

THE *Apostle*

February 2009 The Episcopal Diocese of Alabama Vol. 94, No. 2

Chapel To Be Dedicated May 2

Construction on the new Chapel of St. Francis is scheduled to be completed in the next few months. Everyone is cordially invited to come to Camp McDowell on Saturday, May 2, to celebrate the dedication of this beautiful new worship and meeting facility. Please save the date!



Clergy Spouses Complete Mission Trip to Haiti

A group of clergy spouses, led by Becky Parsley, recently returned from a mission trip to Haiti, where they visited churches, schools, and a nutrition clinic and delivered much-welcomed supplies and hands-on care. Edith Duracin, the wife of Bishop Zache Duracin, and the Rev. Fritz Valdema and his wife, Carmel, hosted the group during their weeklong stay. **Please see Meeting Needs in Haiti on page 5.**



Janice Glor, Ginger Eich, Barbara Meginniss, Edith Duracin, Sharon Drachlis, Susan Warren, and Becky Parsley

Phyllis Tickle Will Speak at PLTE

Phyllis Tickle, who is an Episcopalian from Tennessee, the founding editor of the Religion Department of *Publishers Weekly*, and a widely recognized authority on religion in America, will discuss her recent book *The Great Emergence—How Christianity Is Changing and Why* at our upcoming Parish Leadership



Training Event (PLTE) on March 28 at St. Luke's in Birmingham. **For more about this diocesan-wide event please see page 2.**

St. Luke's Will Host PLTE, March 28

"Finding Your Bearings in an Uncertain Time"

The zoom function on Google Maps makes it easy to change your perspective. You can quickly view your home or school within the wider context of the community. You can ponder the relationships of the buildings and roads, anticipate the impact of new construction, and plot your course to the grocery store. You can do all of this because you can zoom out—you can see your home or school or business within the larger picture, the "view from above."

During this year's **Parish Leadership Training Event (PLTE) on March 28 at St. Luke's in Birmingham**, you will have a similar opportunity to see yourself within the wider context, but this time the picture will feature the religious context in which we struggle to create meaning for and give purpose to our lives. Phyllis Tickle, an Episcopalian from Tennessee and a nationally noted author, will join us to discuss the "view from above" as she reviews her recent book *The Great Emergence—How Christianity Is Changing and Why*. Phyllis has been gifted with an insight

into our times and the upheaval we all are experiencing. She can help us see our lives within the wider context of profound changes not just in the Church but also in our understanding of ourselves.

Painting with a wide brush, Phyllis creates a picture of our times that does not promote one solution or another but helps us get our bearings. She argues convincingly that religion and societies go through periods of major upheaval about every 500 years. It is no surprise that she thinks we are in such a period now. She will help us see ourselves from this perspective by drawing on similar periods in Western history. Anything but boring, her discussions are fast paced, insightful, entertaining, and even at times transformational. She brings together deep spiritual awareness and a historical perspective that will allow us to zoom out from the confusion of the moment and see our questions, tentative answers, and continuing search as part of the grander journey of humankind toward God.

Clergy News

The Rev. Martin Bell, a former priest of our diocese, died on January 18 in Michigan. Martin, who served at St. Francis of Assisi in Indian Springs from 1989 to 1995, wrote a number of popular inspirational books based on stories he used in teaching the Bible, including *Wolf, The Way of the Wolf, and Return of the Wolf* that used a wolf to represent Jesus Christ.

The Rev. Jim Lilly, a retired priest of our diocese, died on December 26, 2008.

This is a rare opportunity to stand back a bit and gain a fresh perspective on our times, the meaning they bear in relation to our faith, and the course we might chart for our own journey. **Plan now to attend Phyllis's discussion and the workshop that follows at PLTE. Registration information is available on our diocesan Web site, www.dioala.org. With the exception of a nominal registration fee, which covers lunch, our diocese covers the cost of this event through your parish contributions.**

Sabrina Evans Writes Children's Curriculum

Sabrina Evans, the director of Children's Christian Formation at St. John's in Montgomery, has written *Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory—A New Look at the Prodigal Son*, a new children's curriculum recently published by



LeaderResources. Sabrina explains that the original 1971 movie, starring Gene Wilder, included characters that in many ways exemplify the traditional seven "deadly sins" of extravagance, gluttony, greed, sloth, wrath, envy, and pride and the parable Jesus tells about the "Prodigal Son" or the "Forgiving Father" reflects the same "sins." Last year she

developed a five-session Lenten series for children age five through sixth-graders that would help them better understand these very human characteristics.

During each session each child received a "Golden Ticket" that gave them a chance to win the "Grand Prize," a Willy Wonka Lunchbox filled with candy to be awarded at the last meeting. She used clips from the 1971 movie along with the Forgiving Father materials from the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd to prompt discussion about the behavior and characteristics portrayed by the actors, and she developed specific craft ideas to reinforce the children's understanding.

"This program was a huge hit with both the children

and the adults alike, drawing the largest number of attendees we've ever had during Lent," notes Sabrina. "By tying each session's story to the parable of the Forgiving Father, we also reinforced the meaning of Lent."

The complete lesson plans for Willy Wonka and the

Chocolate Factory—A New Look at the Prodigal Son are available through LeaderResources at <http://leader-resources.org>. For more information please contact Sabrina at Sabrina@stjohnsmontgomery.org or 334/262-1937.

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 94, Number 2

February 2009
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

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

Archbishop of Canterbury

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

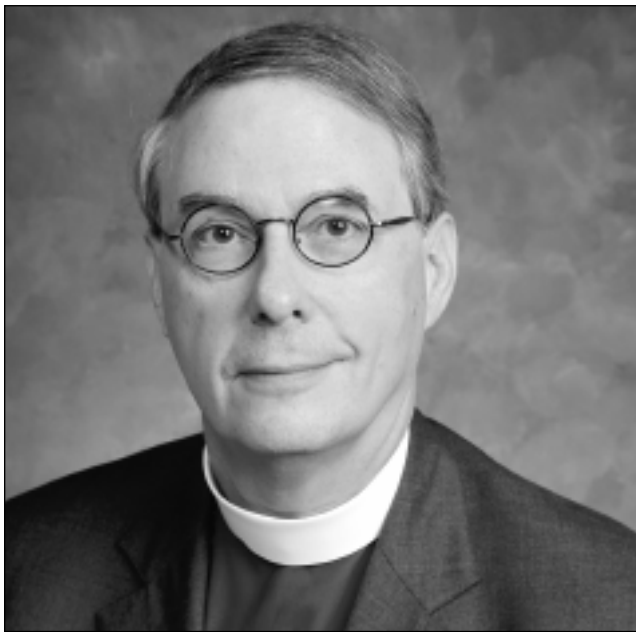


The Apostle is published 9 times per year, with combined issues March/April, July/August, and September/October, by the Episcopal Diocese of Alabama. Previous names for this publication have been *The Diocese of Alabama* (1892), *The Church Record* (1893-1922), *The Alabama Churchman* (1923-1987), *The 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.



Photograph by Billy Brown

There has been much in the press recently about the proposal by some groups that have left the Episcopal Church to establish another Anglican Province in North America. Presumably this would parallel the Episcopal Church and the Anglican Church of Canada, the recognized provinces of the Anglican Communion in North America.

There is an Anglican process for establishing a new province. It involves a recommendation by the Primates' Meeting and approval by the Anglican Consultative Council. Those pushing for a new province speak of it as requiring only a normal process of application and approval. Some seem to assume that it is a practically a fait accompli. What they are not saying is that what is being proposed would constitute a non-geographical province. This has never happened in the history of Anglican Christianity.

To my mind this is a very troublesome idea. One of the distinguishing aspects of the Anglican Communion as it has historically existed has been gracious unity in the midst of diversity. By the grace of God we have been able to embrace a spectrum of theological views and ministries in one holy fellowship centered in God the Holy Trinity, the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and the Book of Common Prayer. To be sure there are corporate boundaries to the spectrum, such as the theology and worship of the Prayer Book. But within provinces we have contained a diversity of dioceses, with differing contexts and traditions. Within dioceses we have contained a healthy variety of parishes, with a diversity of liturgical customs and theological emphasis. Within parishes we have contained "all sorts and conditions" of people.

A New Province in North America?

The idea of parallel provinces of the Communion sharing the same geography threatens this healthy variety. I believe that it would change Anglican polity at its core. To my knowledge, there never been an officially recognized parallel provincial jurisdiction. We have been trenchantly faithful to the teaching of the Council of Nicaea that dioceses must have geographical integrity with one bishop ordinary for each diocese.

To depart from this ancient practice would badly damage the catholicity of this church. It would undermine the scriptural teaching that "there is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of us all." It would separate what God has joined together in this remarkable tradition of Anglican Christianity.

Yes, we need to respect our differences and guard our unity more effectively. Yes, we need to value all voices more than we have of late. Yes, we need to act together not unilaterally. But we must not allow the division of viewpoints today to be institutionalized by the creation of a new, parallel province in this country and Canada. We must learn again to live together with inevitable diversities, making room for one another for the sake of the Gospel.

A secular analogy may be of some use. Suppose that several states of the Union decided that they did not agree with certain laws or practices of the federal government. These states determined that they would withdraw from the Union and form their own new country, parallel to states that were loyal, but still Americans. So there would be a "country within a country," based on like-mindedness on certain issues. Suppose they even decided to invite some cities in other states to join with them. This would be a dangerous idea. As we know only too well, something similar was tried once in these Southern parts, and it led to tragedy and civil war. Since we are speaking here of the Body of Christ, not a political construction, it is the spiritual consequences of such a chaotic scenario that matter.

I am the first to say that this Church must contain a full spectrum of views and voices. It is a crying shame that we have allowed some current issues to divide us from one another. Pardon the labels, but conservative

voices need liberal and moderate voices and liberal voices need conservative ones in order to discern the full truth on important matters. As Paul said to the fissionary Corinthians, "The eye cannot say to the hand, I have no need of you." All belong to the Body, all are needed.

This is part of the genius of Anglicanism. We pray together. We meet. We follow Christ and receive the same sacraments. We share our stewardship and ministry as one Church. We claim the Book of Common Prayer to be our focus of unity, in prayer, in doctrine, in worship. We are not all alike, but we share in one Lord by whose grace we are saved and made whole.

Yes, we need to respect our differences and guard our unity more effectively. Yes, we need to value all voices more than we have of late. Yes, we need to act together not unilaterally. But we must not allow the division of viewpoints today to be institutionalized by the creation of a new, parallel province in this country and Canada. We must learn again to live together with inevitable diversities, making room for one another for the sake of the Gospel.

As Jonathan Sacks, the Chief Rabbi of England, movingly challenged the bishops at Lambeth: "We must show the world another way: honoring humanity as God's image, protecting the environment as God's work, respecting diversity as God's will, and keeping the covenant as God's word. Too long we have dwelt in the valley of tears. Let us walk together toward the mountain of the Lord, Side by Side, Hand in Hand, bound by a covenant of fate that turns strangers into friends. In an age of fear, let us be agents of hope. Together let us be a blessing to the world."

Sacks was addressing particularly our relationship as Christians and Jews, but his words speak poignantly to our Anglican relationships. We are called to walk side by side, hand in hand as agents of hope. To embrace anything less than this vision would be trading our inheritance for a bowl of potage.

We do not need a new province. What we need is a new attitude. Let it be one of mutual respect, patience, and loving-kindness one to another. Let it be one of focusing more on God and less on ourselves. This will glorify Christ and build us into the Church that God needs us to be.

The Rt. Rev. Henry Nutt Parsley Jr.



I think I wouldn't be alone in saying that I prefer Mardi Gras to Lent; I assume most of us would rather celebrate Easter than observe Lent. I always figured that if you enjoyed Lent you must be doing something wrong. But I also know that we need Lent, not just as an excuse for Mardi Gras or as a prelude to Easter, but to provide a time for us to reflect on who we are in the eyes of God, to really face our sinfulness and realize our need for God's mercy, which we are invited to receive through the Crucifixion and Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. We'll join with Christians all over the world in a season of penitence, taking a time to consider and acknowledge our part in the need for our Lord's sacrifice. We will walk in faith through the days of Lent, taking our places at Jesus' Last Supper with his friends, and bringing ourselves to stand before the Cross on Good Friday so that we can more fully share in and tell the Great Story of Christianity, the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

I believe that for much of my life I misunderstood Lent, making it as dreary and gloomy as possible, as if our Lord wants us to be downcast and depressed as a matter of our faith. And you know we can be pretty dreary when we really put our minds to it. The truth, I think, is that our faith only makes sense when we see it through the

Lent—a Good and Joyful Thing?

Resurrection; our observance of Lent is a tool we use to put ourselves into the story of Christ's betrayal, denial, arrest, trial, and execution so that we can then come with new and fresh gladness to the Empty Tomb, rejoicing with apostles, martyrs, and saints through the centuries that He is risen indeed.

Every Sunday the priests and bishops say, "It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and

It is right and good to give thanks wherever we are, at all times, even during Lent as we prepare with joy for the Paschal feast. We don't need to be dreary or gloomy; what we need to do is take some time to look at ourselves honestly so that being aware of our failings and shortcomings we can prepare to open ourselves to the mercy and grace of God in Jesus Christ our Lord.

everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth." Every Sunday all over the world Christians proclaim that no matter the situation or context, no matter the circumstances of the day, no matter what's going on in our heads or hearts, no matter what our complaints or concerns may be, it is a good and joyful thing to give thanks to God our Father.

It is right and good to give thanks wherever we are, at all times, even during Lent as we prepare with joy for the Paschal feast. We don't need to be

dreary or gloomy; what we need to do is take some time to look at ourselves honestly so that being aware of our failings and shortcomings we can prepare to open ourselves to the mercy and grace of God in Jesus Christ our Lord. If we do it right, we bring ourselves to an increased awareness of our need to be reconciled to God, and we will be ready to receive the greatest of all the gifts our Father gives us: the redemption of the world in the Crucifixion and Resurrection of our Lord and Savior. If we do it right, we will come to see ourselves as our Father in Heaven sees us: sinful and redeemed, worthy of God's love not because we earn or deserve it, but because we are forgiven on the Cross.

We are not called to wallow in shame and guilt and gloom, not in Lent, not ever; I just don't believe it's Christian. We are people of resurrection; Lent is a time for us to prepare ourselves for the great celebration of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ our Lord. Part of the story we tell is hard to hear, and part of our getting ready is the realization that we are part of the need for the Crucifixion. We can't overlook those bitter truths, but we shouldn't focus on them so much that we lose the redemptive truth of our Lord's sacrifice.

I think we need to be serious about Lent, just as I think we need to be serious about joy and hope and living in faith. But we are not called to live in gloom or dread, in shame or fear. Not even in Lent.

The Rt. Rev. John McKee Sloan

Lenten Resources

Please see What's New/Noteworthy at the Episcopal Book Store on page 11 and Parishes Offer Special Lenten Programs on page 12.

Meeting Needs in Haiti

This story includes excerpts from online reports by our diocesan staff; photographs by the Rev. David Meginniss and the Rev. Deacon Dave Drachlis



Sharon Drachlis hugging a sleepy preschooler in Gorman

“When babies are hungry you feed them; when they are tired you just hold them and love them. It doesn’t matter what language you speak,” notes Sharon Drachlis of St. Thomas’ in

Huntsville, one of the clergy spouses from our diocese who recently delivered much-welcomed supplies and hands-on care to adults and children in our companion diocese.

Becky Parsley led the mission group, which also included Susan Warren of the Cathedral Church of the Advent in Birmingham, Ginger Eich and Janice Glor of St. Bartholomew’s in Florence, and Barbara Meginniss of Christ Church in Tuscaloosa. Sharon’s husband, the Rev. Deacon Dave Drachlis of St. Thomas’ in Huntsville, and Barbara’s husband, the Rev. David Meginniss, rector of Christ Church, accompanied the group, which was hosted by Edith Duracin, the wife of Bishop Zache Duracin, and the Rev. Fritz Valdema and his wife, Carmel. Together they visited churches and schools as well as the nutrition clinics Carmel has established to meet some of the pressing health needs of the impoverished people in the large Episcopal parish Fritz serves.

Our clergy spouses collected and delivered about 400 pounds of supplies donated

by individuals and parishes throughout Alabama, and Becky presented a contribution of more than \$2,000 from the clergy spouses’ annual Christmas Appeal to the nutrition program. They also visited the diocesan cathedral in Port au Prince and selected art and other items to sell at our upcoming diocesan convention in Montgomery. The proceeds will be returned to Haiti to support the ministry of the Episcopal Church there.



Elementary students in a coconut frond-covered classroom in Gorman

The group toured St. Sacramento Church and school in Fond Parisian, in part to survey the September hurricane damage to the kindergarten roof. The damage was discovered in October 2008 by a mission team from

our diocese, and the roof had to be removed because it posed such a danger. The schoolchildren currently meet under the shade of a tree next to the school. Through donations to the diocese for hurricane relief, the roof will be replaced with a structure strong enough to support addition of second-story classrooms in the future.

In addition the team visited schools both in Gorman and Croix des Bouquets, where the children sang songs of welcome and even practiced their English. In the afternoon the delegation participated in a nutrition clinic at St. Simeon Church, where parents bring their malnourished children to receive counseling, vaccinations, and nutrition supplements. The clergy spouses were deeply moved after meeting now-healthy program participants who previously suffered from starvation. “This is truly a miracle,” one of them emphasized.

In April a parish team from our diocese will help construct a permanent facility for the nutrition program. More than once the Valdemas expressed deep gratitude to the people of our diocese for allowing God to work through them not only in providing resources but also helping with building and equipping facilities as well as completing wells and water-purification projects at St. Simeon and Thomazeau.

“It was a privilege to spend time with our brothers and sisters in Haiti, to experience their love and hospitality despite such poverty,” says Becky Parsley. “We are looking forward to reporting what we have learned about how our clergy spouses, churches, and parishioners can work with our companions in Christ in Haiti to continue to make a difference in their lives.”

A few days after our clergy wives left Haiti to return home, our diocese’s first medical mission team of 2009 arrived. The team included Robert Serio, a physician from the Nativity in Huntsville; Brenda Smith, a nurse practi-



Barbara Meginniss gives vitamin E to an infant at a nutrition clinic

tioner from St. Thomas’ in Huntsville; Martha Oyston, a nurse from the Ascension in Birmingham; Kathryn Dailey, a nurse from St. John’s in Montgomery; Sharon Drachlis, team coordinator from St. Thomas’ in Huntsville; and the Rev. Dave Drachlis, a deacon at St. Thomas’ and cochair of our diocesan Companion Diocese Commission. The team brought with them approximately 200 pounds of vitamins and medications as well as toothbrushes, toothpaste, condoms, and school supplies. Individuals and parishes across our diocese also made generous contributions toward the purchase of additional medication and supplies in Haiti.

They worked alongside doctors, nurses, and health workers from Haiti for four intensive days of mobile medical clinics. On the first day alone, the joint Haitian-Alabama team saw 169 patients at St. Simeon Church-turned-medical center in Croix des Bouquets, a suburb of



Sharon Drachlis, Brenda Smith, Kathryn Dailey, Carmel Valdema, Martha Oyston, Robert Serio, Fritz Valdema, and Dave Drachlis

the capital city of Port au Prince. They treated maladies ranging from the minor to the more significant, including stomach distress, headaches, arthritis, parasites, dehydration, malaria, and hypertension. The team also referred at least one patient for tuberculosis testing.

On every mission there are special moments that transcend language, culture, and borders. One of those moments occurred when all the team members gathered at St. Simeon prior to opening the clinic. “Our joint medical team joined hands in a moment of prayer, and together we sang, each in our own language, ‘How Great Thou Art.’ It was a moment when we were one in heart, one in mind, and one in the Spirit,” Brenda recalls. “It was a moment that you want to share because you know that you were truly brushed by angels’ wings and filled with the Holy Spirit. In today’s world these are moments to be cherished because they are so rare.”

For additional information about past and planned mission trips to Haiti, please visit our diocesan Web site, www.dioala.org.



Diocesan Convention To Be Held in Montgomery, February 19–21

The clergy and people of the Church of the Ascension in Montgomery will host our 178th Diocesan Convention, which will be held at the Marriott Renaissance Hotel and Spa on February 19–21. This year's theme, "The Gathering Christ," will focus on the redeeming and healing work of our Lord who longs to gather all into one. Bishop Parsley asks us to keep our convention in our prayers. "May our gracious Lord bless us as we prepare for this important gathering and in all that we do together in God's loving and faithful service."

The Very Rev. Samuel T. Lloyd III, a native of Mississippi, former chaplain at Sewanee, and currently dean of Washington National Cathedral, will be our keynoter. He will preach at the opening Festival Eucharist on Thursday evening at 5:45 p.m. at the Ascension. He will also give the keynote address on Friday at 1:30 p.m. at the Marriott convention center.



The Very Rev. Samuel T. Lloyd III

Convention registration will begin at 2 p.m. on Thursday followed by Business Session I. Friday's schedule starts with Morning Prayer and Bible Study followed by Business Session II, which will include Bishop Parsley's Address. The morning concludes with clergy introductions, diocesan organization reports, resolution committees, and lunch. After Dean Lloyd's keynote address, the delegates can choose from a variety of convention workshops before attending Business Session III. On **Saturday morning** the delegates will vote in caucus elections before attending Business session IV, which will include remarks from Bishop Sloan as well as at-large elections and ratification of the caucus elections. The convention will

adjourn about 12:30 p.m. after the closing Holy Eucharist.

The delegates will elect clergy and laypeople from across our diocese to fill leadership positions (please see Nominations Received by January 22 on page 7). **They will also vote on a number of resolutions** including Resolution #1: The 2009 Proposed Program and Budget (please see page 7). An increase proportionally in resources available for mission and outreach, for youth ministries, and for communication reflects the priorities of our Diocesan Council even in a year when no growth in income is anticipated. The increases are modest but reflect a continuing commitment to care for those beyond the walls of the Church while also continuing to evangelize our young people and render more effective our communication of the good news of our life together as the Episcopal Church.

In faithful adherence to the principles of The Alabama Plan for Stewardship, which makes proportional giving and preparation of a budget only after the resources made available by God are known priorities, during the January meeting our Diocesan Council prepared a budget providing approximately the same resources for ministry as in the 2008 budget. This decision was based on the pledges received from parishes for support of our shared mission and ministry as a diocese in 2009. While the average proportion pledged increased slightly in 2009, the estimated dollar amounts declined slightly on average. Rob Morpeth, our Deputy for Finance and Administration, remarked that he felt this indicated that the "hearts of the parishes were in the right place but the funds for an increase were simply not available." Seen in the context of the current recession, the budget is actually a strong testament to the commitment throughout our diocese to continue to do ministry and to extend the Gospel.

Resolution #1: The 2009 Proposed Program and Budget calls for a cost-of-living adjustment of 3 percent and includes provisions for a Communications Coordinator. This new office is part of the strategic

plan funded through our ACTS 2 Capital Campaign. Funding for this office will be provided from the capital campaign funds for a limited time while adjustments are made in our diocesan budget to include funding for the position. A process to select the first person to undertake this work has been under way since last October. It is anticipated that the position will be filled in February.

Significant funds are also included to underwrite the establishment of new parishes in Alabama and continue actively supporting parishes in their development of Christian Education and Youth Ministry programs. In addition the proposed budget for 2009 continues strong support for our witness and ministry on the campus of Auburn University in Auburn, campuses in Montgomery especially Huntingdon College, Tuskegee University in Tuskegee, Jacksonville State University in Jacksonville, the University of North Alabama, University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa, and campuses in Birmingham including the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB), Samford University, and Birmingham-Southern College. The proposed budget also continues our tradition of support for the University of the South from our diocesan budget in addition to the support provided directly from parishes; as an owning diocese of Sewanee, Alabama has for many years included the university in our support of ministry beyond our diocese. ***A detailed budget will be included in the convention packet mailed to delegates; the budget and other financial reports are also available on our diocesan Web site, www.dioala.org; click on "Finance and Insurance" and then "Reports."***

For more information about the convention please visit our diocesan Web site at www.dioala.org or contact Sarah Sartain at ssartain@dioala.org or 205/715-2060 ext. 314.

NOMINATIONS RECEIVED BY JANUARY 22

**DIOCESAN COUNCIL
Clergy Order
MIDDLE DISTRICT**



The Rev. Chris Girata
St. Luke's in Birmingham
Associate Rector for Outreach
Ministries, Young Adult Ministries,
and Communications

- * Design Team member for Christian Formation and Youth Ministries Certification Program (commissioned by ACTS 2)
- * Workshop presenter at the 2009 Parish Leadership Training Event
- * Former Director of Youth Ministries St. Luke's
- * Happening Coordinator #46
- * Happening staff member #45, #46, and #47



The Rev. Stephen Hood
The Ascension in Birmingham
Rector

- * St. Martin's in the Pines board member
- * The Greater Alabama Council of the Boy Scouts of America board member
- * Design Team member for Christian Formation and Youth Ministries Certification Program (commissioned by ACTS 2)
- * Previously Youth Coordinator and Cursillo Secretariat member in the Diocese of Louisiana

**STANDING COMMITTEE
Clergy Order (4-year term)**



The Rev. Alison Carmody
St. Stephen's in Birmingham
Associate Rector

- * Diocesan Council member 2006-09
- * Cochair of our diocesan Commission on Spirituality
- * Chaplain to Daughters of the King
- * Former Judge to the Ecclesiastical Court
- * Alternate Deputy to General Convention



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

- * Tuskegee University chaplain
- * Nominating Committee for Bishop Suffragan member
- * Former Judge to the Ecclesiastical Court
- * Military chaplain
- * Retired Colonel Army Reserve



The Rev. Andrew Keyse
Trinity Church in Florence
Rector

- * Department of Parish Development and Evangelism member
- * Spiritual Director for Cursillo #163
- * Canterbury Club at the University of North Alabama board member
- * Council of Advisors for the Mental Health Foundation of the Shoals member



The Rev. Steve Mosher
Nativity in Huntsville
Associate Rector for Children and Youth Christian Formation and Parish Life

- * Department of Christian Formation member
- * Spiritual Director for Special Session at Camp McDowell
- * Spiritual Director for Cursillo #167
- * Honduras Medical Mission chaplain
- * Spiritual Director for Happening



The Rev. Aaron Raulerson
Holy Cross in Trussville
Rector

- * Rector of Trinity Church in Demopolis 2003-07
- * Former Black Belt Ministries coordinator
- * Sawyerville Commission cochair
- * Former Curate of All Saints' in Mobile
- * Campus Ministry Steering Committee founding member in the Diocese of Central Gulf Coast

Clergy Order (to complete the Rev. Polk Van Zandt's term)



The Rev. Roger Allen
St. James' in Alexander City
Rector

- * Diocesan Vestry Facilitator (commissioned by ACTS 2)
- * Former member of the Bishop of Louisiana's staff
- * Commission on Ecumenical Relations member in the Diocese of Louisiana
- * Committee on Constitution and Canons member in the Diocese of Louisiana

RESOLUTION #1: THE 2009 PROPOSED PROGRAM AND BUDGET

RESOLUTION # 1
EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF ALABAMA

RESOLVED that the 2009 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 2009.

SUMMARY 2008 BUDGET, EXPENSES AND THE 2009 PROPOSED PROGRAM AND BUDGET					
	1 January	2008 BUDGET ¹	2008 ACTUAL	1 January	2009 BUDGET
OPERATING CASH RESERVES		\$166,106	\$181,660		\$191,071
ANTICIPATED RECEIPTS					
Prior Year Covenants			\$242,727		
				Covenants for 2007 received in 2008	
Current Year Covenants		\$2,679,558	\$2,159,976		\$2,677,000
Short Term Investments		\$20,000	\$13,392		\$5,000
Designated Fund Transfers ⁶		\$30,000	\$47,000		\$100,720
Miscellaneous Income		\$10,000	\$2,794		\$5,000
Grants		\$0	\$0		
Total Receipts		\$2,739,558	\$2,465,889		\$2,787,720
DISBURSEMENTS					
Support of the Episcopate		\$424,372	\$412,410		\$423,380
Lay & Ordained Leadership Development ²		\$180,875	\$168,015		\$168,215
Department of Stewardship		\$6,805	\$2,558		\$5,305
The People & Their Ministries		\$175,005	\$170,528		\$181,304
Mission and Outreach ²		\$676,218	\$631,684	\$20,000 from Perkins Trust	\$699,004
Parish Development/Evangelism ²		\$223,950	\$31,285	\$164,794 from Perkins Trust	\$204,700
Communications		\$84,500	\$91,615		\$135,020
Ministry in Higher Education ²		\$409,541	\$406,109	\$8776.22 from Perkins Trust	\$411,300
Camp and Conference Center ⁵		\$98,987	\$99,094		\$102,038
Administration/Carpenter House		\$459,305	\$447,733		\$457,454
Total Disbursements		\$2,739,558	\$2,461,031		\$2,787,720
Surplus (Deficit) ³		\$0	\$4,858	Required to fully fund cash reserve in 2009.	\$0
End of Year Cash Reserves ⁴		\$181,660	\$186,213		\$191,071

1. The Convention adopted a budget authorizing expenditures of \$2,729,558. However, Diocesan Council amended the budget during the year. The amended budget is reported here.

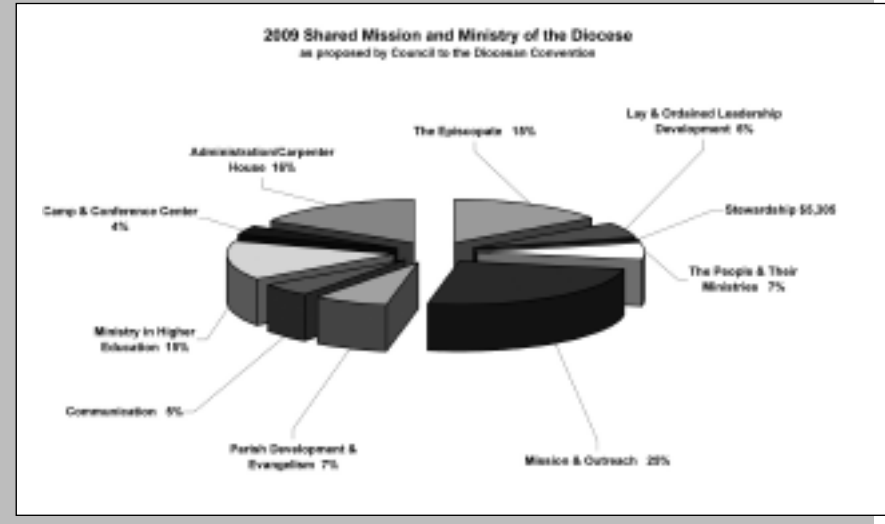
2. The Diocese received \$193,570 in restricted covenants. These funds were directed to the Perkins Fund and used to support ministries and programs within the diocese. Because certain areas of the operating budget received significant amounts from the Perkins Fund the disbursements in this report are 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 Cash Reserve to adequately fund the reserve for 2009 as provided in Standing Resolutions 11.

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.

6. Designated Fund Transfers include \$10,000 from Harrison II for Sawyerville / \$10,000 from Perkins for Youth Mission / \$10,000 from Edmundson for Land Purchase/\$17,000 from Sawyerville Project



EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN

Compiled by Fiona Watts, Publicity Chair

From Dee Buzby, ECW President

I want to mention several upcoming events in time for you to mark your calendars. This year's diocesan **Parish Leadership Training Event (PLTE) on March 28 at St. Luke's in Birmingham** will again offer workshop for ECW Presidents and those interested in ECW. After the positive response from last year's workshop, we are pleased that it has been expanded to include both morning and afternoon sessions. President Elect Gethryn Giles is diligently working with our diocesan ECW board to make this a most informative event. *Please see pages 1 and 2 in this issue of The Apostle or contact your parish for more information about PLTE, and sign up to take part. I believe it will be well worth your day.*

For graduating high-school seniors or young people and adults returning to college, it is time to think of applying for an **ECW College Scholarship**. Please see the information application and deadline information on this page or on our Web site, www.alabamaecw.org.

Lent begins on February 25. I pray you will have a reflective, soul-searching, and heartfelt Lenten season this year. If you would like suggestions for your Lenten studies, please visit the Episcopal Book Store or see the suggested items on page 10 of this *Apostle*, or contact ECW Devotional Chairman Anne Kimzey at hanahanford@yahoo.com or 334/834-2553.

Our ECW Handbook/Calendar page for February tells us that St. Anne is the Patron Saint of Single Women.

One of the most rewarding features of being President of the ECW is attending Convocation Meetings held in the spring and fall. I so enjoy visiting the churches throughout our diocese, seeing old friends, and meeting the women who work so hard for their ECW and their parishes with such faith and love. I look forward to seeing you at your Convocation Meeting this spring. Blessings to you all.

New DOK Chapter at St. Andrew's in Montevallo

Installation of the new St. Helen Chapter of the Order of the Daughters of the King (DOK) took place at St. Andrew's in Montevallo during the Sunday morning services on December 14. Andi Silberman, our diocesan DOK president, assisted the Rev. Jim Tuohy during the ceremony.



Father Tuohy, Elma Tuohy, Gay Finn, Marc'a Scott, Andi Silberman, Sandra Williams, Jo Lynn Suell, Cindy Crouch, Susan Vaughn, Meg Pepper, Cindy Puchta, Cynthia Shackelford, Judy Quick, and Sally Smith

Scholarship Chairman Nancy Thompson reports that **ECW Scholarship applications** are now being accepted. Each year the ECW awards a number of college scholarships to members of our diocese. An application for a scholarship may be made every year a student is in college, but an award to any one person is limited to a maximum of two years. **You can find applications and information on the ECW Web site, www.alabamaecw.org; for additional information please contact Nancy at nst3816@aol.com or 205/879-3938. All applications and forms must be completed and received by April 30.** Scholarship recipients will be notified by June 1.

Plans are well under way for Women's Weekend on May 15-17 at Camp McDowell. Our speaker this year is Sissie Wile, the interim director for the Education for Ministry (EFM) program at the School of Theology in Sewanee. Sissie, who is from Mississippi, has been active in the EFM program for many years. She is a new grandmother, and her program will center on the 2009 ECW theme "St. Anne, Grandmother of Our Savior," with talks on a grandparent's love.

When you arrive at Camp McDowell, you'll have the opportunity to sign up for workshops to be held Saturday afternoon; this year's workshops will incorporate the Grandparent Love theme. We

will hold a Silent Auction with the proceeds benefiting ECW scholarships; due to space limitations we are asking each convocation to donate one or two items for auction—please contact Frances Steele at 334/265-0367 for more information. The Episcopal Book Store will be set up with the usual great books and gift items for your browsing and shopping pleasure, and Saturday afternoon we are pleased to have a book-signing by Adele Bibb Colvin, author of *The Donkeys' Tales* and *The Donkey's Easter Tale*. If you play an easy-to-bring instrument, please feel free to bring it along! Music for the weekend will be from the *Alleluia II* songbook.

Please plan to attend this wonderful weekend of fun, food, fellowship, and delightful talks. Y'all come! **You can download a registration form from our ECW Web site, www.alabamaecw.org, or obtain one from your parish ECW officers.**

Camp McDowell Producing a Music CD

The staff of Camp McDowell is putting together their first-ever music CD—and they need your help! **On March 21 they will be making a live recording of campers who have attended 1st through 12th-grade summer camps singing favorite Camp McDowell songs.** The recording session will be at St. Luke's in Birmingham from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. for 1st through 6th graders and 2 to 5 p.m. for 7th through 12th graders. For more information please contact Michael Goldsmith at Michael@campmcdowell.com or 205/387-1806.

Proceeds from the sale of the CD will benefit the Camp McDowell Scholarship Fund. You can help cover the production cost by preordering copies of the CD, which will be available in May. Please send your order and payment (\$20 per CD) to Michael Goldsmith, Camp McDowell, 105 DeLong Road, Nauvoo, AL 35578. THANK YOU!



FOR AND ABOUT YOUTH

Reflections on the Alaska Pilgrimage

By Brooks Boylan, Coordinator of Youth Ministries at St. Mary's-on-the-Highlands



The pilgrimage to Alaska last July was sponsored by our diocese. The 15 participants, who included a wide range of ages and came from parishes stretching from Fayette to Birmingham, came together to serve and learn in God's creation outside of Wasilla, Alaska. To sponsor or coordinate a youth mission experience or pilgrimage to Alaska on your own, please contact Episcopal Mission Exchange at www.episcopal-missionexchange.org/2009/emx_home.html or the Rev. Paul Klitzke at paul@alaskamissiontrips.org.

But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security. —Thomas Jefferson

I was asked by an envious friend how I could possibly justify taking a group of youth to Alaska for "work." I, of course, defended the trip by telling my friend all the plans we had for mission and learning about how to be better stewards of God's precious

creation and how mission experiences should take us beyond significant boundaries with which we are comfortable. But what we experienced this past summer in Alaska was far beyond what I had expected. This mission experience and pilgrimage not only immersed us into a world that was beautiful, vast, and breathtaking, but it also confronted us with evidence that our world is in trouble. I think about the quote above where Thomas Jefferson tells us if there's something wrong, those who have the ability to take action have the *responsibility* to take action.

The 15 of us who went to Alaska were able to explore the state that is like no other. We also did a little trail blazing and filled some potholes for the Meier Lake Conference Center, a wonder-

ful Episcopal conference center in Wasilla that was also our home for 10 days. Truthfully, though, we spent most of our time seeing the beauty that is Alaska and learning how and why it is a marker for the rest of the world in observing how sick our planet is. It was a pilgrimage of stewardship as we explored our fragile gift—Earth. While we were there, we worked with the Rev. Paul Klitzke, an Episcopal priest who gave us these "mind-blowing" facts about conditions in Alaska: a 1 degree increase in the temperature on the equator equals an average 5 degree change in Alaska, the sea ice has melted so much that coastal villages that have been in existence for hundreds of years are being destroyed because the ice necessary to hold back the sea no longer exists, frozen rivers that are often the only "roads" some Alaskans can travel have turned into soft ice or ice that is too fragile to drive a car over and yet too thick for a boat to navigate, and some scientists predict that the polar ice caps, our planet's air-conditioning system, will disappear in as short a time as one year.

During one day when the rain kept us inside, we watched the movie the *11th Hour* and discussed Millennium Development Goals, particularly the 7th goal, which is to ensure environmental sustainability. We talked about ways we can help both our planet and our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ, and we all came up with things to bring back home and share with our diocese. The youth are already discussing these topics, brainstorming to find solutions and actions, and they are committed to doing their part in the care of God's creation and all those in it. I am proud to say that these youth jumped in and truly shined on our pilgrimage.

I hope that more trips like this one to Alaska will be available in the future and that even more of our youth represent the Church in Alabama at diocesan activities. To quote one of the scientists from the *11th Hour*, "Love is the force that makes us fully human." It is time we apply that force here for this planet and continue to be stewards of God's Earth, our island home.



CAMP McDOWELL

Think Summer Camp!

You can register for Summer Camp online at www.campmcdowell.com, and applications will be available at your parish after the diocesan convention in mid-February. Be sure to complete and send in your application soon—camp sessions fill up fast! **For more information please contact Summer Camp Coordinator Michael Goldsmith at Michael@campmcdowell.com or 205/387-1806.**



2009 Camp McDowell Summer Schedule

May 29-31

June 2-5

June 8-17

June 22-27

June 30-July 5

July 6-13

July 15-20

July 23-30

August 1-5

August 7-9

Primary I (entering 1st and 2nd graders and a parent)

Elementary I (entering 3rd and 4th graders)

Senior Camp (entering 10th-12th graders)

Junior High I (entering 6th and 7th graders)

Special Session Camp

Sophomore Camp (entering 8th and 9th graders)

Middler Camp (entering 5th and 6th graders)

Junior High II (entering 7th and 8th graders)

Elementary II (entering 3rd-5th graders)

Primary II (entering 1st and 2nd graders and a parent)

UPCOMING RETREATS, CONFERENCES, AND SPECIAL EVENTS

EPISCOPAL NETWORK FOR ECONOMIC JUSTICE (ENEJ) CONFERENCE

February 6 in Mobile

Episcopalians and friends from Province IV are invited to a special program within the Urban Caucus Assembly on February 6 at the Renaissance Riverview Plaza Hotel in Mobile. "Beyond Katrina: From Disaster Response to the Issues of Domestic Poverty" will review the work of agencies and community organizations in responding to Hurricane Katrina and what these efforts reveal about domestic poverty. It will address the opportunity the Episcopal Church has to live into mission in new ways through community organizing, solidarity with the poor, and creative ministries of justice and presence. There will also be an opportunity to review ENEJ education and training materials and plans for presenting a new economic justice program at the 2009 General Convention. *For more information and registration materials please visit www.enej.org.*

2nd Annual Mother Daughter Retreat at Camp McDowell April 17 - 19

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 \$80 per person.
A registration form is available online at
www.CampMcDowell.com or
contact Michael Goldsmith at
205-387-1806
michael@CampMcDowell.com



AN INTRODUCTION TO CENTERING PRAYER WORKSHOP

February 28, from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at St. Stephen's in Birmingham

Everyone is invited to this "Praying Without Words"

introduction to Centering Prayer workshop at St. Stephen's on Saturday, February 28. Centering Prayer offers a means to deepen one's prayer life by learning to "rest in God." The prayer is a simple and disciplined waiting lovingly on God. *For more information or to register please contact the Rev. Alison Carmody at 205/967-8786 or alison@ssechurch.org.*

GRIEF RECOVERY GROUP

Tuesday nights, March 3 through April 7, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. in Birmingham

The Rev. Joe Warren and facilitators will be leading Grief Recovery meetings for people who have lost loved ones. The group will meet at Laurie and Frank Jones's house in Birmingham. *For more information and to reserve a place in the group, please call Laurie at 205/967-7402.*

DIVORCE RECOVERY GROUP

Thursday nights, March 5 through April 23, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. in Birmingham

The Rev. Joe Warren will lead a Divorce Recovery group for people who are experiencing the pain of divorce for the first time or who have never attended the group before. The group will meet in front of the fireplace at Joe and Susan's old log cabin (ca. 1820) in Birmingham. Each attendee will be required to buy a \$12 book and make a commitment to be on time and attend all the classes unless there is an urgent need to miss. *For more information please call Joe at 205/226-3511 as soon as possible; the group is limited to 12 participants.*

CONTEMPLATIVE OUTREACH BIRMINGHAM 17TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

March 14-15 at St. Stephen's in Birmingham

Come spend a weekend exploring "The Interior Castle" by Teresa of Avila sponsored by Contemplative Outreach Birmingham. Susan Komis, a faculty member from the international office for Contemplative Outreach, will give the presentation. *To register or for more information please contact Diana Tschache at 205/991-6964 or tschached@bellsouth.net.*

SPIRITUALITY AND GARDENING

April 25 at Grace Church in Mt. Meigs

Everyone is cordially invited to this day of quiet reflection and natural beauty led by Elizabeth Nettles, June Mays, and Jim Scott. *For more information please contact Sarah Sartain at 205/715-2060 ext. 314 or ssartain@dioala.org.*

Bishops' Visitation Schedule

Sunday, February 1

10 a.m. Bishop Parsley, Messiah, Heflin
11 a.m. Bishop Sloan, St. James', Livingston

Sunday, February 8

10:30 a.m. Bishop Parsley, Holy Cross, Trussville
10:30 a.m. Bishop Sloan, Trinity, Florence

Sunday, February 15

9:30 a.m. Bishop Parsley, St. Bartholomew's, Florence
10 a.m. Bishop Sloan, St. James', Alexander City

Sunday, February 22

10 a.m. Bishop Parsley, St. Michael's, Fayette
11 a.m. Bishop Sloan, St. Stephen's, Smith Station
3 p.m. Bishop Sloan, St. Matthew's, Seale

Sunday, March 1

10 a.m. Bishop Parsley, St. Mark's, Birmingham
10 a.m. Bishop Sloan, St. Alban's, Birmingham
4 p.m. Bishop Parsley, Calvary, Oneonta

Sunday, March 8

10:30 a.m. Bishop Parsley, St. Paul's, Lowndesboro
11 a.m. Bishop Sloan, St. Paul's, Greensboro

Sunday, March 22

10 a.m. Bishop Sloan, St. Stephen's, Huntsville
10:30 a.m. Bishop Parsley, Christ Church, Fairfield

Sunday, March 29

10 a.m. Bishop Sloan, Holy Comforter, Montgomery
10:30 a.m. Bishop Parsley, Canterbury Chapel, Tuscaloosa

Sunday, April 5

9:30 a.m. Bishop Sloan, St. Luke's, Scottsboro
10 a.m. Bishop Parsley, Ascension, Birmingham

Holy Saturday, April 11

10:30 p.m. Bishop Parsley, St. Andrew's, Birmingham
10:30 p.m. Bishop Sloan, Grace Church, Birmingham

Easter Sunday, April 12

10 a.m. Bishop Parsley, St. Paul's, Selma
10 a.m. Bishop Sloan, St. Peter's, Talladega

WHAT'S NEW/NOTEWORTHY AT THE EPISCOPAL BOOK STORE

With Ash Wednesday fast approaching, the Episcopal Book Store is providing many study resources that address the themes and meaning of the Lenten and Easter seasons. You will find a variety of materials suitable for both children and adults including the following special items.



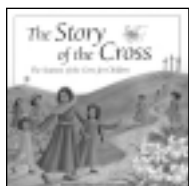
Daily Reflections for Lent—Not by Bread Alone 2009 by Katherine L. Howard, OSB

Sister Katherine Howard, who has authored previous *Daily Reflections* editions, offers this volume for 2009. This little book, which easily fits in a pocket or purse, features daily meditations that focus on the Lenten themes of repentance and redemption and sacrifice and salvation as well as the Easter message of resurrection and new life.



Bread and Wine edited and published by Orbis Books

This book contains 72 writings from some of the world's best-known and best-loved theologians ranging from Martin Luther to Barbara Brown Taylor. The selected pieces are grouped around themes including temptation, crucifixion, resurrection, and new life.



The Story of the Cross—The Stations of the Cross for Children by Mary Joslin

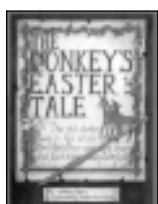
Mary Joslin begins her book in narrative form telling the story of Jesus' birth and ministry up to the moment he is presented to Pontius Pilate. The pages following enumerate the 15 traditional Stations of

the Cross each accompanied by a simple prayer. Illustrations by Gail Newey beautifully enhance the text, helping to make this an effective way of teaching children the story of Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection.



For God So Loved the World—My John 3:16 Book by Dandi Daley Mackall

Dandi Daley Mackall's book offers an international twist as it celebrates God's love for children in every land and brings the truths of the Bible verse John 3:16 alive for little hearts. Each page features a lovely illustration by Elena Selivanova and "For God so loved the world," with the words in a different language on each spread.



The Donkey's Easter Tale by Adele Colvin with illustrations by Peyton Hamilton Carmichael

In their second collaboration, Adele Colvin's charming, inspirational narrative and Peyton Hamilton Carmichael's lovely illustrations gently and sensitively bring the Easter

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Diocesan Convention February 19–21 in Montgomery
Dedication of Chapel of St. Francis May 2

Happening Weekend (9th–12th graders) #54 March 6–8

Mother-Daughter Retreat April 17–19

PLTE March 28

Province IV Youth Event/PYE 2009 June 23–28

Sawyerville Day Camps July 10–19 and 21–23

Spirituality and Gardening April 25

Spring Break Conference (9th–12th graders) March 14–18

Summer Camper Reunion July 24–26

Taizé Pilgrimage (ages 16–30) May 23–June 2

Youth Ministry Sabbath Retreat (all Youth leaders) April 24–25

February 6 Midday Musical Menu featuring Lucina Horner playing the viola and Judith Sullivan-Hicks playing the harp 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.*

February 7–13 Iconography with Suzanne Schleck—The Gospel in Line and Color workshop at the Kanuga Conference Center in Hendersonville, North Carolina. *For more information please call 828/692-9136, e-mail info@kanuga.org, or visit www.kanuga.org.*

February 13–15 "God the Shepherd, God the Weaver" presented by Dr. Roberta C. Bondi at the Center for Spiritual Development at St. Mary's Sewanee (Tennessee). *For more information please visit www.StMarysSewanee.org or call 931/598-5342.*

February 22–24 Centering Prayer Retreat led by the Rev. Margaret Marshall at the Center for Spiritual Development at St. Mary's Sewanee (Tennessee). *For more information please visit www.StMarysSewanee.org or call 931/598-5342.*

February 28 "Praying Without Words"—An Introduction to Centering Prayer Workshop from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at St. Stephen's in Birmingham. *For more information please see page*

10 or contact the Rev. Alison Carmody at Alison@ssechurch.org or 205/967-8786.

March 1–4 Bowen Conference—Christians in a 21st Century World: How Now Must We Live? featuring keynoter Phyllis Tickle at the 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.*

March 8 Evensong for Lent sung by the Cathedral Choir under the direction of Dr. Stephen Schaeffer 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 8–11 "Let's Take a Walk"—Lenten retreat with keynoter the Rev. Margaret Guenther at the 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.*

March 14–15 "The Interior Castle"—Contemplative Outreach Birmingham 17th Annual Conference at St. Stephen's in Birmingham. *For more information please see page 10 or contact Diana Tschache at tshached@bellsouth.net or 205/991-6964.*

March 28 Parish Leadership Training Event (PLTE) at St. Luke's in Birmingham. *For more information please see pages 1 and 2.*

March 29 Organ recital featuring Cathedral Music Associate Charles M. Kennedy in celebration of the 20th anniversary of the Grieb-Williams organ 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.*

April 17 Midday Musical Menu featuring the Alabama Boychoir under the direction of Karen Nicolosi and the Alabama Girls Chorus under the direction of Doff Procter 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.*

story to life for both children and adults. Picking up where *The Donkeys' Tales* ends, the old donkey who had transported Jesus into Jerusalem and witnessed the events from Palm Sunday to Easter Day finds a moment to tell the story to his two grandchildren, urging them and all Christian children to bring the good news of Jesus' love for all who will listen.

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



The Lenten devotional booklet "**Peace and Compassion To Heal a Hurting World**" (available at www.er-d.org) focuses on ERD's efforts to achieve the Millennium

Development Goals (MDGs). Daily reflections feature meditations, adapted from the writings of the Rev. Barbara C. Crafton, that explore the spiritual path to help impact the lives of people living in poverty worldwide.

This year **Bishop Parsley has appointed the third Sunday in Lent, March 15, as ERD Sunday**, and he has asked us to offer up our contributions to the poor and suffering on this day.

For more information please contact Judy Quick, our diocesan coordinator, at jgquick@bellsouth.net or 205/669.6862.

Angel Windows Keep Watch Over Prattville

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

After 99 years St. Mark's in Prattville has now completed the parish's beautiful church building with the addition of two new stained-glass windows in the bell tower. The windows, which stand more than 10 feet high, were the generous gift of a family in the congregation. While the members of the family do not want to draw any special attention to themselves for their gift, the windows themselves are drawing quite a bit of attention from passersby. Thanks to special lighting, the glory of God's angels depicted in the windows can be seen every night by people who drive or walk by our church on Fourth Avenue.



The windows provide a witness that God is watching over us. In addition to the beauty they offer to our church, who knows what inspiration they may bring to the distraught soul driving by late at night or the person who stormed out of his home after an argument with his wife, the teenager despondent after a breakup with her boyfriend, or the single mother coming home late from work facing an evening of cooking, helping with homework, and worrying over finances. We are so thankful to have these two new windows. St. Mark's is known in Prattville for its beautiful stained-glass windows, but the two windows in the bell tower have stood empty for 99 years. Thankfully now they stand as a witness to the entire community. May they always be an inspiration of Christ's light that shines through his people.

In 2009 we are celebrating the 150th anniversary of our congregation and the 100th anniversary of our present church building. "It is fitting that these windows have been given just before the 100th anniversary of St. Mark's worship space," notes Paul Whaley, parish administrator and a member of the sesquicentennial committee. "They are a beautiful addition and will complement our 2009 celebration, which will include a parade through Prattville on the Feast Day of St. Mark, a month-long food drive during the summer, and a celebratory rededication of the church building in October."

Help for Job Seekers

Heavenly Father, we remember before you those who suffer want and anxiety from lack of work. Guide the people of this land so to use our public and private wealth that all may find suitable and fulfilling employment, and receive just payment for their labor; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. —The Book of Common Prayer, page 824

When the Rev. Denson Franklin Jr., a now-retired priest of our diocese, led a career support group at St. Luke's in Birmingham, he worked with the group's task force to produce a self-help workbook to help people identify their talents and skills and explore career options. Although the ministry's support group no longer meets, the workbook is still available. It includes tips on preparing for a job search, writing a resume, networking, and evaluating job offers. **If you would like a copy of the workbook, please e-mail Apostledit@aol.com.**

Parishes Offer Special Lenten Programs

The Cathedral Church of the Advent is continuing the parish's 101-year tradition of reaching out to people in downtown Birmingham during Lent with its signature Lenten Preaching Series and Lunches; a brief worship service featuring a guest preacher begins at 12:05 p.m. each weekday followed by lunch. **The Nativity in Huntsville** is offering "The Gift of Lent" each Tuesday during Lent with a worship service featuring a guest preacher from 12:05 to 12:35 p.m. followed by a box lunch. **The Montgomery and East Alabama Convocations** are jointly hosting services and meals on Wednesdays during Lent at St. John's in Montgomery; the programs include noonday prayers and a sermon at 12:05 p.m. followed by lunch as well as Holy Eucharist at 5:30 p.m. followed by dinner and a teaching by the visiting preacher.

St. John's in Montgomery is starting a new Lenten tradition this year by giving people the opportunity to create their own Ukrainian Easter eggs during "Pysanky and Prayer" on **Saturday, February 28**, from 9 a.m. to noon in the parish house. **For more information please contact Sabrina Evans at Sabrina@stjohnsmontgomery.org or 334/262-1937.**

Please see the list of guest preachers below and also check with your parish and those in your area for other special opportunities for worship and fellowship during Lent.

The Advent in Birmingham: Bishop Parsley, *February 25*; the Rt. Rev. Michael Hill, Bishop of Bristol, England, *February 26–27 and March 2–3*; the Rev. Laurence A. Gipson, retired rector of St. Martin's in Houston and former dean of the Advent, *March 4–6*; Dr. Marva Dawn, author, theologian, and teaching fellow in Spiritual Theology at Regent College in Vancouver, *March 9–10*; the Rev. Thomas S. Hotchkiss, rector of the Advent in Nashville and former canon of the Advent in Birmingham, *March 11*; the Rev. Paul Rodgers, rector of St. Peter's in Dartmouth, Massachusetts, *March 12–13*; the Rev. Ken Jones, pastor of Greater Union Baptist Church in Compton, California, and co-host of "White Horse Inn Radio Show," *March 16–18*; James Spann, chief

meteorologist of ABC 33/40 in Birmingham, *March 19–20*; the Rt. Rev. Michael Nazir-Ali, Bishop of Rochester, England, *March 23–26*; the Rev. Gates Shaw, rector of Christ Church in Fairfield, *March 27*; the Rev. Dr. Russell J. Levenson, rector of St. Martin's in Houston, *March 30–31*; the Rev. Stuart Latimer, senior pastor of Grace Presbyterian of the North Shore in Chicago, *April 1–3*; Dr. Ralph Douglas West, senior pastor and founder of The Church Without Walls in Houston, *April 6–8*; Dr. Lauren Winner, author, speaker, and assistant professor of Christian Spirituality at Duke Divinity School in Durham, *April 9*; the Very Rev. Frank F. Limehouse III, dean of the Advent, *April 10*.

Nativity in Huntsville: The Rev. Pat Wingo, our diocesan Deputy for Ministry Development and Clergy Deployment, *March 3*; the Rev. Kelly Clem, pastor of Holmes Street United Methodist in Huntsville, *March 10*; the Rev. Alison Carmody, associate rector of St. Stephen's in Birmingham, *March 17*; the Rev. Rusty McCown, assistant to the rector of St. Mary's on-the-Highlands in Birmingham, *March 24*; the Rev. Dr. David Hull, pastor of First Baptist in Huntsville, *March 31*.

St. John's in Montgomery: the Rev. Jim Burns, rector of Heavenly Rest in New York City, *March 4*; the Rev. John Fritschner, rector of Holy Trinity in Auburn, *March 11*; the Rev. Ken Fields, vice rector of St. Martin's in Houston, *March 18*; Bishop Parsley, *March 25*; the Rev. Chris Clements, priest associate of St. Mary's in Columbia, South Carolina, *April 1*.

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 and photos** to Apostledit@aol.com or **mail them** to 2156 Kent Way, Birmingham, AL 35226.

The submission deadline for the combined **March/April** convention wrap-up issue is **February 16**.