

THE *Apostle*

January 2008 The Episcopal Diocese of Alabama Vol. 93, No. 1



The Bishop and Standing Committee of the Episcopal Diocese of Alabama invite your presence and participation in the Ordination and Consecration of John McKee Sloan to be a Bishop in the one holy catholic and apostolic Church and to serve as Bishop Suffragan of the Diocese of Alabama Saturday, January 12, 2008, at 11 a.m. The Cathedral Church of the Advent in Birmingham

Attending Bishops: Rochet and Chimere Clergy: Red Stoles
Reception following in Clingman Commons



Bishop Parsley Ordains Four Priests



Bishop Miller, Jon David Chalmers, Eric James Liles, Joan Marie Henrick, James Christian von Gal, and Bishop Parsley

Bishop Parsley, assisted by Bishop Miller, ordained Jon David Chalmers, Joan Marie Henrick, Eric James Liles, and James Christian von Gal priests on December 11 at the Cathedral Church of the Advent in Birmingham. The Rev. John B. Fritschner, rector of Holy Trinity in Auburn and dean of the East Alabama Convocation, preached at the service. The Rev. Charles Youngson, associate rector of All Saints' in Birmingham, served as litanist; the Venerable Louise Thibodaux, Archdeacon, served as deacon and gospel-er; and the Cathedral choir, under the direction of Dr. Stephen G. Schaeffer, director of music and organist, provided special music. Jon is serving as associate rector of Canterbury Chapel in Tuscaloosa, Joan as rector of Holy Cross-St. Christopher's in Huntsville, Eric as rector of Stephen's in Smith Station, and Chris as associate priest of All Saints' in Birmingham.

“Tending the Garden— Our Stewardship of Creation” 177th Annual Diocesan Convention February 21-23

Clergy and lay delegates from across our diocese will gather at the Sheraton Civic Center in Birmingham on February 21 through 23 for our 177th Annual Diocesan Convention. St. Stephen's in Birmingham will host the convention, and Bishop Suffragan-Elect Sloan will preach at the convention's opening service on Thursday evening. On Friday the Rt. Rev. Mark MacDonald, the former Bishop of Alaska who now serves as the Anglican Church of Canada's National Indigenous Bishop, will give the keynote address on



The Rt. Rev. Mark MacDonald

this year's convention theme, “Tending the Garden—Our Stewardship of Creation.” The delegates will vote on a variety of resolutions and elect lay and clergy people to serve on our Diocesan Council, Standing Committee, and as Judges to the Ecclesiastical Court. The delegates will also elect deputies to General Convention, which will be held in Anaheim, California, in 2009. **For current information about the upcoming diocesan convention please visit our diocesan Web site, www.dioala.org.**

Our Presiding Bishop's Visit

Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori will visit our diocese in early January for the ordination and consecration of Bishop Suffragan-Elect John McKee Sloan and several other events. Everyone is cordially invited to greet her with warm hospitality.

Friday, January 11

10:30 a.m.

Clergy Meeting and Lunch

Saturday, January 12

11 a.m. The Ordination and Consecration of John McKee Sloan at the Cathedral Church of the Advent

ALL ARE WELCOME

4:30 p.m. Tea and Conversation at Trinity Commons: The Episcopal Student Center (1170 11th Avenue South, directly behind St. Andrew's)

ALL ARE WELCOME (casual attire)

Sunday, January 13

9 a.m. Presiding Bishop Preaches at St. Stephen's in Birmingham

11 a.m. Presiding Bishop Visits St. John's Deaf Church in Birmingham

ALL ARE WELCOME

Pat Wingo To Serve as Deputy for Ministry Development

The Rev. Pat Wingo will begin serving as our diocesan Deputy for Ministry Development on February 4. Pat has served as the rector of St. Thomas' in Birmingham since 1996 and previously served as rector of the Resurrection in Gadsden (1992-96). In addition Pat has served our diocese as president of our diocesan Standing Committee, a deputy to General Convention, chair of the Department of Ministry in Higher Education, director of summer camps, and spiritual director of Cursillo weekends. Pat and his wife, the Rev. Sara-Scott Wingo, have three children.

In announcing Pat's acceptance of the call to this new position, Bishop Parsley noted that "his excellent ministry in caring for and growing St. Thomas', one

of our newest parishes, as well as his broad diocesan experience commend him for this important diocesan staff position."

"I am very excited about working on the diocesan team, and I am looking forward to serving parishes and diocesan committees," Pat says. "Bill King did a marvelous job in this position, and I hope I can further build on his good work."



Judy Quick Named New ERD Diocesan Coordinator

Bishop Parsley recently announced that Judy Quick will serve as our new Diocesan Coordinator for Episcopal Relief and Development (ERD). Judy has a deep love for the good work of ERD around the world, and her responsibility in her new position is to



communicate the ERD needs and appeals to the parishes in our diocese. Judy also serves on our Companion Diocese Commission, which comple-

ments the mission of ERD to empower individuals and transform communities.

Judy is a parishioner of St. Andrew's in Montevallo, where she serves as a Lay Eucharistic Minister. She came to our diocese from Christ Church in Norcross, Georgia, where she served on the vestry as both junior and senior warden, as a youth group leader for Journey to Adulthood, and as a Stephens Minister. Judy also helped launch Christ Church Episcopal School and served as board president. She graduated from the four-year Education for Ministry Program in 2006 and has participated in our diocesan pilgrimages to Italy and Ireland.

ERD is currently providing emergency assistance to communities in the Pacific Northwest that were battered by powerful winter storms in early December

Bishops' Visitation Schedule

SUNDAY, JANUARY 6

10:15 a.m. Bishop Miller, St. James, Livingston

10:30 a.m. Bishop Parsley, Epiphany, Guntersville

SUNDAY, JANUARY 13

10 a.m. Bishop Parsley, Resurrection, Rainbow City

10 a.m. Bishop Sloan, Holy Trinity, Auburn

6 p.m. Bishop Sloan, St. Dunstan's, Auburn

SUNDAY, JANUARY 20

10 a.m. Bishop Parsley, St. Andrew's, Tuskegee

10:30 a.m. Bishop Sloan, Trinity, Bessemer

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 23

6 p.m. Bishop Sloan, St. Wilfrid's, Marion

SUNDAY, JANUARY 27

10:30 a.m. Bishop Parsley, Holy Cross/St. Christopher's, Huntsville

11 a.m. Bishop Sloan, St. Thomas', Huntsville

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 30

6 p.m. Bishop Sloan, Messiah, Heflin

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 3

10 a.m. Bishop Sloan, St. Mark's, Birmingham

11 a.m. Bishop Parsley, St. Stephen's, Phenix City

3 p.m. Bishop Parsley, St. Matthew's, Seale

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 10

9:30 a.m. Bishop Sloan, St. Luke's, Scottsboro

10 a.m. Bishop Parsley, St. Alban's, Birmingham

11 a.m. Bishop Sloan, Calvary, Oneonta

6:30 p.m. Bishop Parsley, St. Mary's, Childersburg

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 17

9:30 a.m. Bishop Parsley, St. Bartholomew's, Florence

10 a.m. Bishop Sloan, St. Michael's, Fayette

and communities in southern California devastated by the recent wildfires, as well as meeting new and ongoing needs of people around the world. *If you would like more information or a presentation on the work of ERD please contact Judy at jgquick@bellsouth.net. Also please visit the ERD Web site, www.er-d.org.*



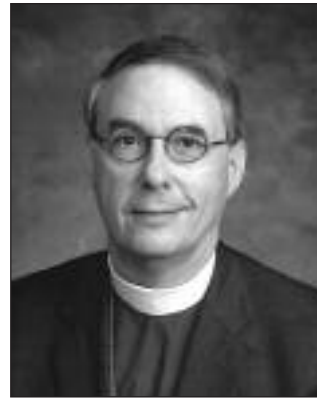


Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

Your diocesan staff wishes you and those you love a very happy and joyous Christmas. I commend to you the messages our Presiding Bishop (please see the following page) and the Archbishop of Canterbury (please see below) sent to all of us in this season of celebration.

May God give you a generous measure of peace and grace in the new year.

The Rt. Rev. Henry N. Parsley Jr.

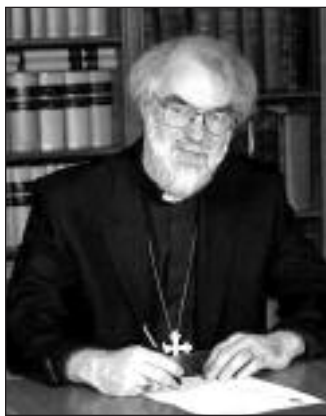


Photograph by Billy Brown

truth of their need. That's what the great parables of Jesus in St Luke's gospel are so often about, especially the Pharisee and the Tax Collector.

So at Christmas God shows that he is not ashamed to be with us. He has heard our cries of weakness and self-doubt and unhappy longing, he has seen our wanderings and anxieties, and he is not ashamed to be alongside us in this world, walking with us in our pilgrimage. And because he is content to walk with us, we are challenged about whose company we might be ashamed to share. So easily we decide that we would be ashamed to share the company of the sinful, the doubting, or the outcast. But God, it seems, is not ashamed to be seen with such people. If he is ashamed to be called the God of any human group, the text from Hebrews

A Christmas Message to the Anglican Communion from the Archbishop of Canterbury



One of the strangest yet most moving expressions in the New Testament is a verse in the Letter to the Hebrews (11.16): God "is not ashamed to be called their God."

The writer is talking about the history of God's people. When they have been faithful to God, faithful in keeping on moving

onward in faith rather than settling down in self-satisfaction, when they are true pilgrims, then God is content to be known as their God. He declares himself to be the God of pilgrims, of people who know that their lives are incomplete and that they are still journeying toward the fullness of God's promises. Visiting refugee camps in the Middle East, as I did this October, brings home so powerfully what it is to be literally and absolutely homeless, not able to be confident in any

resources, inner or outer. People in these terrible circumstances will never be complacent; they will always be looking for a future. They are in the most obvious way those whom God is not ashamed to be with, people whose God he is happy to be. He is at home with the homeless. But it is also an image of God's relationship with all those who are homeless or wandering in other ways.

What an odd expression to say that God is not "ashamed"! It's as though we are being reassured that God, in spite of everything, doesn't mind being seen in our company. Most of us know the experience of being embarrassed by someone we are with—children are embarrassed by parents, parents by children; I have sometimes found myself walking down the road with someone who is talking loudly or behaving oddly and wishing I weren't there. But God is not embarrassed by human company when that company is turning away from self-satisfaction and ready to move on. We might think that God would be "ashamed" of human company that was imperfect, confused, even sinful. But God is happy to be the God of confused and sinful people when they recognize their own confusion and face the

God loves the company of those who know their need, and that is why he comes at Christmas to stand with them, to live with them, and to die and rise for them.

strongly suggests that he is most "embarrassed" by those who think they have arrived at the end of their journey, who think they have already attained perfection (compare St Paul's angry and scornful words in I Corinthians 4.8: "Already you have become rich!"). And it is clear why God would be ashamed to be the God of such people: they behave and speak as if they didn't really need God, as if they didn't really need grace and hope and forgiveness.

God loves the company of those who know their need, and that is why he comes at Christmas to stand with them, to live with them, and to die and rise for them. He is the God who blesses the poor—not only those who are materially poor, but also those who are without the "riches" of self-satisfaction and complacency, those who know all too well how far they fall short of real and full humanity. And so we are to pass on that blessing to the poor of every sort, those who are without material resources and those who are "poor in spirit" because they know their hunger and need. Let us ask ourselves honestly whose company we are ashamed to be seen in—and then ask where God would be. If he has embraced the failing and fragile world of human beings who know their needs, then we must be there with him.

May God give us every blessing and joy in the Christmas Season.

+ Rowan Cantuar

The archbishop's Christmas Message is also available for the first time as a podcast; details can be found at www.aco.org/acns/podcasts/. Translations in Arabic, French, Portuguese, and Spanish can be found at www.aco.org/acns/specials/.

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

In the Diocese of Alabama

About 34,000 baptized members in 91 parishes and worshiping communities and 8 college campus ministries. Established in 1830.

Bishop

The Rt. Rev. Henry Nutt Parsley Jr.

Carpenter House

521 North 20th Street
Birmingham, AL 35203
205/715-2060



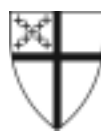
In the United States

A community of about 2.4 million members in 119 dioceses in the Americas and abroad. Established in 1789.

Presiding Bishop

The Most Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori

Episcopal Church Center
815 Second Avenue
New York, NY 10017
212/867-8400



The Anglican Communion

A 80-million-member worldwide community of 38 provinces.

Archbishop of Canterbury

The Most Rev. Rowan D. Williams
Lambeth Palace, London
England SE17JU



The Apostle

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All editorial submissions should be mailed to Norma McKittrick, Editor, *The Apostle*, 2156 Kent Way, Birmingham, AL 35226; or E-mailed to Apostledit@aol.com. Please include a self-addressed stamped envelope for any materials to be returned. The deadline for each issue is the 1st of the preceding month.

All address corrections or additions should be mailed to Denise Servant, Circulation Secretary, *The Apostle*, 521 North 20th Street, Birmingham, AL 35203; or E-mailed to dservant@dioala.org.

POSTMASTER: Please send address corrections to Denise Servant, Circulation Secretary, The Apostle, 521 North 20th Street, Birmingham, AL 35203.

A Christmas Message from Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori

Eyes to see: Finding Immanuel as Immigrant, Wanderer, Child



In what form will you find the Christ child this year? The fact of the Incarnation in a weak and helpless babe says something significant about where we focus our search. I am convinced that it is part of our call to exercise a “preferential option” on behalf of the poor, weak, sick, and marginalized. The long arc of biblical thinking and theologizing has to do with seeing God’s care for those who have no other helper. Indeed, Jesus is understood as that helper for all who fail, by the world’s terms, to save themselves. More accurately, we understand that Jesus is that helper for all.

One of the great gifts of the way in which those in our cultural surroundings celebrate Christmas is the focus on children and those who have few human helpers. We delight in the wonder of children as Christmas approaches, and many of us make an extra effort to feed the hungry, shelter the homeless, and care for the needy. The challenge is to let our seasonal “seeing” transform the way we meet our neighbors through the rest of the year and through all the coming years. How might we begin to see that child in those around us: strangers and aliens (both Immanuel and Immigrants); wanderers (Homeless, like Mary and Joseph, for whom there was no room); widows and orphans (Social Outcasts); babe born in Bethlehem (Palestinian and Israeli alike; or the boy babies whom

both Pharaoh and Herod sought to kill); divine feeder of thousands (Soup Kitchen worker); and savior of the world (Peacemaker, Bringer of Justice for All, Reconciler, Just and Gracious Lawgiver . . .). If God comes among us as a helpless child, then the divine presence is truly all around us. Where will you meet Jesus this Christmas?

OJOS PARA VER Y DESCUBRIR: ¿DÓNDE ESTÁ EMANUEL? ¿EN EL INMIGRANTE, PEREGRINO, O EN UN NIÑO?

¿Dónde encontraremos este año al Niño Dios en el mundo? Si tenemos en cuenta que la Encarnación se produjo en un niño débil e indefenso, nos podrá ayudar mucho para saber dónde buscarlo. Estoy convencida que esto forma parte de nuestra tarea de tener “una opción preferencial” por los pobres, indefensos, enfermos, y marginalizados. El gran marco de la reflexión bíblica y teológica está relacionado con descubrir que Dios se preocupa por todos aquellos que no tienen quien los ayude. Ciertamente Jesús puede ser comprendido como alguien que auxilia a todos los que, ante los ojos del mundo, no han podido salvarse a sí mismos. En realidad, nosotros creemos que Jesús es el salvador de todos.

Uno de los beneficios principales de la forma en que en nuestras culturas las celebraciones navideñas es que se pone énfasis en los niños y en los más carenciados. Nos deleitamos al ver que los niños se maravillan cuando llega la Navidad y muchos de nosotros hacemos un esfuerzo especial para alimentar al hambriento, abrigar al desprotegido y cuidar del necesitado. El desafío consiste en hacer que esta “visión” navideña transforme la forma en que tratamos a nuestro prójimo durante el resto del año y en todos los años venideros. ¿Podríamos atrevernos a ver a un niño alrededor nuestro en los forasteros y extranjeros (emanuales e inmigrantes); peregrinos (las personas sin hogar, como María y José que no tenían dónde posar); viudas y huérfanos (relegados socialmente); un niño nacido en Belén (ya sea palestino o judío, o los niños que Farón y Herodes quisieron matar); divino dispensero de multitudes (trabajador de un comedor popular) y salvador del mundo (Pacificador, Defensor de la justicia, Reconciliador, Gobernador justo, y compasivo . . .)? Si Dios aparece entre nosotros como un niño indefenso, ciertamente la presencia divina se ha manifestado a todo nuestro alrededor. En esta Navidad ¿dónde encontrarás a Jesús?

Christmas Blessings

By Gail Alsobrook, Holy Cross Episcopal School in Montgomery



Sullivan Tankersley delivering a Christmas gift to one of the resident's at John Knox Retirement Home

The children in the 5th and 6th-grade classes at Holy Cross Episcopal School have adopted John Knox Retirement Home as their outreach project. The children visit the retirement home several times during the year and have come to love the residents—who love their young visitors! Each holiday season the students gather gifts to give each resident, and the 5th and 6th grade chorus also performs for the residents at Easter and Christmas.

This Christmas was no different. The students had a wonderful time putting together their gift bags, loading them up, and delivering them.



Emmie Chambers and McRae Peavy with (back row) Monica McCann, Mary Ellen Neeley, Mallory Ellis, Elizabeth Curry, Mary Grace Brown, Claire Picone, Kira Drayton, Ashley Hallford, Erin Terrell Garrison Hoener, and Justin Peifer

El Viñedo Episcopal Hispanic Ministries Hosts Las Posadas

El Viñedo Episcopal Hispanic Ministries in Montgomery hosted the festival of Las Posadas on Sunday evening, December 16, at the Church of the Ascension. Las Posadas the traditional Mexican reenactment of Mary and Joseph's search for lodging, includes music, Scripture readings, and a procession. The celebration included

the sale of Mexican handcrafts to support the Hispanic ministry and a Hispanic food competition, *Sabor Latino*. Members of the congregation submitted dishes to be judged, the winner received \$100, and everyone enjoyed the wonderful feast. The children also enjoyed a piñata.



José Luis Gómez, one of the congregation's candidates for confirmation, reading the Scripture lessons during the procession of Las Posadas



Breaking the piñata at the cena (dinner) after Las Posadas procession

Servicios en Español/Services in Spanish

Iglesia Episcopal de la Gracia

901 Kingman Road
Birmingham, AL 35235
205/838-2565

Sábado 6 p.m.
Saturday 6 p.m.
Domingo 1 p.m.
Sunday 1 p.m.

Iglesia Episcopal de Todos los Santos/*All Saints'*

3rd Avenue NE/PO Box 401
Aliceville, AL 35442
205/372-4071

Domingo 9 a.m.
Sunday 9 a.m.

Iglesia de la Ascensión/*Ascension*

315 Clanton Avenue
Montgomery, AL 36104
334/263-5529

Ultimo Domingo de Mes
2 p.m.
Last Sunday of the month
2 p.m.

Iglesia Episcopal de la Gracia/*Grace Church*

5712 First Avenue North
Birmingham, AL 35212
(Mrs. Magaly) 205/937-2441

Domingo 10:30 a.m.
(Bilingüe)
Sunday 10:30 a.m.
(Bilingual)

English classes are offered at La Ascensión/Ascension in Montgomery every Sunday from 4 to 5:30 p.m. **If you would like to serve as a tutor** for one or more of the weekly classes, please contact Pam Long at 334/590-1441 or pam@xlanguage.net. **For more information about services and/or Spanish-speaking classes**, please contact the Rev. Dr. Hernan Afanador, our Diocesan Missioner for Hispanic Ministries, at 205/381-4885 or hernan_afanador@yahoo.com.

CAMP McDOWELL

Wonderful, Wonderful Camp McDowell Summer Camp 2008



Make plans now to join in the fun at Summer Camp 2008! You can download an application at www.campmcdowell.com; applications will also be available in parish offices soon. The Summer Staff will be selected in February—so you must get your application in NOW!!! *For more information or to request an application, please contact Michael Goldsmith at 205/387-1806 or michael@campmcdowell.com.*

May 23-25	Primary I (entering 1st and 2nd graders and a parent); <i>Director—the Rev. Susan Sloan</i> , rector of St. Stephen's in Huntsville
May 27-30	Elementary I (entering 3rd and 4th graders); <i>Director—the Rev. Marc Burnette</i> , rector of St. Andrew's in Birmingham
June 2-11	Senior Camp (entering 10th-12th graders); <i>Director—the Rev. Robert St. Germain-Iler</i> , rector of St. Columba in the Cove in Owen's Cross Roads (Huntsville)
June 16-21	Junior High I (entering 6th and 7th graders); <i>Director—the Rev. David Peebles</i> , rector of Grace in Mount Meigs
June 24-July 1	Sophomore Camp (entering 8th and 9th graders); <i>Director—the Rev. Dr. Wells Warren</i> , rector of St. Dunstan's and St. Matthew's in Seale
July 1-8	Special Session ; <i>Director—the Rev. John McKee Sloan</i> , Bishop Suffragan-Elect
July 10-15	Middler Camp (entering 5th and 6th graders); <i>Directors—the Rev. Pat Wingo</i> , our diocesan Deputy for Ministry Development, and <i>the Rev. Sara-Scott Wingo</i> , associate priest at St. Luke's in Birmingham
July 17-24	Junior High II (entering 7th and 8th graders); <i>Director—the Rev. Mark Waldo Jr.</i> , rector of St. Michael and All Angels' in Millbrook
July 26-30	Elementary II (entering 3rd-5th graders); <i>Director—the Rev. Charles Youngson</i> , associate rector of All Saints' in Birmingham
August 1-3	Primary II (entering 1st and 2nd graders and a parent); <i>Director—the Rev. Rich Webster</i> , rector of St. Luke's in Birmingham

McDowell Environmental Center Again Offers Free Teacher “FunShops”

By Margaret Wade Johnston, Director

Close your eyes and think back to when you were a child. Did you ever imagine yourself walking in the footsteps of ancient prehistoric creatures or touching the footprint of a Paleozoic amphibian? Ever wander into a stream and try to catch tiny things that live there hidden under rocks? All of these magical moments and more await you at the three free teacher workshops at McDowell Environmental Center: **Lost Worlds in Alabama Rocks (June 2-6)**, **Legacy Summer Institute Level 2 (June 23-27)**, and **Living Streams (October 27-29)**.

The geological adventure **Lost Worlds in Alabama Rocks**, sponsored by Legacy, Partners in Environmental Education, is led by Dr. Jim Lacefield, author of the book *Lost Worlds in Alabama Rocks*. Dr. Lacefield is a remarkable teacher whose passion for rocks radiates. He not only shares his knowledge of geology, but he also provides each teacher with an identified set of rocks he has collected from his travels—the child in each teacher tends to come out when given the opportunity to “play” with all these beautiful specimens. As Dr. Lacefield guides the rock activity, teachers see how they might return to their classroom and use their students' natural curiosity and

interest in rocks to develop a love of science and the natural world. One teacher from the 2006 Lost Worlds in Alabama Rocks workshop reported that this experience has completely changed her perspective on teaching geology—now, instead of dreading this unit, she can't wait to share her excitement with her students.

Legacy and McDowell Environmental Center are excited to announce the new teacher workshop **Legacy Summer Institute Level 2**. This general environmental-education course builds on topics taught in the classic Legacy Summer Institute. McDowell Environmental Center (MEC) is the perfect site for such an educational adventure with its miles of trails, many along streams and high sandstone bluffs. These bluffs tell many secrets about Alabama's past. After a hike into a deep stream cut or a canoe trip into an enchanted sandstone canyon, the teachers return to Camp McDowell's comfortable lodges and classroom space to discuss their discoveries and how to share them with their students back at home. *For more information about this workshop and for an application, please contact Legacy Education Manager Marijean Hadley by logging on to www.legacyenvd.org. NOTE: We*

have applied for AMSTI credit to be given for this workshop, and we expect it to fill up quickly—so please complete and send in your application as soon as possible!

The **Living Streams** workshop is a collaboration of many qualified sponsoring partners including Legacy, Alabama Water Watch, and Sierra Club. While participants wade the streams and ponds of Camp McDowell, they will study the macro-invertebrates who live in the waters, not only gaining knowledge for themselves, but also learning how to make teaching this information fun and interesting for their students. Alabama Water Watch (www.alabamawatch.org) will certify the participants to do bio-assessments of streams in their local area, and the teachers can use the free materials (Macro Mania games, collection nets, specimen containers, and so much more) with their students.

For more information about the McDowell Environmental Center (MEC) or one of these teacher workshops, please visit www.campmcdowell.com/cmec or contact me at maggie@campmcdowell.com or 205/387-1806.

Come Relax and Learn Something New at the Folk School!

By Megan Huston, Director

“What an incredible experience! A weekend away from the cares of the world and totally swept up in creating a masterpiece. Well, to others my mosaic might not appear to be a masterpiece, but to me it is!” emphasizes Maggie Johnston. “I took a mosaics class at the Alabama Folk School at Camp McDowell and can only describe it as spiritual and uplifting. During the introduction as I watched the teacher score and break the glass, my first instinct was to say, ‘No way. I can’t learn this in one weekend!’ But the patient and knowledgeable teacher, Linda Munoz, showed me that I could. We turned simple stepping-stones into colorful works of art and old wine bottles into mosaic vases.”

Maggie was just one of several students to walk into a class at the Folk School unsure of how it would go and walk away more than satisfied and thrilled with how it went. Here’s your chance to have a fun and relaxing getaway—come enjoy one of our many classes! We provide opportunities for people to stay for a week or weekend and engage in a topic

of their interest. You will have plenty of class time to learn a new skill or hone an old one, or you can just enjoy a hobby and explore the beautiful surroundings of Camp McDowell.

Our retreat center has modern accommodations surrounded by more than a thousand acres of forests, canyons, and waterfalls. Our spring class schedule offers a wide variety of classes ranging from **building and playing musical instruments, bookbinding, journaling, and basketry** to **chair-making, blacksmithing, and pottery**. After dinner each evening, you can enjoy a social hour where you might learn to do a simple activity, go for a hayride, or listen to various bluegrass artists. We hope you will join us!

If you have any questions or comments please contact me at folkschool@campmcdowell.com or 205/387-1806. For a full list of classes and a schedule please visit www.campmcdowell.com/Folk_School.



Two New Retreats— Save the Dates!

Camp McDowell is hosting two new retreats in 2008. **Summer Camp Counselor Retreat—March 28-30** Susanna Whitsett, a group fitness instructor who specializes in yoga (for children and adults) and Pilates, will lead participants in exploring incarnation theology and physical and spiritual wellness. All 2007 Summer Camp Staff and Counselors in Training are encouraged to join the 2008 Summer Staff for this exciting new retreat. For more information please contact Michael Goldsmith at 205/387-1806 or michael@campmcdowell.com.

1st-Ever Mother/Daughter Retreat—April 18-20 The Rev. Sara-Scott Wingo, priest associate at St. Luke’s in Birmingham, and her daughter Anna will lead this retreat. Additional information and applications will be available soon.



EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN

Compiled by Fiona Watts, Publicity Chair

From the ECW President

From Dee Buzby, ECW President

Happy New Year! May this be a year of many blessings for you and our Church beginning with the ordination and consecration of our new bishop suffragan-elect, the Rev. John McKee Sloan.

Our 2008 Calendar Handbook theme, "Blessed Is She Who Believes," focuses on faith with the great example of the Virgin Mary who because of her faith answered "yes" to God's call. It is my hope that all of us consider our own faith as we go through the coming year and know that we are also blessed.

We are so fortunate in our diocese to have women who are dedicated and willing to give of their time and talents to the ECW. These women of faith and action have accepted positions on the 2008-09 ECW Board: President-Elect **Gethryn Giles** of St. Joseph's in Mentone, Recording Secretary **Marilyn Atkins** of St. Peter's in Talladega, United Thank Offering chair **Barbara Carpenter** of St. Matthew's in Madison, Treasurer **Carolyn Woodson** of St. Stephen's in Birmingham, Parliamentarian **Alleen Cater** of the Advent in Birmingham, Corresponding Secretary **Lisa-Cade Gruner** of St. Stephen's in Huntsville, Church Periodical Club chair **Brenda Mayhall** of Christ Church in Albertville, Clergy Liaison **the Rev. Deacon Katy Smith** of St. Stephen's in Birmingham, Webmaster **Sally Sinclair** of St. Stephen's in Birmingham, Daughters of the King chair **Andi Silberman** of St. John's in Montgomery, Devotionals chair **Anne Kimzey** of the Ascension in Montgomery, Events Coordinator **Tora Johnson** of Grace in Anniston, Missions chair **Fran Lowe** of St. Michael's in Fayette, Nominations chair **Jane Dickson** of St. Paul's in Lowndesboro, Scholarship chair **Nancy Thompson** of the Advent in Birmingham, Publicity chair **Fiona Watts** of St. Stephen's in Birmingham, Assistant Treasurer **Sallie Lowe** of St. Andrew's in Birmingham, Archivist **Valerie Burnes** of St. Wilfrid's in Marion, Hospitality **Alyce Smith** of the Nativity in Huntsville, and Women's Weekend Coordinator **Cathy Blackney** of the Good Shepherd in Decatur. The Convocation Coordinators who have been elected to serve include **Liz Ensey** of St. Stephen's in Birmingham (Birmingham Convocation), **Linda George** of St. Luke's in Jacksonville (Cheaha Convocation), **Lisa Parrish** of the Ascension in Montgomery (Montgomery Convocation), **Bea Strong** of Christ Church in Tuscaloosa (Black Belt Convocation), **Tana Branch** of Holy Trinity in Auburn (East Alabama Convocation), **Cheri Blair** of Epiphany in Guntersville (Mountain Convocation), and **Caroline Bright** of Grace in Sheffield (Tennessee Valley Convocation). Please thank these ladies and do not hesitate to contact them with your questions or suggestions.

Just a few reminders: Presidents, please review the President's Checklist found in your Calendar Handbook and also return the Parish ECW President's Information Sheet you received in your Calendar Handbook or from the ECW Web site, www.alabamaecw.org. Please note that your Parish ECW Annual Contribution is due in January.



The Rev. Deacon Katy Smith inducted the new Birmingham Convocation ECW officers during the convocation's fall meeting; (from left) outgoing President Fiona Watts, Treasurer Sylvia McCain, incoming President Liz Ensey, incoming President-Elect Alyce Daniel, and the Rev. Deacon Katy Smith

Daughters of the King, please make plans to come to Grace Church in Cullman on Saturday, February 2, for our Spring Assembly. The Rev. Bob and Kay Blackwell will welcome us at 9:15 a.m. for registration and snacks; the program will begin at 10 a.m. and conclude at 3 p.m. The Rev. Dr. Jim Tuohy, rector of St. Andrew's in Montevallo, will lead us in meditations about St. Brigid of Ireland, who was born in 453. Some accounts record that Brigid came from humble beginnings and was raised in foster care; when she came of age and was returned to her father's house, she took on servant responsibilities such as cooking, cleaning, and tending the farm animals. All of her experiences formed her into a wonderful, amazing, fascinating saint. Come learn more about her!

Upcoming ECW Events and Deadlines

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| January | Annual contributions due from parishes to our diocesan ECW; if you do not plan to make the contribution in January, please notify the ECW Treasurer of the amount and expected date of payment. |
| January | The ECW President of each parish attends the organizational meeting arranged by her Convocation Coordinator |
| April | ECW Scholarship application deadline |

Please update your convocation coordinator and the ECW board when ECW leaders change at your parish. You can complete an online form at www.alabamaecw.org/2008ParishECWInfoSheet.pdf. For details and additional events please see the ECW Calendar Handbook and visit www.alabamaecw.org.

Advent Preaching Series Celebrates 100 Years

By Mary Margaret Hendry, Advent ECW Publicist

The Cathedral Church of the Advent will celebrate 100 years of weekday services during Lent with its 2008 Lenten Preaching Series, which once again features faithful preachers from all over the world including representatives from England, Canada, and Northern Ireland. Each noonday service is immediately followed by the Advent's famous homemade lunches served at a modest price. The Advent remains

FOR AND ABOUT YOUTH

Sharing Our Youth Ministries at the Province IV Meeting

By Leslie B. Manning, Our Diocesan Youth Ministries Assistant

I recently went to Kentucky for the first time. Before then I had never heard the name “Man o’ War,” nor had I seen the rolling acres of beautiful horse farms outside Lexington. The leaves were in their “crunchiest” form filled with the deep hues of golden brown found only in autumn. I wasn’t experiencing these new places and landscapes by myself—my husband, Bentley, who is the assistant director for Episcopal Mission Exchange*, as well as Marquis Taylor, the youth director at Christ Church in Fairfield, diocesan Youth Department representative Jermaine Cole, and Makyia Barber from Christ Church made the trip with me. Thankfully Jesus does not often call us to go alone or without purpose!

We were traveling to Cathedral Domain Camp and Conference Center deep in the hills of Kentucky to meet with diocesan youth coordinators, youth leaders, and young people from all over Province IV, which is made up of dioceses in the Southeast. We gathered to share stories, resources, and the joys and sorrows from our various communities. We learned how people are approaching youth ministry in other parts of our Church. We played fun games, learned about “energizers” (songs and dances to get you ready for the day), worshiped together, and reflected on God’s call for our lives and our ministries with young people. We learned new songs and team-building activities to take back to our communities.

We had the opportunity to share all the wonderful things that are happening in the Diocese of Alabama. Jermaine presented a beautiful and concise summary of life in our diocese. We also showed the video the Youth Department made with the help of Louise Griffin so

the others could see the many faces and facets of youth ministry in Alabama.

Toward the end of the four-day weekend, we made a trip to Wal-Mart to collect items for Operation Christmas Child through Samaritan’s Purse (www.samaritanaspurse.org), a magnificent group that sends shoeboxes packed with gifts to children in desperate situations all over the world. Much to the chagrin of the boys, our group packed a shoebox filled with gifts for a young girl including socks, play dough, a toothbrush, and holiday goodies! We picked out the gifts with love in hopes of sending them out in compassion for those less fortunate than ourselves.

This theme of “spreading joy” wove itself through the entire weekend. I found joy in the young people from our diocese who were willing to participate in this conference. I found joy in once again seeing how diverse and wonderful our Church has become and continues to be. It was a joyful thing to be in a room with others so different than myself but with the same goal in mind—what a wonderful gift to be able to serve alongside such passionate and faithful people.

As Jesus told his followers in the story of the Good Samaritan in Luke, “Go and do likewise,” we were given the charge to go back to our diocese and share in what we had learned. The weekend also served as a reminder to always share God’s joy, not only with people in our own diocese but also with people around the world . . . to Episcopalians and non-Episcopalians—those different and the same.

We will have the amazing opportunity to host next year’s Province IV Youth Ministries Meeting at Camp

McDowell on November 20-23! Please keep this pending conference in your prayers and thanksgivings.



* Episcopal Mission Exchange (EMX), a ministry of the Office of Youth Ministries of the Episcopal Church and Passport Inc., assigns student volunteer mission groups to short-term projects in established ministry settings to create an exchange and reciprocal learning for all involved. EMX efforts result in positive missions experiences for everyone who participates. For more information please visit www.episcopalmissionexchange.org or call 800-EMX-SEND.

Look What’s Coming Up!

Junior High Youth: Have you signed up for Winter Weekend at Camp McDowell yet? It’s the Martin Luther King Jr. weekend (January 18-21), and it’s sure to be a fabulous event. Check out www.campmcdowell.com for more information or contact Leslie Manning at lmanning@dioala.org or 205/715-2060 ext. 325.

EYC Convention (9th-12th graders), February 1-3 at the Ascension in Montgomery with our Bishop Suffragan-Elect John McKee Sloan. Our theme for this year’s event for is “Living in Love with our Neighbor.” We will learn how to better serve our diocese and the world! To get a registration form please check with your youth leader or parish office or log on to www.dioala.org and follow the link to the Youth Page.

Spring Break Conference (for 9th-12th graders), March 15-20 at Camp McDowell and the Global Village in Lineville. The Rev. Doug Carpenter will help us explore the theme “Living in Love with Creation.” Of course Fran McKendree will lead the music for us! To get a registration form please check with your youth leader or parish office or log on to www.dioala.org and follow the link to the Youth Page.

Happening #52 (for 10th-12th graders), March 7-9 at St. Stephen’s in Huntsville. To get a registration form please check with your youth leader or parish office or log on to www.dioala.org and follow the link to the Youth Page.

the only church in the country to hold a continual weekday Lenten preaching series.

The 25-minute service starts each weekday at 12:05 p.m. beginning Ash Wednesday, February 6, and continuing through Good Friday, March 21. The Advent’s Lenten series has been serving the Birmingham business district and surrounding communities for decades by feeding the body and soul. Last year more than 4,500 lunches were served, with the proceeds distributed to mission programs supported by the Advent, including Grace Food Pantry, Community Kitchens, St. Anne’s Home, the Firehouse Shelter for men, First Light, and Tuggle.

Everyone is welcome to the preaching service and lunch. Please join us!



Mary Margaret Hendry with 2008 Lenten Lunch Chairs Martha Keely, Mary Hanson, and Liz Jones

UPCOMING RETREATS, CONFERENCES, AND SPECIAL EVENTS

"SPIRITUALITY AND POETRY" SERIES

At St. Andrew's in Montevallo

January 8—"The Birds of Solomon: Poets in Love with the Nameless"

The members of St. Andrew's in Montevallo cordially invite everyone to "a series of joyful talks," on "Spirituality and Poetry," presented by Dr. James Mersmann at 7:30 p.m. in the new parish hall. Dr. Mersmann taught American literature and poetry writing for more than 25 years at UAB, and he has received numerous awards, including the UAB Honors Program Outstanding Faculty Award and the Ellen Gregg Ingalls Award for Excellence in Classroom Teaching. **For more information please e-mail jimmersmann@att.net or call the parish office at 205/665-1667.**

FIFTH ANNUAL CHURCH MUSIC CONFERENCE

January 25-26 at the University of Alabama School of Music

Everyone is cordially invited to attend the fifth annual church music conference at Moody Music Building on the University of Alabama campus in Tuscaloosa. Featured musicians include Daniel Roth, organist at St. Sulpice in Paris, and Faythe Freese, associate professor of organ at the university. **For more information please e-mail faythefreese@earthlink.net or visit www.music.ua.edu/organ/events.**

DIOCESAN ALTAR GUILD FESTIVAL

January 26 at the Cathedral Church of the Advent, 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

Our Diocesan Altar Guild invites everyone to explore "The Symbolism and Traditions of the Episcopal Church as They Relate to Altar Guild" at this year's festival. The Rev. Canon Heidi Kinner of the Advent will celebrate the Eucharist, and the Rev. Joy Phipps of St. Stephen's will facilitate a workshop on demystifying linens and hangings and their symbolism, use, and care. In addition Maloy Love of Mountain Brook Florists will demonstrate liturgical floral arranging and share how color and flower selection can add special meaning to the worship service. Proceeds from the event will benefit the sacristy in the new chapel at Camp McDowell. **For more information please contact Lynn Hendricks at 205/822-6202 or LVHEND@mindspring.com.**

DIVORCE RECOVERY MINISTRY

January 31, February 7, 14, 21, and 28, and March 6, 13, and 20, 6:30-8 p.m., at Canon Joe and Susan Warren's historic log cabin, 4151 Montevallo Road in Birmingham

"Starting over is never easy . . . but God is the creator of new paths." The Cathedral Church of the

Advent offers this eight-week series for individuals who are recovering from or currently going through a divorce. It is led by the Rev. Canon Dr. Joseph P. Warren, Facilitator Susan Warren, and Facilitator Toody White. **For more information please call Barbara Bess at the Pastoral Care Office, 205/226-3500, or visit www.adventbirmingham.org.**

"THE FRUITS OF CONTEMPLATION"—THE 15TH ANNUAL CONTEMPLATIVE OUTREACH BIRMINGHAM CONFERENCE

February 9-10 at St. Stephen's in Birmingham

Contemplative Outreach Birmingham invites everyone to this year's annual conference, which features the Rev. William Meninger as the guest speaker. Father Meninger, who is a Trappist monk, is one of the founding fathers of Centering Prayer. **For more information or to register please contact Diana Tschache at 205/991-6964 or tschached@bellsouth.net.**

GRIEF RECOVERY GROUP

February 12, 29, and 26, and March 4, 11, and 18, 7-8:30 p.m., at the Advent in Birmingham

Twice a year the Cathedral Church of the Advent in Birmingham offers this six-week grief support program led by the Rev. Canon Dr. Joseph P. Warren. Working through the issues associated with loss is not an easy process, and the Advent welcomes everyone who has lost someone near and dear to come these weekly sessions. Canon Warren along with people who have suffered the most extreme losses and found Christ to be their Salvation and the One who gives hope for the future will help participants work through their grief following a process that is Holy Spirit directed, Bible based, and God inspired. **For more information please contact the Pastoral Care Office at 205/226-3500 or visit www.adventbirmingham.org.**



"SLEEPER, AWAKE! PAUL AND THE RENEWAL OF PRAYER" LENTEN RETREAT

March 7-9 at Camp McDowell



The Rev. Martin L. Smith will lead this year's Lenten retreat sponsored by our diocesan Commission on Spirituality. Martin, who is a well-known author and seminar leader and the senior associate rector at St. Columba's in Washington, DC, will guide participants in rediscovering Paul as a spiritual guide and exploring the power of his radical teaching to deepen our prayer and revolutionize the way we face the challenges and opportunities of our changing world. **For more information please**

e-mail Philip Lasater at Philip.Lasater@arec.alabama.gov or contact Sarah Sartain at 205/715-2060 ext. 314 or ssartain@dioala.org.



EPISCOPAL PILGRIMAGE TO ROME

June 17-24

The Rev. Susan Sloan, rector of St. Stephen's in Huntsville, and Dr. Daniel Lesnick, a medieval and Renaissance historian and Lifetime Fellow of the American Academy in Rome, cordially invite everyone to join them on a magnificent eight-day pilgrimage in Rome, the "Eternal City," with three optional days in either Venice or Florence. This is the fourth Italian pilgrimage Susan and Daniel have organized, and they are drawing on their many years of conducting adult-education programs to make this a most rewarding experience. **For more information please contact the Rev. Susan Sloan at 256/881-7223 or Dr. Daniel Lesnick at 205/423-9982 or dlesnick@bham.rr.com. The deadline for signing up for the pilgrimage is January 15.**

SUMMER CAMP COUNSELOR RETREAT

March 28-30 at Camp McDowell

Susanna Whitsett, a group fitness instructor who specializes in yoga (for children and adults) and Pilates, will lead participants in exploring incarnation theology and physical and spiritual wellness. All 2007 Summer Camp Staff and Counselors in Training are encouraged to join the 2008 Summer Staff for this exciting new retreat. **For more information please contact Michael Goldsmith at 205/387-1806 or michael@campmcdowell.com.**

1ST-EVER MOTHER/DAUGHTER RETREAT

April 18-20 at Camp McDowell

The Rev. Sara-Scott Wingo, priest associate at St. Luke's in Birmingham, and her daughter Anna will lead this retreat. **For more information please contact Michael Goldsmith at 205/387-1806 or michael@campmcdowell.com.**

What's New/Noteworthy at the Episcopal Book Store

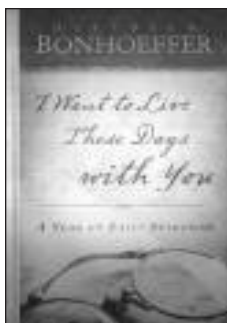


God and Me: 365 Daily Devotions by Penny Boshoff
God and Me will help children find out all about God—what he is like, how he cares for them, and how he wants them to live in his world. Familiar situations encourage children to think about Christian values, a short Bible passage for the parent and child to read together supports the day's message, and a prayer helps children develop their personal relationship with God.



Compass and Stars by Martin L. Smith

This collection of short, informal pieces, which are both theologically substantial and genuinely popular, is aimed at helping us get our bearings in the life of the Spirit today. These essays reveal the staleness and oppressive nature of many of our spiritual practices at a time when, more than ever, we need to stand back and let the fresh winds of the Spirit blow through our lives and surprise us. Whether about the spirituality of shopping or social justice, discernment or channel-surfing, these pieces will delight you and make you think. This book is ideal for retreats as well as a source for sermon ideas, and you can read it in one day or spread over a month or more. The Rev. Martin L. Smith will lead "Sleeper, Awake! Paul and the Renewal of Prayer," this year's Lenten retreat sponsored by our diocesan Commission on Spirituality, on March 7-9 at Camp McDowell (please see page 10). His other books include *Reconciliation: Preparing for Confession in the Episcopal Church*, *The Word Is Very Near You: A Guide to Praying with Scripture*, and *A Season for the Spirit: Readings for the Days of Lent*.



I Want to Live These Days with You: A Year of Daily Devotions by Dietrich Bonhoeffer, translated by O. C. Dean Jr.

This collection of inspirational writings is drawn from Bonhoeffer's many works and presented here as a series of daily meditations that follows the Church year and includes Scripture references for each meditation. Organized by monthly themes, these prayers, sermons, meditations, letters, and notes offer us a new glimpse of how Bonhoeffer understood the meaning of faith and discipleship.

Mark Your Calendar

Diocesan Convention February 21-23 in Birmingham

Diocesan Ultreya February 1-3

EYC Convention (9th-12th graders) February 1-3

Episcopal Youth Event (EYE) July 8-13

Happening Weekend (10th-12th graders) #52 March 7-9

Sawyerille Day Camp (tentative dates) June 21-29

Spring Break Conference/Mission Trip March 15-20

Winter Weekend (7th-8th graders) January 18-21

Young People Painting Birmingham June 1-6

January 4-6 Vestry Conference at Kanuga Conference Center in Hendersonville, North Carolina. *For more information please call 828/692-9136, e-mail info@kanuga.org, or visit www.kanuga.org.*

January 8 "Spirituality and Poetry: The Birds of Solomon—Poets in Love with the Nameless" led by Dr. James Mersmann at 7:30 p.m. in the new parish hall at St. Andrew's in Montevallo. *For more information please contact jimmmersmann@att.net or call the parish office at 205/665-1667.*

January 17-20 Knitting and Quilting Retreat at Kanuga Conference Center in Hendersonville, North Carolina. *For more information please call 828/692-9136, e-mail info@kanuga.org, or visit www.kanuga.org.*

January 25 Midday Musical Menu featuring Lisa Davis (flute) and Stan Putnam (guitar) at 12:30 p.m. at the Advent in Birmingham. *For more information please contact Music Associate Charles Kennedy at 205/226-3505 or kennedy@cathedraladvent.com.*

January 25-27 Introduction to Centering Prayer Retreat at the Benedictine Retreat Center in Cullman. *For more information please call 256/734-8302.*

January 26 Diocesan Altar Guild Festival from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Advent in Birmingham. *For more information please see the description on page 10 or contact Lynn Hendricks at 205/822-6202 or LVHEND@mindspring.com.*



Words to Live By: A Guide for the Merely Christian by C.S. Lewis, edited by Paul F. Ford

C.S. Lewis had the ability to precisely define and explain key issues in the life of faith. This collection of selections from his fiction, nonfiction, and letters shows just how lifegiving his writings can be. The works are presented in selections covering subjects from A to Z including beauty, character, confession, doubt, family, holiness, and religion.

A Year with Jesus: Daily Readings and Meditations by Eugene Peterson

In this book's Introduction and daily meditations

February 9-10 "The Fruits of Contemplation"—the 15th Annual Contemplative Outreach Birmingham Conference featuring guest speaker the Rev. William Meninger at St. Stephen's in Birmingham. *For more information please see the description on page 10 or contact Diana Tschache at 205/991-6964 or tschached@bellsouth.net.*

February 9-15 Iconography—The Gospel in Line and Color program at Kanuga Conference Center in Hendersonville, North Carolina. *For more information please call 828/692-9136, e-mail info@kanuga.org, or visit www.kanuga.org.*

February 10-13 Lenten Retreat at Kanuga Conference Center in Hendersonville, North Carolina. *For more information please call 828/692-9136, e-mail info@kanuga.org, or visit www.kanuga.org.*

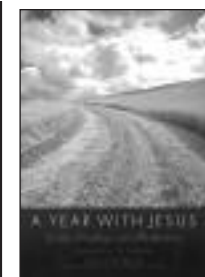
February 18-20 Bowen Conference featuring best-selling author Bruce Feiler at Kanuga Conference Center in Hendersonville, North Carolina. *For more information please call 828/692-9136, e-mail info@kanuga.org, or visit www.kanuga.org.*

February 24 Evensong for Lent sung by the Cathedral Choir at 4 p.m. at the Advent in Birmingham. *For more information please contact Music Associate Charles Kennedy at 205/226-3505 or kennedy@cathedraladvent.com.*

March 7-9 "Sleeper, Awake! Paul and the Renewal of Prayer" Lenten Retreat sponsored by our diocesan Commission on Spirituality and led by the Rev. Martin L. Smith at Camp McDowell. *For more information please see the description on page 10, e-mail Philip Lasater at Philip.Lasater@arec.alabama.gov, or contact Sarah Sartain at 205/715-2060 ext. 314 or ssartain@dioala.org.*

March 28-30 Summer Camp Counselor Retreat at Camp McDowell led by Susanna Whitsett. *For more information please contact Michael Goldsmith at 205/387-1806 or michael@campmcdowell.com.*

April 18-20 1st-Ever Mother/Daughter Retreat at Camp McDowell led by the Rev. Sara-Scott Wingo, priest associate at St. Luke's in Birmingham, and her daughter Anna. *For more information please contact Michael Goldsmith at 205/387-1806 or michael@campmcdowell.com.*



taken directly from the Gospels, Eugene Peterson emphasizes the importance of spending time with Jesus in order to learn how to pray.

For 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: ebsinfo@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 1 p.m.



Learning About and From Our Brothers and Sisters in Haiti

By Mary Balfour Van Zandt, a Member of St. Mary's on-the-Highlands in Birmingham

In February 2007 I attended our diocesan annual convention as a delegate from St. Mary's on-the-Highlands, and I heard a priest named Per Val and his wife, Carmel, from the Diocese of Haiti speak about their country and specifically St. Simeon's parish. They spoke about the hardships their country, the people, and their church face—no water, no money, no medical attention, and no books. As I sat there and listened, God spoke to me saying: You need to help. You need to do whatever you can do to make life better for these people who have so little.

MAILING ADDRESSES AND DEADLINES

Postmaster, parishes, and individuals, please send all address changes to Circulation Secretary Denise Servant, Carpenter House, 521 North 20th Street, Birmingham, AL 35203-2682; 205/715-2060 ext. 300; E-mail dservant@dioala.org.

Please send all submissions to Editor Norma McKittrick (205/979-2680). Please E-mail text to Apostledit@aol.com; mail photographs and printed materials to 2156 Kent Way, Birmingham, AL 35226.

The submission deadline for the combined **March/April** issue is **February 1**. **Editor's Note:** The February issue will be released the second week of the month and will include information about the 177th Annual Diocesan Convention; the combined March/April issue will include a wrap-up report about the convention.

So I came back to St. Mary's with much enthusiasm about this idea and was embraced by many people. Everyone listened and everyone talked about what we could do. We dedicated November 4 as Haiti Sunday when we would learn about the country of Haiti and its culture, donate money toward the much-needed Nutrition Clinic, and pray for our brothers and sisters who live in Haiti. It was a wonderful day, and the people of St. Mary's have opened their hearts to the people of Haiti.

I also decided that I really wanted to go to Haiti to see for myself how our brothers and sisters live and what they are all about. I called my dad, the Rev. Polk Van Zandt, and pleaded with him to go with me. He immediately said yes, and we became a part of the diocesan team led by Dave Drachlis that visited Haiti in October. I can honestly say that those eight days in Haiti changed my life—changed my perspective on how I look at everything. I was so overwhelmed with how the people live, how they manage, and most importantly how they continue to love one another and Christ even in the harshest conditions. The people of St. Simeon's parish are strong Christians, and they made me want to be a better Christian.

These people have very little, yet people like Per Val and Carmel want to make this part of the world a better place. They are building better schools, churches, and a Nutrition Clinic. Malnourishment is a huge problem in Haiti, and they are trying to address it with food supplements, vitamins, and a clinic that can help those who have nowhere else to turn. During our time in Haiti I saw many people who need help, but most importantly I made life-long friendships and came back excited about doing all that I can to help with their many needs. ***I encourage you to be a part of our companion diocesan relationship with Haiti by learning more about the country, giving a donation, or even visiting them. Thanks be to God for our brothers and sisters in Haiti!***

The members of **St. Barnabas' in Hartselle** have "gone on record with reasons St. Barnabas' is their chosen church, examined the history of the Hartselle community and the Episcopal faith, and added a dash of humor plus recipes for nourishment" in a book published by the parish. ***For more information please e-mail bamaolli@charter.net or call the parish office, 256/773-4206.***

St. Mark's in Prattville welcomed Dr. Maureen Fiedler, the host of Public Radio's *Interfaith Voices*, as a guest speaker on Sunday, November 11, thanks to a request by her friend and St. Mark's member, Kathy Quinn. Maureen spoke about the role of faith and religion in relation to peacemaking. "This was a wonderful opportunity to have someone like Dr. Fiedler come speak with us," says the Rev. Scott Arnold, rector of St. Mark's. "It isn't often that we have the opportunity to host a nationally known speaker, much less someone who is seriously reporting on faith issues." *Interfaith Voices*, which debuted in 2002, has covered many interesting topics in recent weeks including *Misquoting Jesus*, *Hindu Surgeons and Buddhist Coworkers: The Changing Face of Religious America*, *Barbara Brown Taylor: From the Pulpit to the Pew*, *Confronting Congress with Hunter*, and *A Woman's Commentary on the Torah*.



Spreading Good Cheer and Good News!

The Rev. Deacon Clyde Pearce and the Rev. John Mark Ford, rector of **Chelsea Episcopal Church**, helped spread the good cheer of Christmas and the good news about our diocese's newest congregation at the holiday parade in Chelsea on December 15.

St. Paul's in Selma is offering the parish's "2008 Lenten Meditation Booklet" for a nominal charge. St. Paulians age 8 to 80 wrote the meditations, which provide a "powerful Lenten resource based on the daily lectionary." ***For more information please e-mail parish@stpaulselma.org or call the parish office, 334/874-8421.***