

THE *Apostle*

February 2008 The Episcopal Diocese of Alabama Vol. 93, No. 2

Tending the Garden: Our Stewardship of Creation

Our 177th Annual Diocesan Convention

Clergy and lay delegates from across our diocese will gather at the Sheraton Civic Center in Birmingham on February 21-23 for our 177th Annual Diocesan Convention, hosted by St. Stephen's in Birmingham. The convention opens with registration on Thursday at 2 p.m. followed by Business Session I at 3:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome to the Festival Holy Eucharist at the Cathedral Church of the Advent at 5:45 p.m., when Bishop Suffragan Sloan will preach.

The convention continues on Friday with late registration from 7:30 to 9 a.m., Morning Prayer and Bible Study at 8 a.m., and Business Session II, including Bishop Parsley's address, at

8:45 a.m. Resolution Committees will meet at 10:45 a.m. followed by lunch in plenary at 12:30 p.m. The Rt. Rev. Mark MacDonald, the National Indigenous Bishop of Canada, will give the keynote address at 1:30 p.m. Afterward, delegates can choose to attend one or more of the convention workshops: The Baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan and the Care of Creation led by Bishop MacDonald, Rain Barrels and the Sacred Waters of Creation led by Beth Stewart, the Alabama Constitution, Urban Ministry in Alabama—Can the Episcopal Church “Preach to the Poor”? led by the Rev. Gates Shaw, and Young Adult Ministry. Business Session III will follow the workshop sessions.

Saturday's schedule begins with Caucus Elections at 8:30 a.m. followed by Business Session IV, when Bishop Suffragan Sloan will speak and Dr. Sam Williamson, Vice Chancellor Emeritus of the University of the South/Sewanee, will give a presentation about the university's year-long Sesquicentennial Celebration. The convention will adjourn about 12:30 p.m. after the closing Holy Eucharist. **For more information please see pages 10 and 11 and visit our diocesan Web site, www.dioala.org.**



“Sleeper, Awake! Paul and the Renewal of Prayer”

Our Diocesan Lenten Retreat



The Rev. Martin Smith



Our diocesan Commission on Spirituality cordially invites everyone to this year's Lenten retreat at Camp McDowell on March 7-9. The Rev. Martin L. Smith, a well-known author, seminar leader, and the senior associate rector at St. Columba's in Washington, DC, will guide us in rediscovering Paul as a spiritual guide and exploring the power of his radical teaching to deepen our prayers and revolutionize the way we face the challenges and opportunities of our changing world. **For more information please e-mail Philip Lasater at Philip.Lasater@arec.alabama.gov or contact Sarah Sartain at 205/715-2060 ext. 314 or ssartain@dioala.org.**

Bishop Suffragan Sloan Consecrated January 12



Photo by the Rev. Polk Van Zandt

More than 1,000 people gathered at the Cathedral Church of the Advent on January 12 for the ordination and consecration of John McKee Sloan as our Bishop Suffragan. “I look forward to the mutual ministry Bishop Sloan and I will share in the years to come, and I am excited by the gifts he brings to us,” said Bishop Parsley. **Please see pages 4 through 7.**

Tending the Garden, Caring for Creation

By Michael Churchman and Charles Scribner

Our Diocesan Task Force for the Stewardship of Creation is excited about this year's diocesan convention, especially given its theme of "Tending the Garden: Our Stewardship of Creation." The members of St. Stephen's, our convention's host church, and numerous Task Force volunteers, professional environmentalists, and clergy members have teamed up to make this year's gathering particularly eco-friendly.

The Task Force has appointed Charles Scribner, director of development for Black Warrior Riverkeeper, to organize environmentally educational and sustainable features at convention. Mark P. Noyes, general manager of the Sheraton Birmingham, told Charles that he is excited to be hosting a convention that is working so hard to minimize its impact on the environment. "The hotel recently adopted a water-conservation program for all of our meetings, and the diocese's 'green' approach has given us new ideas for extending our efforts," notes Noyes. "The diocese is setting a great example for us and for the larger community as the first convention to take such aggressive steps to be eco-friendly."

The Sheraton is helping keep our convention "green" by using china coffee mugs rather than disposable cups. The Sheraton is also providing water

stations in lieu of water bottles since plastic bottles require a great deal of energy and toxic petrochemicals to manufacture and tend to be discarded without being finished, thereby wasting precious water. Perhaps most important, in accordance with our diocesan policy, no Styrofoam will be used anywhere throughout convention!

The most active way anyone can participate in Stewardship for Creation at convention is by recycling. Separate bins will be marked for paper, plastic, and aluminum recycling throughout the various rooms and halls. Please use the appropriate bin when finished with paper handouts, cardboard lunchboxes, aluminum cans, and plastic water cups. Task Force volunteers will be taking these bins to the Alabama Environmental Council's nearby Recycling Center.

On the educational front, the Task Force is presenting a workshop on Friday, February 22, from 2:15 to 3:30 p.m. titled Rain Barrels and the Sacred Waters of Creation led by Beth Stewart, Executive Director



Clergy News

The Rev. Michael E. "Corky" Carlisle is serving as interim rector of St. Thomas' in Huntsville.

The Rev. Frank Roth has accepted a call to serve as rector of St. Matthias' in Tuscaloosa.

of the Cahaba River Society. Beth will begin with a discussion of the benefits and use of rain barrels and rain gardens showing ways to capture and use our natural resource, rainwater. As a part of the discussion, Michael Churchman, Executive Director of the Alabama Environmental Council, and Task Force member Lane Young will show everyone how to construct a rain barrel. Beth will then discuss the Cahaba River, including her organization's efforts to protect it, their work with local Episcopal parishes, and the recent Watersheds and Warming conference put on by the Task Force with a grant from the World Wildlife Fund.

Task Force Chair Eleanor DelBene has designed a new set of thought-provoking Stewardship for Creation messages this year that will be featured in environmental displays in the convention hallways and exhibitors' room. Please come visit us in the exhibitors' room, where you can learn more about the Task Force and our Liaisons to parishes throughout our diocese. Here's to the blessings of Creation in 2008!

Returning to Namibia—Update

By the Rev. Jeremy Lucas, Rector of St. Timothy's in Athens



Penny Lucas, Bill Yon, and Jeremy Lucas

Two times in my life the Rev. Bill Yon has asked me to consider something, and both times it has profoundly changed my life. The first was in 1999 at

a diocesan convention. As we sat listening to a speaker he looked at me as asked, "Have you ever considered going to seminary?" My answer was no, but as the Spirit would have it I left my career in law and was ordained to the priesthood in 2004.

The second time Bill asked me to consider something was in an e-mail conversation in late 2006. "Would you consider going to Namibia to work training clergy?" This time my answer was a hesitant "yes," but I had very little expectation that anything would come of it. Well again as the Spirit would have it, my wife, Penny, and I have accepted the call and will be traveling to work in Namibia as Episcopal Church missionaries for three years beginning this summer.

This has been a wonderful and sometimes scary

time of discernment in our lives. Bill originally asked us to be part of a consultation team to travel to Namibia in June 2007 to help the diocese create a strategic plan for clergy training. Bill had been contacted through Trinity Grants after they met with Bishop Nakwatumba in 2006. The bishop explained that Namibia is experiencing an extreme clergy shortage and that without help and planning would be unable to meet the pastoral needs of its people. So for three weeks in June we met and traveled in Namibia to gather information for a strategic plan. While in Namibia we were overwhelmed with the hospitality and spirit of the people. We were able to meet all but one of the Etameko 11 that Bill and Lib helped train in the late 1980s, and we could truly feel how God is working in Namibia.

Throughout our trip I was astounded at the spirit of the people of Namibia. Under the weight of so much crushing poverty and so much death there was a positive sense and hopefulness that is hard to understand. I was once told by another African missionary that in Africa the people adapt to the environment; in America we adapt the environment to ourselves. This is true, I think, but it doesn't make it right. I don't believe that God ever intended for any of his people to "adapt" to thousands of children dying each day from pre-

ventable diseases. I don't believe that God ever intended any of us to "adapt" to huge discrepancies between the rich and poor, or the hungry and well fed. I know that in many places these things are seen as a sign of God abandoning parts of the world. It could certainly seem that way, but in reality God is there with them waiting on His Body to act in His name to make a difference. What we experienced were people who knew on a deeper level than most ever will that God was with them. This did not make what was going on around them all right, but it did give them hope.

Penny and I will not be able to change everything or solve every problem in Namibia. We are not going to try and save the world. But we do have hope, and hope helps you realize that you can make a difference. If we didn't think we could have some type of positive impact there would be no point in going in the first place. We are taking these steps in faith that God will be with us on our journey. **Please keep Namibia and us in your prayers as we make this move. You can keep up with our work in Namibia on our new blog, www.missionnamibia.blogspot.com. If you would like to become a partner in our mission you can send donations to the Diocese of Alabama, 521 North 20th Street, Birmingham, AL 35203; please memo your check Mission to Namibia.**



Photograph by Billy Brown

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

Easter Day 2008 will be the earliest it has been since 1913. Only twice in the period of time between 1900 and 2089 does it come so early. Easter Day cannot be before March 22, and the last time it fell then was 1818.

So if you were taken by surprise by the appearance of Ash Wednesday on the first Wednesday in February you are probably not alone. Just as our New Year's resolutions are wearing thin it is time for giving up something!

Lent is the church's pilgrimage to Easter as we are urged to ready ourselves spiritually to share in the transforming reality of Christ's resurrection. Pilgrimage is essential to the life of the soul as we seek to be closer to God. Pilgrimage requires movement, getting up and going from one place to another. Movement involves ordeal and discipline and the willingness to sacrifice in order to get to where one's soul needs to be.

Lent is an inner journey, a pilgrimage of the soul. It identifies us with Jesus in his wilderness journey, as through the ordeal of temptation and sacrifice he drew closer to the Father and to the meaning of his life as God's servant. Lent begins in the ashes of Ash Wednesday as we hear the unmasking words "remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return." They remind us of our mortality so that we will not forget how miraculous are our finite lives and how precious our days. This in turn calls us to the care of our souls so that when the hour of our death does come we will be at peace with God and with ourselves.

One of my Lenten books this year is *The Poet of Tolstoy Park* by Alabama writer Sonny Brewer. It is a

Pilgrimage

novel about Henry Stuart whose Ash Wednesday is discovering that he has tuberculosis. It is early in the 20th century, and there is no medical treatment. Henry is led by a deep impulse to move from his home in Idaho to a piece of raw land in Fairhope, Alabama. There, barefooted and with his own hands, he builds an odd round stone hut amid hurricanes and the ravages of his malady. In the process Henry experiences a profound healing and several rich relationships that prolong his days twentyfold and bring his life to a rich wholeness.

How are you learning to die in peace? How do you treat other people and to what do you give value? How much does self-made fear get in your way? Wrestling with such questions may help your Lenten pilgrimage lead you.

Henry's story is that of pilgrimage, of a man who listened to his soul and went on a journey to find peace with himself. Though not an overtly religious man, Henry finds something of the freedom that the Gospel is about. At the end of the novel he says to his son:

"And what would I teach you, Thomas, if I knew that I would die tonight? Is that what you would like to know? If I could distill my years in these Alabama woods into a sermon, what would my message be?"

"In your own way"—and then Henry turned his face to stare into his son's blue eyes, so much the color of his own—"learn to die in peace. That's what I think is important, Thomas. My own lessons for that have come from how I treat other people, from what things I give value, but mostly from understanding that in every instance fear is of my own making."

These words are close to the timeless wisdom of the saints. I commend them to you this Lent as a form for self-examination. How are you learning to die in peace? How do you treat other people and to what do you give value? How much does self-made fear get in your way? Wrestling with such questions may help your Lenten pilgrimage lead you, as did Henry's, from death to new life.

Easter is early this year, but it is never too late to go on pilgrimage to find more fully the freedom Christ brings.

Your servant in Christ,

The Rt. Rev. Henry N. Parsley Jr.

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

In the Diocese of Alabama

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

Bishop

The Rt. Rev. Henry Nutt Parsley Jr.

Bishop Suffragan

The Rt. Rev. John McKee Sloan

Carpenter House

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

The Apostle

Norma E. McKittrick, *Editor*
Miles G. Parsons, *Art Director*
Denise Servant, *Circulation Secretary*

Volume 93, Number 2
February 2008

USPS 070-910
ISSN 1041-3316



In the United States

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

Presiding Bishop

The Most Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori

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



The Anglican Communion

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

Archbishop of Canterbury

The Most Rev. Rowan D. Williams

Lambeth Palace, London
England SE17JU



The Apostle is published 9-10 times per year, with combined issues July/August and September/October, by the Episcopal Diocese of Alabama. Previous names for this publication have been *The Diocese of Alabama* (1892), *The Church Record* (1893-1922), *The Alabama Churchman* (1923-1987), *The Apostle* (1988-1997), and *The Alabama Apostle* (1998). Periodicals rate postage paid at Birmingham, Alabama.

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

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

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

John McKee Sloan Ordained Bishop Suffragan



Photo by Richard Schori

More than 1,000 people filled the Cathedral Church of the Advent to overflowing on January 12 for the ordination of John McKee Sloan as our new Bishop Suffragan. The Most Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori, Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church, presided at the service, with the Rt. Rev. Henry Parsley Jr., Bishop of Alabama; the Rt. Rev. Robert Miller, retired Bishop of Alabama; the Rt. Rev.

E. Johnson, Bishop of West Tennessee; the Rt. Rev. Henry I. Louttit Jr., Bishop of Georgia; the Rt. Rev. Alfred C. Marble Jr., Assisting Bishop of North Carolina; the Rt. Rev. David Reed, Bishop Suffragan of West Texas; the Rt. Rev. Dabney Smith, Bishop Coadjutor of Southwest Florida; and the Rt. Rev. Charles G. von Rosenberg, Bishop of East Tennessee, also laid hands on the head of the Bishop Suffragan-

Elect during the prayer of consecration. Clergy of the Roman Catholic, Greek Orthodox, and Cumberland Presbyterian Churches attended the service.

The service opened with preludes for the organ and a brass quartet under the direction of Dr. Stephen G. Schaeffer, the director of music and organist at the Advent. The Cathedral Choir offered anthems and led the congregation in singing hymns. C. H. Janes Jr. and the Rev. Andy Keyse served as the cantors, the Rev. Brent Norris as litanist, and the Rev. Deacon Dave Drachlis (reading in English) and the Rev. Deacon Mary Jane Taylor (read-

ing in Spanish) as gospels. The Rev. Marianne Stephens-Kroll, rector of St. John's Episcopal Deaf Church in Birmingham, signed during the service.

Symbols and voices from Camp McDowell summer programs added to the richness of the celebration. Jurdy Warnock, a five-year attendee of Camp



Jurdy Warnock reading the Old Testament lesson; photo by the Rev. Polk Van Zandt

McDowell's Special Session camp, read the Old Testament lesson, and Brian Fluker, who has served for several years as a Special Session camp counselor, read the New Testament lesson. The Rev. David H. Meginniss, rector of Christ Church in Tuscaloosa and president of our diocesan standing committee, preached the sermon (please see page 5).

The congregation warmly welcomed Presiding Bishop Jefferts Schori during the service. ***"This is a wonderful day in the life of the Diocese of Alabama," notes Bishop Katharine. "With so many parishes engaged in mission, growing campus ministries, and extensive outreach, the people of the Diocese of Alabama are living into the excitement and challenges***



Brian Fluker reading the New Testament lesson; photo by Richard Schori

of God's work on earth. I am honored to participate in this celebration as Bishop Sloan joins Bishop Parsley in leading and supporting the transformative ministry of all the people of this diocese." (For more about Bishop Katharine's visit to our diocese, please see page 7 and visit our diocesan Web site, www.dioala.org.)



Photo by Richard Schori

Duncan M. Gray III, Bishop of Mississippi; and the Rt. Rev. Duncan M. Gray Jr., retired Bishop of Mississippi, serving as co-consecrators.

The Rt. Rev. Philip M. Duncan II, Bishop of the Central Gulf Coast; the Rt. Rev. William O. Gregg, Assisting Bishop of North Carolina; the Rt. Rev. Don

A Message from Bishop Suffragan Sloan



Bishop Sloan with his family, Tina, Mary Nell, and McKee; photo by Richard Schori

Hello friends in Christ:

Well, the friends and family have gone back home, visiting bishops have all flown away, the long-awaited day has come and gone—and what a wonderful day it was! I want to thank our Presiding Bishop, the Most Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori, for coming to be a part of our celebration. I'm so glad to get to know her, and I don't mind telling you that I was pretty impressed with her calm strength and wisdom. I thank our Bishop, the Rt. Rev. Henry Parsley, for his generosity of spirit and great patience as I keep asking the same questions over and over, and Becky Parsley for hosting a dinner for us and the Millers and the Schoris. I thank my friend the Rev. David Meginniss for his excellent sermon, mixing a good dose of humor with an appropriate reminder that the shepherds of our Church shouldn't use their croziers to whack each other like little boys, but to gently and lovingly nudge God's children and pull us together when we begin to stray apart.

I thank all the bishops who came, especially the co-consecrating bishops: Bishop Parsley, whom I've already thanked and will need to continue to thank for a long time to come; the Rt. Rev. Robert Miller, who was our diocesan Bishop when I came to Alabama and has always been very kind to me; the Rt. Rev. Duncan M. Gray Jr., who ordained me both deacon and priest and has been patient with me for a long time; and his son, the Rt. Rev. Duncan M. Gray III, whom I worked with and learned from at St. Peter's in Oxford, Mississippi, before I came here and he became the Bishop of Mississippi.

I thank the Dean of our Cathedral, the Very Rev. Frank Limehouse, and his staff, Dr. Stephen Schaeffer and the Cathedral choir and musicians, as well as the

acolytes and ushers. I thank Jurdy Warnock and Brian Fluker, both part the Camp McDowell Special Session community, for reading the lessons, and all the priests and deacons who took various part in the service. (I was hoping to put the Rev. Deacon Clyde Pearce on the spot a little bit by asking him to serve as the Chaplain to the Presiding Bishop, but he disappointed me by handling it with calm and unflustered grace, like he did that sort of thing every week.)

And I thank all the people who came to the service, some of you standing for the whole time. It meant so much to me and my family to have so many people from our diocesan family together for this very special cel-

ebration. I thank the congregation for your very generous offering, which has been put into the Bishop Suffragan's Discretionary Fund.

And now I'm a Bishop of the Episcopal Church. So . . . what's next? Having been a Bishop for almost five days at this writing, there are a few things I think I know. It's not much maybe, but it's a start.

+ If God can make a Bishop out of me, there is no limit to what God can do with people of goodwill who are strengthened and supported by the Holy Spirit.

+ Our most important mission, our most valuable tool, our means, and our ends are love. The love of God in Jesus Christ is the light we shine—we are all children of the same Father in heaven, and we're called, first and last, to love each other.

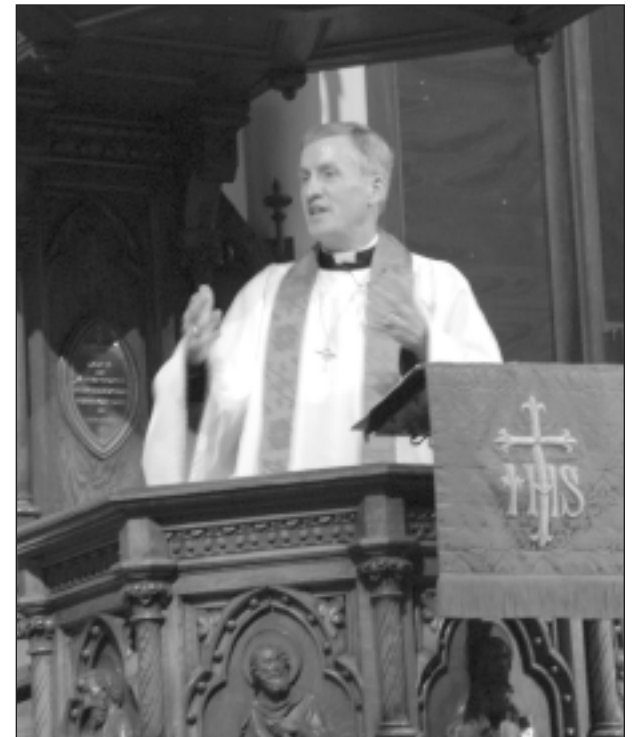
+ I trust that our Lord has not abandoned this part of the Church of Christ and that difficult times call us to come together trusting in the providence and grace of God.

I thank you all for your trust and support, and I thank God for this opportunity to serve. I'm counting on your patience as I continue to learn how to serve our Lord and you in this part of Christ's Church.

The Rt. Rev. John McKee Sloan

Shepherds, Crosiers, and Bishops—Sermon by the Rev. David H. Meginniss

In a sermon Bishop Parsley described as “winsome and meaningful,” the Rev. David H. Meginniss reminded Bishop Sloan and all the bishops present that the crozier (shepherd's staff) they carry as a symbol of their authority is not to be used as a weapon, despite what young shepherds in Christmas pageants may think. Instead, he said, it is to be used as shepherds use it—as an aid in walking and to keep their flocks moving to new pastures. He encouraged Bishop Sloan to use the crozier he received from Larry and Barbara Meyer of Huntsville and the carved walking stick from Camp McDowell to help keep the people of the Diocese of Alabama moving and to help him keep looking over the next horizon for new places for us to serve.



The Rev. David H. Meginniss; photo by Richard Schori

When I first got ordained, it was just in time for my first Christmas pageant at my church in Wetumpka. I thought I knew what to expect: it would be the typical conflation of Christmas and Epiphany, with wise men from Matthew freely associating with shepherds and angels from Luke like in all the Nativity sets we see. We got all the kids to come to the parish hall so we could assign parts. All of the little boys wanted to be shepherds. They didn't want to be angels, they didn't want to be wise men, they didn't want to be animals, they didn't even want to be Joseph. (In fact, they especially didn't want to be Joseph; he had to hang out with a girl! Sorry, Bishop Katharine.) They wanted to be shepherds.

So being newly ordained and still trying to please everybody, I thought, well, okay, we can get



Photo by the Rev. Polk Van Zandt

one of the older kids to be Joseph, and let some adults be wise men, and then all the boys could be the shepherds. Then we started handing out props and costumes, and I found out what the boys were up to. Somebody made some pretty nice shepherd's crooks—solid wood, about the length of a broomstick. As soon as the boys got hold of them, they turned into the preteen mutant Ninja fighting shepherds! Mayhem broke out as sticks crashed together like Robin Hood and Little John on the bridge.

Had I been older and wiser, I might have resorted to the dreaded Santa Claus threat to restore peace. But instead, as a freshly ordained rookie, what my friend Tom Lewallen calls “a collared green,” I tried to use the incident as a teaching moment. I told them that the shepherd's crook is not a weapon; it's a tool to help the shepherd care for the sheep. The curved end, probably originally made from a ram's horn, could be used to help guide a wandering sheep back to the flock. But mostly, shepherds used them to help them walk. Shepherds needed to walk a lot—often over very difficult terrain.

Linda Grenz, whose family once raised sheep, says that's the primary job of a shepherd—to keep the flock moving. Even if a flock finds itself comfortable in a particular place, it has to keep moving to new places or it will die. A flock of sheep will use up all the nourishment in one place very quickly. The shepherd has to keep them moving, away from danger and toward the green pastures and still waters, to survive. And that means the shepherd must always be on the lookout for safe places to take the sheep. So the shepherd's crook is really a symbol for the pastoral care the shepherd gives the

flock. But my preteen mutant Ninja fighting shepherds didn't buy it. They still saw the crooks as weapons, either to bash each other or maybe even to beat the sheep to help keep them in line.

Well, all this came to mind when I started thinking about bishops.

A few minutes ago these presenters told our Presiding Bishop that we, trusting in the guidance of the Holy Spirit, chose Kee to be a bishop and chief pastor. “Pastor” is, of course, the Latin word for shepherd. And a few minutes from now, a fellow named Larry Meyer will present Kee with his very own shepherd's crook. (Of course we don't actually call it that. We in the church are like what Steve Martin says about the French: we've got a different word for everything! So we'll call it a crosier.) And it's probably even nicer than the ones wielded by my preteen mutant Ninja shepherds. All bishops get them; they're symbols too. They're symbols of the bishop's authority.

Bishops get their authority from what we proudly call apostolic succession. Kee will have hands laid on him, by folks who had hands laid on them, by folks who had hands laid on *them*, all the way back to those original apostles. We're real proud of that. And in today's gospel lesson we learn those apostles got their authority from Jesus. He came among them and literally inspired them. He gave them that breath of God that gives new life. We're reminded of Genesis, when God formed the first man from the dust of the ground and breathed life into his nostrils. And we're reminded of Ezekiel, who at the Lord's command prophesied to the four winds to breathe new life into the dry, rattling bones to make them alive again.

Jesus breathed this breath of new life into His disciples and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit; If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”

That's pretty heady stuff. We're still not exactly sure what it means, but it sounds like great authority, this ability not only to forgive, but to retain sins. No wonder they're called “episcopas,” the Greek word for “overseer.” Those with this kind of authority might just be tempted to use that big stick to bash each other or even to beat the members of their flocks to help keep them in line.

But I hope we would remember that even after Jesus gave His apostles this breath of new life and this grant of authority, He was not finished with their formation. The next time Jesus saw them all together, He made a charcoal fire on the beach, where He had some fish cooking. And He invited the apostles to come put some of their fish on the fire, too, because that's what men do; that's how they have fun. They build charcoal fires, and they put meat on them. It's such a manly thing. And usually they proceed to have manly conversations while the meat cooks. They talk about football, and hunting, and golf, and maybe even politics. They certainly don't talk about their fears, their insecurities, or, God forbid, their *feelings*.

So Jesus actually breaches the code of manly etiquette because He turns to Peter, (arguably the first among the apostles, and even more arguably the first among the bishops), and He says, “Simon, son of John, do you love me?” Peter, of course, is taken aback, but he stammers back, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” Jesus says, “Feed my lambs.”

Then Jesus asks him again, “Simon, son of John, do you love me?” And Peter says, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” So Jesus says, “Then tend my sheep.”

A little while later, Jesus asks a third time, “Simon, son of John, do you love me?” And by now Peter starts to get his feelings hurt. He says, “Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.” And of course Peter's right. Jesus in the resurrection knows everything. He knows Peter loves Him, yet He also remembers that Peter denied knowing Jesus three times. So Jesus knows Peter needs to say right out loud, even at a manly man barbecue, that he loves Jesus. He needs to proclaim his love with words. But he also needs to act out his love with his deeds. So Jesus instructs him again, “Feed my sheep.”

And then Jesus gives them all a little sermon about sometimes having to let others lead them, even these newly consecrated chief pastors, where they may not even want to go. This no longer sounds like the kind of authority one could use to bash others. Instead, it's the kind of upside-down, paradoxical situation we call servant leadership, and we're reminded of another part of the gospel according to John where Jesus says, “The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.”

In a few minutes, our Presiding Bishop, our Bishops, those Bishops Duncan Grays from

Mississippi, all of them will lay their hands on Kee to give him that fresh infusion of the Holy Spirit, just like Jesus gave His apostles. But it won't be the first time Kee receives new life from the Holy Spirit.

Ordination and consecration are not primary sacraments. Ordination gets conferred only by the consent of the community—the community brought into being by the sacrament of baptism. We have this authority because we all received the Holy Spirit in our baptism, and we are the Body of Christ within which Kee will exercise his ministry. Jesus gave us this life giving breath—this Holy wind—that enlivens dry bones and animates the dust. We have been sealed with that Holy Spirit and marked as Christ's own forever.

And in our baptisms, and every time we renew our baptismal covenant, we've also accepted the responsibility at the barbecue on the beach. “Will you by word and example—by what you say right out loud and by the deeds you actually do—proclaim the Good News of God in Christ?” In other words, “Will you express that you love Jesus, and then go out and tend His sheep and feed His lambs?” And we said, “We will, with God's help.”

This is not the just the job of Bishops; this is the job of Christians. We are all of us love proclaimers and sheep feeders. That is what our community is about, and it is in this community we set Kee apart to lead us, knowing that sometimes we have to be led where we don't want to go because if we stay in the same place too long, we'll no longer get fed. We selected and elected Kee as chief pastor because we know in his gentle wisdom he will *not* be the kind of “overseer” that's become such a bad word in the south, but more of an “overlooker,” always looking over the horizon to find new places to take us where we can be fed and where we can help feed others.

And we pray that we will follow in faith, trusting the apostolic teachings that have been passed on to us through that long succession of Bishops and through which we come to know the Lord Jesus Christ. Because if Kee can lead us to do that, we will receive not only the gift and responsibility of the Holy Spirit, but also the blessing of Jesus who said, “Blessed are those who have not seen [me] and yet have come to believe.”



Photo by the Rev. Polk Van Zandt

Bishop Katharine's Visit to Our Diocese

In addition to presiding at Bishop Sloan's ordination and consecration during her visit to our diocese, the Most Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori enjoyed talking with the clergy of our diocese and their spouses at St. Luke's in Birmingham, participating in a news conference with Bishop Parsley and Bishop Sloan at Carpenter House, greeting laypeople and blessing the chapel at Trinity Commons—the new Birmingham Episcopal Campus Ministries center, preaching and celebrating Holy Eucharist at St. Stephen's in Birmingham, and visiting with parishioners at St. John's Episcopal Deaf Church in Birmingham.

“You are an icon of a healthy mission-focused diocese for which the whole Church gives thanks.”

“It was a great delight for me to experience the hospitality of the Diocese of Alabama—full measure, pressed down, and overflowing,” notes Bishop Katharine. **“I was signally impressed by the vitality I encountered: congregations energetically engaged in service to their neighbors nearby as well as in Haiti and Honduras. You have abundant gifts in your leaders, both lay and ordained,”** she emphasizes, **“and you have an exemplary focus on campus ministry, ministry to and with those with special needs including Special Sessions at Camp McDowell, St. John's Deaf parish, and several Hispanic ministries**

among others. You are an icon of a healthy mission-focused diocese for which the whole Church gives thanks.”

TALKING WITH CLERGY AND THEIR SPOUSES AT ST. LUKE'S



Presiding Bishop Jefferts Schori meeting with members of the clergy; photo by the Rev. Dave Drachlis



Richard Schori talking with clergy spouses

PARTICIPATING IN A NEWS CONFERENCE



Photo by Richard Schori

Presiding Bishop Jefferts Schori, Bishop Parsley, and then Bishop Suffragan-Elect Sloan gave prepared statements and also answered questions on a variety of topics at a news conference at Carpenter House on January 11. For more about the press conference, including video links to statements and questions/answers, please visit www.dioala.org and follow the link to Presiding Bishop's Visit and Bishops Meet the Press.

MEETING LAYPEOPLE AND BLESSING THE CHAPEL AT TRINITY COMMONS

By the Rev. William S. Blackerby Jr., Chaplain, Birmingham Episcopal Campus Ministries (BECM)

At the invitation of Bishop Parsley, close to 200 laity from around our diocese met for tea and conversation with Presiding Bishop Jefferts Schori in the Trinity Commons' living room. After mingling with

guests for half an hour, Bishop Katharine spent about 45 minutes fielding a variety of questions from those who gathered to hear her remarks. One BECM student, reflecting on the Q and A portion of the day and articulating what many of us felt, expressed great admiration for her conviction and grace, especially when fielding some of the more pointed queries.

The highlight of Bishop Katharine's visit to Trinity Commons occurred when she went to our chapel to pray. Students, friends, and guests gathered with her, Bishop Parsley, the newly ordained Bishop Sloan, and

Bishop Robert O. Miller to ask God's blessing upon this sacred space and upon those who will worship there. Bishop Katharine concluded the brief service by pronouncing her blessing upon BECM's ministry.

Everyone involved with BECM was delighted and honored to host our Presiding Bishop and give her a small taste of campus ministry. As another BECM student said of meeting her, "It was an experience I will never forget!" For more about Trinity Commons and the Birmingham Episcopal Campus Ministries, please visit www.becm.org.



Photo by Richard Schori



Photo by Richard Schori



Photo by Richard Schori



Photo by Richard Schori



Photo by Richard Schori



Photo by Richard Schori

PREACHING AND CELEBRATING HOLY EUCHARIST AT ST. STEPHEN'S



Photo by Richard Schori

About 550 people gathered at St. Stephen's on Sunday morning, January 13, and they welcomed Bishop Katharine with "open hearts." After the worship service, people shared their thoughts about her quiet strength, peaceful presence, and delightful sense of humor. Bishop Katharine ended her sermon with an extended time of silent meditation, which surprised many and made an impression about her spirituality and confidence in the Holy Spirit.

"My Lord, what a morning!!" commented one woman. "The Presiding Bishop in our

very midst! To see her in her fabulous unique robes, hear her amazing voice, feel the substance of her words, sit in silence (the whole church together) with her, and finally touch her—the beautiful being that she is—what an inspiration! You had to get away to think about what really happened—and who knows the extent of it? I feel infused with what she is.

"It was the Sunday for the observance of the Baptism of Jesus, and she preached on that text: Matthew 3:13-17, reminding us that if we are buried with Christ in his death and sharing in his resurrection, we are also the Beloved, even as he is, with whom God is well pleased," the woman added. "She played on our reluctance to move toward understanding and accepting this about ourselves (going into the wilderness to find out how to live it), and at the end of the service



Rebecca Percy, Matthew Brooks, Ben Thompson, Olivia Brooks, and Laura Beth Passey giving Bishop Katharine prayer beads they made in their Sunday School class. The children make the beads as part of the parish's ministry to people on the prayer list; photo by Richard Schori

she asked us—and gave us the opportunity all together—to meditate on our own Belovedness. When she began to speak again after some minutes and we opened our eyes, we found her not in the pulpit but at the back of the chancel area, asking us the questions of the Baptismal Vow. The voice of the congregation was something to hear too—such a vibrant fullness."



Photo by Richard Schori

VISITING WITH PARISHIONERS AT ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL DEAF CHURCH

By the Rev. Marianne Stephens-Kroll, Rector

When I first learned that our Presiding Bishop was coming by to visit, I was excited, honored, and a bit nervous—and when I told the members of St John's, they were excited but not as nervous as I was! It would be the first time a Presiding Bishop had visited a Deaf Church, and we were eager to welcome her.

It actually went quite well! When Bishop Katharine arrived after the morning service at St Stephen's, she was quite ready to sit and watch the last part of our service. She quickly joined in the sharing of the Peace, getting out of the pew and greeting people, one by one, with quickly learned signs. At the end of the service, she joined me at the front of the church and invited our questions, which she graciously answered.



Richard Schori, Bishop Katharine, Marianne Stephens-Kroll, and Vernon Kroll; photo by Henry Morgan

Afterward we all went into our parish hall for coffee and the hot-from-the-oven homemade croissants that my husband, Vernon, had baked for us. At first it was like an awkward junior-high dance with hearing people on one side of the room and deaf on the other, but Bishop Katharine made everyone feel included. At one point she took a plateful of the croissants and passed them out to the people.

Bishop Katharine spoke to many of the members of St John's individually and took time to ask about the history and community we have here. We were to have just a little over half an hour with her, but we were glad it somehow got stretched a bit, and we were sorry to see her leave. We thoroughly enjoyed our visit with her and have invited her to come spend time with us again when she can.



Marianne Stephens-Kroll sharing some of the history of St. John's with Bishop Katharine and one of the parish's longtime members; photo by Henry Morgan

Our 177th Annual Diocesan Convention

In addition to considering and voting on a wide variety of resolutions, the delegates to our 177th diocesan convention will elect people to serve in a number of positions (please see the nominees below). The delegates will also consider and adopt a budget for this fiscal year (please see page 11).

Nominations Received at Carpenter House by January 25, 2008

DIOCESAN COUNCIL

Clergy Order

NORTHERN DISTRICT (1-YEAR UNEXPIRED TERM)



The Rev. Bruce White
St. Michael and All Angels' in
Anniston
Rector

- * Appointed to Diocesan Council in 2007 to fill unexpired term
- * Department of Liturgy and Music member
- * Department of Parish Development and Evangelism former member
- * Cursillo spiritual director

Lay Order

NORTHERN DISTRICT (3-YEAR TERM)



Sherri Summers
Grace in Anniston

- * Appointed to Diocesan Council in 2007 to fill unexpired term
- * Vestry member
- * Sunday School teacher
- * Altar Guild member
- * Cursillo staff member

SOUTHERN DISTRICT (3-YEAR TERM)



Mac Hall
Holy Comforter in
Montgomery

- * Department of Christian Formation member
- * Former junior and senior warden
- * Vestry member
- * EFM mentor
- * School Board of St. James's in Houston member

STANDING COMMITTEE AT LARGE

Clergy Order



The Rev. Grady Barbour
St Michael's in Birmingham
Rector

- * Ecclesiastical Court former member
- * Diplomate in the College of Pastoral Supervision
- * Interim consultant
- * Specialize in small-parish ministry



The Rev. Liston Garfield
St. Andrew's in Tuskegee
Rector

- * Ecclesiastical Court former judge
- * Bishop Suffragan Nominating Committee member
- * Tuskegee Institute chaplain



The Rev. Bill King
Trinity in Clanton
Priest in Charge

- * Diocesan Deputy for Congregational Development and Clergy

- Deployment (1998-2007)
- * Rector of All Saints' in Birmingham (1990-1998)
- * National consultant for the election of bishops (2000-present)
- * Standing Committee member (1991-1995)



The Rev. Polk Van Zandt
St. Paul's in Selma
Rector

- * Sewanee Board of Trustees member (2005-08)
- * Diocesan Council member (2004-07)
- * Department of Camp McDowell member
- * Department of Finance member (2005-07)

Lay Order



Ed Allen
St. Mary's-on-the-Highlands in
Birmingham

- * Former senior warden
- * St. Mary's-on-the-Highlands Endowment trustee
- * Education for Ministry (EFM)
- * Adult Formation teacher



Kathryn Corey
Advent in Birmingham

- * Chapter member
- * Education for Ministry (EFM)
- * Cursillo



Heager Hill
St. Mark's in Birmingham

- * Former Diocesan Council member
- * Former junior warden
- * Member of the 175th Diocesan Anniversary team
- * Member of the Brotherhood of St. Andrew's



Leigh Warren
St. Dunstan's in Auburn

- * ECW Convocation Board member
- * Daughters of the King member
- * Education for Ministry (EFM)
- * Parish administrator, council president, and newsletter editor

JUDGE TO ECCLESIASTICAL COURT AT-LARGE

Clergy Order



The Rev. Grady Barbour
St Michael's in Birmingham
Rector

- * Ecclesiastical Court former member
- * Diplomate in the College of Pastoral Supervision
- * Interim Consultant
- * Specialize in small-parish ministry



The Rev. Charles Youngson
All Saints' in Birmingham
Associate Rector

- * Department of Liturgy and Music member
- * Camp McDowell session director
- * Cursillo spiritual director
- * Stephen Ministry leader

Lay Order



Dwight Sloan, Esquire
St. Stephen's in Huntsville

- * Former Greater Birmingham Ministries Board member
- * Former Interfaith Hospitality House Board member
- * Ultreya lay rector
- * St. Stephen's Men's Group member

DEPUTIES TO GENERAL CONVENTION

Clergy Order

NORTHERN DISTRICT



The Rev. Susan Sloan
St. Stephen's in Huntsville
Rector

- * Standing Committee member
- * Diaconate Formation Committee member
- * Department of Christian Formation chair
- * Diocesan Council former member



The Rev. Bruce White
St. Michael and All Angels' in
Anniston
Rector

- * Appointed to Diocesan Council in 2007 to fill unexpired term
- * Department of Liturgy and Music member
- * Department of Parish Development and Evangelism former member
- * Cursillo spiritual director

MIDDLE DISTRICT



The Rev. Grady Barbour
St Michael's in Birmingham
Rector

- * Ecclesiastical Court former member
- * Diplomate in the College of Pastoral Supervision
- * Interim consultant
- * Specialize in small-parish ministry



Alison Carmody
St. Stephen's in Birmingham
Associate Rector

- * Diocesan Council member
- * Commission on Spirituality cochair
- * Daughters of the King chaplain
- * Cursillo spiritual director



The Rev. John Mark Ford
The Episcopal Church in
Chelsea
Rector

- * Department of Parish Development and Evangelism
- * Task Force for the Stewardship of Creation
- * Founding rector of new church plant
- * Interim Rector at St. Alban's in Birmingham



The Rev. Lee Lowery
Holy Spirit in Alabaster
Rector

- * Department of Parish Development and Evangelism chair
- * Happening spiritual director
- * Spanish language immersion—Honduras
- * Camp McDowell summer camp director

SOUTHERN DISTRICT



The Rev. H. Bennett "Ben" Alford
Trinity in Wetumpka
Rector

- * Diocesan Council member
- * Camp McDowell director for Senior Camp and Christmas Conference
- * Commission on Ministry member in the Diocese of Louisiana
- * Cursillo Secretariat member in the Diocese of Louisiana



The Rev. Drake Whitelaw
Holy Comforter in
Montgomery
Rector

- * Diocesan Council member
- * Ecclesiastical Court judge
- * Department of Camp McDowell former member
- * Holy Cross School Board former member



The Rev. Robert Wisniewski
St. John's in Montgomery
Rector

- * General Convention 2006 deputy
- * Finance Department member
- * Montgomery Convocation dean
- * Former trustee

Lay Order

NORTHERN DISTRICT



Bill Giardini
Nativity in Huntsville

- * General Convention Deputy (2006)
- * Department of Mission and Outreach member
- * Vestry member and senior warden
- * Parish Outreach Committee chair
- * Parish Stewardship Campaign chair (twice)
- * Parish Habitat for Humanity coordinator



Gene Giles
St. Joseph's-on-the-Mountain in Mentone

- * Standing Committee former member
- * Department of Christian Formation former chair
- * Commission on Spirituality member
- * Vestry senior warden (several terms)



Elouisa Stokes
St. Thomas' in Huntsville

- * Diaconate Committee member
- * General Convention 2003 deputy
- * General Convention 2000 alternate deputy
- * Clyde Carpenter

**MIDDLE DISTRICT
Lay Order**



Virginia Hillhouse
St. Stephen's in Birmingham

- * Commission on Ministry member
- * Department of Christian Education former member
- * EFM graduate and mentor
- * Vestry member and former senior warden

**SOUTHERN DISTRICT
Lay Order**



Scaers Barnes
St. James' in Alexander City

- * Standing Committee member
- * Department of Camp McDowell chair
- * Bishop Suffragan Nominating Committee member
- * Cursillo Secretariat member



The Honorable Cecil Williamson
Trinity in Demopolis

- * General Convention deputy and alternate deputy (five terms)
- * Diocesan Ultreya Secretariat member and coordinator
- * Wellspring Center for Spirituality director
- * Parish lay reader

**AT-LARGE
Clergy Order**



The Rev. E. Lucius "Andy" Anderson IV
Nativity in Huntsville
Rector

- * General Convention 2006 alternate deputy
- * Finance Committee member
- * Executive Board member in the Diocese of Atlanta
- * Finance Committee member in the Diocese of Upper South Carolina

Lay Order



Marcellus Smith
St. Mark's in Birmingham

- * General Convention deputy (two terms)
- * Commission on Ministry member
- * Brotherhood of St. Andrew diocesan coordinator
- * Parish senior warden

RESOLUTION # 1

EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF ALABAMA

RESOLVED that the 2008 Proposed Program and Budget, as developed by the Diocesan Council, be and hereby is adopted as the Program and Budget of the Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Alabama for the calendar year 2008.

SUMMARY				
2007 BUDGET, EXPENSES AND THE 2008 PROPOSED PROGRAM AND BUDGET				
	1 January	2007 BUDGET ¹	2007 ACTUAL	2008 BUDGET
OPERATING CASH RESERVES		\$176,371	\$176,927	1 January \$182,258
ANTICIPATED RECEIPTS				
Prior Year Covenants			\$316,813	
Current Year Covenants		\$2,525,971	\$2,108,681	\$2,679,558
Short Term Investments		\$38,000	\$38,530	\$20,000
Designated Fund Transfers		\$21,166	\$9,445	\$20,000
Miscellaneous Income		\$10,000	\$2,521	\$10,000
Grants		\$0	\$0	
Total Receipts		\$2,595,136	\$2,472,991	\$2,729,558
DISBURSEMENTS				
Support of the Episcopate		\$396,059	\$394,838	\$424,372
Lay & Ordained Leadership Development ²		\$208,893	\$217,249	\$180,875
Department of Stewardship		\$6,805	\$3,507	\$6,805
The People & Their Ministries		\$150,380	\$119,546	\$175,005
Mission and Outreach		\$835,438	\$829,955	\$676,218
Parish Development/Evangelism ²		\$195,450	\$14,773	\$213,650
Communications		\$83,600	\$79,184	\$84,500
Ministry in Higher Education ³		\$393,141	\$375,722	\$409,541
Camp and Conference Center ⁵		\$94,721	\$94,693	\$95,067
Administration/Carpenter House		\$432,649	\$450,271	\$450,305
Total Disbursements		\$2,595,136	\$2,379,738	\$2,729,558
Surplus (Deficit) ²		\$0	\$93,253	\$0
End of Year Cash Reserves⁴		\$176,371	\$176,361	\$182,258

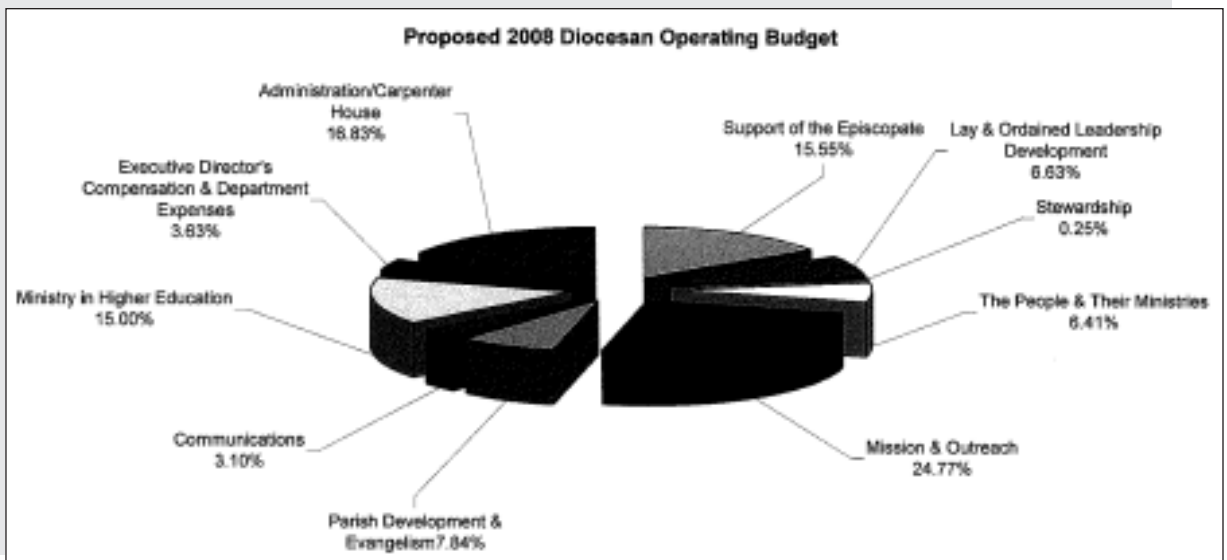
1. The Convention adopted a budget authorizing expenditures of \$2,833,691. However, Diocesan Council determined in May that the income estimate was too high. The Council reduced the budget to \$2,595,136.

2. The Diocese received \$195,167 in restricted covenants. These funds were directed to the Perkins Fund and used to support ministries and programs within the diocese. Because certain areas of the operating budget received significant amounts from the Perkins Fund the disbursements in this report are lower than projected in the operating budget. This should not be taken to mean that ministries and programs were reduced. It simply means the funds to support these programs were drawn from the Perkins Fund. The disbursement amount reported should be added to the additional funds available through the Perkins Fund to determine the full spending in that area of the budget.

3. The surplus is transferred into the Reserve Maintenance Account and the Cash Reserve as provided in Standing Resolutions 11 and 14.

4. Prior year adjustments which are not reflected in this report may cause this figure to differ from the figure calculated by adding and subtracting the sub-totals in this column. The actual figure from the Balance sheet is reported here in the "ACTUAL" column. Prior year adjustments are included in other reports.

5. Camp McDowell operations are funded primarily from fee income generated by the Camp. See resolution # 2 for detailed information on the Camp operating budget. Because the Camp is an integral part of the overall diocesan operation, the Executive Director's compensation and the meeting expenses of the Department, which guides Camp operation, are funded directly from diocesan funds.



EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN

Compiled by Fiona Watts, Publicity Chair

From the ECW President

From Dee Buzby, ECW President

Just imagine Camp McDowell in January! Your Diocesan ECW Board began the New Year with the annual retreat at Camp McDowell. This is always a special time for fellowship and renewal as well as the first board meeting of the year. We were very pleased that Bishop and Mrs. Parsley joined us for dinner and conversation. Those who have been to this retreat always look forward to Bishop Parsley's remarks pertaining to the ECW, our diocese, and the Church. He discussed our theme for 2008, "Blessed Is She Who Believes," and spoke to us about women of faith being "bookends" of the Gospels, with Mary and Elizabeth at one end and Mary Magdalene at the other. Bishop Parsley told us that we should be attentive to God's call, be faithful knowing that we can trust God to keep his promises, and be filled with joy. What a lovely time we had with him and Becky.

Congratulations to our new Bishop Suffragan! The ordination and consecration of the Rt. Rev. John McKee Sloan was a beautiful service, and we are all still celebrating. We were honored to have the Most Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori visit our diocese for this great event and serve as the primary consecrator. Everyone enjoyed the reception, which was hosted by the Bishop's Guild under the exceptional guidance of Linda Kennedy of the Advent. The members of the ECW look forward to a long relationship with Bishop Sloan.

Women's Weekend is just around the corner so please mark your calendars for May 16-18. The

Rev. Bob Blackwell and his wife, Kay, will be our speakers, and we will learn a great deal from our former missionaries to Syria. Look for more information from the Women's Weekend Committee and plan to come spend an entertaining weekend at Camp McDowell.

I encourage all of you to attend the Wine and Cheese Auction on April 17 at All Saints' in Birmingham. Fiona Watts and Olivia Weingarten are planning this extravaganza, and it promises to be an evening to remember.

Parish Presidents, please remember to send in your President's Information Sheet for 2008. Also, please remember that your parish ECW's annual contribution is due. For bookkeeping purposes, Treasurer Carolyn Woodson asks that you please make all your checks out to ECW, and mail your contributions to ECW, Carpenter House, 521 North 20th Street, Birmingham, AL 35203. When you send checks for your Annual Contribution, UTO, ECW Scholarship, CPC, and the ECW ACTS 2 Pledge, please note on your checks the account that should be credited. It is important that each ECW received credit for their generosity!

If you have any questions or suggestions, please do not hesitate to contact any Diocesan ECW Board Member. We are here to support the women of our diocese. May we always remember that we are to serve the Lord with gladness and singleness of heart! Blessings to you all.

Nancy Thompson, ECW Scholarship Chairman, has announced that applications are now being accepted for this year's awards and the application forms are available on our ECW Web site, www.alabamaecw.org. Applicants must be communicants in good standing with the Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Alabama, accepted or enrolled in an academic institution of college rank, pursuing professional certification or a degree from an accredited institution, able to show financial need, and a recipient of no more than one previous ECW Scholarship. **All applications and other forms must be completed and received by April 30;** scholarships will be announced and awarded by June 30.

ECW will host a Wine and Cheese Auction from 6 to 9 p.m. on Thursday, April 17, at All Saints' in Birmingham. All proceeds will go toward the ECW pledge to the ACTS 2 campaign.

Tora Johnson has announced that the **McDowell Fall Watercolor Workshop** will be held October 19-24 at Camp McDowell. Wayne Spradley, a realistic artist, will teach beginners along with anyone else wishing to paint with him. Both Pat Dews, a nationally known abstract artist, and Janet Rogers, a semi-realistic artist who specializes in painting flowers and people, will be teaching as well. Each participant may choose one teacher to study with during the week. For further information please contact Tora Johnson at 256/237-9900 or toradave@earthlink.net.

Upcoming ECW Events and Deadlines

February	Annual ECW contributions due from parish ECWs
April 17	Wine and Cheese Auction to raise funds for ACTS 2 at All Saints' in Birmingham
April 30	ECW Scholarship application deadline
May 16-18	Women's Weekend at Camp Mc Dowell

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

Mother Daughter Retreat at Camp McDowell Playing and Praying in God's Backyard April 18 - 20



This retreat will be led by The Rev. Sara-Scott Wingo with some help from her three daughters: GrayCie, Anna, and Abigail. Our focus will be providing opportunities for mothers and daughters to enjoy camp activities together in the beautiful springtime. Activities will include hiking, canoeing, yoga, ropes course, and arts and crafts. A little time will be devoted to reflecting on God's gift of the mother daughter relationship, and we will share worship together. Mother daughter combinations of all ages are welcome from mothers with infants to adult daughters with aging mothers. Daughter, mother, and grandmother combinations are welcome as well.



The cost is \$65 per person. A registration form is available online at www.CampMcDowell.com or contact Michael Goldsmith at 205-387-1806 michael@CampMcDowell.com

FOR AND ABOUT YOUTH

Having a Ball at Christmastime at Camp McDowell

By Leslie B. Manning, Youth Ministries Assistant



We had more than 100 9th-12th grade young people attend our annual Christmas Conference at Camp McDowell! We had an incredible staff of about 30, and we had a wonderful time living and learning about God's unconditional and tangible love. Special

thanks to the Rev. Ben Alford, rector of Trinity in Wetumpka, and his program team who wove the weekend together with personal life stories, biblical passages, small groups and hands-on activities. We dressed up as human Christmas trees, put on skits, went on hikes, sang a lot, hung out by the fire, played Ultimate Frisbee, and had an awesome ball. Special thanks to the members of this year's Youth Department for putting on such a fantastic event!!

The 2007-2008 Youth Department members include Ben Auman, Jermaine Cole, Parker Garrett, Kristin Hanson, Emily Hubert-Wallander, Alice Nix (chair), Emily Robins, Kirby Simpson, Rachel Smith, Elizabeth Smyth, and Murray Stuart. The Rev. Evan Garner (chaplain), Louise Griffin, Fred Matthews, Leslie Manning, Whitney Moore, Monica Romano, and Sarah Sartain are serving as adult advisors.

Talking with Bishop Katharine

Photos by Richard Schori

Youth Ministries Assistant Leslie B. Manning and many of the young people of our diocese had a chance to talk with Bishop Katharine after Bishop Suffragan Sloan's ordination and consecration at the Cathedral Church of the Advent on January 12.



CAMP McDOWELL

Think Summer!

Make plans now to join in the fun at Summer Camp 2008! You can download an application at www.campmcdowell.com; applications will also be available in parish offices soon. For more information please contact Michael Goldsmith at 205/387-1806 or michael@campmcdowell.com.

May 23-25	Primary I (entering 1st and 2nd graders and a parent)
May 27-30	Elementary I (entering 3rd and 4th graders)
June 2-11	Senior Camp (entering 10th-12th graders)
June 16-21	Junior High I (entering 6th and 7th graders)
June 24-July 1	Sophomore Camp (entering 8th and 9th graders)
July 1-8	Special Session
July 10-15	Middler Camp (entering 5th and 6th graders)
July 17-24	Junior High II (entering 7th and 8th graders)
July 26-30	Elementary II (entering 3rd-5th graders)
August 1-3	Primary II (entering 1st and 2nd graders and a parent)



Laura Catherine Conville, Roger Conville, Eli Turner Zweifel, Christopher Myers, and Bill Myers

Go Fish!

By Roger Conville

It's almost spring and getting close to time for the **Camp McDowell Fishing Camp on April 17-20**. This year's camp will have an emphasis on the writings of Izaak Walton. Some do not know that Walton was an Anglican and the author of John Donne's

biography as well as the superb fishing volume *The Compleat Angler*. For additional information please contact Camp McDowell at 205/387-1806 or Roger Conville at erconville@aol.com or 205/790-0654.

UPCOMING RETREATS, CONFERENCES, AND SPECIAL EVENTS

DIVORCE RECOVERY MINISTRY

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

"Starting over is never easy . . . but God is the creator of new paths." The Cathedral Church of the Advent offers this eight-week series for individuals who are recovering from or currently going through a divorce led by the Rev. Canon Dr. Joseph P. Warren, Facilitator Susan Warren, and Facilitator Toody White. **For more information please call Barbara Bess at the Pastoral Care Office, 205/226-3500, or visit www.adventbirmingham.org.**

GRIEF RECOVERY GROUP

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

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

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

March 7-9 at Camp McDowell

The Rev. Martin L. Smith will lead this year's Lenten retreat sponsored by our diocesan Commission on Spirituality. Martin, who is a well-known author and seminar leader and the senior associate rector at St. Columba's

in Washington, DC, will guide participants in rediscovering Paul as a spiritual guide and exploring the power of his radical teaching to deepen our prayer and revolutionize the way we face the challenges and opportunities of our changing world. **For more information please e-mail Philip Lasater at Philip.Lasater@arec.alabama.gov or contact Sarah Sartain at 205/715-2060 ext. 314 or ssartain@dioala.org.**

SUMMER CAMP COUNSELOR RETREAT

March 28-30 at Camp McDowell

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



PARISH LEADERSHIP TRAINING EVENT (PLTE)

April 5 at St. Luke's in Birmingham

The Rev. Michael E. "Corky" Carlisle, the interim rector of St. Thomas' in Huntsville, will give the keynote address at this year's Parish Leadership Training Event (PLTE). **For more information please contact Sarah Sartain at 205/715-2060 ext. 314 or ssartain@dioala.org.**

1ST-EVER MOTHER/DAUGHTER RETREAT

April 18-20 at Camp McDowell

The Rev. Sara-Scott Wingo, priest associate at St. Luke's in Birmingham, and her daughters, Graycie, Anna, and Abigail, will lead this retreat. **For more information please see page 13 or contact Michael Goldsmith at 205/387-1806 or michael@campmcdowell.com.**

Bishops' Visitation Schedule

Sunday, February 17

9:30 a.m. Bishop Parsley, St. Bartholomew's, Florence
10 a.m. Bishop Sloan, St. Michael's, Fayette

Sunday, February 24

10 a.m. Bishop Parsley, St. James', Alexander City
10:30 a.m. Bishop Sloan, Holy Comforter, Gadsden

Sunday, March 2

10:30 a.m. Bishop Parsley, Canterbury Chapel, Tuscaloosa
Bishop Sloan, Ascension, Birmingham

Wednesday, March 5

7 p.m. Bishop Parsley, St. Paul's, Greensboro

Sunday, March 16

9:30 a.m. Bishop Sloan, Grace, Sheffield
10:30 a.m. Bishop Parsley, Trinity, Florence

Easter Eve Saturday, March 22

7 p.m. Bishop Parsley, Grace, Birmingham
Bishop Sloan, St. Andrew's, Birmingham

Easter Sunday, March 23

10 a.m. Bishop Sloan, St. Paul's, Selma
10:30 a.m. Bishop Parsley, St. Thomas', Birmingham

Sunday, March 30

10 a.m. Bishop Parsley, St. Mary's-on-the-Highlands, Birmingham
11 a.m. Bishop Sloan, Trinity, Demopolis

Sunday, April 6

10 a.m. Bishop Parsley, St. Stephen's, Huntsville
Bishop Sloan, Christ Church, Fairfield

Sunday, April 13

10:30 a.m. Bishop Sloan, Holy Apostles', Birmingham
Bishop Miller, Epiphany, Tallassee

Sunday, April 20

8:45 and 11 a.m. Bishop Sloan, All Saints', Birmingham
10:30 a.m. Bishop Parsley, St. Peter's, Talladega

Sunday, April 27

9 and 11 a.m. Bishop Sloan, Advent, Birmingham
10:30 a.m. Bishop Parsley, St. John's, Montgomery

Wednesday, April 30

6 p.m. Bishop Parsley, Holy Cross, Trussville

Servicios en Español/Services in Spanish

Iglesia Episcopal de la Gracia

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

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

Iglesia Episcopal de Todos los Santos/All Saints'

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

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

Iglesia de la Ascensión/Ascension

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

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

Iglesia Episcopal de la Gracia/Grace Church

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

Domingo, 10:30 a.m. and 2 p.m.
(beginning Easter Sunday)
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. and 2 p.m.
(beginning Easter Sunday)

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

What's New/Noteworthy at the Episcopal Book Store

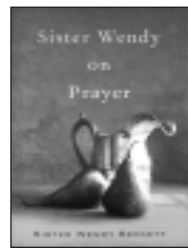
Visit the Episcopal Book Store at the Birmingham Civic Center during our diocesan convention—“open the hours you are there.”



Christians at the Cross: Finding Hope in the Passion, Death, and Resurrection of Jesus by N. T. Wright

Anglican bishop N. T. Wright is a respected ecumenical voice among Catholic, Protestant, and Orthodox Christians.

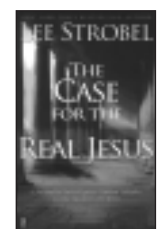
When he reflected on Christ's death and resurrection with the members of a mining community in northern England who had suffered grievous losses, he encouraged them to find signs of hope as they brought their pain into the presence of God through the journey of Jesus to the cross. The wisdom of his biblical reflections—gathered in this book—apply to anyone who endures suffering, offering a passage to hope through Christ's marvelous victory over death.



Sister Wendy on Prayer by Sister Wendy Beckett

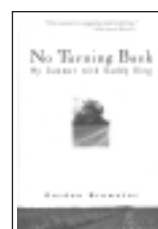
Sister Wendy Beckett, renowned art historian, has spent years in silence and contemplation in her calling as a nun. In this thoughtful examination of the nature of prayer, she reveals her deeply held beliefs about her religion and her

intimate understanding of God. What should I do during prayer? Can prayer really be as simple as a conversation? How do I let God enter my being? Do I need to belong to a religion in order to pray? Sister Wendy answers these and many other common questions, all the while imparting the importance of prayer in our daily lives.



The Case for the Real Jesus by Lee Strobel

Atheist-turned-Christian Lee Strobel focuses on rediscovering the real Jesus, whose identity and message have come under attack in recent years. He addresses six major challenges and claims: a different Jesus is seen in ancient documents that seem as credible as the four canonical gospels; tampering by the Church has damaged the Bible's portrayal of Jesus; new explanations refute Jesus' resurrection; Christianity copied pagan religions regarding Jesus; Jesus didn't fulfill messianic prophecies; and contemporary people should be able to choose what to believe about Jesus. As with his previous books, Strobel attacks the issues as an investigative journalist, though one with a clear agenda.



No Turning Back: My Summer with Daddy King by Gurdon Brewster

Gurdon Brewster, a white seminary student from the North, worked at Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta, where both Martin Luther King Sr. and Jr. were pastors, during the summer of 1961. In this memoir he recalls his first encounters with Atlanta's segregated restrooms, restaurants, and public swimming pools, and he describes finding the spontaneous church services of the black Baptist tradition both unnerving and energizing. When local white ministers

Mark Your Calendar

Diocesan Convention February 21-23 in Birmingham
Cursillo Weekends #161 March 12-16, #162 April 9-13, #163 June 11-15, #164 September 17-21, #165 October 15-19
Episcopal Youth Event (EYE) July 8-13
Happening Weekend (10th-12th graders) #52 March 7-9
Parish Leadership Training Event (PLTE) April 5
Province IV Youth Event June 24-30
Sawyer's Day Camp June 21-29
Special Session at Camp McDowell July 1-8
Spring Break Conference/Mission Trip March 15-20
Young People Painting Birmingham June 1-6

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

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

March 24-26 “Clergy Sabbath” led by the Rev. K. C. Ptomey at St. Mary's Sewanee—A Center for Spiritual Development. For more information call 800/728-1659, e-mail StMarysSewanee@bell-south.net, or visit www.StMarysSewanee.org.

March 28 Midday Musical Menu featuring the University of Montevallo Concert Choir under the direction of Robert Wright at 12:30 p.m. at the Advent in Birmingham. For more information please contact Music Associate Charles Kennedy at 205/226-3505 or kennedy@cathedraladvent.com.

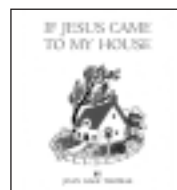
March 28-30 Summer Camp Counselor Retreat at Camp McDowell led by Susanna Whitsett. For more information please contact Michael Goldsmith at 205/387-1806 or michael@campmcdowell.com.

April 4-6 Intensive Centering Prayer Retreat at the Benedictine Retreat Center in Cullman. For more information please call 256/734-8302.

April 5 Parish Leadership Training Event (PLTE) with keynote the Rev. Corky Carlisle at St. Luke's in Birmingham. For more information please contact Sarah Sartain at Carpenter House, 205/715-2060 ext. 314 or ssartain@dioala.org.

April 6 Organ Recital featuring concert organist Marilyn Keiser at 4 p.m. at the Advent in Birmingham. For more information please contact Music Associate Charles Kennedy at 205/226-3505 or kennedy@cathedraladvent.com.

didn't embrace Brewster's idea of setting up meetings between black and white church youth groups, Brewster's eyes were opened to the inflexible racism of the ostensibly moderate white clergy. Brewster's book is valuable not only for the record of his own awakenings, but also for the personal anecdotes about Martin Luther King Sr., who emerges as a passionate, wise man with a sense of humor equal to his sense of justice.



If Jesus Came to My House by Joan Gale Thomas

The little boy in this book imagines what it would be like if Jesus spent a day with him. If Jesus were a little boy like him, he thought, he would share with him the best toys he had by lending them to the poorest boys and girls, and even though Jesus may not have visited, the little boy hoped that He

April 11-13 “Peace, Forgiveness, Reconciliation—a Weekend of Learning, Challenge, and Transformation” led by the Rev. Dr. John Westerhoff and Caroline Westerhoff at Nativity in Huntsville. For more information please contact Zara Renander, director of the nativity Center for Pilgrimage and Reconciliation, at zara.renander@nativity-hsv.org or 256/533.2455 ext. 212.

April 18-20 1st-Ever Mother/Daughter Retreat at Camp McDowell led by the Rev. Sara-Scott Wingo, priest associate at St. Luke's in Birmingham, and her daughter Anna. For more information please see pages 13 and 14 or contact Michael Goldsmith at 205/387-1806 or michael@campmcdowell.com.

April 25 Midday Musical Menu featuring A Broadway Cabaret: Four for Time (Carl Dean, Jan D. Hunter, Lonnie Parsons, and Kristi Tingle Higginbotham) at 12:30 p.m. at the Advent in Birmingham. For more information please contact Music Associate Charles Kennedy at 205/226-3505 or kennedy@cathedraladvent.com.

April 27-May 2 Photography Retreat VII at Kanuga Conference Center in Hendersonville, North Carolina. For more information please call 828/692-9136, e-mail info@kanuga.org, or visit www.kanuga.org.

May 4-8 Fly-Fishing Retreat at Kanuga Conference Center in Hendersonville, North Carolina. For more information please call 828/692-9136, e-mail info@kanuga.org, or visit www.kanuga.org.

May 18-21 Gardens and Grace at Kanuga Conference Center in Hendersonville, North Carolina. For more information please call 828/692-9136, e-mail info@kanuga.org, or visit www.kanuga.org.

June 2-4 Province IV Women's Conference at Kanuga Conference Center in Hendersonville, North Carolina. For more information please call 828/692-9136, e-mail info@kanuga.org, or visit www.kanuga.org.

June 8-13 Spirituality Conference at Kanuga Conference Center in Hendersonville, North Carolina. For more information please call 828/692-9136, e-mail info@kanuga.org, or visit www.kanuga.org.

June 15-20 Christian Formation Conference at Kanuga Conference Center in Hendersonville, North Carolina. For more information please call 828/692-9136, e-mail info@kanuga.org, or visit www.kanuga.org.

June 26-28 “Our Mission of Love: I Send You Out,” the 12th Annual Foundation for Liturgical Music Ecumenical Music Ministry Conference at John Carroll Catholic High School in Birmingham. For more information please visit www.foundationforliturgicalmusic.org or e-mail Nancy Ryan at nryan95@alltel.net.

would bless his house for all the kindness and goodness he gave to those less fortunate. Through this book Joan Gale Thomas teaches young children the Christian Golden Rule of sharing with one another and caring for your fellow friends that brings joy to everyone's heart. The gentle message tells children how to treat others with the love of giving. Children and adults alike will find this classic book engaging. When my daughter was five and I read it to her, she said, “Will you read it again?”

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



Alabama Faith Council Hosts Public Forum



The Alabama Faith Council is hosting its 1st Annual Public Forum, Inter-FAITH Inter-ACTION—Bringing Together Voices and Hands of Faith To Serve All People in Alabama, on Monday, February 18, at Southside Baptist Church in Birmingham. **Bishop Parsley**, who is serving as the Council's president, will open the event with welcoming remarks at 9:30 a.m. At 9:45 a.m. Professor Yehezkel Landau, a faculty associate at Hartford Seminary, will give the keynote address, "Building Abrahamic Partnerships: The Challenges and Opportunities in Jewish-Christian-Muslim Relationships Today." Additional speakers will include Ashfaq Taufique, president of the Birmingham Islamic Society; the Rev. Wallace Noble, of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church; and Cantor Daniel Gale, of Temple Beth-El in Birmingham. The Rev. Jim Evans, pastor of the First Baptist Church in Auburn, will give the closing remarks at 3 p.m. The schedule also provides morning Break Out Sessions—Overview and afternoon Break Out Sessions—Creating Positive Change on the topics of Immigration, Constitutional Reform, Pre-Kindergarten Education, and Interfaith Dialogue, as well as a shared worship service.

People from all faith traditions are welcome to this event, which offers us an opportunity to come together in community, learn from each other, and understand how people of faith can improve the lives of everyone in our state. **For more information please call 205/326-6821 ext. 115 or visit www.alfaithcouncil.org.**

Episcopal Place in Birmingham is seeking a chaplain/lay chaplain and also a part-time development director. **For more information please contact Executive Director Jill Hoogstra at 205/939-0085 or epdir@bham.rr.com or visit www.episcopalplace.org.**

Stewardship of Creation Task Force Receives Award



Michael Churchman, Brantley Fry, Joyce Lanning, Bishop Parsley, Gordon Black, and Eleanor DelBene

Our diocesan Stewardship of Creation Task Force received the Cahaba River Society's Educator of the Year Award at a meeting at the Botanical Gardens in Birmingham on January 24. The Task Force was selected for the group's efforts to build partnerships through advocacy and action for watershed and energy conservation, its Watersheds and Warming conference, and its Watersheds and Warming Curriculum Guide. Our Task Force and Parish Liaisons stand as an inspiring model to other faith groups. Bishop Parsley opened the meeting with a prayer, and Gordon Black presented the award on behalf of the Cahaba River Society. **For more information please contact Eleanor DelBene at eleanor@presence.org or 205/655-7667 or visit www.stewardsforcreation.org or www.cahabariversociety.org and follow the link to CRS annual meeting.**



March 2—ERD Sunday

This year Bishop Parsley has appointed March 2, as Episcopal Relief and Development (ERD) Sunday. We are all asked to offer our contributions to the poor and suffering on this day and support the ERD's efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which include fighting extreme poverty and disease.

Working to achieve the MDGs is one powerful and practical way to live out the promises made in our Baptismal Covenant. Your contribution will help ERD empower vulnerable people to be the agents of their own positive change by providing training and education, clean water and sanitation services, nutrition for pregnant women and babies, and other vital, lifesaving and lifegiving resources. **For more information or a presentation on the work of ERD, please contact Judy Quick, our Diocesan ERD Coordinator, at jgquick@bellsouth.net or 205/669-6862, or visit www.er-d.org.**

As White As . . . Snow???



Parishioner Steve Patterson couldn't resist taking this picture-perfect photo of Trinity Church after a rare winter storm covered Clanton with 4 inches of snow on Saturday, January 19.

Teaming Up to Build a Home

By W. Garth Lovvorn Jr., Executive Director, Habitat for Humanity Athens/Limestone County



Bill Winters, rector of Epiphany in Guntersville, with Jeremy Lucas, rector of St. Timothy's in Athens

The members of Epiphany in Guntersville and St. Timothy's in Athens teamed up to build Habitat for Humanity home in Athens. They accomplished a lot and had a great time doing so!

MAILING ADDRESSES AND DEADLINES

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

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

The submission deadline for the combined **March/April** (diocesan convention wrap-up) issue is **February 22**, the deadline for the **May** issue is **April 1**.