabama extends welcome and thanks to our guest speaker and joins Pere Joseph in praying for a speedy and meaningful recovery.

#16 IN RECOGNITION OF THE LATE RICK JOHNSON

Be it resolved that the convention wishes to recognize the service of Rick Johnson who, for many years, was the faithful caretaker of Camp McDowell;

And be it further resolved that in recognition of the unique and special relationship and service of Rick Johnson to this diocese, this 179th Convention grant the clergy of this diocese the use of an alternative dismissal at the end of worship service to be “Here we go just like we had good sense” with the response being “Thanks be to God.”

17 IN RECOGNITION OF THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF THE LATE REV. MILTON T. GLOR

Be it resolved that the convention recognizes the tireless work and commitment of the late Rev. Milton T. Glor of Sheffield, Alabama, who twice served faithfully as diocesan secretary;

Be it further resolved that the 179th Convention of the Diocese of Alabama challenges all congregants to follow the life of love and charity consistently and passionately embodied by the late Rev. Milton T. Glor.

18 EXPRESSING GRATITUDE TO THE HOSTS OF THE 179TH CONVENTION

Be it resolved that the convention recognizes that Trinity Church in Florence, Alabama, has been a most gracious host parish for the 179th Convention of the Diocese of Alabama;

And be it further resolved that the convention recognizes that Co-Chairs Cheri Self and Bruce Cherry did an outstanding job of coordinating the events of the Convention at Trinity Church, First United Methodist Church, the Shoals Conference Center, and the Tennessee Valley Arts Center;

And be it further resolved that the convention recognizes that the clergy of Trinity Church, the Rev. Andrew Keyse, Rector, and the Rev. Deacon Thomas R. Osborne provided outstanding leadership for the activities and worship services offered to the delegates during the convention;

And be it further resolved that the convention recognizes that Choir Director Ian Loeppky and the combined choirs of Trinity Episcopal Church, Grace Episcopal Church, and St. Bartholomew’s Episcopal Church provided beautiful music for worship;

And be it further resolved that the convention recognizes that pianist Robert Beck provided beautiful music throughout all convention events;

And be it further resolved that the convention is thankful for the First United Methodist Church of Florence who graciously provided the convention participants with the use of their beautiful worship space for the celebration of Holy Eucharist on Thursday night;

And be it further resolved that the convention recognizes that the Friday Gala Coordinators, Carole Graves, Lynn Coleman, Rudi Pillow, and Carl Casiday, provided a warm and uplifting venue for Christian fellowship on Friday night at Trinity Church;

And be it further resolved that the convention recognizes that the Wardens and Staff of Trinity Church, Sr. Warden George Pillow, Jr. Warden Scott Townsend, Treasurer Tom White, Bookkeeper Sheila Shelton, and Parish Secretary Michelle Crandall provided excellent support and handling of all questions and financial matters with regard to the convention;

And be it further resolved that the convention is thankful for all volunteers who offered their time and talent to serve at the Convention Center and various hotels, helped with the convention Eucharist, provided food for the Friday Night Gala, and assisted in a variety of ways to make this convention a great success;

And be it further resolved that the 179th Convention of the Diocese of Alabama expresses deep gratitude for the gracious hospitality provided by the members of Trinity Church, as it celebrates its 174th year as the oldest Episcopal parish in the Tennessee Valley.

People Elected To Serve Our Diocese

The lay and clergy delegated elected the following people to serve our diocese.

DIOCESAN COUNCIL

Northern District

The Rev. Joan M. Henrick
Rector of Holy Comforter in Gadsden

Donnie Moyer
Member of Grace Church in Cullman

Middle District

The Rev. Canon Joe Warren
Associate of the Cathedral Church of the Advent in Birmingham

Lisa Beck
Member of St. Luke’s in Birmingham

Southern District

The Rev. Evan D. Garner
Associate Rector of St. John’s in Montgomery

Suellen Young
Member of Trinity in Wetumpka

STANDING COMMITTEE

The Rev. Bill Blackerby
Chaplain of the Birmingham Episcopal Campus Ministry

Bill Gamble
Member of St. Paul’s in Selma

ECCLESIASTICAL COURT

The Rev. Roger Allen
Rector of St. James’ in Alexander City

The Rev. John Coleman
Rector of the Ascension in Montgomery

Stan Herring
Member of St. Mary’s on-the-Highlands in Birmingham

Clergy Introduced at Convention

NEW CLERGY

Birmingham Convocation

The Rev. Dr. Glenda Curry, Dean of the Convocation, introduced:
Jack Alvey, of All Saints’ in Birmingham
Eric Stelle, of All Saints’ in Birmingham
John Wesley, of St. Andrew’s in Montevallo

Black Belt Convocation

The Rev. David Meginniss, Dean of the Convocation, introduced:
Catherine Collier, of Christ Church in Tuscaloosa
Betsy Powell, of St. Paul’s in Selma
David Powell, of St. Paul’s in Selma

CLERGY ACCEPTING A CALL

Bishop Parsley announced that the following clergy have accepted a call to a new parish in the past year:

Birmingham Convocation

Charles Youngson, of St. Thomas’ in Birmingham
Wilton Bunch (Interim), of St. Andrew’s in Birmingham

Black Belt Convocation

Marc Burnette, of Canterbury Chapel in Tuscaloosa

Cheaha Convocation

Peter Horn (Interim), of STEM

Mountain Convocation

Joan Henrick, of Holy Comforter in Gadsden

Tennessee Valley Convocation

Matt Doss, St. Thomas’ in Huntsville
Allison Liles, St. Thomas’ in Huntsville
Eric Liles, of St. John’s in Decatur

Bringing Hope Amid the Rubble

By the Rev. Deacon Dave Drachlis

Our diocese is committed to assisting with recovery efforts through our companion relationship with the Diocese of Haiti.
Please see page 24 for information about how you can help, and visit our diocesan Web site, www.dioala.org, for updates on our ongoing assistance efforts, to read personal reflections by C. J. Ross and Bob Serio, and to see a video and more photos.



Dr. Don Evans, C.J. Ross, Dr. Bob Serio, Janet Quillen, and Dave Drachlis with Kristel at St. Simeon Church in Croix des Bouquets



The top floor is all that remains recognizable of the three-story school building at College St. Pierre. Children were taking tests in the building at the time of the quake and many perished; photo by Dave Drachlis.

As we knelt in prayer with our Haitian brothers and sisters in the gathering darkness on the hard concrete floor of St Simeon Church in Croix des Bouquets, the poignant words of the Great Litany spoke to us afresh.

From lightning and tempest; from earthquake, fire, and flood; from plague, pestilence, and famine, Good Lord, deliver us.

It was February 26, the second Friday in Lent and our last night in Haiti. For the past week, our small medical team had been immersed in the aftermath of the worst earthquake to hit Haiti in more than 200 years. And as we prepared to leave, it seemed fitting to be praying together the Great Litany.

Our team was in Haiti at the request of Bishop Zache Duracin to provide medical treatment at a tent city in downtown Port au Prince and other locations where the Episcopal Diocese of Haiti is caring for more than 23,000 earthquake refugees. We had been invited on the strength of our companion relationship with the Diocese of Haiti and St. Simeon Parish to test a mission model for long-term recovery efforts.

Unlike previous medical missions from our diocese, ours was not primarily a mission to the people of St. Simeon Parish but a joint mission with St. Simeon Parish to people in locations where the Diocese of Haiti's crisis committee felt there was the greatest need. Our team included two physicians (Don Evans and Robert Serio, members of the Nativity in Huntsville), two nurses (Janet Quillen, of the Nativity in Huntsville,

and C.J. Ross, of St. Francis' in Indian Springs), and me as mission coordinator. We were joined by Haitian medical personnel to form a combined Haitian/American medical team led by Carmel Valdema, a public health nurse and the wife of Father Fritz Valdema (Pere Val), priest-in-charge of St. Simeon Parish.

Because Port au Prince airport had been closed to commercial traffic since the quake, we flew into Santo Domingo in the Dominican Republic, more than 160

Our mission was about much more than medicine. It was about touching with, and being touched by, the Divine love of God; about offering hope, about shining the healing light of Christ into the darkness that had befallen our brothers and sisters in Haiti. We listened to their stories of tragedy and loss, held their hands, and prayed with them for God's comforting and healing touch.



People moving among sidewalk vendors against a backdrop of debris and tent cities in Port au Prince; photo by Dave Drachlis

miles due east. We arrived mid-afternoon Sunday, February 21, and because the Haitian border is five hours away by road and it closes at 6 p.m., we spent our first night in Santo Domingo. We headed for Haiti early the next morning by van, towing a trailer with our camping gear and some 600 pounds of medicine and medical supplies obtained through the



Patients waiting to be seen by our medical team in College St. Pierre; photo by Dave Drachlis

generosity of Alabama parishes and parishioners.

As we left Santo Domingo, the highway quickly became a rural two-lane, pothole-punctuated road. About an hour from the border town of Jimani—seemingly in the middle of nowhere—we hit a pothole, and our trailer sagged to the right. A leaf spring had broken; we bungeed the loose spring out of the way and continued on. About a mile farther down the road, another pothole stripped the undercarriage from the trailer, and we ground to a halt. With the help of passing Good Samaritans, we pushed the trailer off the road, loaded the gear into the van with us, and continued ever-so-slowly in our now cramped-and-overburdened conveyance.

At the border, an open-air market bustled with Haitians seeking food and other relief supplies. Crossing into Haiti the road all but vanished, and we found

ourselves driving along the edge of Lake Azuei on what seemed more like hard-packed beach than a main highway.

We linked up with Pere Val about midday, dropped our gear, and headed for College St. Pierre in Port au Prince to prepare for our first clinic there on Tuesday. The collapsed Episcopal high school's soccer field-turned tent city was now home to some 3,000 earthquake survivors.

En route we passed seemingly endless destruction—a bit overwhelming even after all we had previously seen on television. We spent several quiet moments amid the rubble of Holy Trinity Episcopal Cathedral. Workers there were painstakingly going through the debris by hand attempting to recover pieces of the historic murals that covered the interior walls. We also saw what remained of Holy Trinity

School adjacent to the Cathedral. The school was among several buildings that collapsed earlier that morning during a magnitude four-plus aftershock.

As we moved slowly through the crowded streets, sidewalk vendors were again plentiful and people were moving about against a backdrop of rubble and tent cities—it was an eerie juxtaposition as people attempted to regain some level of normalcy. We passed a woman sitting in a chair on the sidewalk having her hair braided by a beautician in front of what was left of her salon. The veneer of normalcy however was—and remains—thin, transparent, and fragile as the people of Haiti struggle to deal with immense suffering and loss.

That it may please thee to support, help, and comfort all who are in danger, necessity, and tribulation, We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

Monday evening, we set up camp, pitching our tents in the schoolyard behind St. Simeon Church, our base of operation from which our hosts, Carmel, Pere Val, and members of their parish, provided logistical support for our mission. Some among us were awakened about 1:30 a.m. that first night by two aftershocks that frightened an already traumatized community of quake homeless Haitians camping with us.

Tuesday, our first full day, we treated more than 266 patients at a makeshift clinic under a tarp at College St. Pierre.

Wednesday, following a 6:30 a.m. Eucharist at St. Simeon, we traveled to Petionville, a suburb of Port au Prince, where we held clinic at St. James the Just, an Episcopal Church across the street from a large tent city. There we met Giliane, a parishioner whose aunt and grandmother had been killed in the earthquake. “God spared me, and there must be a reason,” she told me. “I believe I was spared to serve others, and I need to volunteer to help you.” In spite of her loss, she worked with Carmel assisting our team for the next two days.

Thursday, we worked in the impoverished village of Lilavois. We set up our clinic under a tarp stretched between the earthquake-damaged buildings of St. Marc's School. One of our team members discovered the words “There is no perfect happiness on earth” written in chalk along with a lesson for the day on a blackboard in one of the classrooms. The lesson was



A mother with her baby “living” in the tent city in College St. Pierre; photo by C.J. Ross



The tent city in College St. Pierre; photo by Dave Drachlis



The ruins of Holy Trinity Cathedral in Port au Prince; photo by Don Evans



Workers picking through the rubble of Holy Trinity Cathedral hoping to find some of the remains of the historic murals that covered the interior walls; photo by Robert Serio

dated January 12, 2010—the day of the earthquake. Had the words been written as part of the teacher's lesson for the day or added sometime later? It really didn't matter. They reminded us that while mortal life may indeed be without perfection—even excruciating at times—it is not without hope. And that is why we were in Haiti.

Friday, we worked at Lespwa Timoun (Hope for the Children), a nutrition clinic-turned medical clinic in Croix des Bouquets.

That it may please thee to visit the lonely; to strengthen all who suffer in mind, body, and spirit; and to comfort with thy presence those who are failing and infirm, We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

In all we treated almost 1,000 people. We provided follow-up care to earthquake injuries and other quake-related maladies, but much of what we treated was more a chronic burden of illness than acute earthquake-related issues—headaches, backaches, coughs, burns, abscesses, ear infections, heart murmurs, cataracts, breast masses and cysts. We also saw stomach problems, urinary infections, rashes, malaria, parasites, broken arms and legs, hypertension, heart failure, and diabetes. And almost everyone suffered from anxiety, hypervigilance, and post-traumatic stress.

But our mission was about much more than medicine. It was about touching with, and being touched by, the Divine love of God; about offering hope, about shining the healing light of Christ into the darkness that had befallen our brothers and sisters in Haiti. We listened to their stories of tragedy and loss, held their hands, and prayed with them for God's comforting and healing touch.

It was good to be among our Haitian brothers and sisters but difficult to witness their suffering, loss, and grief. Almost everyone we encountered had lost family or friends.

There was the young boy who when we asked if his mother had brought him to the clinic began to cry; she had died in the earthquake. We aided a mother who lost her husband and her home and was now struggling just to survive and care for her five children. And we were touched by the woman whose child had died in the collapse of College St. Pierre, just a few hundred feet from where we sat and prayed with her.

That it may please thee to grant to all the faithful departed eternal life and peace, We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

Most of the people we saw had lost their homes and were living in tents, under tarps, or in the open. Of those whose homes were undamaged, many were afraid to sleep in them. And yet, amid it all, we found a people of steadfast faith and resiliency who remain hopeful as they face the daily difficulties of life and an uncertain future.

That it may please thee to bless and keep all thy people, We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

Surveying the Damage to St. Simeon Parish Facilities

Before we left Haiti we got a firsthand look at the damage the earthquake caused at several of the churches and schools Pere Val serves.

Transfiguration Church in the rural village of Gorman was the most severely damaged of the churches and

will need to be completely rebuilt. The roof of the small concrete block structure caved in, and portions of the concrete block walls crumbled or received significant structural damage (see photo on page 24).

Some walls and the protective fence of **St. Marc's Episcopal School in Lilavois** collapsed, and others received structural damage. The school will be torn down and rebuilt.

Pere Val plans to clear away the damaged buildings at Gorman and Lilavois and erect temporary shelters for school and worship until rebuilding plans can be completed.

St. Simeon Church and School in Croix des Bouquets fared much better. Portions of the protective wall around the compound collapsed and were in the process of being rebuilt. The termite-damaged roof of the nave was further weakened by the earthquake and will need to be repaired. There was no discernable damage to the other buildings.

Small cracks appeared in the walls of **St. Sacrament Church in Fond Parisian**, and a significant crack was discovered in one of the walls of the primary school.

Our team did not visit the two other churches in Pere Val's parish—**St. Michel's in Thomazeau**, which was reported to be undamaged, and **St. Alban's in Crochu**, which had been completely destroyed by hurricanes in 2008.

The Lespuva Timoun (Hope for the Children) nutrition clinic under construction in Croix des Bouquets also received significant damage, much of which had been repaired before we arrived.



Port au Prince; photo by Dave Drachlis



Treating patients inside St. James the Just across the street from a large tent city in Petionville, a suburb of Port au Prince; photo by Dave Drachlis



Patients waiting to be seen by the medical team under a tarp stretched between the damaged buildings at St. Marc's in Lilavois; photo by Dave Drachlis

ERD Still Present in Haiti

By Judy Quick, Our Diocesan ERD Representative

The cameras may be gone. The news has moved on to the latest disaster or story. But Episcopal Relief & Development (ERD) is ever present with our brothers and sisters in Christ in Haiti.

The tragic earthquake in Haiti focused our hearts on our Companion Diocese. The recovery efforts in Haiti are a marvelous example of how ERD is exceptionally effective in providing Relief because of the organization's long-term presence for Development. Through ERD's deep partnerships with the Diocese of Haiti and other local organizations, the 28 community development workers who had already been trained for disaster management and the 50 healthcare workers who had just received training on water-purification techniques were able to respond immediately when the earthquake struck.

ERD is currently providing assistance to expand the capacity of helping 25,000 survivors at more than 60 mission sites in eight localities. ERD has distributed more than 6 tons of food, supplied medicine boxes to the community health workers, constructed permanent latrines and clean water sites in eight camps, and conducted training on the proper installation and maintenance of at least 20 emergency water-purification systems.

In addition, ERD's relationship with the Diocese of the Dominican Republic has facilitated a quick response and entry route into Haiti. The day after the earthquake, ERD sent Katie Mears (who came from the Diocese of Louisiana with Hurricane Katrina experience) and Kirsten Muth (who responded to the Asian tsunami) to Haiti (via the Dominican Republic) to assess the situation

and begin planning for short-term relief as well as laying the groundwork for long-term rebuilding.

Bishop Duracin asked ERD to coordinate all of the relief efforts and missions in Haiti with the Rev. Lauren Stanley. The Rev. Deacon Dave Drachlis, C.J. Ross, and our diocese's first earthquake-relief medical team invited to go to Haiti coordinated their work with the ERD staff and the Dioceses of the Dominican Republic and Haiti.

For more information about ERD's ongoing relief and recovery efforts in Haiti and other countries around the world, please contact Judy Quick at jgquick@bellsouth.net or 205/669-6862 or visit www.er-d.org. For more about our diocese's ongoing assistance efforts in Haiti, please see "Bringing Hope Amid the Rubble" on pages 12-15 and page 24 and visit our diocesan Web site, www.dioala.org.

EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN

Compiled by Lynn Edge Reeves, Publicity Chair

From Gethryn S. Giles, ECW President



As I am writing this there is snow on my deck, yet today I have been preparing my registration for the Province IV ECW Conference to be held at Kanuga in Hendersonville, North Carolina, in June—and I am keenly aware of the miracle of God's universe and the seasons of

the year. The women of our diocese experience many different events as the seasons change. We have Spring and Fall Convocation meetings, attend workshops such as the ECW one at the recent Parish Leadership Training Event, and attend parish ECW meetings, sometimes monthly.

This year we are learning about the mission and ministries of our parishes. As we carry out our outreach

plans, we experience God's love in our service to others. Our "ECW Calendar/Handbook" for 2010 has the theme "Serving Others in Christ: Mission and Ministries in the Diocese of Alabama." The page for March features St. Stephen's in Birmingham and the parish project "Bread for Life," which provides sustainable income for Ugandan women and their families, helping many of them start small businesses.

The featured calendar Millennium Development Goal for April is Camp McDowell and its many efforts to ensure environmental sustainability. On February 12 at our Diocesan Convention in Florence, Judy Quick, the Chair of our diocesan Department of Mission and Outreach, conducted a workshop on "Millennium Development Goals in Action!" Those of us attending actively participated in asking questions, making

suggestions, and sharing ideas. We discussed details about the Haiti School Lunch Program, "Krik? Krak!" sponsored by our diocesan clergy spouses, and received information on how parishes can participate. We will share brochures about this program with our parish ECWs during our Spring Convocation meetings.

Please remember that the deadline for the ECW Scholarship program is April 30. Applicants can download application forms from our ECW Web site, www.alabamaecw.org, or request them from Beth Ensey, Chair of our Scholarship Committee, at 4651 Round Forest Drive, Birmingham, AL 35213. All parts of the application must be complete before the applicant can be considered for a scholarship.

Blessings!

The members of **the ECW of St. Michael's in Fayette** met in November to assemble Baby Baskets to be delivered to the hospital for distribution to needy mothers, a project that is partly funded by a grant from our diocesan Missions and Outreach Committee. They assembled and delivered 14 baskets, each containing baby blankets, diapers, wipes of several kinds, onesies, caps, lotions, and toys; the baskets themselves can be used for laundry or storage later. The members of the ECW will be preparing more than 400 Super Hoagies for their Super Bowl Sunday fundraiser; the proceeds will be divided among the Christian Center of Concern food bank, the Baby Baskets project, and other diocesan ECW projects.

Church Periodical Club (CPC) grants provide a welcome surprise for seminary students, notes Linda George, chair of our diocesan Church Periodical Club. Each year, a totally unexpected treat arrives in the mailboxes of Alabamians studying for the ministry at Episcopal seminaries. It's a check from the Church Periodical Club to help with the cost of books.

"I remember getting this check for an odd amount—more than \$300 and some odd cents," recalls the Rev. Michael Rich. He is now the rector of St. Luke's in Jacksonville, but then he was a student at the General Theological Seminary in New York. "It was a surprise and a great, great help. Seminary is just so expensive," he explains, "but more than that, it's nice to be reminded that folks back home are supporting you in your ministry."

The Church Periodical Club (CPC) is the only organization in the Episcopal Church of the United States of America that is dedicated solely to providing free literature and related

materials, both religious and secular, to people all over the world who cannot otherwise obtain such literature and materials. It was founded in 1888 by Mary Ann Fargo, the wife of a member of the Wells Fargo Express firm. On a trip to the Dakotas with her husband, she learned about the great need on the frontiers for Bibles and other spiritual literature. Mrs. Fargo and her friends at the Church of the Holy Communion in New York sent bundles of books and periodicals westward to missionaries and pioneers via stagecoach. From this small beginning a great network of CPC has spread throughout the American Church.

The First Sunday in May is designated CPC Sunday. Special prayers, a sermon on the ministry of the printed word, and a special collection for CPC may be given on this Sunday. The funds collected in our diocese are divided, at the discretion of our diocesan ECW Board, among our seminarians. In 2009, seven seminarians received \$355 each.

Two national giving programs are based on CPC contributions: the National Books Fund and Miles of Pennies (MOP), which provides for the needs of children age preschool through high school and is particularly geared for Sunday School and youth group projects. In raising funds, it's interesting to note that 1 mile of pennies equals \$844.80.

Please send your CPC Sunday collection in a parish check, marked as "CPC/ECW," to ECW, Diocese of Alabama, 521 North 20th Street, Birmingham, AL 35203-2611. For more about the CPC, please visit <http://churchperiodical.com>; call the national office at 800/334-7626, or contact Linda George at 4215 Hollingsworth Road, Jacksonville, AL 36265. You can order a resource film as well as handouts.

Connecting Educators and Their Children with Nature



Have you ever longed for an opportunity to slow down and connect with Nature? Even more importantly, have you wished you knew how to connect your own child with Nature?

Today we hear so much about "Nature Deficient Disorder" in children, but in actuality most of us adults are suffering from this in one way or

another. We rarely take long walks in the woods or linger by a stream to watch for wildlife. Few people today are comfortable enough in the woods to even consider taking their own family on a Nature adventure.

This summer McDowell Environmental Center (MEC) is offering the perfect solution to this conundrum: **the *Growing Roots: Connecting Educators and Their Children to Nature* workshop will be held June 21-23, 2010** at Camp McDowell near the Bankhead National Forest. The workshop will allow a limited number of educators to each bring their own child or grandchild on a once-in-a-lifetime adventure that will include hikes to learn edible and medicinal plants, geology lessons, and fossil digs at the Minkin Paleozoic Trackway. Participants will also combine nature and art through mosaics and enjoy trips to wade and swim in beautiful Clear Creek with lessons on the invertebrates and fish that live in our local Alabama waters. All of this adventure and learning is set against the backdrop of the beauty of Camp McDowell's 1,100 acres of forests, sandstone canyons, streams, and waterfalls. ***What an amazing way to share three days with your child!***

You can download a registration form from the Camp McDowell Web site, www.campmcdowell.com. For more information or to register for the workshop, please e-mail Maggie Wade Johnston, Director of McDowell Environmental Center, at maggie@campmcdowell.com or call 205/387-1806.

CAMP McDOWELL



Big Dave—The Best Environmental Educator in All the Land!

By Maggie Wade Johnston, MEC Director

charisma as well as his passion for all of God’s creatures reassures even the most fearful of snake fearers, and usually the educational session ends with every child and adult in the class wanting to touch, if not hold, the snake.

Dave teaches the connections that we have to this often unseen and forgotten part of our world. We are all a part of Nature and therefore connected to it. Our culture, however, has isolated people from Nature with walls, roofs, and concrete—Dave opens eyes, minds, and hearts to the wonders around us. He teaches the children in his classes to respect Nature. They learn everything

from how to call up birds by using a bird distress call to how Native Americans utilized natural resources. His genuine love of both people and the natural world helps even the most world-hardened grownups feel their connection to the earth and their environment. I have seen many chaperones and teachers sit through a Big Dave Sharing Circle with tears rolling down their face. In fact, I have often been that adult!

Dave opens his soul and shares his personal struggles with learning disabilities with children, and he helps them understand that they too can overcome challenges by believing in themselves and working hard. He shows his boundless enthusiasm each time a child catches a tiny dragonfly nymph from the pond (even though it is the 100th one caught that day!), but even more importantly, Dave empowers each child to do his or her best in everything they do.

While Dave’s attitude and abilities as a teacher are why he stands out to the students and staff, what I admire most about Dave is *how* he became a teacher. As a young adult, Dave had to overcome many challenges to follow his dreams of being a naturalist and teacher. With dyslexia and no higher

education, Dave continued to study and learn about the environment, working his way into wildlife rehabilitation and education. Dave is a true example that a positive attitude and belief in yourself can take you where you want to go.

Dave is not just my coworker—he has become my brother and friend. Six years ago when I became the new director of MEC, I once told Dave how nervous I was about teaching a Stream Studies class. He looked at me and said, “Maggie, you don’t have to have all the answers. You just have to do what you know how to do well . . . get them excited about learning!” I have treasured those words so often!

No one deserves the Best Environmental Educator award more than Big Dave Hollaway. I am thankful to have lived and worked with him these years and a much richer person in knowledge and love for having known him.

I invite and encourage each of you to come meet “Big Dave” and rediscover your connection with Nature through his from-the-heart teaching! For more information about visiting and attending classes at the McDowell Environmental Center, please contact me at Maggie@campmcdowell.com or 205/387-1806 or visit www.campmcdowell.com/cmec.



“Knowledge is power! AWESOME!” —Big Dave

If you live in the woods of Winston County, rarely do you get an opportunity to meet a famous person. Here at Camp McDowell Environmental Center (MEC) though, *we get to live with a famous person every day—Senior Naturalist David Hollaway!* “Big Dave,” as he is known to most folks, has been selected the Environmental Education Association of Alabama (EEAA) Best Environmental Educator for the State of Alabama!!

The thousands of children who come through MEC each year considered him a famous person long before he received his distinguished title. Ask anyone who has attended McDowell Environmental Center to tell you who says crazy phrases like “Cool Beans!” and (with a growl in your voice) “Awesome!” You will evoke a huge smile and the answer Big Dave!

If you have ever watched Dave mesmerize a group of children and adults with a red-tailed hawk or a great horned owl sitting on his arm, you have experienced the magical spark of his teaching. When he presents a live snake, his

Summer Camp Schedule

It’s not too early to think Summer Camp at Wonderful, Wonderful Camp McDowell! Online Registration is open at www.campmcdowell.com, and you can also download applications.

May 28-30	Primary I (entering 1st and 2nd graders with a parent) Director: The Rev. Chip Broadfoot, Ascension in Montgomery
June 2-5	Elementary I (entering 3rd and 4th graders) Director: The Rev. Stephen Hood, Ascension in Birmingham
June 8-17	Senior Camp (entering entering 10th through 12th graders) Director: The Rev. Rob Iler, St. Columba in the Cove in Huntsville
June 22-27	Junior High I (entering entering 6th and 7th graders) Director: The Rev. Rebecca DeBow, St. Luke’s in Birmingham
June 30-July 5	Special Session
July 6-13	Sophomore Camp (entering 8th and 9th graders) Director: The Rev. Thomas Joyner, Holy Trinity in Auburn
July 16-21	Middler Camp (entering 5th and 6th graders) Director: The Rev. Andy Keyse, Trinity in Florence
July 23-30	Junior High II (entering 7th and 8th graders) Director: The Rev. Mark Waldo, St. Michael and All Angels’ in Millbrook
August 1-5	Elementary II (entering 4th and 5th graders) Director: The Rev. Richard Lawson, St. John’s in Decatur
August 6-8	Primary II (entering 1st, 2nd, and 3rd graders with a parent) Director: The Rev. Rich Webster, St. Luke’s in Birmingham



FOR AND ABOUT YOUTH

what?:

The Diocese of Alabama in partnership with the "Joe Rush Center for Urban Ministry" is offering our *sixth* Diocesan Middle School Summer mission and outreach opportunity of learning about poverty by painting houses in Birmingham.

We will close every day with games, fellowship, worship, and discussion led by a special speaker. The last day we will skip the work, and instead spend a day of fun in Birmingham! More information will be mailed/emailed out after you register.

who?:

All rising 7th, 8th, and 9th graders.

where?:

We will be staying at the Walnut Grove Dorm which is managed by the Joe Rush Center.

when?:

June 1-6, 2010

why?:

Because of who we are as followers of Jesus!

cost?:

\$125 per youth. (scholarships available)

How to Sign Up?:

Register online at <https://www.regonline.com/yppb>

Deadline to sign up?:

May 1, 2010. Register EARLY, we only have space for 50 youth!

Who do I Contact for more info?:

YPPB Project Coordinator:

Steve Palmer, St. Thomas Youth Director

youth@stthomashuntsville.org 256-880-0247



Be a Sawyerville Prayer Partner

There are many ways to help with the Sawyerville Day Camp, and one of the most rewarding is to serve as a prayer partner for one of the counselors or staff members. Prayer partners write seven letters of encouragement for every day of camp excluding the setup and cleanup days.



Serving on the day camp staff can be tiring, frustrating, challenging, and overwhelming at times—it is wonderful to receive a note of thoughtful encouragement

from parishioners from all over the diocese! The thoughts, encouragements, and small tokens are well appreciated and help remind those serving at the Sawyerville Day Camp of the importance of this mission. The first six letters are just signed as "Your Prayer Partner." The last letter reveals your identity.

We are excited that this summer we will have two sessions of camp for 6-14 year olds at Greensboro Elementary in Hale County. The first session is June 25-July 3; the second session will be July 9-17. You will need to send your letters to us no later than June 15 for the first session and June 30 for the second session. The staff for the camp is made up of youth and college and adult staff from across our diocese as well as local Black Belt community members.

If you are interested in serving as a prayer partner for one or both sessions and would like further information, please contact our prayer partner coordinators—Linda Kennedy at lk9091@att.com or Trey Kennedy at jik3@bellsouth.net.

Representing Our Diocese at the UNCSW

By Lauren Wainwright, Youth Director of the Epiphany in Guntersville



Lauren Wainwright with the Most Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori

I currently serve as the full-time youth director at the Epiphany in Guntersville, but I recently had the opportunity to represent not only my church but also our diocese on the national and international level. From February 26 through March 6, I participated in the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (UNCSW) as an

Episcopal Young Adult Delegate. I was one of 12 delegates from across the United States joining more than 8,000 registered nongovernmental organization representatives. Despite massive amounts of snowfall across the Eastern seaboard, I set out on a journey of exploration, expansion, and advocacy.

This is the second year the Episcopal Church has sent a group of young adults to this event. The Commis-

sion on the Status of Women, which meets each year, is a functioning commission of the United Nations. This year's theme was a 15-year review of the Beijing Platform for Action, a product of the Fourth World Conference on Women, which met in September 1995 in Beijing. This platform lays out 12 areas of concern that address women's rights and gender justice as global and universal, highlighting the necessary shifts in values, attitudes, practices, and priorities necessary for progress.

We also worked in conjunction with Anglican Women's empowerment and Ecumenical Women at the United Nations, which included delegates from the Methodist, Lutheran, Presbyterian, and other denominations as well as delegates from the National Council of Churches, World Council of Churches, and the World Student Christian Federation. It was a week filled with people of faith working together with secular groups from around the world for a more just world.

Every day in New York City I was surrounded by an orchestra of noise and movement. Buildings filled with people that rose on all sides of the street. People rushing to and fro. Cars merging and trucks honking. I was surrounded by people with countless agendas that could have left me so easily feeling alone and insignificant. Yet my heart felt burning and alive with the pain of suffering around the world. With a background in political science, I never imagined that I would end up at the United Na-

tions as a delegate with the Church, but I would not have had it any other way. Being a part of a Christian community grounded us, reminded us of our obligation to one another and to God, and helped us remain optimistic in the face of formidable challenges. For the first time I was learning what social action and faith could look like together . . . a world that is dynamic and ever present, painful yet hopeful, healing and renewing. Faith can work with social action to breathe life into it, give it resources and values, provide courage, strength, and healing—thereby leading to a future that is clear and present, assertive and persistent.

Throughout the week our young adult delegation also had the opportunity to meet with Presiding Bishop Jefferts Schori and experience firsthand the workings of the Episcopal Church with women's ministry and social justice. I feel so blessed to have shared this experience with an extraordinary group that taught me so much and has made me excited for the future of the Episcopal Church. I am so grateful to have had the chance to participate in this amazing event and for the prayers and support I received throughout the week.

St. Mark's Hosts U2Eucharist

By the Rev. Scott Arnold, Rector of St. Mark's in Prattville



Lots of smiles and loud music could be found at St. Mark's in Prattville when the parish hosted a U2Eucharist on Friday, February 26. Created by Episcopal Relief and Development (ERD) in 2003 to raise awareness of the Millennium Development Goals, U2Eucharists (also U2charists) incorporate the music of the band "U2," whose songs are often spiritual in nature. The band U2 has spent years calling attention to the needs of the poorest of the poor in our world.

St. Mark's used the celebration to raise funds for Haitian Earthquake Relief. Mark DePlanche, a member of St. Mark's, is a drummer for a popular local band called "Outside the Inside," and he volunteered his band to play

for the event. Songs from U2, the Beatles, and Crowded House highlighted the event. Afterward the band stayed to play for the congregation-turned-audience. Chairs were moved aside for those who wanted to dance, and others stayed to enjoy the music. The youth group sold refreshments and turned the proceeds over to the earthquake relief fund.

The Rev. Mark Waldo Jr. from St. Michael's and All Angels in Millbrook, and I planned the event along with the Rev. Rick Mason of Christ Lutheran Church in Prattville. Rick Mason gave the sermon that night on Jesus' call to care for the "least of these." The Rev. Deacon Steve Shanks, who serves Trinity Church in Clanton and St. Andrew's in Montevallo, served as deacon for the Eucharist.



There was standing room only in the parish hall, with a number of people from the community attending. It was our hope to bring in people who are unchurched and show them something completely different from what they associate with church. The service was well received, with a number of visitors and young people attending. Everyone had great time.

Rock and Roll has been the medium of the past two generations. Incorporating it into the worship was really pretty easy. There are a number of songs with great lyrics that convey a message in line with the Gospel. I would be delighted to help other congregations in our diocese put together a similar service. I'll be happy to travel to any church in our diocese to share our experience and resources.

You can contact Scott at 334/365-5289 or frscott@stmarksal.org.



Ron Hall, PreSchool Partners Director Lella Carl, and Denver Moore

On Friday, January 22, a sell-out crowd of nearly 2,700 people packed the Wright Center at Samford University for St. Luke's 2010 Claypool Lecture featuring Ron Hall and Denver Moore, authors of *Same Kind of Different As Me*. The lecture on Friday night was the highlight of an action-packed weekend for both men, including radio appearances on "The Rick & Bubba Show" and "The Paul Finebaum Show," as well as book signings at Books-A-Million at Brookwood Village and Barnes & Noble at the Summit, benefiting PreSchool Partners, an outreach ministry of St. Luke's. The weekend's events brought great honor to St. Luke's Claypool Lecture Series, named in honor of our former rector, the Rev. Dr. John R. Claypool IV. Yet for the members of Saint Luke's, the greatest joy came from the money raised to benefit outreach ministries in our community and around the country, a net total of more than \$40,000!

The evening's lecture drew people from across Ala-

2010 Claypool Lectures a Great Success!

By the Rev. Christopher D. Girata, Associate Rector of St. Luke's in Birmingham

bama, as well as across the country from as far west as Texas and California to all four of our neighboring states. People made the trip to hear the stories of these two extraordinary men who, because of their faith in God through Jesus Christ, were able to affect such positive change in their own community of Ft. Worth, Texas. Ron and Denver told their personal stories to the packed auditorium, causing many to laugh and cry, sometimes at the same time!

Ron spoke about his hope that one day his story would not be that unusual! One Samford business student in attendance that night wrote to me, "[Ron] made me realize that I have a God-given responsibility to be friends with all kinds of people not just those that are in my everyday world. . . . The Gospel calls us to not look at people in different ways but to look at them as the same as you!" Ron's sincere recount of his life of unbridled ambition and the need for success rang poignantly in a room with some of the most successful people in the Southeast, yet his humility to embrace God's grace was an inspiration to all of us as we continue to respond to God's unique call on each of our lives.

After Ron's time, Denver came to the podium and was greeted with a standing ovation. Denver spoke about the forces at work in his life that try to keep him from doing what God calls him to do, specifically being at the event that night. Due to his health problems, he almost couldn't make the trip (and this trip was likely his last outside Texas). He told the story of Friday morning in Ft. Worth when he woke up to feet so swollen that he couldn't even put his shoes on. But, he said, holding up his left shoe, "the devil wasn't gonna win because the Lord wanted me to be here tonight, so I just took out my knife and carved out my shoes!" And true to his word, he had sliced open the heels of his shoes so he could slide them on!

The whole weekend was a joy for all of us at St. Luke's and, having heard from many in attendance that night, a true inspiration. The power of God to do good work through all of us was evident, and I believe that Ron and Denver's story can, someday, be a common one. Many thanks for the support of so many of you.

For more information about this lecture and ways to watch the recording, please visit www.saint-lukes.com or call 205/802-6207.

2010 Diocesan Altar Guild Festival



On February 20, about 65 men and women from 19 parishes enjoyed the hospitality of St. Stephen's in Birmingham for a day of Eucharist, workshops and fellowship for our annual Diocesan Altar Guild Festival.

Lynn Hendricks, who served as the chair of our diocesan altar guild for nine years and is now serving as the treasurer of the National Altar Guild Association, opened the meeting. She gave an update on the altar guild's gift to St. Frances Chapel at Camp McDowell. Lucy Cotten graciously made and gave an altar set of linens to Camp McDowell, and the altar guild purchased additional purificators, towels, and corporals as well as dozens of disposable purificators. Penny Pine has agreed

to serve as the sacristan for the chapel for Cursillos.

The altar guild is also having a banner made for the chapel. Laura Blackstock, an artist from All Saints' in Homewood and the wife of Joel Blackstock, the architect for the chapel, has graciously agreed to design the banner. Mary Waitt Partin from St. Thomas' in Birmingham has agreed to make it.

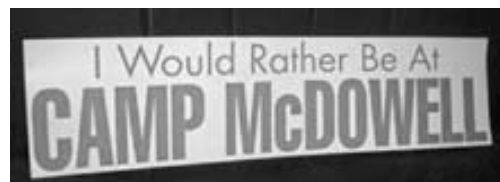
Lynn presented the morning workshop,

"Altar Guild, The Priest's Discretionary Fun.," which was very informative as well as enjoyable. After a hearty lunch prepared and served by the altar guild board, the Rev. Jack Alvey, Jr., Curate for Outreach and Evangelism and Young Adult Ministries at All Saints' in Homewood, presented the "Creating Sacred Spaces" workshop. At the conclusion of his presentation Jack invited everyone to join him in the sacred space of St. Stephen's for a celebration of the Eucharist, a fitting conclusion to the days' activities.

Bishop Parsley has asked Martha Noble to serve as the new chair of our diocesan altar guild. Martha, who grew up in Gadsden, was a member of the Holy Comforter. She has been a member of St. Stephen's in Birmingham for the past 16 years and has been chair of the parish altar guild and a member of our Diocesan Altar Guild for more than 6 years. "I am very honored that Bishop Parsley selected me to serve. I look forward to continuing the work of the board to provide assistance and/or guidance to parish altar guilds in our diocese, and I welcome questions and suggestions," says Martha. **(You can reach Martha at mnoble2905@charter.net or 205/995-1331.)**



Lynn Hendricks with Martha Noble



I'd Rather Be at Camp McDowell Contest!

Traveling to some exotic destination this summer? Just feeling creative and adventurous?

Camp McDowell announces a photo contest—wherever you go we want you to take a photo of you holding an "I Would Rather Be at Camp McDowell" Bumper Sticker and send it to us!

We will judge the photographs on:

- ★ Farthest from Camp McDowell
- ★ Most Unique
- ★ Style and Class
- ★ Tackiest
- ★ Funniest
- ★ Grand Prize! (the photo that meets the most of these categories all in one)

The contest will run from now until November 1, 2010. To enter the contest just e-mail a digital photo *no larger than 640 x 480* to Maggie@campmcdowell.com or mail it on a CD (any size photo) to Maggie Johnston, 105 Delong Rd, Nauvoo, AL 35578.

The winning photos will be posted on the Camp McDowell Web site, www.campmcdowell.com. Category winners will receive a selection of Camp McDowell souvenirs—as well as a claim to fame. The Grand Prize winner will get free tuition to the Alabama Folk School event of their choice!

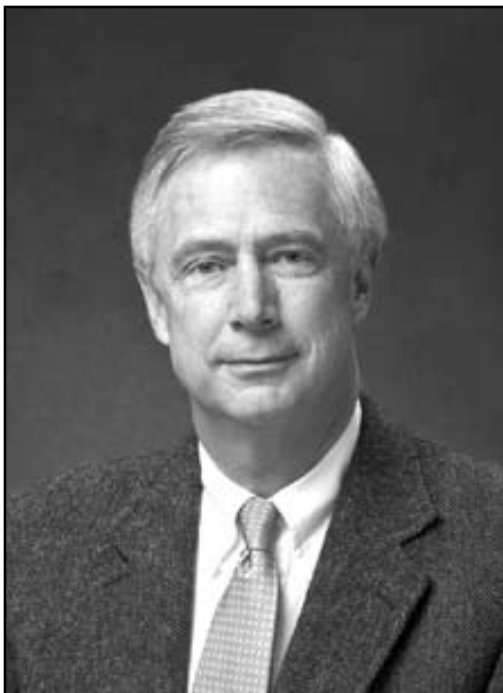
Need an extra "I Would Rather Be at Camp McDowell" Bumper Sticker? Come visit Camp McDowell and pick one up, call Paula at 205/387-1806 and ask her to mail you one (for a cost of \$5), or go to www.campmcdowell.com and click on the Online Canteen to order one. (Remember that if you order a bumper sticker online, you will also be donating to the Camp McDowell scholarship fund, which will help less-advantaged youth get an opportunity to experience the magic of Camp McDowell!)

Enthusiastic Children Reach Out to Those in Need



The children in the 4K class of Ascension Episcopal Kindergarten in Vestavia Hills (Birmingham) has joined forces with children across America in creating tiny houses to help the children in Haiti. The "Houses for Haiti" is a simple concept: the children create small houses with mat board and markers. A polymer-like glaze is applied, and magnets or pins are attached to the back. The "tiny houses that can make a BIG difference" are being sold for a donation and the proceeds will go to relief efforts for the survivors in Haiti.

The project objective is to begin to instill in young children a sense of social consciousness. The enthusiasm among the four-year-olds has been overwhelming, and it has reached into the hearts and homes of many families in the parish as well as friends.



John McCardell Elected Sewanee Vice Chancellor and President

In January the Board of Trustees of Sewanee—The University of the South elected John M. McCardell Jr., president emeritus of Middlebury College, to serve as the university's 16th vice chancellor and president. "John McCardell's record of achievement as a scholar, as the chief executive of one of America's finest liberal arts colleges, and as a respected national figure in the public discussion about higher education and student life extends the work of his predecessors and the pursuit of the vision of Sewanee's founders: to establish a national university located in the South," said the Rt. Rev. J. Neil Alexander, Bishop of the

Diocese of Atlanta, chancellor of the University, and chair of the Board of Trustees. "He is an inspirational leader who will strengthen Sewanee's historic commitment to excellence in the liberal arts and service to the Episcopal Church. We are delighted that he has answered this call to service."

On July 1, McCardell will succeed Joel Cunningham, who will retire on June 30, after serving for 10 years as vice chancellor. A Maryland native and 1971 graduate of Washington and Lee University, he pursued graduate study at The Johns Hopkins University and then at Harvard University, where he received his Ph.D. in history in 1976. He joined the history faculty of Middlebury the same year. In addition to teaching, McCardell served Middlebury as dean for academic development and planning, dean of the faculty, provost, and vice president for academic affairs before being named president. As Middlebury's president, McCardell directed a comprehensive strategic planning effort and led a successful capital campaign, which exceeded its \$200-million goal by almost \$12 million. He presided over growth in both enrollment and faculty at the college, identified areas of excellence, and developed a plan for committing new resources to those strengths.

"I look forward to working with the entire Sewanee community to advance what I consider one of the true gems of American higher education," said McCardell. "The prospect of serving a unique institution whose history and traditions are so inextricably tied to the American South and to the Episcopal Church, and where the academic attainment of its faculty, students, and alumni is so distinguished, was one to which I felt particularly drawn. I can't think of a better fit, nor a better time to seize this moment of great institutional opportunity."

Lay Ministry Certification Program To Begin in August

By The Rev. Christopher D. Girata, Associate Rector of St. Luke's in Birmingham



Too often Youth Ministers, Christian Formation Directors, and other educational leaders are recruited during coffee hour. Although finding a passionate volunteer is important, we can't ignore the fundamental need for effective training and developing specific knowledge and skills. Most volunteers are often left to learn on their own through trial and error, but, thanks to funding through the ACTS 2 Campaign, our diocese is pleased to announce that there is a better way!

The mission of the church is to "go and preach the gospel and make disciples," which means we should all encourage and support the professional development of Christian Formation Directors, Youth Ministers, and other leaders. With confident, certified leaders at the helm, our parishes will be better equipped to raise-up the next generation of Church leaders. The *NEW* Lay Ministry Certification Program for Children and Youth is designed to do just that. The program will be launched in August and promises to begin a new chapter in the life of Chris-

tian Formation in our diocese and the national Church!

For anyone who wants a solid foundation of theological education and entry into a supportive community at a very reasonable cost with a realistic time commitment and the opportunity for professional certification, the Lay Ministry Certification Program offers a welcome invitation. The focus of this certification program is to equip those in ministry with children and youth with the knowledge and resources to best kindle the hearts and minds of those put in our charge to serve our Lord Jesus Christ. The design of the program intends to balance instruction, discussion, independent study, theological reflection, worship, and spiritual formation.

Candidates for the Lay Ministry Certification Program are people who are 1) confirmed Episcopalians, 2) currently working in or seeking employment in the Episcopal Church, and 3) willing to commit the necessary time to training, education, and reflection. Lay and ordained persons are welcome!

For more information about this exciting new Lay Ministry Certification Program, please visit our diocesan Web site, www.dioala.org, or contact Sarah Sartain at 205/715.2060 ext. 314 or ssartain@dioala.org. Space is limited, so apply today!

Clergy News

The Rev. Wilton Bunch, who is serving as interim rector of St. Andrew's in Birmingham, was recently honored for his "outstanding contribution in orthopedic surgery" at the 50th reunion of his medical school class at Loma Linda University in California. Before attending seminary and being ordained, Wilton was one of the preeminent orthopedic surgeons in the United States. He pioneered much of the spina bifida surgery in infants and wrote some of the textbooks that were used in medical schools.

The Rev. Oscar Hussel, who served as the dean of Columbia Presbyterian Seminary in Decatur, Georgia, before he retired to Mentone and was ordained to the priesthood in 1992, died on March 16.

The Rev. John Speaks, who served as rector of Holy Comforter in Gadsden and moved to Birmingham after he retired, died on February 7.

The Rev. Ed Wilson, a retired priest of our diocese who served as the rector of St. Mark's in Birmingham from 1978 until 2003, died on April 1.

Apply Now for Parish-Based Outreach Grants!

By Judy Quick, Chair, Department of Mission and Outreach

May 10 is this year's deadline to apply for our diocesan Department of Mission and Outreach's **Parish Based Outreach Grants**. The purpose of these grants is to encourage parishes to start new or expand existing outreach ministries that will become self-sustainable within three years. These grants are only for parish-based outreach and cannot be used for pass-through monies to other agencies or groups that do not directly involve parishes or parishioner. The department hopes that these grants will enable parishes to engage in new and creative ways of being Christ's presence in Alabama.

This year the Department of Mission and Outreach has a new grant available, the **Domestic/Local Mission Grant**, for individuals of any age who are directly involved in sharing God's love with people in need within the Diocese of Alabama or within the United States. These grants support short-term, one-year work. Grants may be **submitted at any time throughout the year**, and applicants may re-apply.

You can download the application forms on our diocesan Web site, www.dioala.org, or you may contact me at jgquick@bellsouth.net or 205/669-6862 to obtain the application forms.

EPISCOPAL PLACE GUMBO GALA

Saturday, May 8, at Caldwell Park in Birmingham

Professional and amateur cookoff teams will gather at Caldwell Park to compete for bragging rights to Birmingham’s Best Gumbo. Everyone is cordially invited to enjoy samples of gumbo while tapping your feet to live Cajun music. *For more information please visit www.gumbogala.com or call 205/939-0085.*



“HOLY ONE” OUTREACH GOLF TOURNAMENT

Monday, May 17, at Prattville Country Club

The members of Trinity in Clanton and St. Mark’s in Prattville cordially invite golfers of all ages to participate in the “Holy One” Outreach Golf Tournament. All proceeds will benefit Trinity’s Beans and Rice food ministry and St. Mark’s contributions to the Autauga Interfaith Care Center. *For more information please contact Tournament Chair Jim Ray at 334/558-7469 or jim_jimscabinet@centurytel.net.*

CRAWFISH BOIL 2010

Saturday, May 29, at Holy Apostles’ in Hoover

The members of Holy Apostles’ in Hoover (Birmingham) cordially invite everyone to the parish’s 13th Annual Crawfish Boil on Saturday, May 29. In addition to delicious crawfish and free hotdogs for children of all ages, the festivities will include music by Joe Breckenridge and Brandon Peeples, Black Creek Revival, and Sweet Water Road. *For more information please visit <http://holyapostles.dioala.org> or call the parish office at 205/988-8000.*



“ROOTED: THEOLOGY CONFERENCE FOR STUDENT MINISTRY”

August 10-12 at the Advent in Birmingham

The Cathedral Church of the Advent in Birmingham will host “Rooted: A Theology Conference for Student Ministry,” which aims to see the Gospel of Jesus Christ amplified and applied in student ministry. This conference is designed for student ministers, both college and youth, across all denominations, both congregational and para-church. Confirmed speakers include Dr. Ashley Null of Cambridge, England; Brian Habig of Greenville, South Carolina; and Angel Richard of Beverly Hills, Florida.



Recognizing a growing trend of focusing student ministry on moral rules and emotional highs, “Rooted” aims to encourage a movement to ministry emphasizing the development of a biblical, Gospel-centered worldview in students. Given that opportunities for theological development are limited and that most student ministry conferences concentrate on methodology, “Rooted” intends to equip student pastors with greater grounding in the Gospel, which will assist them in encouraging students to follow Jesus. *For more information please visit www.rootedconference.com or call 205/443-8500.*

“THE PALESTINE OF JESUS” COURSE

November 9-24 in the Holy Land

St. Mary’s-on-the-Highlands and St. Luke’s in Birmingham along with Christ Church in Tuscaloosa are

sponsoring this trip to participate in the “Palestine of Jesus” course led by the faculty and staff of St. George’s College in Jerusalem. Participants will spend time learning about and exploring Jerusalem, Capernaum, Bethlehem, Nazareth, Jericho, Emmaus, and the Dead Sea. *For more information please contact Melodie Elam, Executive Assistant–Communications at St. Mary’s, at 205/933-1140 ext. 114 or melodie@stmarysoth.org.*

PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND

December 1-9

The Rev. Ray Waldon, Priest in Charge of St. Peter’s in Talladega, is leading this pilgrimage to the Holy Land. The pilgrimage will include stops at the major Christian sites of Israel including Bethlehem, Cana, the Garden, and a boat ride on the Dead Sea. Pilgrims will also visit major Jewish historical sites including Qumran, where the Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered, and Megiddo, as well as the Muslim Dome of the Rock and the site where Abraham was to sacrifice Isaac. In preparation for the trip, the pilgrims will meet with Father Waldon to learn a few key phrases in Hebrew and watch videos of the Holy Land. *For more information please call St. Peter’s at 256/362-2505 or e-mail Father Waldon at raywaldon@gmail.com.*

ADVENT’S FIVE O’CLOCK BAND RELEASES NEW CD

For this recording, the band enlisted the help of friend, producer, and folk music pioneer Fran McKendree, perhaps best known for his work with the band McKendree Spring. McKendree and recording engineer Casey Wood from Nashville came to Birmingham for two weeks while they worked on a number of songs that were eventually pared down to the 13 tracks included on the recording. The songs that comprise “In the Hands of the Maker” are a mixture of traditional Christian spiritual music and contemporary songs that borrow from genres in the spectrum of alt-country and blues. The opening track, “In the House of the Lord,” is based on a Sudanese spiritual; the band rearranged the song and added a new chorus to create a unique version that marries influences from African and calypso rhythms. Overhauled versions of traditional standards such as “Amazing Grace,” “Swing Low, Sweet Chariot” and “Glory, Glory, Hallelujah” also appear on the album, as well as an original piece written by member Leif Bondarenko, “Man Named Jesus.” The blues cut is sandwiched between covers of songs made familiar by Gillian Welch, Emmylou Harris, and Jerry Garcia.



The Five O’Clock Band has been playing at the Cathedral Church of the Advent’s five o’clock service since 2000, when a handful of members that had been part of the Episcopal Church’s Cursillo program introduced more contemporary songs to the liturgy. As part of the Cathedral’s Outreach Program, the band plays at sister churches throughout the region as well as at weddings, charity events, funerals and the bedside of ill friends and church-members. They are also regularly asked to assist as the musical staff for many conferences and retreats, including the annual renewal conference at Kanuga.

Proceeds from the sale of the CD will go toward the Sawyerville Summer Camp and Youth at Risk. For more information, please visit www.adventbirmingham.org. The CD will be available in the Episcopal Book Store.

Easter Fund for Mission

Bishop Parsley and Bishop Sloan invite everyone to support the Easter Fund for Mission. *For more information please visit our diocesan Web site, www.dioala.org.*

Bishops’ Visitation Schedule

April 25, Sunday	
10:30 a.m.	Bishop Parsley, St. John’s, Montgomery
10:30 a.m.	Bishop Sloan, Holy Apostles’, Birmingham
May 2, Sunday	
9 and 11 a.m.	Bishop Sloan, Advent, Birmingham
10:30 a.m.	Bishop Parsley, St. Luke’s, Birmingham
May 9, Sunday	
8:45 and 11 a.m.	Bishop Sloan, All Saints’, Birmingham
11 a.m.	Bishop Parsley, St. Mark’s, Prattville
May 16, Sunday	
10:15 a.m.	Bishop Parsley, Ascension, Montgomery
11 a.m.	Bishop Sloan, St. Paul’s, Carlowville
May 19, Wednesday	
7 p.m.	Bishop Sloan, Grace, Sheffield
May 23, Sunday	
10 a.m.	Bishop Sloan, Nativity, Huntsville
10:30 a.m.	Bishop Parsley, St. John’s, Decatur
4 p.m.	Bishop Sloan, Calvary, Oneonta
May 30, Sunday	
10 a.m.	Bishop Sloan, Trinity, Demopolis
June 6, Sunday	
10 a.m.	Bishop Sloan, St. Barnabas’, Huntsville
10:30 a.m.	Bishop Parsley, St. Columba, Huntsville
June 13, Sunday	
10 a.m.	Bishop Parsley, St. Peter’s, Talladega
June 20, Sunday	
10:30 a.m.	Bishop Parsley, St. Joseph’s, Mentone
June 27, Sunday	
11 a.m.	Bishop Parsley, St. John’s Deaf, Birmingham
11 a.m.	Bishop Sloan, St. Mark’s, Boligee

About the Book Store

By the Very Rev. Frank F. Limehouse, III



Brothers and Sisters in Christ, on behalf of the wardens and vestry, I want to inform you of the future ministry of the Advent's bookstore.

You may be aware that for several years the bookstore has been operating at a significant financial loss and has been sustained by our annual operating budget. About ten months ago we formed a special committee, chaired by Jon Harbuck, to analyze the operations of the bookstore both from a ministry and business perspective. This included comparing notes with other retailers, bookstore managers, and Episcopal bookstores across the country.

In November 2009 the commission reported their findings to your dean and vestry with the suggestion that we either close it or restructure it and move it from its present location. At its January 2010 meeting the vestry approved a carefully drawn plan to substantially reduce the overhead, become more specialized, and move the bookstore to a place on the main floor in the hallway leading into Clingman Commons.

Several important things to note: 1) Consideration has been given to times of heavy traffic flow coming in and out of Clingman Commons; 2) The funds required to make the move and set up shop for this new location will not come from the operating budget or the endowment fund, but from a special gift given to the Advent; 3) This move will free up much-needed space currently being used by the bookstore; 4) As we will be relying on a team of Advent volunteers, Cindy Funderburk will be the only employee (Sandy Bowron and Gil Kracke will be helping us coordinate the transition).

We believe you will like the architectural plan by vestryman Pete Pritchard. It will be tastefully done, and the decor of the Advent will not be compromised. We are planning a "grand opening" sometime before summer with a new look and vision for our bookstore.

We are excited about this development in the life of the Episcopal Book Store. To continue our ministry, we are having to change in this economic climate to better serve you, the customer. Things may look a little different—however the move allows for improvements in accessibility and use. 1) Access to the store will be easier—through the double doors from the church parking lot, through the church and parish hall, or through the garden entrance adjacent to the present entrance. 2) The bookstore will be next to the parish hall, which lends itself to special events with artists and authors. 3) The bookstore will be open longer hours on Sunday. 4) The bookstore will be more available in the daily events of the church.

In all things we seek to glorify Jesus Christ. "Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving; and pray for us also, that God may open to us a door for the Word . . ." (Col. 4:2, 3).

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Diocesan Convention February 11–12, 2011, at St. Luke's in Birmingham

Cursillo Weekends #173 June 10–13, #174 September 16–19, #175 October 14–17

Youth Ministers Gathering May 13

Youth Ministers Retreat April 29–May 1

May 8 Gumbo Gala sponsored by Episcopal Place at Caldwell Park in Birmingham. *For more information please see the description on page 22, visit www.gumbogala.com, or call 205/939-0085.*

May 13 Choral Eucharist for Ascension Day with the Cathedral Choir singing the music of Tomás Luis de Vittoria, Gerald Finzi, and Peter Hallock at 6 p.m. at the Advent in Birmingham. *For more information please contact Charles Kennedy at Kennedy@cathedraladvent.com or 205/226-3505.*

May 29 Crawfish Boil 2010 at Holy Apostles' in Hoover (Birmingham). *For more information please see the description on page 22, visit <http://holyapostles.dioala.org>, or call 205/988-8000.*

August 10-12 "Rooted: Theology Conference for Student Ministry" sponsored by the Advent in Birmingham. *For more information please see the description on page 22, visit www.rootedconference.com, or call 205/443-8500.*

WHAT'S NEW/NOTEWORTHY AT THE EPISCOPAL BOOK STORE



The Confederate Soldier's Pocket Manual for Devotions including Balm for the Weary and the Wounded compiled by Charles Todd Quintard

This reprint of two popular Confederate battle-front spiritual aides summarizes more than 200 years of chaplain ministry with soldiers during war and peace. In the 1980s the Army Chaplain Corps adopted the credo "Nurture the living/Care for the wounded/Honor the dead." Charles Todd Quintard's *The Confederate Soldier's Pocket Manual of Devotions* was one Civil War chaplain's expression of the hope and faith on which the credo is built. In 1861 Chaplain Quintard, of the 1st Tennessee Regiment, marched off to care for his soldiers as they joined the Army of Virginia. His pocket-size booklet became a very popular and widely distributed devotional manual used by many Confederate soldiers. In his booklet *Balm for the Weary and the Wounded* (1864), Chaplain Quintard often reached back to the writers of the Oxford Movement, which was his theological underpinning. In addition to familiar prayers, collects, and hymns from the *Book of Common Prayer*, he adds poems, sermons, and religious texts of this movement. Chaplain Quintard believed that God's spirit provides a balm through the teachings and sacraments of the Church that enables the human spirit to prevail.



The Donkey of Tarsus: His Tales about the Apostle Paul by Adele Colvin, illustrated by Peyton Carmichael

Raised to defend the Jewish faith, Saul of Tarsus persecuted followers of Christ until he heard the call of Jesus. When he was knocked to the ground on the way to Damascus, Saul's eyes were opened to Christ's love. He immediately converted to Christianity and, known as Paul, began building the Lord's church. Traveling in the name of Jesus, Paul rode a donkey who witnessed the goodness of God and the miracles Paul performed while spreading the Christian faith. That humble donkey recounts his journey with

the apostle in this beautifully illustrated biblical adaptation for children. Accompanied by reflective illustrations, the donkey's reverent story presents an account of early Christianity that will be easy for young Christians to understand.



The Gospel-Driven Life: Being Good News People in a Bad News World by Michael Horton

In his well-received *Christless Christianity*, Horton offered a prophetic wake-up call for a self-centered American church. With *The Gospel-Driven Life* he turns from the crisis to the solutions, offering his recommendations for a new reformation in the faith, practice, and witness of contemporary Christianity. Horton says up front that his goal in *The Gospel Driven Life* is "to reorient our faith and practice as Christians and churches toward the gospel: that is, the announcement of God's victory over sin and death in his Son, Jesus Christ" The first six chapters explore the "breaking news" from heaven, while the rest of the book focuses on the kind of community that the gospel generates and the surprising ways in which God is at work in the world. Here is fresh news for Christians who are burned out on hype and are looking for hope.



Jesus Is Calling: Enjoying Peace in His Presence by Sarah Young

After many years of writing in her prayer journal, missionary Sarah Young decided to "listen" to God with pen in hand, writing down whatever she believed He was saying to her. It was awkward at first, but gradually her journaling changed from monologue to dialogue. She knew her writings were not inspired as Scripture is, but they were helping her grow closer to God. Others were blessed as she shared her writings, until people all over the world were using her messages. They are written from Jesus' point of view, thus the title *Jesus Calling*. It is Sarah's fervent prayer that our Savior may bless you with His presence and His peace in ever deeper measure. This small book has a reading for every day of

the year. Each reading is on one page with scripture references listed at the bottom.



Longing for God: Seven Paths of Christian Devotion by Richard J. Foster and Gayle D. Beebe

Foster and Beebe lay out the seven primary paths to God that have been developed throughout Christian history, and they invite us to look into the lives of past believers to deepen our longing for God—to guide us toward a consistent intimacy with God. This meaty, thoughtful book will satisfy readers who want substantive prescriptions for ways to grow spiritually. One bonus is that it includes not only fathers but also mothers of the church. (Also available as an audio book.)



Read-Aloud Bible Stories by Ella K. Lindvall, illustrated by H. Kent Puckett

This series, which comes in four volumes, provides a great foundation block for any children's library. The text captures the enthusiasm and spirit of each story and also makes for good oral reading. At the end of each story there is a page that briefly summarizes a few of the key points in the story by asking, "What did you learn?" Repetition is great for children, and it encourages them to reflect on each story. The vivid, uncomplicated illustrations incorporate strong lines and bold colors, which capture children's attention.

For more information about these and other books or to have a staff member research and special order a particular book, please contact the Episcopal Book Store, 2015 Sixth Avenue North, Birmingham, AL 35203; 205/323-2959; e-mail ebinfo@episcobooks.com. You can also visit the bookstore online at www.episcobooks.com. The bookstore is open Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Bringing Hope Amid the Rubble

To the Diocesan Family

March 29, 2010

Beloved,

Thank you, thank you for the generous gifts you have made to our friends in our companion diocese Haiti since the earthquake. Your gifts are invaluable help to the people and Church in Haiti as we reach out to the injured, the homeless, and the children in need of schools and nutrition. We are touching many lives through your generosity.

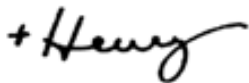
I saw Bishop Duracin at our recent meeting of the House of Bishops. He is still living in a tent with many others, and though tired and anguished in the midst of much suffering, he is resolute in his commitment to sustain and rebuild the Church's ministries in Haiti.

The bishop and our special friends the Valdemas send their heartfelt gratitude to our diocese for all the support and prayers being offered for them from Alabama.

Should you wish to give a gift or consider going on a future mission trip to Haiti, please contact us at Carpenter House.

God bless you for caring and giving.

In Christ,



The Rt. Rev. Henry N. Parsley Jr.



Tent communities line the roads in Port au Prince; photo by C.J. Ross

Ways You Can Help Haiti Recover

Our diocese is committed to helping our brothers and sisters in Haiti recover from this devastating tragedy through prayer and by providing monetary and—when requested—human resources.

Individuals can provide funds by writing a check to the Episcopal Diocese of Ala-



People going in search of drinking water and other daily necessities against a backdrop of debris and tent cities in Port au Prince; photo by Don Evans

bama, with “Haiti Relief” in the memo line. You can send your check directly to The Episcopal Diocese of Alabama, Carpenter House, 521 20th Street North, Birmingham, AL 35203, or through your parish. The funds will be provided to support urgent needs now and help with the reconstruction of churches and schools in the months ahead.

Alternatively you can write your check to “Episcopal Relief & Development” with “Haiti Relief” in the memo line. You can also send it to Carpenter House, and it will be forwarded to Episcopal Relief & Development, who will be working with local partners and the Church to make these funds available for the people of Haiti. Contributions to both funds can now be made online at www.dioala.org/ministries/companion_diocese_haiti.html.

Our diocese has also begun sending small medical teams to treat earthquake refugees being cared for by the Diocese of Haiti.

Medical personnel wishing to participate in—or parishes wishing to sponsor—a one-week mission please contact Companion Diocese Commission Co-Chairs C.J. Ross (CJenkinsro@aol.com) or Dave Drachlis (ddrachlis@dioala.org).

Ultimately we anticipate that there will be an opportunity for small construction teams to provide limited support to Haitian-led reconstruction of facilities. If you and/or your parish wish to participate, please contact Judy Quick (jgquick@bellsouth.net).

Please see pages 12–15 for more about our diocese's recovery efforts, and visit our diocesan Web site, www.dioala.org, for updates on our ongoing assistance efforts, to read personal reflections by C. J. Ross and Bob Serio, to see a video and more photos.



The earthquake-damaged Transfiguration Church in Gorman; photo by Dave Drachlis

The Alabama Episcopalian

The Alabama Episcopalian is published six times a year (January/February, March/April, May/June, July/August, September/October, and November/December). For the most current news about recent and upcoming events, please visit our diocesan Web site, www.dioala.org.

Please send stories and photographs (color, if available) to Editor Norma McKittrick at apostledit@aol.com or 2156 Kent Way, Birmingham, AL 35226; the submission deadline for each issue is the 1st of the month prior to publication. **Postmaster, parishes, and individuals, please send all address changes or additions** to Circulation Secretary Denise Servant at dservant@dioala.org or Carpenter House, 521 North 20th Street, Birmingham, AL 35203–2682.