



The Alabama EPISCOPALIAN

The Episcopal Diocese of Alabama • Pentecost • July-August 2010 / Vol. 95, No. 4

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The Alabama Episcopalian

July-August 2010



Stephanie Miner of Hartselle (left) and counselor Lauren Herman of St. Thomas' in Huntsville enjoying Carnival Night at Special Session at Camp McDowell; photo by the Rev. Michael Rich

In "Common Prayer and Common Good" (page 3), Bishop Parsley reminds us of the interrelatedness of all things and our need to "learn anew to think and act systemically, not just individually." This summer, children, young people, and adults from across our diocese have been living into that "life-changing truth" by reaching out and serving our neighbors in need close to home and in other countries.

In "Eye-Opening Experiences" (page 4), Bishop Sloan describes how he as well as the counselors and campers at Special Session at Camp McDowell not only experienced firsthand caring about and for each other, but they also had deep conversations about the "providence of God and the problem of evil" in the world. Our young people also learned about serving our neighbors by painting houses during the 6th annual Young People Painting Birmingham (page 12) and sharing God's love with more than 400 children from our state's Black Belt region during not one but, for the first time, two sessions of Sawyerville Day Camp (pages 10-11).

The "Update on Haiti Recovery Initiatives" section of this issue (pages 5-7) includes several stories about the many ways the people of our diocese are continuing to reach out to our sisters and brothers in Haiti and help them recover from the devastating January 12th earthquake. In addition, the members of St. Thomas' in Huntsville continued the parish's 16-year tradition of sending mission teams to provide medical and dental care to our sisters and brothers in Honduras (page 15).

In remembrance of Jonathan Myrick Daniels and others who selflessly gave their time, energy, and even their lives to help their neighbors during the 1960s civil rights movement, our diocese is sponsoring the 12th Annual Jonathan Daniels Pilgrimage on August 14 (please see story at right).

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.

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12th Annual Jonathan Daniels Pilgrimage

SATURDAY, AUGUST 14, IN HAYNEVILLE



The 12th annual pilgrimage honoring slain civil right advocate Jonathan Myrick Daniels and others who lost their lives during the 1960s movement is scheduled for Saturday, August 14, in Hayneville. Our diocese is sponsoring this year's event, and the Rt. Rev. Todd Ousley, Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Michigan, will be the featured speaker at the worship service following the pilgrimage.

Jonathan Daniels was an Episcopal seminarian who answered the call of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. to help register African American voters in Alabama. He was shot and killed on August 20, 1965, while shielding then-16-year-old Ruby Sales from a shotgun blast as she attempted to enter a store to buy something to drink. Daniels was added to the Episcopal Church Calendar of Saints and Martyrs in 1994 to be remembered each August 14.

The pilgrimage begins at 11 a.m. at the Courthouse Square in Hayneville. The procession will go to the old county jail where Jonathan and Ruby were among those detained for a week, and then move to the old Cash Grocery Store where Daniels was killed. It will end at the Courthouse, where a service of Holy Communion will take place in the courtroom where the man who killed Daniels was tried and acquitted. Refreshments will be available in the Courthouse Square following the pilgrimage.

"The annual event is about more than just commemorating those who paid the ultimate sacrifice for civil rights," said the Rev. Patrick Wingo, a member of our diocesan staff. "It is also about reconciliation, about looking to the future, and about celebrating the dignity of every human being. Everyone is invited to join us for the event."

Montevallo Canterbury House Construction Completed

Canterbury House, home to Episcopal Campus Ministry in Montevallo, is now finished and awaiting the arrival of its first student residents. Construction of the new facility, which replaced a 1940s home that served as a student center during the past three decades, was made possible largely through gifts to our diocesan ACTS 2 capital campaign.

The campus center is a ministry of our diocese and St. Andrew's, which is situated next door to the facility. "We hope it will provide a place where students can nurture their faith and grow spiritually," says Sally Smith, St. Andrew's senior warden and chair of its Campus Ministry Committee. "We are planning a number of activities for students during the coming year including Popcorn and Parables—a movie and theological reflection night, Holy Eucharist, programs about the world's great religions, and outreach opportunities that are yet to be defined," she adds. Students also have the opportunity to become involved in St. Andrew's parish life and worship, serving as choir members, lay readers, and in other capacities.

The new facility will house six students—two more than the previous facility—and features a number of enhancements. The facility is handicapped accessible and includes a great room for gatherings, a study room for students to work together, and a porch and patio for outside activities. Students will share a common kitchen and dining space. Canterbury House residents are selected in the following priority: Episcopal students from our diocese, Episcopal students from other dioceses, and then others who wish to explore their own faith traditions.

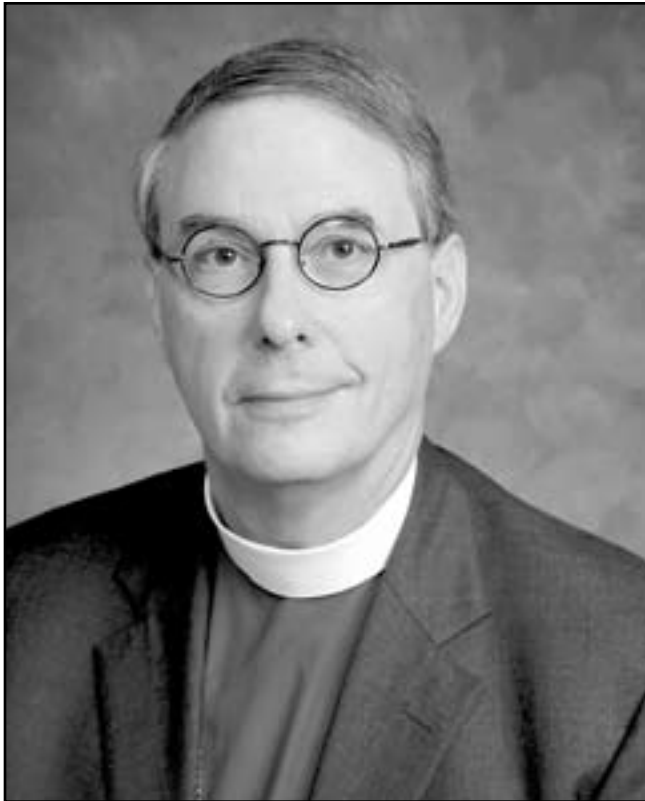
Before the students can move in, Episcopal Campus Ministry needs assistance furnishing the house. The project is under way thanks to yard sale proceeds raised by the St. Andrew's ECW. Parishes and parishioners throughout our diocese are invited to consider contributing furniture and household items to make the facility a home that's livable and welcoming. Items needed include beds, dressers/chests, mirrors, desks and chairs for six residents,



Photos by the Rev. Rob Morpeth

couches, loveseats, chairs, coffee table, end tables, lamps, rugs, a flat-screen television and stand, a dining table and chairs, a study table and chairs for approximately six people, and kitchen items such as dishes, glasses/plastic tumblers, cutlery, utensils, pots/pans, bakeware, and kitchen linens.

New or gently used items as well as monetary contributions are welcome. If you have items to donate, please e-mail Sally Smith at nanoek665@aol.com or call her at 205/665-7005.



Photograph by Billy Brown

As I pray the rich cadences of the Book of Common Prayer, I am challenged and sustained by the words “we” and “us” and “our.” We pray in the plural. “Cleanse the thoughts of *our* hearts . . . *we* praise you, O God . . . *we* humbly beseech thee that *we* may always prove ourselves a *people* mindful of thy favor and glad to do thy will . . . take away the arrogance and hatred that infect *our* hearts, break down the walls that separate *us* . . . open *our* eyes . . . that *we* may learn to serve you with gladness.” Such plural prayer is so not merely because much of the Prayer Book is designed for corporate worship. Whether prayed corporately or privately, nearly all its prayers are “we” prayers, addressing God not as separate individuals but as one community.

In this simple fact of our Anglican spirituality lies a life-changing truth. We stand before God together. We need God together. We praise God as one. What matters is not just “me.” What matters is “us” before God. God so loved the *world* we believe, and so we pray.

This flies sharply in the face of the narcissism of our age and, I dare say, the narcissism of too much contem-

Common Prayer and Common Good

porary religion. Self-concern is the devil’s signature dish in our day. It tempts us to see even God and our spirituality as all about me—my needs, my concerns, my agenda.

Now do not misunderstand me. God cares about each of us personally. God desires for us to open our hearts to him at the deepest personal level and in our own words. God promises to be with each of us at the points of our greatest need. This has been my experience and is the witness of Jesus in his profoundly personal relationship with his abba, Father.

Yet none of us stands alone in our need before God. My yearning for mercy and forgiveness, for help, for peace and justice, for joy and renewal is also your longing—and the yearning of countless people the world over. The deep truth is that you are with me in my prayer, and I with you, and all humanity together. God’s responses to our individual prayers, finally, do not minister fully to any one of us unless they minister to us corporately. As John Donne wrote, “no one is an island, entire of itself; every man is a piece of the continent, a part of the main . . . I am involved in mankind.”

This corporate wisdom of the Prayer Book means to form our minds and shape our lives. It would make us persons who seek the common good, not just our individual good. The common good is God’s will for the world as a great, interconnected whole where all life can flourish. Our purpose in life is to do our part in and for this whole. Jesus knew this as he prayed at the end, “not my will but thine be done.”

In our self-oriented society little seems more important than a new commitment to seek the common good. The global financial crisis, the catastrophic oil spill in the Gulf, the violence of the massive weapons industry—all show us the terrible danger of the individual profit and success motive, without a right concern for the commonweal. Special interest groups and individual agendas dominate our political scene and show very little concern for interests other than their own. As long as “I get mine” or “my group gets ours,” what is best for the whole does not really matter.

As I see the heartrending images of oil-covered pelicans and dying dolphins and turtles in the Gulf, I

cannot help but wonder who speaks for them in the face of powerful petrochemical and economic interests. Who will speak for the health of the earth as a community of life in which all living creatures matter and nothing is expendable?

In our time we are learning dramatically that all things are interrelated. We must learn anew to think and act systemically, not just individually. Does drilling for oil more than 3 miles down, with its obvious catastrophic hazards, serve the common good? Do we have the right to risk accidents that pour hundreds of millions of gallons of

As one of our prayers says, “Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good.” That is a prayer to contemplate—and aspire to live.

oil into the delicate ecosystem of the sea, without fail-safe protections? Can we continue to allow special interests to trump our care for the environment, on which all life depends? I know my answers to these questions . . . what are yours?

These issues should remind us that if we live for ourselves we will die by ourselves. One of the Church’s most important roles is to witness to the integrity of God’s creation and to work passionately for the common good. As one of our prayers says, “Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good.” That is a prayer to contemplate—and aspire to live.

As we share the deep wisdom of the Prayer Book’s plural prayers, may our hearts and minds be formed with love for the whole of God’s beloved community. Father Zossima says to his students in *The Brothers Karamazov*:

Your work is for the whole, your deed is for the future. Never seek a reward, for grace is your reward on earth without that: your spiritual joy, which only the righteous obtain. . . . Kiss the earth and love it, timelessly, insatiably, love all men, love all things, seek this rapture and ecstasy.

We pray common prayer. Let us live for the common good.

Your servant in Christ,

The Rt. Rev. Henry N. Parsley Jr.

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Eye-Opening Experiences

come, and then another counselor, and I wound up announcing to the staff, mostly young people from age 16 to 21, that Zach and Jeff and I were going to be talking about the will of God in light of imperfections in God's creation, and inviting them to come and join the discussion.

The conversation couldn't start until around 10:30 at night, after a very long, very hot, and very challenging day—I figured two or three of the older kids would come and maybe one or two of the younger ones who didn't feel like they had any place to go. By the time I got to the corner of the rec hall I said we'd meet in, I was astounded to see that there were about 20 people waiting. At one point, we were about 30 of us, all wondering together about the nature of God, and God's will for creation, and Why Things Are the Way They Are.

It's an incredibly complicated question, even if it's academic or hypothetical—and for these young people either wrestling with their own disabilities or the disabilities of the campers they'd come to love, it was anything but. I wished, not for the first time, that I had easily understandable answers to such critical and difficult questions, but I don't, and I'm not willing to make something up just to

problem of evil, even after I admitted that there are no easy answers.

I'm not sure what effect the conversation will have on our young friends—I hope they were challenged to believe more deeply and trust God more fully, to give



And so my education continues, and I learn again to look for God in the least likely places, and I realize that I look into the eyes of Jesus in the most improbable faces. Thanks be to God for all of the counselors and staff of the 2010 Special Session—and thanks to their parents for letting us borrow them!

Hello, friends—

I'm writing this a few days after the 2010 Special Session at Camp McDowell, a camp session for people with mental and physical disabilities. This year we had 95 campers, 63 high-school and college-age counselors, and 39 other people on staff. The campers, people age 13 to 75 with a wide array of abilities and disabilities, swam in the pool, did arts and crafts, played games, and for the most part had a wonderful time. Some hiked or canoed in the creek, most had a chance to enjoy some rhythm in the drum circle; we had chapel every morning and night; we had Banana Olympics and Pie-in-the-Face Bingo, a two-night Talent Show, and the Big Dance, featuring our new friend Charlie Scott from St. Thomas' in Huntsville.

One night after the staff meeting, my friend Zach Wooley, who is a member of the Holy Apostles' in Birmingham and a member of the Special Session staff and has cerebral palsy and is in a wheelchair, asked me one of the very central questions of faithful people. From his experience, the question was "If God is good, why am I in this chair, *why me?*" We talked for a long time, until well past the curfew for the counselors (the same curfew I'd just insisted they take great care to observe or suffer the displeasure of the codirectors), and I had to say that we'd have to continue another time.

At breakfast the next morning Jeff Downs, also in a wheelchair and also dealing with cerebral palsy, asked me if he could sit in when I resumed the conversation with Zach, who'd already told Jeff about it. I told him we'd love to have him, and then his counselor asked if he could



have an answer. We have the mystery of faith, not easy answers; the struggle is to be honest and authentic in what we believe, not airtight and unassailable in what we've pieced together. It was an extraordinary, mind-boggling discussion that ended only because continuing to talk would have meant breaking curfew again.

Imagine this: 63 young people, almost all of them Episcopalians, giving up a week of their summer vacation (air conditioning, television, cell phone reception, sleeping past noon, hanging out with friends from school) to come and work at a camp session for people with mental and physical disabilities (90+ degrees, no television or telephones, getting other people ready for breakfast at 8 a.m., spending time with people most of us are more likely to overlook or forget about). And after three or four days of that, imagine half of them staying up after midnight, spending two hours of their sparse and precious free time to talk with me about the providence of God and the

God and our faith more significance in their lives—but part of the effect it had on me was that it expanded my role among them and enhanced my understanding of who they are. I was no longer just the old guy with all the stories and rules and expectations of what they were to do and how they were to do it, now almost suddenly I was somebody with interesting ideas about God. And surprising to me, they were revealed as not just kids looking for a good time at Camp—it turns out that they are very interested in God and faith and theology as well.



And so my education continues, and I learn again to look for God in the least likely places, and I realize that I look into the eyes of Jesus in the most improbable faces. Thanks be to God for all of the counselors and staff of the 2010 Special Session—and thanks to their parents for letting us borrow them!

+ KEE

The Rt. Rev. John McKee Sloan

For more about Special Session please see page 13 and visit our diocesan Web site, www.dioala.org.

Our Diocese Contributes to Haiti Earthquake Recovery Efforts

By the Rev. Deacon Dave Drachlis, Our Diocesan Communications Coordinator; Photos by Margaret Wade Johnston



where Alabama's companion relationship is focused. In the days following the quake, our diocese dispatched emergency relief funds directly to Bishop Zache Duracin and the Rev. Fritz Valdema, the priest in-charge of St. Simeon Parish, for their discretionary use in meeting the immediate needs of earthquake survivors.



In the six months following the January 12 earthquake that devastated much of Haiti, our diocese has responded in prayer, with mission teams, and with a commitment of more than \$110,000 to assist our companion diocese with initial relief and recovery activities. Of the total initial commitment, more than \$80,000 has already been invested in Haiti's recovery. "This impressive response was made possible by generous contributions from our parishioners, parishes, and other organizations, as well as from individuals and groups beyond our diocese," says Bishop Parsley.

Our diocese's response has been directed through the Episcopal Diocese of Haiti to areas of greatest need in Port-au-Prince and the six-church St. Simeon Parish

delivered more than 2,000 pounds of much-needed medication, medical supplies, and equipment and fielded three medical teams to provide post-quake care. The first team, which arrived a month after the quake, worked amid the rubble to provide medical treatment to refugees being cared for by the Diocese of Haiti. The team worked at or near tent camps in Port-au-Prince and Petionville, at a nutrition clinic-turned post-quake medical clinic operated by Father Valdema's wife, Carmel, in Croix des Bouquets, and at an earthquake-damaged school in the village of Lilavois. Subsequent teams have delivered additional supplies and provided medical treatment at the Croix des Bouquets clinic and other locations where medical care is unavailable.

Our diocese has also provided significant relief funds to augment the mobile missions and the Croix des Bouquets clinic with additional Haitian medical personnel and medications. Many people from Port-au-Prince have sought refuge in the Croix des Bouquets area since the earthquake, and the clinic had been turning away patients because of a lack of staff and medicines.

Our diocese followed its initial response with funds to begin clearing debris and constructing temporary school facilities and by assisting with teacher salaries. This allowed Episcopal schools in the St. Simeon Parish to reopen in April in accordance with a government mandate.

We have also committed funds to assist with Father Valdema's salary for the coming year. Since the quake, the Diocese of Haiti has been operating at an approximately \$30,000 monthly deficit due to loss of revenue from school tuition and tithes from families who have lost their income. The Diocese of Haiti is now unable to pay its priests.



"I have spoken on several occasions with Bishop Duracin, and while there is still much suffering and many years of recovery ahead, he has repeatedly expressed his deep appreciation for the support his diocese and the people of Haiti are receiving from their brothers and sisters in Alabama," Bishop Parsley reports. "I am deeply touched by the selfless response of the good people of and beyond our diocese. In the months to come, we plan to continue to field medical missions sponsored and led by parishes. It is also my hope that as we continue to receive support, we will be in a position to begin to assist our brothers and sisters in rebuilding their schools and churches."

Krik? Krak!

Haiti, You Are in My Heart Now

By Maggie Wade Johnston

“Krik? Krak!” Is a Haitian phrase used for a storytelling session. An elder will yell out, “Krik?” meaning, “Anyone ready to hear a story?” Others will shout back, “Krik!” meaning, “Yes, let the stories begin!” Please take a few minutes to answer my “Krik?” by reading this story about my experiences in Haiti.



Pere Val at the ruins of the cathedral in Port-au-Prince

In January, a group of clergy spouses were booked to make a trip to Haiti to hike up a mountain to Crochu, a village known as the poorest of the poor. We were to begin a lunch program in Crochu from donations that many of you have contributed. The earthquake interrupted those plans.

In May, my heart soared when Dave Drachlis sent me an e-mail asking if my passport was in order and if I was current on immunizations. My trip to Haiti was rescheduled! I joined Dave, Sharon Drachlis, Mike Murdock, Dr. Dick McLaughlin, and Shotsie Platt on a journey that would change my view of reality forever.

This trip was made possible through Mike's generosity. We delivered 900 pounds of medical supplies and reading glasses for six medical clinics established by Carmel Valdema. Carmel, who is a Haitian public health nurse, is the wife of the Rev. Fritz Valdema (known to friends as Pere Val), the priest-in-charge of the six-church St. Simeon Parish. Our medical team also saw numerous patients at two of Carmel's clinics.



Arriving at the Port-au-Prince airport is in itself an adventure. You exit the building through hordes of men clamoring for your attention: “Need a ride?” “Want to buy a necklace?” Fortunately, we were met by Pere Val and his trusty crew who guided us through the maze and into a waiting van. Navigating the streets and roads of Haiti makes Atlanta traffic look easy. Compare NASCAR with a toddler's tricycle race!

The people of Haiti were so warm and welcoming to us. We slept in tents in the courtyard of St Simeon Church because there are almost no local accommodations available since the earthquake. Many of the people whose homes were undamaged still sleep outside for fear of another earthquake.

Carmel Valdema is my new hero. She has turned her vision of a better world into reality all around her! Eight years ago, when the Valdemas moved to Haiti, Carmel saw many children dying of malnutrition. Her scrapbook shows powerful photo stories of some of these children. She set up health and nutrition clinics connected to the six churches her husband serves. These clinics are where we Alabamians saw patients and delivered hundreds of reading glasses into the hands of Haitians who had never worn glasses before. I was honored by many warm smiles and hugs in return for providing a clearer view of the world.



Maggie helping a patient with reading glasses

The Valdemas also have schools at their churches that are educating hundreds of children, hopefully providing them with a better future. As a teacher and educator myself, I was drawn to these lovely and loving children. I got to meet and talk to the principal and some teachers at St Michael's school in Thomazeau. As the principal toured me through the school they can no longer use due to quake fear, he struggled to explain in English the condition of his facility by saying repeatedly, “Problem is economics.”

Life in Port-au-Prince was dirty and difficult before the earthquake hit. There are open sewers—drainage ditches along the streets. All disposable items (trash) are added to these ditches until they are overflowing. I asked our Haitian translator if there was ever a time these are cleaned out. “When big storms come through,” he replied. When you cross over a bridge you realize where all that trash is accumulating—in mountains on either bank of the river.



Carmel setting up new scales at the Lespwa Timoun clinic

The earthquake brought down or destroyed almost all of the buildings in the city. As you pass through street after street, you see nothing but rubble and debris piled in the streets. Many buildings that were once five stories tall are now compacted into a one-level pancake. More than four months after the tremor, most look untouched. Although United Nations officials estimate about 200,000 deaths occurred, there is no way to really know.

Whenever I come face-to-face with disaster, my thought is always: What can I do to help? In some situations, there is little we can do, but in the case of Haiti, there is hope for the children! Through our clergy spouse Krik? Krak? Program, there is so much each of us can do.

We are building a kitchen in Crochu to start a lunch feeding program so that when school starts back in September, the 300 schoolchildren will be fed. Currently they are receiving the equivalent of one nutritious meal a WEEK! The mud cookies baked by the sun by their mothers help fill empty spaces in their stomachs but provide no nutrition.

I will return to Haiti. The people there are in my heart now. I will climb that mountain and serve lunch for the multitudes one day soon. Will you help make that possible?

P.S. Watch for future stories from Maggie about some more of her Haitian Heroes. For more about our diocese's efforts to relieve the suffering and help rebuild Haiti, please see the stories on pages 5 and 7, and visit our diocesan Web site, www.dioala.org.

How You Can Help

I will return to Haiti. The people there are in my heart now. I will climb that mountain and serve lunch for the multitudes one day soon. Will you help make that possible?

Please visit our diocesan Web site, www.dioala.org/Haiti/krik.html, to learn more about Krik? Krak! Then please be generous with your donation. There are no “administrative charges,” just purchasing and providing food. All money donated to Krik? Krak! will go directly to feeding children.



Advent Schoolchildren Raise Funds for Haiti Schoolchildren

By C.J. Ross, a Member of St. Francis of Assisi's in Indian Springs

on the front cover of our diocesan newspaper, and they noticed that I was wearing one of the bracelets they had made.

A few days after the earthquake, the students from the French Club and Student Council had met together and brainstormed ideas for a project to raise funds to help our sisters and brothers in Haiti. They decided to make bracelets using embroidery thread in the colors of the Haitian flag and add beads to spell the Haitian words for hope (*lespwa*), love (*amour*), and children (*les infants*). Soon parents and faculty members were cutting thread, and the best braiders from 5th grade up were braiding, while the 3rd and 4th graders made posters advertising the bracelets. Soon after, students of all ages were buying the bracelets.

The project took on a life of its own, with bracelets being sold by parents at work, by neighbors, between worship services at church, to other schools, and then at our diocesan convention in February. Students stayed after school and also met in teachers' homes to increase production of the bracelets. They also created a bulletin board in the upper hallway at school with the signatures of everyone who had participated in the project, and they posted stories and photos from newspapers, magazines, and the Internet.

The students later started making bracelets with their names on them to send to the students in Haiti, and one student wrote a letter in French and English to send with them. Those bracelets made it to Haiti at the end of

May with a medical team from Alabama, and they were given to the children at St. Simeon School. In return the students who received them made 62 bracelets with their names on them and wrote letters for the students at the Advent Day School, which the members of the medical team brought back to Alabama with them. The letters speak for themselves, and the students plan to exchange pictures and learn more about each other.

Anne Barton, the French teacher who helped spearhead this project, was the one who called me in April. As Anne and I began planning my visits to the school, we talked about the meaning and value of the children's efforts in their lives and others. It became obvious that this project was much more than raising money for a worthy cause—it had become an opportunity for the students to embrace the students of Haiti, to learn about each other's cultures, and to offer love and support in a more personal way.

Anne reflected on how the children felt empowered and didn't let the feelings of helplessness get in their way, and that brought their school community together. She reports that one of the students remarked that her favorite part was sitting with friends, doing something with her hands while chatting and laughing, all the while knowing she was doing something for someone else.

The bracelets made and sold by the students at Advent Day School raised more than \$3,500 to benefit the students at St. Simeon School. Worth so much more though are the priceless friendships that have been formed and the lessons in reaching out in love that have been learned.

"Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it. And he took the children in his arms, put his hands on them and blessed them." (Mark 10:14-16)

This is a lesson in how to love God taught by children. It is truly a case of the left hand not knowing what the right hand is doing by reaching out to strangers in need. It helps me understand more about why Jesus was miffed at his disciples for rebuking the parents of the children who sought him out.

For me the story begins last February when I received parting gifts from my fellow deacon postulants as I was preparing to leave for a Haiti medical mission. One particular gift was a bracelet of brightly braided twine, and I wore it constantly—it became my Linus blanket when I witnessed the devastation that my Haitian brothers and sisters were facing after the January earthquake.

Following the publication of the March/April *Alabama Episcopalian*, which included photos and stories about our mission trip, I received a call from a French teacher asking if I could come and talk to the students at the Advent Day School. The students had seen my picture

Children's Choirs Raise Funds for Krik? Krak! Lunch Program

By Susie Youngson, Children's Choir Director at All Saints' in Birmingham

The children's choirs of All Saints' and St. Thomas' in Birmingham combined to present an evensong service to benefit the children of Haiti on May 19 at All Saints' and May 23 at St. Thomas'. The service of prayer and meditation featured beautiful music by Richard Proulx, Helen Kemp, and John Rutter. The children gave the offering gathered at each service to the Krik? Krak! school lunch program benefiting the children of Crochu in Haiti.



CAMP McDOWELL

Thank You!

By Michael Goldsmith, Outgoing Director of Program and Development

By the time you read this, my family and I will be settled into our new home in Sewanee, where I will be attending seminary. While I know leaving Camp McDowell will be a hard transition for us, I only feel gratitude for the chance to minister to the children of our diocese and to live and work in such a wonderful community.

The five years we have spent at camp have been filled with amazing opportunities to spread the gospel through relational ministry. Camp McDowell is a powerful community where joy and love are the tangible results of lives lived in Christ.

I believe the health of a Christian community can be measured by how well its members serve Christ outside of that community. I truly believe that Summer Camp is a place where both campers and staff hear Paul's call to



The community of Summer Camp is based on forming relationships, building friendships, and learning how to live in a community where every voice is important and necessary. When we teach this well, campers come away with a better understanding of what it means to live for others. Summer Camp is a place where respect for others is the norm, where love is always the first option, and where joy is the overwhelming response to God's presence in our lives.

“do good to all people” (Galatians 6:10). I encourage you to look around our diocese and throughout the world and see the amazing things that the members of our Camp McDowell community are doing. In Haiti, Africa, Sawyerville, DC, Boston, and beyond, former campers and staffers are taking seriously their baptismal covenant as they “seek and serve Christ in all people.” They are struggling for change, they are a voice for the voiceless, and they seek to glorify God through their work and play.

The community of Summer Camp is based on form-



ing relationships, building friendships, and learning how to live in a community where every voice is important and necessary. When we teach this well, campers come away with a better understanding of what it means to live for others. Summer Camp is a place where respect for others is the norm, where love is always the first option, and where joy is the overwhelming response to God's presence in our lives.

Summer Camp truly is a wonderful, wonderful community. Thank you for your continuing support of Camp McDowell!

God's peace to each of you.



Personnel Transitions at Camp McDowell

By the Rev. Mark Johnston, Vicar and Executive Director of Camp McDowell



Camp McDowell continues to be blessed with wonderful people who pour their lives into their camp vacations. This week I said good-bye and see you later to my good friend Michael Goldsmith who soon begins his first year in seminary at Sewanee. Michael and his young family have lived at camp for the past five years. We will all miss Kana, Mitzi, Thomas, Gus, and Sarah Margaret—as well as Michael. Seminary and the priesthood is the right path for Michael, and as much as I will miss him, I am also happy for him.

As you know Michael was our director of program and development. His job description included coordinating summer camp and a variety of weekend retreats for children and their parents. In addition Michael helped raise funds for scholarships and projects such as the Chapel of St. Francis Brick Campaign. I am happy to announce that two very able people have been hired to do these important jobs—Susanna Whitsett and Danielle Dunbar.

Susanna Whitsett will be employed half-time as Summer Camp Coordinator and also will work with other weekend retreats. The Whitsett family will move to camp

for the summer and remain in Birmingham the rest of the year. Many of you know Susanna, her husband, Danny, and their three girls. Susanna grew up coming to Camp McDowell and served on Summer Camp staff as head counselor. In addition she has been on the staffs of numerous camps and conferences for teenagers. She has also served as our diocesan youth ministries coordinator, and she established the Sawyerville Day Camp. Most recently

Susanna has worked at All Saints' in Birmingham doing Christian formation with children. I am delighted to have her on board!

Many of you also know Danielle Dunbar, who has served as the outstanding part-time director of the Alabama Folk School at Camp McDowell. Her capable leadership has resulted in a solid foundation for the Folk School. Danielle will begin working full-time for Camp McDowell as she assumes the development aspects of Michael's work. She has a background in nonprofit management and a love for Camp McDowell, and she is looking forward to the opportunity to help develop financial support for the mission and ministries of Camp McDowell. Danielle, her husband, Rob, and their two children will continue to reside in Birmingham. Like

Susanna, she will come to camp one day a week, and she will also be here when the Folk School is in session. She is an active member at St. Mary's-on-the-Highlands in Birmingham, where she serves on the vestry and is involved in Stephen Ministries.

Thank you, Anna Bryant, for being such an excellent Summer Camp Coordinator in 2010. Anna took over



the responsibilities of coordinating Summer Camp when Michael left on July 1, and she will continue in that position until Susanna begins in September. Anna, who grew up attending Summer Camp, also has been an excellent teacher for the past year at the McDowell Environmental Center.

Yes, we are certainly blessed in our diocese and at Camp McDowell to have so many excellent leaders!



Sawyer ville Saints and Superheroes 2010

By Leslie Manning, Our Diocesan Youth Ministries Coordinator;
Photos by the Rev. Deacon Dave Drachlis

Thanks to the generosity of parishes and parishioners throughout our diocese, more than 400 young people from Hale County enjoyed a weeklong day camp experience this summer. For the first time, the annual Sawyer ville Day Camp was conducted in two sessions, allowing almost twice as many campers to attend the five-day program at Greensboro Elementary School. It was so incredible to be able to have that many campers—expanding the day camp to two sessions was definitely the right move!

Designed to provide a summer camp experience for economically disadvantaged children in the Black Belt communities of Sawyer ville, Greensboro, Uniontown,

Operated by volunteers—high-school and college students and adults—the camp provides children with an opportunity to just be kids and have fun in a camp environment created especially for them without being framed in the light of the region's poverty. The Black Belt is an area of limited resources for children and youth. There is no community center, and the young people do not have many of the opportunities afforded to children in other areas of our state.

This year's theme was "Saints and Superheroes." It was a wonderful, spirit-filled experience for campers and staff alike, an experience that was marked by faith, inclusion, joy, and deep Christ-centered relationships that allowed the campers to experience Christ's love shared in a new way.

Sawyer ville Day Camp is basically a "camp-in-a-box." We don't have a permanent facility in the Black Belt. Instead, schools in the area take turns providing

facilities and buses to transport the campers. Counselors and staff stay at area churches and homes. All of the equipment and supplies is brought in by the staff.

This year's first session began on Friday, June 25, with the arrival of staff members who transformed Greensboro

Elementary into a summer camp facility. The first group of campers arrived on Monday, and the session ended Friday July 2, after which the staff cleaned up and prepared for the arrival of the second session staff on July 9. The second session concluded July 17.

During each session the campers swam, played basketball, attended music workshops, participated in arts and crafts, went on a field trip, and participated in small-group

Bible discussions, skits, and stories. The older campers also participated in an HIV/AIDS awareness program.

This year's staff grew to more than 150 for the two sessions and involved many others who worked to prepare for the camp and served as prayer partners during the sessions. One staff member came from North Carolina and the others from Akron, Anniston, Auburn, Birmingham, Decatur, Demopolis, Florence, Greensboro, Guntersville, Huntsville, Montgomery, Sawyer ville, Selma, Tuscaloosa, and Wetumpka in Alabama.

For more about Sawyer ville Day Camp including links to media coverage, video, and more photos, please visit our diocesan Web site, http://dioala.org/dfc/newsdetail_2/708.



Akron, Newbern, and Faunsdale, the annual program is a partnership between our diocesan youth ministries office, Sawyer ville Commission, and parishes as well as local Hale County leaders, churches, and schools. It is heavily supported by contributions from individuals and parishes.





“My experience at Sawyerille Day Camp this year was a time I will never forget. I made lifetime friends, learned how to be a leader, and how to just be myself. Being a staffer this year instead of a camper made me worry about a few things. Like what if I lose someone’s kid or if I accidentally lose control and yell at a kid? Once I arrived at camp the first day all of those worries disappeared. I was surrounded by nice people and campers.

“I was happy to wake up and go see all of my campers’ happy smiles. I had fun in the well-planned programs and activities my coordinators had planned. I met unique and cool people who I can now call good friends. I can not wait for next year so I can do it all again. I love S.D.C.!”

—James Banks, former camper and 2010 staff member



“My experience at the Sawyerille Day Camp was amazing! This was my first year on staff so I went into it scared out of my mind. Questions filled my head like: What if I don’t make any friends, what if I won’t be able to control my campers, What if I get shy? After the first day of camp all those questions faded away.

“I made friends to cherish for years to come. I had the best campers. Sawyerille, instead of making me shy and scared, taught me how to be more confident and outgoing—it also taught me great leadership skills. I’m looking forward to next year at S.D.C.!”

—Jordan Banks, twin brother of James, former camper and 2010 staff member



Learning To Serve Your Neighbors by Painting Homes



For the sixth year in a row, young people from across our diocese spent the first week of June in Birmingham painting homes and learning what it means to serve their neighbors. The annual Young People Painting Birmingham ministry is a joint project of our diocese and Urban Ministry, the United Methodist Inner City Mission.

“It provides an opportunity for junior-high school students to learn about urban poverty and the reasons behind it, as well as providing many their first chance to participate in a service learning project,” notes Leslie

Manning, our diocesan youth ministries coordinator. “Several of the participants told us that this was a life-changing experience,” she adds.

Steve Palmer, youth minister of St. Thomas’ in Huntsville, coordinated this year’s project. More than 50 youth scraped and painted four homes of elderly and disabled residents in West Birmingham. In addition to work sessions, the week’s activities included educational sessions as well as times for reflection, worship, community building, music, and unstructured activities.

This year’s participants included Maddie Ault, Madelaine Duggan, Sally Fargason, Patricia Gilmer, Annie Littleton, Sarah Lundey, and Brucie Porter of Holy Trinity in Auburn; Alexis Allen and Elli Davis of Grace Church in



Anniston; Cullen Anderson, Emily Hayes, Gareth Turner, and Daniel McMahon of All Saints’ in Birmingham; Aubrey Pilkerton, Hallie West, Frances Carson, and Caroline Clark of Canterbury United Methodist in Birmingham; Keller Briley and John Merritt Briley of the Cathedral Church of the Advent in Birmingham; Luis Diaz and Miguel Chavez of Iglesia Episcopal de la Gracia in Birmingham; Catherine Kinney of Independent Presbyterian Church in Birmingham; Bowman Durkee, Will Jackson, Kit Goldschmidt, Emily Hooker, William



Hooker, Murray Manley, Abbie Rodgers, and Andy Vahle of St. Mary’s-on-the-Highlands in Birmingham; Claire Brickson, Kettler Horn, Sophia Johnston, William McDowell, Reid McAlister, Sam McAlister, Laura Passey, Amy Strong, Thomas Thagard, Gene Thagard, and Ben Thompson of St. Stephen’s in Birmingham; Luke Sartain of St. Thomas’ in Birmingham; Spencer Coffey, Rhodes Thornton, and Patton Webb of Trinity in Florence; Mary Murdock and Faulcon Fitts of Christ Church in Tuscaloosa; Clay Hardin and Sam Jones of the Epiphany in Guntersville; Chris Carter of St. Thomas’ in Huntsville; Jessica Lingle and Emma Ramey of St. Francis of Assisi in Indian Springs; and McKenLee Morse and Sarah Pate of Holy Cross in Trussville. **For more about Young People Painting Birmingham please visit our diocesan Web site, www.dioala.org.**



Special Session 2010— Dancing in the Joy of the Lord

Text and photos by the Rev. Michael Rich; additional photos by the Rev. Deacon Dave Drachlis



for their health and safety 24 hours a day. Young adults, most of whom have been Special Session counselors, plan and supervise the activities, while adult staff work behind the scenes running the technical aspects of Special Session, its finances, and produce a take-home “yearbook” with everyone’s photos.

Campers come with a range of abilities and interests, so the activities range from QPT—

Quality Porch Time—to hikes, canoe trips, and dive after dive into the pool. The soapy slide on the playing field is an exciting tradition. Every year sees something new, and this year it was the “Banana Olympics,” a wacky set of games involving fruit athletes and lots of laughs.

Because Special Session has grown so much, the talent show now covers two nights. Every camper participates, with singing and dancing leading the way. But other surprising and delightful talents are showcased. Jeremy makes a bed. Angie impersonates Michael Jackson. Lennie gives high-fives. And “Sheriff” Stephen shows his law-and-order prowess in a series of arrests.



Each day begins and ends with what is an often-raucous but always heartfelt worship, centering on the prayers of campers for families, their counselors, their new friends, for those who have come before. Then there is the closing Eucharist on Monday morning. The Rt. Rev. Kee Sloan, the camp’s founder and codirector, preaches and leads the way in shedding a tear. The tears of the campers and counselors at the altar come partly from exhaustion, partly in sadness at parting, but mostly in joy at the moment.

And then they are gone.

“Many of the campers return home, wash and repack their clothes in their suitcase, and begin counting the days until next year,” Bishop Sloan notes.

Counting the days until the dance begins again.

For more about Special Session please see From Bishop Sloan on page 4 and visit our diocesan Web site, www.dioala.org.



They dance in the night. No one bashful, no one reluctant, no one afraid of what others may think. They dance in the joy of one another. They dance in the joy of the Lord.

Campers and staff, some 200 strong, join one another in the ballroom/Recreation Hall at Camp McDowell for the closing dance. This is Special Session, a weeklong summer camp conducted by our diocese for intellectually and physically disabled adults and kids. This year’s session ran from June 30 to July 5.

Life as a dance was the theological theme for this year’s camp, as preached at the staff Eucharist by the Rev. David Meginniss, rector of Christ Church in Tuscaloosa and the session’s codirector. Early in the session, he said, the dancing would be tentative, getting to know your partner and learning the steps. By the end of the week, the awkwardness would be forgotten, with camper and counselor whirling through the last days in a dance of joy.

The 97 Special Session campers come with a range of physical, mental, and emotional challenges. The counselors are high-school and college students. They stay with campers in the lower camp cabins and are responsible



EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN

Compiled by Lynn Edge Reeves, Publicity Chair

From Gethryn S. Giles, ECW President



It is the middle of the summer, and the days are long and hot—but the women of our diocese are looking forward to cooler days and the **121st Annual Fall Conference on October 7 and 8.**

Registration begins at 10 a.m. at St. Michael and All Angels' Church at 1000 West 18th Street in Anniston. The meeting will start with Noonday Prayer and lunch, with the business meeting at 12:50 p.m., followed by the first session of the program. **You can find conference registration forms on our ECW Web site, www.alabamaecw.org.**

The Rev. Margaret Rose, Director of the Mission Leadership Center at the Episcopal Church Center in New York, will be our speaker. She has many divisions under her direction, including Missionaries, Chaplaincies, Theological Education, Lay Ministry, and Women's Ministries and Leadership. It is an honor to have Rose

come to our diocese to talk about Mission and Ministries in the Episcopal Church. "I... share the conviction that the work women are doing today in the Church and the world is essential for its well-being," she emphasizes.

Spring convocation meetings have been held in all seven of our convocations, and plans are being made for the fall meetings. These events provide a great opportunity for the women of our parishes to gather and learn from each other. The participants are asked to share what is happening in their parishes, and often those attending take away new ideas for mission and outreach.

Our Convocation Coordinators are working on the programs for the fall meetings. Some of the meetings will feature "Krik? Krak!," the lunch program for schoolchildren in Crochu, Haiti, a project of the clergy spouses of our diocese. (For more about this project, please see "Krik? Krak! Haiti, You Are in My Heart Now" on page 6.)

This time of the year all eyes turn to the Black Belt and the Sawyerville Work Project and Day Camp of

our diocesan youth department (see pages 10-11). This outreach ministry is the July feature in our ECW 2010 Calendar/Workbook.

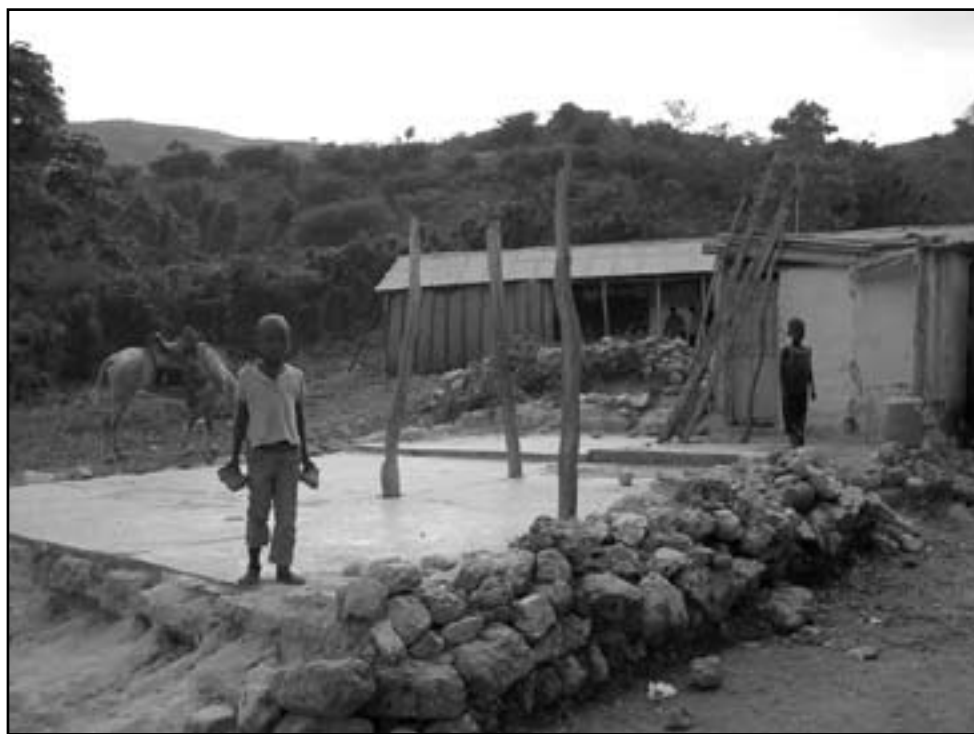
The August calendar features the Community Free Clinic of Decatur-Morgan County and the role that St. John's in Decatur plays in this effort. More than 10,000 hours of volunteer service are recorded each year as this clinic serves thousands of patients.

Two ECW Board projects are bearing fruit. ECW Scholarships have been awarded to 24 recipients, and both of our diocesan United Thank Offering (UTO) grant applications sent to the National UTO Committee have been approved (please see "UTO Grants Will Help Schools in Haiti and Alabama" below). Our ECW Scholarship and UTO committees have worked hard to accomplish these goals. Please continue to support all of our ECW projects so we can help more students and outreach programs.

Blessings to each of you!

UTO Grants Will Help Schools in Haiti and Alabama

By Brenda Mayhall, ECW United Thank Offering Diocesan Coordinator



Hurricanes that hit Haiti in recent years washed away the crumbling wood, tin, and stucco structure that served as St. Alban's Church and School, leaving only a slab and wood posts. A UTO grant will help build a sturdy facility large enough to serve the parish's growing ministries to the 15,000 people who live in Crochu and the surrounding mountain villages.

Schools in Haiti and Alabama will benefit from two grants awarded by the National United Thank Offering (UTO).

A \$40,000 foreign grant will help fund the rebuilding of St. Alban's Church and School in Crochu, Haiti. This facility serves the 15,000 people who live in

Crochu and the surrounding mountain villages. St. Alban's is the primary institution in the community, and it serves the residents spiritually, educationally, and medically.

The parishioners of St. Alban's will use the funds to replace the crumbling wood, tin, and stucco facility that hurricanes washed away. They plan to build a sturdy structure large enough to serve their growing ministries. When a team from our diocese visited Crochu in 2006, they asked about a large pile of rocks surrounding the church. The Rev. Fritz "Pere Val" Valdema, the priest-in-charge who serves the parish, explained that since the people had no money to rebuild the church, each family brought a rock as a weekly tithe. Those rocks will be used in the foundation of the new building.

A \$17,750 domestic grant will assist in the funding for a handicapped accessible playground at St. Peter's Episcopal Church and Day School in Talladega. This will allow mobility-challenged students to access the play-

ground and enjoy interacting with all the children in the same space.

The school currently has physically-challenged children enrolled in its program, but these children have not been able to participate fully during their outdoor time on the playground—this project will allow the program to continue to accept physically-challenged children. St. Peter's Episcopal Church and Day School's mission for the project is simple: To bear witness to the Episcopal Church's millennium goals and be recognized in their community as a servant and advocate for ALL of God's children.

Claudia Comer, the National United Thank Offering Coordinator, notified our diocese that the grant requests were approved. The two grant applications were submitted by our diocesan ECW UTO Committee in January. These grants received Bishop Parsley's approval before they were forwarded to the National UTO Committee.

United Thank Offering brings us together in offering daily thanks and prayers as part of our life in Christ; taking the opportunity to put an offering in our UTO boxes; bringing our offering boxes, envelopes, or checks to our local parishes on ingathering days; and joining our offerings with others to support mission projects at home and around the world. The Fall UTO Ingathering season is approaching, and an ingathering date should be scheduled so that the funds can be sent to the ECW treasurer by November 15.

If your parish or project wishes to apply for a UTO grant for the upcoming year, please visit our diocesan ECW Web site, www.alabamaecu.org, for more information about the application process. The completed applications are due back to our diocesan office by December 31.

St. Thomas' in Huntsville Sends Mission Team to Honduras

For the 16th time in as many years, a mission team organized and coordinated by St. Thomas' in Huntsville, spent a week in Honduras this June providing medical and dental care at Delicias del Norte, a small village in the mountains near the Guatemalan border. During the mission, the 12-member group worked with a local doctor, healthcare workers, and two dentists to treat approximately 500 families—some 1,300 people from the village and surrounding area.

This year's team members included Bob Harwell, the Rev. Matt Doss, Tony Mason, Jeannie Randall, Virginia Fowler, and Cindy Atkins from St. Thomas'; Mary Wengrowski from St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in Madison; Matt McDonald from the Nativity in Huntsville; and Ginny, Claire, Dixon, and Dr. Dick McKay from Christ Church in Raleigh, North Carolina.

The mission began June 3 with the arrival of an advance contingent that included Cindy Atkins, Bob Harwell, Matt McDonald and Jeannie Randall. They arranged for \$11,000 in medications and purchased medical and dental supplies. The main team arrived on Saturday and began work following the Sunday morning worship with the community.

The advance team also made arrangements with a

Honduran physician and nurse to provide twice-a-month follow-ups for people identified as needing additional care after the team left. "This is a new dimension to the mission," notes Cindy. "We are very grateful to find healthcare providers who can assist with health and family-planning education in the village as well as provide follow-up care for people with such conditions as high blood pressure, diabetes, and epilepsy."

This year the team also conducted a one-day clinic at the village of Bambu, about an hour farther into the mountains. Residents of this village previously had to walk more than an hour to Delicias for medical care. The village, with its two-room school and single outhouse was reminiscent of Delicias in the 1990s.

St. Thomas' has been fielding medical missions to the village since 1995. Last year the church was unable to send a team because of political unrest in Honduras. "It was good to be back among our friends this year," says Jeannie Randall, who has been on numerous missions to the village. "It was like a family reunion."

Over the years team members have watched the children of Delicias grow up, have children of their own, and become leaders in the church and community. "Carlos, a young man for whom we bought a guitar several years

ago now plays guitar and keyboards in church on Sunday mornings," Jeannie reports. "And a young girl who used to help us in the dental clinic by holding a flashlight, before the village had electricity, is now attending dental school."

Jeannie and others also have seen the village grow and improve. It now has electricity, and this spring a water-purification capability was established at the school. In addition, the village is now on the bus route to San Pedro Sula—the closest large city—which has enabled increased employment opportunities for the villagers.

Recent development projects by AANGLIDESH, the Anglican Development Agency active in Honduras, have worked with construction teams to install latrines and vented stoves and also to help establish a micro-industry. In Delicias, women from the San Lucas Episcopal parish are establishing a sewing industry.

"We are proud to have been a part of the ongoing improvement in public health in Delicias over the last 16 years and with the impact our missions have had on the individual lives of both our friends in Honduras and the members of our teams," emphasizes Bob Harwell, this year's mission leader. "There are so many stories. We have definitely received more than we have given."

Celtic High Cross Dedicated at the Church of the Resurrection in Rainbow City



The Rev. Van Foreman and Bruce Head sprinkling the cross and congregation with Holy Water

The Rev. Van Foreman served as the celebrant and parishioner Dr. G. Bruce Head III served as the thurifer for the dedication of the Resurrection High Cross at the Church of the Resurrection in Rainbow City on May 23. The cross, which was a gift from Dr. Head, stands in the parish garden, marking a central place for gathering and prayer.

Artist and master stone carver John Scott, of High Cross Monument Company in Beaumont, Texas, designed and crafted the 9-foot-tall cross in the style of ancient Celtic

high crosses in Ireland. The spiral design in the heart of the cross is the "triskele," an ancient symbol for the sun, symbolizing the still center, the meeting place of heaven and earth; in contemporary time this symbol can represent the Trinity. The Celtic knot designs have no beginning or end and are believed to represent the family; they are also likened to our faith.

Episcopal Place Announces 2010 Gumbo Gala Winners

By Kris Mueller, Director of Development; Photos by Bill Dixon, a Member of St. Luke's in Birmingham

More than 1,000 participants enjoyed gumbo made by 30 cook-off teams at this year's Gumbo Gala on May 8, and the annual event raised \$32,000 to provide vital support services at Episcopal Place, an affordable housing community for seniors and young adults with special needs. Services such as noon meals, subsidized housekeeping, health screenings, pastoral care, and planned social activities help residents live independently for as long as possible at Episcopal Place.

For the third time in five years, Robert Regard of Crazy Cajuns' Boiling Pot, won the top professional award. Winning first place in the amateur division was Butt Patrol, a Hoover cook-off team usually found competing in barbecue contests.

The team from the **Church of the Ascension** won the contest's newest category, Most Divine Gumbo, which was created for teams from area churches. Other winners

in the annual fundraising event included Amateur Division, 2nd Place—Starnes and Atchison; Amateur Division, 3rd Place—Gumbo Sharks from Johnston, Barton, Proctor & Rose; Spirit Award—Gumbo Gurus from Business Electronics; Chef's Choice, Seafood—Jubilee Joe's; Chef's Choice, Specialty—**The Cathedral Church of the Advent**; Chef's Choice, Chicken/Sausage—WearTek; and People's Choice Award—**Mary Makers from St. Mary's-on-the-Highland's**.

"This event was started five years ago in honor of several residents who came to live at Episcopal Place after surviving Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans," said Tim Blanton, executive director of Episcopal Place. "Thanks to great support from the community, Gumbo Gala has grown into a lively event with great gumbo and entertainment, and all proceeds go to support a worthwhile cause."



The Mary Makers team from St. Mary's-on-the-Highlands won the People's Choice Award: Jill Gray, Brad Cain, Merrimon Eppes, and David Gray with Executive Director Tim Blanton.



The duck gumbo prepared by the team from the Cathedral Church of the Advent won the Chef's Choice Award for best specialty gumbo: Whitney Debardeleben, Gibson Lanier, Russ Chambliss, and Lee and John Hoerner.



St. Mary's-on-the-Highlands member John Pelham, who served as Chairman of the 2010 Gumbo Gala Planning Committee, with his daughter, Lena, and her dog, Daisy



The team from Church of the Ascension won the category for Most Divine Gumbo: Mike Sparks, Martha Oyston, John Wilson, Nancy Sharp, Mike and Carolyn Eika, Will Sparks, Kelly Smitherman, Bob Carr, Emily and Rivers Hood, Jim Loop, and the Rev. Steven Hood and Ana Clare Hood.

St. Luke's Children Raise Funds for Christ Church and St. George's

At St. Luke's Day School in Birmingham, teachers Nan White and Stephanie Beatty have kept their four-year-old pre-kindergarten class informed about current events. The children were very distressed when they heard that Christ Church in Albertville lost their church in a tornado and St. George's in Nashville suffered major flood damage. Realizing that money would help with recovery efforts, the children, on their own, decided to sell lemonade and divide the profits between the two churches.

People couldn't resist the young children holding signs and calling out to them. They turned their cars around and returned for a cup of lemonade, leaving generous donations for our brothers and sisters who need our help. The children raised \$1,300!

St. Luke's is very proud of the children. May God bless their ministry!



Holy Apostles' Holds 13th Annual Crawfish & Shrimp Boil

By Bill Davis, a Member of Holy Apostles' in Birmingham



There were winners and losers this Memorial Day weekend at the SEC Baseball tournament, but there were only winners at the 13th annual Crawfish & Shrimp Boil at Holy Apostles' in the Hoover area of Birmingham on May 29.

Children of all ages enjoyed the entertainment. Red-faced youngsters ran around the Moon Walk supplied by our friend Lisa at Bouncin' B*s Inflatables. More than one little boy and girl played in a tub of water (Yes, you can pick up a live crawfish. No, your mom said you can't take it home). No one could sit still with the Hoover Jazz Band The First Edition playing swing music—couples from 18 to 80 danced to their heart's content. The band's director Sallie White ate her first crawfish under the tutorage of Paul Gilbert, our Boil Master—life is good! Sweet Water Road, with vocals by Kelli Johnson and Michelle Cone, also pleased the crowd. Fun-to-listen-to Joe Breckenridge and Brandon Peebles closed out our day (Joe ordered his favorite boiled shrimp while singing and playing the guitar—now that's multitasking).



We got to meet extended family and friends of many of our members—young moms and dads with a refreshment in one hand and a baby in the other, and grandparents enjoying being with their children and grandchildren (and in hopes of a nap later).

We opened the morning with prayer under the threat of rain along with thunder and lightning, but by 10:30 we saw bits of blue skies and sunshine. We had just finished breaking down the tents and tables when the afternoon thunderstorm moved in to wash down the parking lot.

Many thanks from our committee of faithful souls for the broad support of our members and friends. Many thanks also to our area sister parishes and their members for their support and attendance.

Our committee is already working on an expanded 14th Annual Crawfish & Shrimp Boil for May 28, 2011. Mark your calendar!

Having Fun While Meeting Needs



The Rev. Joan Henrick

The Rev. Joan Henrick and the members of Holy Comforter in Gadsden are having a lot of fun working together on two unique outreach programs *and* meeting the needs of many people in their community.

The parish's "Meals for Meds" outreach ministry helps raise funds to cover the cost of medications for low-income individuals. Once a month, the outreach committee sells \$10 tickets for a "Meals for Meds Dinner." Half of the ticket cost goes toward the dinner, and the other half toward medications for those in need. The funds raised are funneled through existing structures that work with United Way of Gadsden. Gemma Barfield reports that the parish's first dinner in May was a huge success! They sold 75 tickets, had a delicious dinner, a great time singing, and were able to make a large donation.

Parishioners started their "Brown Bag Ministry" earlier this year, providing once-a-month lunches for approximately 200 people via the community's Way of the Cross Ministries. Parishioners meet at 8 o'clock on one

Friday morning each month to fill brown bags that the children of the parish have decorated. "We have so much fun packing these lunches, and the children love putting stickers on the bags, knowing that someone less fortunate than themselves will be receiving them!" says Gemma. "It is a blessing to both the adults and the children to be able to extend the love of Christ beyond the doors of our church and help provide for the necessities of others."



Gemma Barfield, Tammy Driskill, Connie Meloun, Eileen Williams, Barbara Hart, and Penny Pine



(Back row) George Likos, Walter Duke, Tammy Driskill, Jim Roper, Bob Pine, David Barfield, (front row) Gemma Barfield, Eileen Williams, Ginger Baker, and Sandra Riddle



David Barfield, Bob Pine, Eileen Williams, Terry Williams (guitar), and Janet Gilbreath

Epiphany Volunteers Help Those in Need

By Lauren Wainwright, Youth Director of the Epiphany in Guntersville



Youth Director Lauren Wainwright (seated, center) with a group of youth and adult volunteers

Buildings flattened, trees down, debris everywhere. Stand on Main Street in downtown Albertville on the morning of April 25, and you could feel it—a sense of total and complete loss. Yet among the rubble there was and still is hope. Hope in a new beginning.

Beginning on Monday morning, April 26, members of the Epiphany in Guntersville have headed to neighboring Albertville with chainsaws and other tools in hand. So far parishioners have logged more than 50 hours removing the trees and debris that engulfed Christ Church and houses, cleaning the insides of storm-damaged homes, sorting through donated clothes, and much, much more.

Our volunteers have ranged in age from 4 to 83 years. No matter your age, we believe you can offer a helping hand. Through this experience we have been given the chance to take Christ into the community and help ease the burden of so many.

Our parish has a history of helping those in need after natural disasters, including our ongoing mission trips to the Gulf coast of Mississippi and to New Orleans to help rebuild after Hurricane Katrina. For many months to come the work will continue in Albertville, and the people of Epiphany will continue to be there ready and willing to help.

Trinity Church in Clanton “Swarmed” by Newcomers



Most churches dream of being swarmed, but the folks at Trinity Church in Clanton found they couldn't “bee-lieve” their recent rush of newcomers!

On Wednesday, June 24, thousands of bees broke from a hive a half block away from the church, took up residence in a tree on the parish grounds, and decided to call Trinity their home. The Rev. Bill King, Trinity's rector, called the County Extension Office in Clanton to report the swarm, and beekeeper Bill Evans of Jemison quickly arrived on the scene.

Bill Evans placed an artificial hive on a ladder near the tree where the bees had congregated and encouraged the newcomers to move into the box. It took the rest of the day and all of that night, but finally all of the bees left the tree and settled into the hive, and Bill carefully transported the congregation to a more suitable home at Rose Hill Farm in Jemison.



Kathy Graham Elected to the NAECED Board

By Sarah Sartain, Our Diocesan Deputy for Christian Formation & Youth Ministries

Kathy Graham, the Christian formation director at St. Stephen's in Birmingham, was recently elected to the National Association of Episcopal Christian Education Directors (NAECED) Board. This Episcopal organization is made up of clergy and laypersons from around the United States committed to Christian formation and education. Their goals include:

- ★ providing a forum for Christian educators to network with other leaders, explore issues of professionalism, and provide input to the National Church as priority and budget are set;
- ★ encouraging Christian educators to seek out and embrace practices of spiritual reflection, theological study, and excellence in vocation;
- ★ providing a national register of Christian education directors;
- ★ and providing members with tools and resources for their ministry.

We are proud of Kathy and know she will represent the Christian Education community well.



Exploring Ways To Enliven Parish Ministry



Nineteen leaders from our diocese explored approaches to enlivening parish ministry at the inaugural Cooperative College for Congregational Development (CCCD) from June 25 to July 3. The conference was a joint effort of six Southern dioceses—Alabama, Arkansas, East Carolina, Mississippi, Tennessee, and Upper South Carolina. The Rev. Canon Melissa Skelton, director of the College for Congregational Development in the Episcopal Diocese of Olympia, led the eight-day training, which was held at the Duncan M. Gray Conference Center near Canton, Mississippi.

The Rev. David Peeples, Vivian Hamlett, and Carol Jones from Grace Church in Mt. Meigs; the Rev. Frank Roth, Nancy Rogers, Anson (Skeeter) Smalley, and Jackson Herron from St. Matthias' in Tuscaloosa; the Rev. Rob St. Germain-Iler, Barbara (Bobbie) Ip, and

Garrett Smith from St. Columba in-the-Cove in Huntsville; the Rev. Matthew Grunfeld, Bob Jonson, and Mary Lee Carter from Emmanuel in Opelika; the Rev. Sara-Scott Wingo from St. Mark's in Birmingham; the Rev. John Mark Ford from St. Catherine's in Chelsea; the Rev. Lee Lowery from Holy Spirit in Alabaster; the Rev. Mark Waldo from St. Michael and All Angels' in Millbrook; the Rev. John Wesley from St. Andrew's in Montevallo; and the Rev. Patrick Wingo, our diocesan Deputy for Ministry Development and Clergy Deployment, attended the intensive training, which was the first installment of two conferences, the second planned for late June and early July 2011. The CCCD has been in the planning stages for 18 months as senior staff members from each diocese, including the Rev. Patrick Wingo, consulted with Canon Skelton to develop the program. The six sponsoring dioceses

contributed seed money to support the conference, partially underwriting the costs for each participant.

The conference sessions focused on spiritual, structural, interpersonal, and educational aspects of organizational development for congregations. Each participant was given opportunities to exercise leadership in a small group, developing facilitation skills that would prove useful in the parish. They also engaged various models of how to assess and respond to congregational life, gaining tools to help a parish move forward in mission and ministry.

Each participant is expected to design and complete a congregational development project in the months between the 2010 and 2011 conference. In addition, one person from each diocese is being trained in the facilitation of the curriculum and, after the two-year course, will be able to lead a similar program in his or her home diocese.

St. Timothy's Hosts Workshop

The Rev. David Basinger Jr. and members of St. Timothy's in Athens recently hosted a workshop for church leadership. The Rev. Dr. Susannah Metz, Director of the Center for Ministry in Small Churches at the University of the South in Sewanee, led the program, which was titled “From Maintenance to Mission.”



Susannah Metz with David Basinger

Hispanic Ministry Celebrations

The Hispanic ministry of the Church of the Ascension in Montgomery hosted three special celebrations this spring—Easter, Confirmation, and First Communion. **For more information about this ministry, please contact Dr. Pamela Long at Pamela.h.long@gmail.com or the Rev. Dr. Hernan Afanador at hernan_afanador@yahoo.com or 205/381-4885.**



Guadalupe Santiago made her First Communion on May 2 when the Rev. Dr. Hernan Afanador, our diocesan Missioner for Hispanic Ministries, was the celebrant.



Bishop Parsley confirmed Heriberto Pérez-Salas and Adelina Bartolón-Mejía on May 16.



Flowering the cross to celebrate the Resurrection of Our Lord at Easter

Theology Committee Publishes Draft Report on Same-Gender Relationships

By Our Diocesan Staff with Contributions from Mary Frances Schjonberg, *Episcopal Life Online*

During a meeting this spring, the Episcopal Church House of Bishops released a draft of a 95-page report titled “Same-Sex Relationships in the Life of the Church.” The document was written by eight theologians overseen by the Theology Committee of the House. Several pan-Anglican and ecumenical theologians are presently reviewing the draft, and their responses will be added this summer. Publication of the final report is anticipated in 2011 following final editing.

“For a generation and more the Episcopal Church and the wider Anglican Communion have been engaged in a challenging conversation about sexual ethics, especially regarding same-sex relationships in the life of the church,” Bishop Parsley, the Theology Committee chair, wrote in the report’s preface. “The hope of this work is that serious engagement in theological reflection across differences will build new bridges of understanding.”

The House of Bishops had asked its Theology Committee in 2009—prior to the 76th meeting of General Convention—to study the theology of same-gender relationships. In its report to the convention the committee said that the study would be “designed to reflect a full spectrum of views and to be a contribution to the listening process of the Anglican Communion, as well as to the discussion of this subject in our province.” The committee said the study would be “a long-term, multi-step project that is designed to be completed in 2011.”

The theologians are:

Dr. John Goldingay, the David Allan Hubbard professor of Old Testament at Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, California;

Dr. Deirdre Good, professor of New Testament at the General Theological Seminary in New York

Dr. Willis Jenkins, the Margaret A. Farley assistant professor of social ethics at Yale Divinity School;

The Rev. Dr. Cynthia Kittredge, the Ernest J. Villavaso

Jr. chair of New Testament and dean of community life at the Episcopal Seminary of the Southwest in Austin;

The Rev. Dr. Grant LeMarquand, academic dean and associate professor of biblical studies at Trinity School for Ministry in Ambridge, Pennsylvania;

Dr. Eugene Rogers, professor of religious studies at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro;

The Rev. Dr. George Sumner, principal and the Helliwell professor of world mission at Wycliffe College, Toronto;

The Rev. Dr. Daniel Westberg, research professor of ethics and moral theology at Nashotah House in Nashotah, Wisconsin.

House of Bishops Theology Committee member Dr. Ellen Charry, the Margaret W. Harmon associate professor of historical and systematic theology at Princeton Theological Seminary, is the editor. Bishop Parsley, Dr. Charry, and Theology Committee member Bishop Joe Burnett of Nebraska acted as consultants to the group of theologians.

“I think the House believes that the progress that was made both in terms of the more well-known conservative viewpoint, for lack of a better term, as well as the creative theological work of the more liberal group, again for lack of a better term, to characterize them, did provide some new theological insight and grist for conversation,” said Bishop Burnett. “But we all believe and are of a mind that there is more work to be done in pursuing strictly theological and biblical insights that will give the Church some kind of resource to work toward finding a way to live together in the midst of some rather strong differences among many of our members, clergy, and congregations.”

The report is available on the College for Bishops Web site www.collegeforbishops.org/resources.

Parish Outreach Grants Awarded

By Judy Quick, Chair of Our Diocesan Department of Mission and Outreach

Our diocesan Department of Mission and Outreach has awarded Parish Outreach Grants to 10 parishes for 2010. The purpose of the 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 parishioners.

This year the grants address several needs throughout our diocese, including a variety of food ministries from meal programs to community gardens, programs for at-risk youth, intergenerational programs for senior citizens, literacy programs, and resources for those struggling with the difficult economic situation. Although budget constraints provided less funding than in previous years, thanks to your faithful donations of parish covenants, we were able to divide \$15,000 among these parishes for ministry of Christ’s presence in Alabama.

The 2010 Parish Outreach Grant recipients include Canterbury Chapel in Tuscaloosa, the Nativity in Huntsville, Grace Church in Anniston, Grace Church in Cullman, Holy Comforter in Gadsden, St. Catherine’s in Chelsea, St. Joseph’s on-the-Mountain in Mentone, St. Mary’s-on-the-Highlands in Birmingham, St. Mark’s in Birmingham, and St. Philip’s in Ft. Payne.

NOTE: There will be an outreach workshop at the Parish Leadership Training Event (PLTE) in 2011. Please watch for details!

A Reflection on the Network Meeting in Belize



By Judy Quick, Our Diocesan Coordinator



“We all are one in mission, we all are one in call, Our varied gifts united by Christ, the Lord of all.”

The first verse of our Opening Eucharist hymn at St. John’s Cathedral in Belize City, set the tone for our Episcopal Relief & Development Network Meeting 2010. This was our first international gathering of diocesan coordinators, and what a joyous, meaningful time we shared together. Bishop O’Neill, chair of the board of Episcopal Relief & Development, challenged us to reflect on “Who are you really?” We are called to represent the work of Episcopal Relief & Development in our dioceses, and this experience energized our mission.

Imagine a tiny country in Central America, the only one with English as the official language, whose shores are soothed by the Caribbean and whose heart is as big as the ocean. What a warm welcome we received from the Rt. Rev. Philip Wright, Bishop of Belize, and from all of our new Belizean friends! What amazing programs Episcopal Relief & Development has implemented through the Anglican Church of Belize, education programs in the Anglican Schools, micro-enterprise projects to help lift individuals out of poverty.

“Choose your Road—Life-Death” Wow! When I first saw this billboard, my eyes couldn’t leave it. In a contest sponsored by Episcopal Relief & Development and the Anglican Church of Belize, children designed the message to warn of the dangers of irresponsible choices that could lead to HIV/AIDS.

We visited Anglican schools that have implemented an HIV/AIDS education program addressing Millen-



nium Development Goal (MDG) 6, elementary schools because giving the message to teenagers was deemed too late. Smiles filled the faces of these children. They relished learning, even in their poor environs, some without running water or toilets. There is so much more work to be done . . . indeed, the BELSEN (Belize Social Empowerment Network) works with youth, parents, and the Anglican Communion to reinforce responsible choices with a variety of education programs and support systems.

The Episcopal Relief & Development Anglican Diocese of Belize Social Fund collaborating with BEST (Belize Enterprise for Sustainable Technology) provides low interest loans for micro-enterprises. We visited three of these businesses. These micro-enterprises are perfect examples of MDG 1 to help eradicate extreme poverty, MDG 3 to promote gender equality and empower women, and MDG 8 to develop a global partnership for development.

Cherry used her loan to expand her roadside convenience stand and grocery store. **Julia**, an immigrant from war-torn El Salvador, has received two loans to launch and expand her farm, which now includes a small tilapia pond, some cattle, a variety of vegetables, and a greenhouse. Her family helps her manage this growing agricultural business, yet she directs the enterprise. Her dedication and hard work led to her award as the Female Farmer of the Year for 2010!

Allan is a craftsman of wood, a skilled artist who creates beautiful pieces—bowls, crosses, birds, and ducks—for enjoyment and practical use. A native of Belize, Allan had to raise his children alone after the death of his wife. The loans helped Allan purchase wood carving equipment, and he now has hired helpers for his business.

In our meetings, we also learned about Domestic Disaster Preparedness, the updated Nets for Life® Inspiration Fund, and how we can engage more parishes to get excited about the work of Episcopal Relief & Development. A cultural celebration at our closing meal together reminded us of the rich heritage of Belize, whose culture blends Mayan, African, Indian, and European (English and Spanish) traditions into a beautiful tapestry of song, dance, cuisine, and spirit. We each received a wooden cross, carved with “God is love” from the wooden beams of St. John’s Cathedral, wood that came from



the United States. Yes, how true, we are one in mission, united by Christ’s love. May the spirit of Christ’s love continue to inspire us as we go forth to tell the Good News of His work, through the loving hands of Episcopal Relief & Development.

If you would like more information or a presentation on the work of Episcopal Relief & Development, please contact me at jgquick@bellsouth.net or 205/669-6862. Also visit www.er-d.org.



Clergy News

The Rev. John Blow died on July 19. A celebration of his life was held on July 21 at Bethany House in Auburn.

The Rev. John Cruse retired as chaplain at St. Martin’s in-the-Pines retirement community in Birmingham in May.

The Rev. Ron DelBene began serving as interim dean of Christ Church Cathedral in Cincinnati on July 1. Ron, who is a priest of our diocese, previously served as interim rector of Grace-St. Luke’s Church in Memphis.

The Rev. Geoff Evans was ordained to the Sacred Order of Deacons (transitional) at St. Andrew’s in Birmingham on June 2. Geoff will be serving on the staff of St. Mary’s-on-the-Highlands in Birmingham.

The Rev. Timothy Hoff retired as rector of St. Michael’s in Fayette on July 1.

The Rev. Brad Landry was ordained to the Sacred Order of Deacons (transitional) at St. Mary’s-on-the-Highlands in Birmingham on May 19. Brad will be serving on the staff of the Nativity in Huntsville.

The Rev. Richard Lawson has accepted a call to serve as rector of Grace-St. Luke’s Church in Memphis. Richard previously served as rector of St. John’s in Decatur.

The Rev. Jennifer Riddle has accepted the position of chaplain at St. Martin’s in-the-Pines retirement community in Birmingham. Jennifer previously served as associate rector of the Epiphany in Guntersville.

The Rev. Louis Skipper has accepted a call to serve as associate rector of St. Matthew’s in Madison. Louis has been serving as the college chaplain in Montgomery and vicar of St. Paul’s in Carlowville.

UPCOMING EVENTS, WORKSHOPS, AND RETREATS

“ROOTED: THEOLOGY CONFERENCE FOR STUDENT MINISTRY”

August 10-12 at the Cathedral Church of 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.**



CELTIC SPIRITUALITY AND JUNGIAN PSYCHOLOGY: SPIRITUAL RESOURCES FOR THE MODERN SOUL

September 10-12 at St. Mary's Sewanee

In this retreat, Dr. Jerry R. Wright will address the deep hunger for a soulful spirituality, one that overcomes the centuries-old splits between Spirit and matter, heaven and earth, soul and body. He will draw on the “new ancient wisdom”



found in Celtic Spirituality and Depth Psychology, especially the psychology of Carl Gustav Jung. **For more information please call 800/728-1659, e-mail stmaryssewanee@bellsouth.net, or visit www.stmaryssewanee.org.**

DR. BARBARA BROWN TAYLOR FEATURED SPAFER SPEAKER

September 24-25 at St. Stephen's in Birmingham

Dr. Barbara Brown Taylor will be the featured speaker for the 17th SPAFER Mid-South Lecture Series from 7-9 p.m. on Friday and 9-10:30 a.m. and 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. on Saturday at St. Stephen's in Birmingham. **For more information please e-mail Sarah Sartain at ssartain@dioala.org, or visit www.spafer.org.**



THE BISHOP'S DINNER CELEBRATING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF EPISCOPAL PLACE

October 14 at 6 p.m. at The Club in Birmingham



Bishop Parsley will be a special guest at this unique event celebrating the 30th Anniversary of Episcopal Place and the Church's commitment to serving seniors and disabled adults. The Charles Giambone Triad will provide music for the evening. **For more information please call 205/939-0085 or e-mail Tim Blanton at tblanton@episcopalplace.org.**

“THE PALESTINE OF JESUS” COURSE

November 9-24 in the Holy Land

Parishoners from St. Mary's-on-the-Highlands and St. Luke's in Birmingham along with Christ Church in Tuscaloosa are participating 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.**

Bishops' Visitation Schedule

September 12, Sunday

10 a.m. Bishop Sloan, St. Barnabas', Roanoke
10:30 a.m. Bishop Parsley, St. James', Livingston

September 26, Sunday

10:30 a.m. Bishop Parsley, St. Luke's, Scottsboro
11 a.m. Bishop Sloan, St. Matthew's, Madison

October 3, Sunday

10:30 a.m. Bishop Parsley, Emmanuel, Opelika
10:30 a.m. Bishop Sloan, St. Michael and All Angels', Anniston

October 10, Sunday

10:15 a.m. Bishop Parsley, St. Timothy's, Athens

October 17, Sunday

10:45 a.m. Bishop Parsley, St. Francis', Indian Springs
11:30 a.m. Bishop Sloan, St. Andrew's, Prairieville

October 24, Sunday

10:30 a.m. Bishop Parsley, St. Catherine's, Chelsea
10:30 a.m. Bishop Sloan, Grace, Mt. Meigs

October 27, Wednesday

6:30 p.m. Bishop Sloan, St. Andrew's, Sylacauga

October 31, Sunday

9:30 a.m. Bishop Parsley, St. Simon Peter's, Pell City
9:30 a.m. Bishop Sloan, St. Paul's, Greensboro
5 p.m. Bishop Parsley, Trinity, Bessemer

Save the Date: October 16

By Judy Quick, Vestry Member of St. Andrew's in Montevallo

All are invited to gather in Montevallo for **St. Andrew's 150th Anniversary Celebration and the Blessing of Canterbury House on Saturday, October 16.**

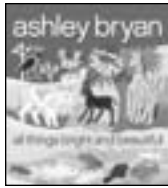
Founded in 1860, the parish has undergone trials and tribulations, cyclones and schism, but the congregation has remained strong, enthusiastic, and committed to share God's love and welcome all who enter. The Campus Ministry is a vital dimension of St. Andrew's in Montevallo, and our 150th Anniversary Celebration will include the blessing of the new Canterbury House student residence center, which your generous donations to the ACTS 2 campaign helped make a reality.

The celebration will be in conjunction with the Founder's Day activities at the University of Montevallo and with the honoring of Montevallo in the Year of Alabama Small Towns and Downtowns. More details will follow, but here is the preliminary schedule:

9 a.m.-4 p.m. Open House at Canterbury House
4 p.m. 150th Anniversary Celebration begins with Bishop Parsley's blessing of Canterbury House, a procession to St. Andrew's Church for the 150th Celebratory Eucharist, and a dinner in the parish hall

Since we want our Episcopal Church Women to enjoy the festivities with everyone else, we have decided to cater the dinner. There will be a small charge for the meal, and we would appreciate an RSVP if you plan to attend. **For more information, please contact Judy Quick at jgquick@bellsouth.net or 205/669-6862.**

WHAT'S NEW/NOTEWORTHY AT THE EPISCOPAL BOOK STORE



All Things Bright and Beautiful by Ashley Bryan

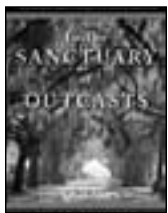
Bright, colorful, cheery—made with his mother's scissors and lots of colored paper—Ashley Bryan has made collage compositions to accompany the words of Cecil F. Alexander's beloved hymn.



Holy Women, Holy Men: Celebrating the Saints by The Church Pension Fund

Fully revised and expanded, this new work is the first major revision of the liturgical calendar of the Episcopal Church in more than 40 years. This official revision of *Lesser Feasts and Fasts*, authorized by the 2009 General Convention, for trial use and church-wide evaluation, retains all of the commemorations in the previous version and includes many new ones. Three scripture readings (instead of the current two) are provided for all minor holy days. Additional new material includes a votive mass of the Blessed Virgin Mary and many more ecumenical commemorations, plus a proper for space exploration.

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In the Sanctuary of the Outcasts by Neil White

Neil White tells his emotional, incredible, true story of crime and redemption as he discovers happiness and fulfillment in an unlikely place—imprisonment in The Long Center, the last leper colony in the United States. Following conviction for bank fraud, White spent a year in the minimum-security prison in Carville, Louisiana. This is a remarkable story of a man's loss of everything he deemed important, his imprisonment in a place that would terrify anyone placed there, and his ultimate discovery that redemption can be taught by society's most dreaded outcasts.

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Grace In Addiction: What the Church Can Learn from Alcoholics Anonymous by John Z. and Tom B., edited by David Zahl

As described in this magazine, "The chief concern of Twelve Step recovery is redemption, pure and simple. The sober alcoholic who has found joyful release from alcohol epitomizes the 'wretch saved by grace,' and therefore, the hope of the church. If 'redeeming love is [indeed their] theme' (W. Cowper), Christians might begin to give the flourishing world of recovery more attention. It is almost as if God cut out a substantial portion of His heart in the late 1930s and hid it in church basements and community centers across the country and the world. . . . Not only can the church learn a great deal from AA about the nature of addiction, but also about the reality of how God works in the lives of troubled people."

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Battlefields & Blessings: Stories of Faith and Courage from the Civil War by Terry Tuley

Compiled by Baptist pastor and Civil War enthusiast Terry Tuley, *Battlefields & Blessings* is a unique daily devotional for Christians—one that compiles true quotes and stories from Christians who served in the American Civil War. Each day of the year has a corresponding page

Each day of the year has a corresponding page

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Cursillo Weekends #174 September 16–19, #175 October 14–17

Diocesan Convention February 10–12 at St. Luke's in Birmingham

August 6 75th Anniversary of the Founding of St. John's Episcopal Deaf Church in Birmingham with a reception at 5 p.m. and a dinner at 6 p.m. For more information please call 205/914-9908 or e-mail mariannestephens@juno.com.

August 7 Bazaar sponsored by the ECW of Trinity in Bessemer featuring baby clothes, furniture, household items, and baked goods with proceeds designated to help fund a new roof for the church. For more information please contact the parish office, 205/428-2914.

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.

August 14 12th Annual Jonathan Daniels Pilgrimage beginning at 11 a.m. at the Courthouse Square in Hayneville. For more information please see the description on page 2 or contact the Rev. Pat Wingo at pwingo@dioala.org or 205/715-2060 ext. 317.

September 10-12 Celtic Spirituality and Jungian Psychology: Spiritual Resources for the Modern Soul retreat led by Dr. Jerry R. Wright at St. Mary's Sewanee. For more information please see the description on page 22, call 800/728-1659, e-mail stmaryssewanee@bellsouth.net, or visit www.stmaryssewanee.org.

September 24-25 Dr. Barbara Brown Taylor featured speaker for the 17th SPAFER Mid-South Lecture Series

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October 8 *Black Sand*, an ASL Film, at 7 p.m. at St. John's Church for the Deaf in Birmingham; movie showing sponsored by Alabama Deaf Seniors. For more information please contact Joan Jordan at Jordan54@charter.net or Randy Vines at randyvines@gmail.com.

October 14 The Bishop's Dinner at The Club in Birmingham to celebrate the 30th Anniversary of Episcopal Place. For more information please see the description on page 22, call 205/939-0085, or e-mail Tim Blanton at tblanton@episcopalplace.org.

October 16 13th Annual Angel Fest at St. Michael and All Angels' in Millbrook from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. For more information please call the parish office at 334/285-3905.

November 9-24 "The Palestine of Jesus" Course" led by the faculty and staff of St. George's College in Jerusalem, part of a trip sponsored by St. Mary's-on-the-Highlands and St. Luke's in Birmingham along with Christ Church in Tuscaloosa. For more information please see the description on page 22 or contact Melodie Elam, Executive Assistant-Communications at St. Mary's, at 205/933-1140 ext. 114 or melodie@stmarysoth.org.

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with an anecdote concerning the uplifting power of faith, especially amidst a lethal war in which death by bullets, shrapnel, and disease were ever present. These real-world examples of courage and faith, in the very words of the individuals who personally faced the dark hours of war, make *Battlefields & Blessings* a truly unforgettable means to contemplate God with each new dawn.

FOR CHURCHES



The Episcopal Musician's Handbook by Joseph A. Kucharski, Editor

The 54th Edition (Year A) 2010–2011 of *The Episcopal Musician's Handbook* provides church musicians with a helpful guide and resource when choosing and implementing various musical selections. This book contains entries from both the Revised Common Lectionary and the Prayer Book lectionary.



Constitution & Canons of the Episcopal Church, 2009

This complete and authorized version of the Constitution and Canons of the Episcopal Church as revised by the General Convention of 2009 provides an indispensable reference for the denomination between now and the 2012 General Convention.

NOTE: The bookstore has a new location and new hours.

Our address, phone, e-mail, and Web site are still the same, but we've moved up one floor into a new space that has been designed and built especially for us and for you—with more visibility and easier access. You can enter the bookstore down the small garden path on 6th Avenue North or from the Cathedral's parking lot on the corner of 6th Avenue and Richard Arrington Boulevard or from the church through the parish hall. We are now open Monday through Thursday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday from 8:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.

For information about these and other books, or to have us research and special order a particular book, please contact the Episcopal Book Store, 2015 Sixth Avenue North, Birmingham, AL 35203; 205/323-2959; ebinfo@episcobooks.com; or visit the bookstore online at www.episcobooks.com.

PARISH BOOKSTORES

Crossroads at Grace Church in Anniston is open Monday through Thursday when the parish office is open and on Sunday before and during the worship services. For more information please call the parish office at 256/236-4457.

The Mustard Seed at the Nativity in Huntsville is open Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. For more information please call the parish office at 256/533-2455.

The Vineyard at the Ascension in Montgomery is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday from 9:15 to 10:15 a.m. For more information please call the parish office at 334/263-5529.

Bishop Parsley Dedicates Statue of St. Francis



Bishop Parsley with Carolyn and Rusty Goldsmith and their family

On June 13 at Camp McDowell, Bishop Parsley dedicated and blessed a statue of St. Francis of Assisi graciously given by the Rev. Maurice “Rusty” Goldsmith and his wife, Carolyn, to the glory of God and in thanksgiving for their family. The heavy copper-plate figure depicts Francis, with stigmata piercing his large hands, preaching to the birds. It stands on a plinth of the native stone used throughout the new Chapel of St. Francis, “welcoming worshipers as they enter and blessing them as they depart.”

“Camp McDowell has been a place of growth and blessing for our three sons, Alex, Michael, and Thomas. All three participated as devoted and enthusiastic campers in their younger years and then served as ‘ultra cool’ Work Boys,” Carolyn and Rusty recall. “For the past five years our wonderful grandchildren, Thomas Jr., Gus, and Sara Margaret, with their mother, Kana, have lived, worked, and played here as their father, Michael, served as director of program and development. Accordingly, we gratefully welcome this opportunity to make a lasting gift to the continuing life and ministry of this holy place, especially at this time as the Michael Goldsmiths leave for seminary.”

Well-known artist Benjamin Potter, the son of Bram and Cindy Potter of Sewanee, sculpted the unique piece. Benjamin, who currently teaches art at Unity College in Maine, and his family became friends with the Goldsmiths during Rusty’s seminary years.

Grace Church Provides Home for Veterans

The Rev. Roberts Johnson and the members of Grace Church in Woodlawn have provided a house for the nonprofit “Three Hots and a Cot” veterans organization to be renovated and used as a center for homeless veterans who are transitioning to



affordable housing. “St. Benedict’s Veterans Center will provide housing and services for 13 participants,” explains Executive Director JD Simpson. “This will include lodging, three meals a day, and access to medical, dental, counseling, job placement, and other services.”

Birmingham’s current homeless population of about 3,000 people includes 800–1,000 veterans, 5 percent of them women. The staff of St. Benedict’s will be coordinating their efforts with existing community-based initiatives and the Birmingham Veterans Administration (VA) as they reach out to all the homeless and potentially homeless veterans and meet their individual needs. They will also work with Hospice, coordinate with support group providers, and establish group meetings at St. Benedict’s as needed.

For more information about St. Benedict’s Veterans Center please contact JD Simpson at Three Hots and A Cot, 5704 1st Avenue North, Birmingham, AL 35212; 205/306-4761; jdsimpson@cotsforvets.org; or visit www.cotsforvets.org.



Executive Director JD Simpson, Natalie Williams of the Birmingham VA Medical Center, Mayor William Bell Sr., Alabama State Representative Patricia Todd, US Army Lieutenant General George Bowman, the Rev. Roberts Johnson, former gubernatorial candidate Bill Johnson, and AT&T Pioneers President (South Cahaba Council) Peggy Burdette cutting the ribbon at St. Benedict’s Veterans Center on May 10

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.