Breaking Ground for the New Chapel

On the beautiful afternoon of Sunday, October 21, a large crowd gathered at Camp McDowell for the groundbreaking service for the Chapel of St. Francis. Excitement filled the air as Bishop Parsley, Bishop Miller, the Rev. Mark Johnston, representatives of the ACTS 2 campaign leadership, and others processed to the center of the site where the new chapel will stand. Bishop Parsley extended his appreciation to everyone who helped make the ACTS 2 campaign such a success, and the Rev. Mark Johnston, executive director of Camp McDowell, spoke about how “Surely the Presence of the Lord Is in This Place.”

The final plans for the chapel are being completed, and construction is scheduled to begin in December with completion by next fall. If you would like to purchase a brick to help build the Chapel of St. Francis, please visit www.campmcdowell.com or call Michael Goldsmith at 205/387-1806.

Bishop Parsley Will Lead Advent Quiet Day

Bishop Parsley and our diocesan Commission on Spirituality cordially invite everyone to this year’s Advent Quiet Day on December 8 at St. Stephen’s in Birmingham. Bishop Parsley will help us prepare for the coming of Christ in our lives by focusing on the theme “Be Still and Know: The Spiritual Journey of Advent.”

For more information please contact Matthew Morrow at matthew.morrow@ey.com or Donna Murrell at dmurrell@dioala.org or 205/715-2060 ext. 305.

First Service Held at Chelsea Episcopal Church

More than 60 adults and children participated in the first official gathering of the Chelsea Episcopal Church on October 4. Please see the story and additional photos on page 2.
First Service Held at Chelsea Episcopal Church

By the Rev. John Mark Ford, Church Planter and Priest in Charge

The pioneers of the Episcopal Church in Chelsea (we don’t have a name yet) held our inaugural service on October 4, and more than 60 adults and children participated in this first official gathering. The Rev. Lee Lowery, rector of Holy Spirit in Alabaster, presented us with a check from our diocesan Department of Parish Development and Evangelism, and Bishop Parsley commissioned us for the work of starting a new parish. We are temporarily meeting in the old K Springs Church on Highway 39 in Chelsea—we hope to start a building program soon on the diocesan-owned church property, also on Highway 39.

We are currently meeting on Thursdays at 7 p.m., and we will continue those services until our first Sunday service on February 3, 2008. We hope you will come visit and worship with us! You can find directions to our church and more information online at www.chelseachurch.com.

The Anglican Standing Committee Gives Approval

The members of the joint Standing Committee of the Primates and the Anglican Consultative Council met with the Episcopal Church House of Bishops in New Orleans in September, and they have assessed the work of the bishops in responding to the requests of the Primates’ meeting. In their report to the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Standing Committee members state that “we believe that the Episcopal Church has clarified all outstanding questions relating to their response to the questions directed explicitly to them in the Windsor Report, and on which clarifications were sought by 30 September 2007, and given the necessary assurances sought of them.”

This is an encouraging word about the diligent efforts of our bishops to respond to the Windsor Report and the concerns of the Primates of the Anglican Communion. Bishop Parsley has stated that he “agrees with their assessment and finds this a very hopeful contribution to lessening the tensions in our Communion.”

The Rev. Bill King To Be Honored

The Rev. William “Bill” King, our Deputy for Ministry, retired at the end of October. We will celebrate his dedicated ministry in our diocese on Sunday, November 25, from 3:30 to 5 p.m. at our beautiful new campus ministry center in Birmingham, Trinity Commons on the property of St. Andrew’s Church. The diocesan family is invited to join in as we give thanks to Bill and Pat King for all they mean to us.

Before becoming Deputy for Ministry in 1998, Bill served as the rector of All Saints’ and assistant rector of St. Mary’s on-the-Highlands Birmingham. He will continue to serve our diocese as priest in charge of Trinity Church in Clanton.

Bishops’ Visitation Schedule

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Bishop</th>
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<tr>
<td>November 11, Sunday</td>
<td>9 a.m.</td>
<td>Bishop Miller, Good Shepherd, Montgomery</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 14, Wednesday</td>
<td>6 p.m.</td>
<td>Bishop Parsley, St. Philip’s, Ft. Payne</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 18, Sunday</td>
<td>10 a.m.</td>
<td>Bishop Miller, Holy Cross, Uniontown, St. Michael’s, Fausdale</td>
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<td>November 25, Sunday</td>
<td>10:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Bishop Parsley, Cathedral Church of the Advent</td>
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<td>December 2, Sunday</td>
<td>9:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Bishop Parsley, Epiphany, Leed</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 5, Wednesday</td>
<td>6:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Bishop Parsley, Grace, Anniston</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 9, Sunday</td>
<td>10:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Bishop Parsley, Trinity, Clanton</td>
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<td></td>
<td>11:15 a.m.</td>
<td>Bishop Miller, St. Luke’s, Birmingham</td>
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Dear Friends in Christ:

Stewardship is at the very heart of our Christian faith. To know the abundant grace of God in Christ is to be compelled to give—to give of ourselves and our resources to God. Tithing has been a life-giving discipline for Becky and me for many years. It expresses our inexpressible gratitude for God’s gift of life and grace. We came to understand stewardship most fully through the Alabama Plan in the 1980s and have always been thankful for this diocesan’s teaching.

I commend to you the following excellent article on stewardship and the Alabama Plan by the Rev. Rob Morpeth, our Deputy for Finance and Administration. May it guide and encourage you in your stewardship journey.


The Alabama Plan—a Reflection of Good Stewardship

By the Rev Rob Morpeth, Deputy for Finance and Administration

“No fool he, who gives away what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose.” This is an observation of Fred Osborne, a former president of the Episcopal Church Foundation. His observation has long stuck with me. Though I am sure he does not intend to suggest that salvation can be purchased with our checkbook, he too often Christians may not at first realize that our practice of stewardship fits well with the other items listed above. The pattern of giving that we choose to exercise affects the work of the Church of course, but it also shapes us as well as do all those other “spiritual” practices. It is often this later point that we fail to really consider.

Especially in American society, our relationship with money becomes almost like a sacrament. Our money can extend our power and influence, the uses of which can extend our power and influence, the uses of which do not fit with the other items in the group. Likewise, we make of it express our values and commitments even when the expression is unintended, and the accumulation of it can provide a false sense of security that directly challenges an attitude of dependence upon God. Therefore our actions with money (or lack of intentional action) speak to and shape us as well as make a statement to those around us. One question we need to ask in making stewardship decisions then is to consider the degree to which our giving accurately reflects what we say we value on Sunday morning and who we commit ourselves to become.

For example, we acknowledge readily that we are created in the image of God and pray that we are growing in our manifestation of this divine “family likeness. We know this simple truth about ourselves, of course because the Bible tells us so. Yet we may need to be reminded occasionally of its implication for the decisions we make in regard to financial support of the Church each fall. Surely being created in the image of a God who is characterized as a giver (surely we need not write out John 3:16) needs to be reflected in our decisions about our financial resources. In an interview on National Public Radio (NPR), A. J. Jacobs, the author of the book The Year of Living Biblically: One Man’s Humble Quest to Follow the Bible as Literally as Possible, remarked that one thing he learned from his experience was that living shapes belief (this should not be a surprise to Anglicans who have long understood the close connection between practice and belief). How better then to witness to others and transform ourselves at the same time than through our exercise of Biblically based stewardship. We are called to be givers as an expression of the Biblical understanding of our genesis and as a “spiritual” exercise meant to further transform us into the image of God that we claim to bear.

Happily the Bible provides significant guidance to us to help determine the appropriate response. The tithe (generally accepted as 10 percent, see Genesis 14:19-20 and Leviticus 27:32) appears repeatedly in the Bible as an appropriate proportion of our assets, themselves given to us by God, to be returned in gratitude to support the worship work of God in the world. Following this leading from Scripture the “Alabama Plan” for stewardship education has at its core a commitment to giving a proportion of our income for the support of the work and ministry of the Church and the acceptance of the Biblical tithe as the proportionate goal for our giving. This is also at the heart of good stewardship. It is what transforms our pledge from a kind of “payment for services rendered” into an evangelistic tool for the conversion of ourselves and the continuing conversion of our own wills and hearts.

The tithe . . . appears repeatedly in the Bible as an appropriate proportion of our assets, themselves given to us by God, to be returned in gratitude to support the worship work of God in the world. . . . [T]he “Alabama Plan” for stewardship education has at its core a commitment to giving a proportion of our income for the support of the work and ministry of the Church and the acceptance of the Biblical tithe as the proportionate goal for our giving. . . . [T]his is also at the heart of good stewardship. This is what separates Christian stewardship from fundraising. It is what transforms our pledge from a kind of “payment for services rendered” into an evangelistic tool for the conversion of ourselves and the continuing conversion of our own wills and hearts.

The apostle • November 2007
The Daughters of the King (DOK) chapter of St. John’s in Montgomery recently installed seven new wonderful Daughters—Anne Adams, Jeanne Brunschwyler, Mary Hughes, Karen Pinnie, Betty Pons, Jean Smyth, and Fay Worrilow. The coolest thing is that we have two sets of mother/daughter DOKs at St. John’s! Both Camilla Armstrong and her mom, Jeanne Brunschwyler, are members of St. John’s, and her mom, Karen, is a member of the Church of the Holy Communion in Memphis.

The Rev. Michael G. Rich, rector of St. Luke’s in Jacksonville officiated at the Installation Service for the Anna Maria Hoke DOK Chapter, named for the prime mover of the formation of the 150-year-old parish. Six new Daughters, one Daughter-at-Large, and one transfer Daughter joined the chapter at the 10:30 a.m. parish worship service on June 10. The charter was presented, and each new member was welcomed with their cross by Andi Silberman, our diocesan President of Providence. We were honored to have Jamie Pebody, Vice President of Tennessee and “Web Daughter” of the Providence IV Web site, and Cynthia Ayer, National Council member and National Communications Chair, attend the service.

Holy Trinity in Auburn served as the setting for the 2007 ECW Fall Conference. The members of the East Alabama Convocation, under the expert guidance of Convocation Coordinator Tana Branch, warmly greeted more than 130 ladies from around our diocese. The ladies from Emmanuel in Opelika offered food and drinks, while the ladies from Holy Trinity took care of the registration details. Everyone received a goody bag that contained a variety of gifts, including a hand-knitted scarf. For the next two days these beautiful scarves adorned the necks of the attendees.

The women of the East Alabama Convocation knitted more than 170 scarves! They gave some of the extra scarves to the rectors and deacons who were attending the conference to be given to people in their parishes who are ill and need of our prayers. Ann LaBand, of Holy Trinity, designed and knitted the stole for Dr. Julia Gatta, our guest speaker; the designs represented the four Gospels, the Holy Trinity, and the mountains of Sewanee, Tennessee. Linda McPheeters, of Emmanuel Church in Opelika, knitted the prayer shawl for Alleen Cater in her favorite color, purple.

The ECW board met for dinner on Wednesday evening and again for a joint meeting of the old and new boards on Thursday morning. This was a time to share information and pass on notebooks. Several people will be remaining on the new board; the retiring officers will be missed.

The conference opened with Noonday Prayers led by the Rev. Liston Garfield, rector of St. Andrew’s in Tuskegee. After a light lunch President Alleen Cater led the business session. The conference participants approved the new budget and saw a presentation on the 2008 Calendar Handbook. In addition, several bylaw changes were approved and an update on fundraising for the ECW pledge to the ACTS 2 Campaign was given. For the first fundraiser toward fulfilling our ACTS 2 pledge, 4 • Episcopal Church Women

From the ECW President
By Alleen Cater, alleenc@bellsouth.net

By the time this issue of The Apostle reaches you, I will have “passed along the gavel” to my successor, Dee Buzby of St. Matthew’s in Madison. I want to thank every woman who has participated in ECW in some way during my term as president. It has been my hope that women of all ages and life-paths would find something of interest under our big umbrella: fellowship, user-friendly exchange of information to enhance the work of ECW at the parish level, study, and spiritual growth. We’ve made great strides in some areas and have much yet to do in others; it’s been awe-inspiring to watch. The gospel directives to love one another and feed Jesus’ sheep form the worship and ministries of every woman in every parish.

Serving as ECW president has been a rich blessing. I have been received with warmth and hospitality all over our diocese. You have supported and encouraged me without fail. Now I ask you to offer your continued support and encouragement to our new president, Dee. She is a fine leader and will do well. Please keep her and the new board in your prayers . . . and stay tuned!

Blessings!

Olivia Weingarten presented a beautiful “Brighton” leather purse that had been donated, and chances were sold to win the purse. The session ended with a very informative presentation by Sally Sinclair and Lisa Gruner about communications. Sally demonstrated all the wonderful functions of the ECW Web site, www.alabamaecw.org; please take a few moments to visit the site and browse. She also reminded us to be sure to send her any information we want posted on the Web site.

Upcoming ECW Events and Deadlines

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>November 14</td>
<td>Annual crafts and food bazaar sponsored by the ECW of St. John’s in Montgomery</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 15</td>
<td>UTO Fall Ingathering Deadline; arrange a date with your rector on a schedule that will allow you to return your ingathering to our Diocesan ECW office by this deadline</td>
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<td>November 27</td>
<td>St. Stephen’s in Birmingham ECW Fall Event featuring artist Tazewell Morton; for more information please see the story on page 12 or contact Janet Robertshaw at 205/969-0463 or <a href="mailto:rfamile@bellsouth.net">rfamile@bellsouth.net</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>December 1</td>
<td>Christmas Bazaar at Trinity in Bessemer from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 8</td>
<td>6th Annual St. Nicholas Day Bazaar sponsored by the ECW of Grace in Woodlawn</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mid-December</td>
<td>UTO Grant Applications due to Carpenter House</td>
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<tr>
<td>January</td>
<td>Annual contributions due to parishes to our Diocesan ECW</td>
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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/2007ParishECWInfoSheet.pdf. For details and additional events please see the ECW Calendar/Handbook and visit www.alabamaecw.org.
Deacons in Our Midst

By the Venerable Louise Thibodaux, Archdeacon

As I mention in my introduction to the profile story about the Rev. Deacon David Drachlis for the September/October issue of The Apostle, if I had to choose one symbol for the ministry of deacons that symbol would be a bridge since this image is very much in keeping with our charge “to show Christ’s people that in serving the helpless they are serving Christ himself” (Book of Common Prayer, p. 543). A bridge is a structure that rests its footings on both sides of a river or highway; in the same way, a deacon stands with one foot rooted in the Church and the other in the world’s pain. A bridge joins two places that would otherwise be separate and, as Saint Paul wrote in his letter to the Ephesians, brings things that were once far off near to each other (Ephesians 2:13-18); a deacon, modeling Christ’s reconciling love in the face of disaster, poverty and loneliness, does the same. Finally, a bridge must be sturdy in order to bear the weight of the traffic that passes over it; so too a deacon must be strong enough to stand up for Jesus in places where others might be afraid to go, providing a pathway for others to follow.

The Rev. Deacon Clyde Pearce describes in his own words what this aspect of diaconal ministry means to him.

THE REV. DEACON CLYDE PEARCE

Clyde was ordained a deacon in 2004 after several years in the construction business. He is assigned as a deacon at the Epiphany in Leeds and also serves on our diocesan Department of Camp McDowell, where he leads a work team each year in early May. He also serves as a staff member at the special needs camp held each July at Camp McDowell, and in his spare time he makes the name tag for Cursillo.

Kairos prison ministry has been my main focus since I first began as a volunteer in 1984. Kairos is a three-day weekend similar to Cursillo, but it is held inside federal and state prisons. I have served on more than 50 Kairos teams, and it is a ministry I can share with my wife, Charlie, who often works on the Kairos cook team. A usual day begins at 4 a.m. when we begin cooking for the inmates and team. I have met some of the most talented people I know in prison. I have also met some of the most dedicated Christians I know in prison—this includes both inmates and team members.

I served on the first Death Row Kairos in 1995 at W.F. Donaldson Prison in west Jefferson County. After that, several of us made a promise that we would continue our ministry with the men facing execution until the end. At the time I am writing this I have had the privilege to be with 10 good Christian friends when they were executed. We had a chance to celebrate their life (not the worst thing they ever did) with them and sometimes with their family. The men on death row know when they are going to die, and that is a privilege most of us do not have.

In March 2007, I went to Costa Rica with other Kairos volunteers. We visited Carlos Cunningham, who has a ministry at four prisons in Costa Rica. Through his efforts, Kairos was introduced at San Sebastian Prison, and now that the officials in Costa Rica have seen the effect that this ministry has had, they want to offer Kairos in all the prisons. With another minister, I assisted in baptizing 22 men; in all, 44 men were baptized that weekend alone. I will always cherish the memory of the time I spent there.
A REFLECTION ON SENIOR CAMP BY LAUREN BOWDEN

To be completely honest, I had a terrible time struggling with my faith before I went to Summer Camp. I felt like believing in something you couldn’t see was for the ignorant kids, the masses. I just felt so rooted in science and tangible things, and I thought that simple, naïve people must believe in God. But that’s not the case. Christians question things too—oh do we ever! We are asked to believe something so humongous that it would be impossible not to, but Christians are not stupid. My friends at Camp McDowell are so very aware of the world and so very in love with it and with other people.

In my small group we tackled the big problems. We asked our secret fearful questions. It was comforting to me that other people struggled with their faith too. These smart interesting kids were aware of the problems of the world, of the destruction, of all the complicated horrible things, and yet they were still finding faith. Just knowing that I wasn’t the only one struggling changed my life.

People think Summer Camp is a trivial event in a person’s life. In fact, one of my best friends said that if a camp experience was life-changing then he or she is too easily affected. Nothing accounts for much, it seems, if it is associated with s’mores. But who cares! Who the heck cares!! Because they’re wrong!! And Camp McDowell has taught me that what people think does not really matter as much as what people feel.

I’ve been graduated from Camp McDowell for almost five months now, but I maintain that it is one of the happiest places I have ever been. Camp McDowell is a place of true fellowship, a place where it doesn’t matter how big your nose is, or how good your grades are, or what your parents do for a living, or the color of your skin—what matters is how willing you are to throw your arms around someone else’s neck and call them a friend. Your story matters, and people care about you—people dance with you, people genuinely like you. Camp McDowell is a place of true fellowship.
Terrified of Teenagers

By the Rev. Dr. John Wells Warren, Episcopal Chaplain to Auburn University

I am terrified of teenagers. Give me 150 college students or kindergartners and I’m fine, but I’m terrified of teenagers. I remember being 14 . . . slamming doors, talking on the phone for hours, muttering under my breath, imagining that I was the ugliest creature on the planet, thinking my parents and teachers were criminally insane.

So volunteering to be the director of Sophomore Session at Camp McDowell should be just about the last thing you’d ever expect from this university chaplain. But that’s exactly what I’ve done the last three years, and I’ve already signed up for the summer of 2008.

Kindergartners and entering first and second-graders were always my favorites in years past. I was a staff member and director for 9 or 10 sessions of Primary II before Mark Johnston and Michael Goldsmith asked me to try something new. “It won’t be easy,” Mark pointed out, “but I think you can do it.” I would need a good staff, advised Michael, and I knew where to get one: St. Dunstan’s, The Episcopal Church at Auburn University. We have great students and friends at St. D’s, and they’ve been only too willing to be program staff members each summer.

Hamlet said, “The play’s the thing by which to catch the conscience of the king,” and I believe it. We stage seven plays in seven days rather than present a “normal” program. We dress up in outrageous costumes. We use music and comedy. We go to great lengths to transform the chapel into a theater, and we’re not above shameless displays of singing and dancing to get our point across. It’s a little sneaky because, you see, we are proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ in every play.

The first year we introduced the 13, 14, and 15-year-old crowd to “The Sacraments of the Church.” We “baptized” many in the River Jordan, a plastic wading pool. We almost married Worth and Lindsey
Jo before a stunned congregation and then yelled “boo-yah!” at the last moment. The public service of healing was unbelievably moving. The Holy Eucharist on Sunday morning was in every way, in every sense, “an outward and visible sign of God’s inward and spiritual grace.” It was, as T.S. Eliot said, “satisfactory.”

The second summer we presented “The Amazing Acts of the Apostles,” St. Luke’s conclusion to his Gospel story. Tazewell, our beloved artist-in-residence, was such a terrible St. Peter that the teenagers adored him. I was narrator and danced to reggae music in a sombrero. We felt such a powerful presence of the Holy Spirit on our Day of Pentecost that I will never forget it.

Last summer our cast of St. Dunstan’s players was joined on stage by a troupe of talented summer staffers for a seven-day run of “The Great Kings of Israel.” This was our best effort yet! Stephen Skipper, an undergraduate at Montevallo, made a superb Samuel, from tongue-tied boyhood to tottering old prophet. Andrew Harris, a music composition major at the University of Alabama, played mad King Saul to perfection. My old friend Mark McKenzie fell to the floor as the dying Goliath, and we were afraid for a moment that he was really gone. David and Bathsheba, Jonathan, armies, priests, and the people of Israel were all wonderfully represented by students, friends, and scores of campers. Cecil B. DeMille would have been proud!

And best of all, the program was only a minor part of Sophomore Session at Camp McDowell. The campers’ days were largely spent swimming, hiking, canoeing, making arts and crafts, eating, and hanging out with each other. In the evenings they had a pasture party, a dance, a talent show, and various games and other activities. It was all quite exhausting and tremendous fun—and terribly important. But very best of all, it was deeply spiritual and true to the sacred stories of our faith. I wish that every single Episcopalian in Alabama from age 5 to 85 could go to Camp McDowell and experience the beauty of God’s Creation, the love of Jesus Christ, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit the way we have for the past three summers.

Worst of all, we hated to see Summer Camp end. Yes, it’s true, I found myself no longer afraid of teenagers—about the time their parents arrived on Saturday morning to take them home! Peace.
Learning about Leadership, Team Building, and Program Design at Sawyerville Leadership College 2007

By Leslie Bridgers Manning, Our Diocesan Youth Ministries Assistant

Twelve students from Greensboro and Sawyerville participated in this year’s Sawyerville Leadership College (SLC) held on the campus of the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa. All five students from last year came back for the second time, which I think says a lot about how much they enjoyed and value the program.

When they arrived at Canterbury Chapel, each student received a sleeping bag and a monogrammed messenger bag stuffed with the textbook Creating Effective Groups plus information about the University of Alabama, including an application, financial aid forms, and various other goodies we received from the admissions office. Each student also received a copy of the SLC workbook put together by the University of Alabama Department of Social Work faculty and students. We used this workbook throughout the weekend as a guide in learning about leadership, team building, and program design. The workbook also features short biographies about famous African Americans, highlighting their accomplishments.

University of Alabama Social Work Professors Dave Pryce, Jo Pryce, and Cassie Simon and students Vicky Carter, Alisha Hill, Jackie Hudson, Brittany Jones, and Josh Wimberly and his wife, Kimberly, helped us during the SLC sessions. The SLC participants used the methods they learned to brainstorm ideas for changing/improving the Sawyerville Day Camp, including discussing adding more sports activities, having two weeks of camp, increasing the amount of swim time, keeping the luncheon from last year, returning camp to the east campus, having more free time (less-structured “workshop time” like we did last year), and offering optional free time (afternoon activity time where campers can choose their activity).

Between the workshop sessions, the SLC participants took part in fun ice-breakers that helped develop group work and good communication. The biggest hit was “All Tied Up,” where their hands were tied together to form a circle while they made an ice-cream float for each member of the group.

In our free time, we took the SLC participants to visit places around campus, focusing on sites relevant to African American history. Josh also took the participants to the computer lab and showed them how they can apply for college online.

A speaker from the Office of Student Affairs spoke to us during lunch on Saturday, and that evening we enjoyed a delicious spaghetti dinner at Canterbury Chapel and watched a movie together. Josh and Kimberly, Jack Alvey, and I spent the night at Canterbury Chapel with the participants. Before our departure on Sunday, we enjoyed pizza at the Mellow Mushroom, something last year’s SLC participants suggested.

The participants as well as the SLC staff had a wonderful time, and we all hated to see the weekend come to an end. We want to thank all the people who worked so very hard to put this SLC weekend together, including the college professors and students, who did lots of behind-the-scenes planning to make sure that the curriculum was perfect as well as assisting with the sessions; having the college students help lead the workshops proved to be very effective. Chaplain and Rector the Rev. Ken Fields, Associate Deacon the Rev. Jon Chalmers, and many others at Canterbury Chapel graciously welcomed all of the students and staff—I don’t know what we would have done without their help! In addition to serving as our hosts for the SLC, they attended the welcome session, the lunch on Saturday, and also the closing session, which included an evaluation and a graduation ceremony.

We also express special thanks to Kathleen Cramer of Christ Church in Tuscaloosa for making a donation to cover the cost of Saturday evening’s dinner, the members of the Brotherhood of St. Andrew at Canterbury Chapel for Sunday’s breakfast, the members of St. Thomas’ in Birmingham for Sunday’s lunch, and the members of Christ Church in Tuscaloosa for gas for the bus.

Upcoming Youth Events

**November 9-11**  
Fall Fling at Camp McDowell for 5th-6th graders

**December 28-30**  
Christmas Conference at Camp McDowell for 9th-12th graders

**January 18-21**  
Winter Weekend at Camp McDowell for 7th-8th graders

**February 1-3**  
EYC Convention at the Ascension in Montgomery for 9th-12th graders

**March 7-9**  
Happening #52 at St. Stephen’s in Huntsville for 10th-12th graders

**March 15-20**  
Spring Break Conference/Mission Trip at Camp McDowell and beyond

For more information please contact Youth Ministries Assistant Leslie Bridgers Manning at lmanning@dioala.org or 205/715-2060 ext. 325 or Deputy for Christian Formation and Youth Ministries Sarah Sartain at ssartain@dioala.org or 205/715-2060 ext. 314.
Upcoming Retreats, Conferences, and Special Events

“The Truth Shall Make You Odd” “Spirituality and Poetry

November 9-11 at St. Mary’s Seance—A Center for Spiritual Development

Bishop Parsley will lead this retreat, which will focus on Flannery O’Connor’s stories and the encounters with grace revealed in her writings. “Their honesty about our human nature, their humor, and their startling rendering of the work of the Holy Spirit make them an evocative centerpiece for reflection,” he notes. Worship and Bible study will enrich the retreat time. For more information please contact St. Mary’s Seance at 800/728-1659 or StMarysSeance@bellsouth.net, or visit www.StMarysSeance.org.

“Spirituality and Poetry” Series

At St. Andrew’s in Montevallo

November 13—“Walt Whitman’s Great Camarade: Letters from God Dropt in the Street”

December 11—“Gerard Manley Hopkins: Charged with the Grandeur of God”

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

“Dreams—Windows to the Soul” Workshop

November 16-17 (Friday from 6:30 to 9 p.m. and Saturday from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.) at St. Luke’s in Birmingham

Our diocesan Commission on Spirituality invites everyone to this special workshop led by the Rev. Bob Haden, director of the Haden Institute, which offers certified training in dream group leadership and spiritual direction in the Jungian, mystical, Christian tradition. Bob is a priest, spiritual director, and pastoral counselor, as well as a diplomat of the American Psychotherapy Association. He coauthored the Soul’s Labyrinth and is currently writing a book on Biblical dreams. For more information please contact Nikki Chenault at nikkipchinault@bellsouth.net or Sarah Sartain at Carpenter House, 521 North 20th Street, Birmingham, AL 35203-2682; 205/715-2060 ext. 314.

“Be Still and Know: The Spiritual Journey of Advent,” Advent Quiet Day

December 8 at St. Stephen’s in Birmingham

Bishop Parsley and our diocesan Commission on Spirituality cordially invite everyone to this year’s Advent Quiet Day on December 8 at St. Stephen’s in Birmingham. Bishop Parsley will help us prepare for the coming of Christ in our lives by focusing on the theme “Be Still and Know: The Spiritual Journey of Advent.” For more information please contact Matthew Morrow at matthew.morrow@cy.com or Donna Murrell at dmurrell@dioala.org or 205/715-2060 ext. 305.

Fifth Annual Church Music Conference

January 23-26 at the University of Alabama School of Music

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

Episcopal Pilgrimage to Rome

June 17-24

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

The Cathedral Church of the Advent Offers a Variety of Musical Events

By Stephen G. Schaeffer and Charles M. Kennedy

The Music Department of the Cathedral Church of the Advent is pleased to offer an exciting year of musical events including special liturgical celebrations featuring the Cathedral Choir in Evensongs (February and May), the popular Friday Midday Musical Menu concerts, and an April organ recital by internationally known concert artist Marilyn Keiser of Indiana University. For many years the Music Series has featured concerts by choirs from around the world, and this year is no exception. The world-renowned St. Thomas Choir of New York City, under the direction of choirmaster John Scott, formerly of St. Paul’s Cathedral in London, will perform on April 28th.

We are looking forward to sharing these fine musical offerings with you in our beautiful cathedral space. For more information please pick up a calendar at the Cathedral, call the Music Office at 205/443-8553, or e-mail Music Associate Charles Kennedy at kennedy@cathedraladvent.com.
What's New/Noteworthy at the Episcopal Book Store

Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus: Advent and Christmas with Charles Wesley by Paul Wesley Chilcote
This engaging book features Advent and Christmas devotions based on the seasonal hymns of Charles Wesley. Each daily meditation, keyed to the scripture reading for the day and portions of Charles Wesley's texts, concludes with a brief prayer. The reflective material places him within his rich Anglican heritage, and the themes include the foundation of grace, the connection between acts of piety and acts of mercy, the importance of Holy Communion, and the gift of song. The daily readings range between 500 and 600 words in length.

Daily Reflections for Advent and Christmas: Waiting in Joyful Hope 2007-08 by Jay Cormier
This little book easily fits into a pocket or purse, making it perfect for busy people who wish to enrich their personal prayer life during the season of Advent and Christmas. It provides daily, short meditations and reflections along with Scripture excerpts from the daily readings.

Getting Ready for Christmas: A Daily Advent Prayer and Activity Book for the Family by Yolanda Browne and Patrick Girouard
You can keep Jesus in the center of your family's Advent and Christmas preparations with this devotional book for young children and their families. Each day you can read a reflection, a Bible verse, a prayer of thanks, do an activity, and then open that day's flap on the calendar for a special surprise.

Hurry Less Worry Less at Christmastime: Having the Holiday Season You Long For by Judy Pace Christie
This offering will help busy people learn to celebrate more joyfully, peacefully, and deeply during the days between Thanksgiving and New Year's and on through Epiphany. Pace Christie meets us where we are—in a frenzied, out-of-control frame of mind—and helps us begin to have a deeper understanding of the joy of the season and its meaning for our lives.

The Jesse Tree Family Advent Wreath
Jesse was the father of David, who was blessed by the prophets to establish a royal family. A thousand years later, Jesus was born of this royal line in Bethlehem. The Jesse Tree is the family tree of Jesus, and this 8-inch pewter Advent Wreath tells the story of Jesus' lineage through symbols and readings from Scripture, one each day of Advent.

Living with Hope: A Scientist Looks at Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany by John Polkinghorne
Through daily readings, John Polkinghorne explores such themes as the end of the world, individual destiny, unseen realities, heaven, hell, and suffering. He does not hide behind platitudes or easy solutions—instead he offers profound insight through deep reflections on the nature, meaning, and purpose of creation. This book is suitable for individual study or as the basis of small-group discussions.

Talking Advent Calendar
As you open each of the 24 doors of this “talking” calendar, you will hear a short story about the revealed, magnetic wooden figure. Sure to become a family tradition, this handcrafted wooden calendar encourages adult and child interaction, which will enhance everyone's Advent experience.

Watch for the Light: Readings for Advent and Christmas
Watch for the Light gives new meaning to “holiday preparations” by offering inspirational selections from the world’s greatest spiritual writers including Johann Christoph Arnold, C.S. Lewis, Thomas Merton, Philip Yancey, Madeleine L'Engle, Henri Nouwen, Kathleen Norris, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Annie Dillard, and Dorothy Day. Providing a break from the commercialized frenzy of the holiday season, these daily readings will invite you to examine the deepest meaning of Christmas.

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: ehinfo@episcobooks.com. You can also visit the bookstore online at www.episcobooks.com. The bookstore is open Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday from 9:30 to 1 p.m.

Mark Your Calendar

Christmas Conference (9th-12th graders) December 28-30
Diocesan Convention February 21-23 in Birmingham
Diocesan Ultreya February 1-3
EYC Convention (9th-12th graders) January 25-27
Fall Fling (5th-6th graders) November 9-11
Happening Weekends (10th-12th graders) #51 November 2-4, #52 March 7-9
Spring Break Conference/Mission Trip March 15-20
Winter Weekend (7th-9th graders) January 18-21

November 9-11 “The Truth Shall Make You Odd” retreat led by Bishop Henry Parley at St. Mary’s Seavance—A Center for Spiritual Development. For more information please see the description on page 10 or call 800/728-1659, e-mail StMarysSeavance@bellsouth.net, or visit www.StMarysSeavance.org.

November 10-16 “A Glimpse of the Kingdom—Icon Writing with Teresa Harrison” 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.

November 11-16 “People Get Ready: A Fresh Start in Proclaiming Christ—Transformation and Renewal” cosponsored by Kanuga, the Episcopal Church Office of Black Ministries, and the Union of Black Episcopalian 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.

November 12-16 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.

November 13 “Spirituality and Poetry: Walt Whitman’s Great Camaraderie—Letters from God Drop in the Street” led by Dr. James Mersmann at 7:30 p.m. in the new parish hall at St. Andrew’s in Montevallo. For more information please contact jmersmann@att.net or call the parish office at 205/665-1667.

November 16 Midday Musical Menu featuring organist Richard Webb 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.

November 16-18 Marriage Enrichment Retreat led by the Rev. Clay and Jane Turner 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.

November 29-December 2 “The Christ Who Comes to Us—Advent Retreat” led by Brother David Vryhof 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.

December 7-8 Advent Labyrinth at St. Luke’s in Birmingham. For more information please contact Mary Ellen Callahan at mellenc@bellsouth.net or St. Luke’s at 205/871-3583.

December 7-9 Intensive Centering Prayer/Yoga Retreat at the Benedictine Retreat Center in Cullman. For more information please call 256/734-8302.

December 8 “Be Still and Know: The Spiritual Journey of Advent,” Advent Quiet Day at St. Stephen’s in Birmingham. For more information please see the description on page 10 or contact Matthew Morrow at mworremow@ei.com or Donna Murrell at dmurrell@dioala.org or 205/715-2060 ext. 305.

December 11 “Spirituality and Poetry: Gerard Manley Hopkins—Charged with the Grandeur of God” led by Dr. James Mersmann at 7:30 p.m. in the new parish hall at St. Andrew’s in Montevallo. For more information please contact jmersmann@att.net or call the parish office at 205/665-1667.

December 14 Midday Musical Menu featuring “A Musical Feast for Christmas” 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.

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The Apostle • November 2007
Happy Birthday!

When Bishop Parsley visited St. Timothy’s in Athens on September 16, he took a few special moments to wish Bebe Gish a very happy 100th birthday.

The members of St. Thomas’ in Huntsville hope you will be their guest at the parish’s 14th annual Lobsterfest on Saturday, November 10. The fundraiser benefits the parish’s annual medical mission to Honduras as well as Habitat for Humanity. The Lobsterfest features children’s games, a craft show, silent auction, bake sale, live entertainment, and the best lobsters, barbeque, and ribs anywhere! Please preorder by calling 256/880-0248 or visiting www.stthomas-hsv.org.

The Episcopal Church Women of Trinity in Bessemer cordially invite everyone to the parish’s Christmas Bazaar on December 1. For more information please contact the parish office at 205/428-2914.

St. Stephen’s To Showcase Tazewell Morton’s Artwork

St. Stephen’s in Birmingham will feature the work of renowned artist Tazewell Morton at the parish’s “Taste of Gumbo” art show and sale November 27-28. The event, which will benefit St. Stephen’s ECW Outreach, starts at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, November 27, and continues from 5 to 9 p.m. on Wednesday, November 28.

Tazewell Morton will speak at 7:15 p.m. on Tuesday, sharing his personal story about the influences of the Episcopal Church on his work and how his experiences as a lifelong Episcopalian bring special meaning to his art. Tazewell, who graduated from Auburn University with a BA in visual design and is currently the artist-in-residence at St. Dunstan’s, is a former advertising art director, university art professor, and freelance commercial artist/illustrator. During his tenure at Auburn, he designed a school flag, which was placed on the moon by fellow Auburn alumnus, Apollo 16 astronaut Ken Mattingly; he is the only American artist with work planted on the moon. Tazewell’s work has been featured in galleries and shows throughout the Southeast and is included in numerous corporate and private collections throughout the country.

The works featured in the “Taste of Gumbo,” which Morton says are “rich with spice,” are influenced by his many years of living on the Mississippi Gulf Coast and in New Orleans. His original works in watercolors, acrylics, pen and inks, sculptures, crèches, Christmas ornaments and icons range from the spiritual to the whimsical.

The members of St. Stephen’s cordially invite everyone to this special event; admission is free. For more information please call Louise Meredith at St. Stephen’s, 205/967-8786.

Servicios en Español/Services in Spanish

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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@xlanguag.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.

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@diala.org.

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

The submission deadline for the January issue is December 1.