Our Diocese Welcomes Leslie Bridgers
Our First Full-Time Diocesan Youth Ministries Coordinator

By Sarah Sartain, Diocesan Deputy for Christian Formation and Youth Ministries

I am pleased to announce that we have hired Leslie Bridgers as our diocese’s first full-time Youth Ministries Coordinator. Leslie will join the diocesan staff on October 1, after her marriage to Bentley Manning. Bentley is presently serving as a missionary in the Dominican Republic in our Young Adult Service Corps, and he hopes to find a position in the nonprofit field in Birmingham.

Leslie graduated from Auburn University in 2006 with a BA in sociology. While she was completing her degree she served as the Youth Minister for Holy Trinity in Auburn and coordinated events and programs for both junior and senior-high young people. In 2004 she began participating in the Sawyerville Work Project, an experience that has made her a passionate advocate of this diocesan-wide outreach ministry. She served as a staff coordinator for three years, and this summer she will work with the Rev. Bill Blackerby as the Upper Camp Coordinator.

Although Leslie is no stranger to our diocese, she is coming to us from Christ Church Cathedral in Nashville, where she is currently serving as the Youth Ministries Coordinator for a program that serves more than 100 young people. Two youth ministers report to her, and she serves on a planning team for the parish’s comprehensive program for young people age 12 to 18. Leslie brings us a wealth of experience from her hands-on experience in everything from choosing curricula for various age groups to leading Christian Education classes and planning extensive mission trips abroad. You will find her energy and enthusiasm to be contagious.

I look forward to all of you meeting Leslie and Bentley. I know that both of them will be a blessing to our diocese.

Youth Leaders Speak to Our Sawyerville Commission

Five high-school students from Greensboro, assisted by Jamie Bryars, made a formal presentation to our diocesan Sawyerville Commission at the group’s March meeting in Tuscaloosa. The students used the communication skills they learned at the Sawyerville Leadership College held at Canterbury Chapel last August to share their suggestions for possible changes in both the Summer Day Camp and the 2007 Leadership College Weekend. For more about the upcoming Sawyerville Summer Day Camp and this year’s Leadership College Weekend please see page 5.

Jubilee Community Center Hosts Celebrations

Our diocesan Jubilee Community Center in Montgomery hosted a ribbon-cutting ceremony on May 4 and an open house on May 6 to celebrate the renovation of the building that served as the original church for the Holy Comforter parish. Please see “Montgomery Jubilee Community Center Hosts Celebrations” on page 8.
The Ministries and Projects funded through contributions to the ACTS 2 Capital Campaign were the object of careful planning by the members of Diocesan Council during their May meeting. The council, which is composed of representatives from around our diocese elected by our diocesan convention, serves our diocese much as a vestry serves a congregation. The council undertook the task of establishing a schedule for initiating projects funded by the capital campaign, including construction of a chapel “up the hill” at Camp McDowell.

In order to maximize the effectiveness of the funds for ministry, the council is seeking to avoid initiating projects in such a way that funds would need to be borrowed for periods longer than three months. In the plan adopted by council the need to borrow funds is avoided completely if all the projections prove correct, i.e. if contributors pay their pledges on time and in full and if costs for construction and other projects are managed effectively. ACTS 2 pledges are due to be paid over a three to five-year period. In developing the schedule the council used a projected payment schedule prepared by Campaign Coordinator Georganne Perrine to establish an estimate of available funds at critical intervals over the next five years. Recognizing, however, that some variance is likely in either the payment of pledges or the use of the funds over such a long period, the council authorized a line of credit to enable our diocese to borrow funds to keep projects moving. The line of credit will be negotiated to provide funds if and when contributions received fail to meet the ongoing requirements for expenditures. Because of the success of the campaign it is anticipated that all the projects originally envisioned will receive the full amount allocated in the campaign documents. The major questions before council were the timing of the projects so that expenses would be covered by ongoing payments on pledges and the desire to begin the construction of the chapel and the strategic purchase of land as soon as possible.

The ACTS 2 Capital Campaign Projects worksheet presented here reports the decision of the council regarding the start-dates for projects and the quarterly expenditures anticipated. In developing this schedule the council also sought to coordinate the timing of certain projects, which will require eventual support from the operating funds of our diocese, so that those projects might be absorbed in the operating budget with reductions in existing programs.

The resulting schedule provides for construction of the chapel to begin this September. The purchase of land for the establishment of new parishes would quickly follow with the first purchase anticipated next spring of 2008. Other work would be initiated in October 2008. The plan also sets aside this September funds for the design phase of the campus ministry center in Montevallo.

Our Diocesan Council will, of course, continue to monitor progress on the various projects and the available cash. Our intent is to minimize any interest expense while getting the various projects under way and into the life of our diocese as rapidly as possible. The council expresses its gratitude for the commitment of Episcopalians throughout our diocese to the ACTS 2 Campaign. Together we are “living the vision.”

Bishops’ Theology Committee Offers Primates’ Communiqué Study Document

“Communion Matters”

Excerpt from an Episcopal News Service story by Mary Frances Schjonberg

On June 1 the Theology Committee of the Episcopal Church’s House of Bishops released a study document aimed at helping the bishops respond to the requests made to them by the Primates of the Anglican Communion. The 15-page “Communion Matters: A Study Document for the Episcopal Church,” is available online at http://www.collegeforbishops.org. Click on “Resources” on the lefthand side of the home page. (French and Spanish translations will be available soon.)

Theology Committee Chair and Alabama Bishop Henry Parsley told Episcopal News Service that the report is meant for bishops to use in conversation with the people of their dioceses in the three and a half months between now and the mid-September meeting of the House of Bishops in New Orleans. Rather than call for responses from individual Episcopalians, Bishop Parsley said the committee will gather input in late August and early September from bishops on the result of their conversations in their dioceses. To read the full story please log on to http://www.episcopalchurch.org/7901_86477_ENG_HTM.htm.

Forums Scheduled To Discuss “Communion Matters”

The Standing Committee and Bishop Parsley are sponsoring the following two diocesan-wide forums on “Communion Matters,” the study document prepared by the Theology Committee of the House of Bishops.

Tuesday, July 10, 6:30-8 p.m.
At Nativity in Huntsville

Tuesday, July 24, 6:30-8 p.m.
At All Saints’ in Birmingham

Everyone is invited to read “Communion Matters” and bring a copy with them in preparation for these conversations. You can find “Communion Matters” by logging onto www.collegeforbishops.org and clicking on the “Resources” link on the lefthand side of the home page.
Preparing To Elect a Bishop Suffragan

During our diocesan convention in February, Bishop Parsley called for and the delegates approved the election of a bishop suffragan. The election is scheduled for September 30, 2007, at the Cathedral Church of the Advent in Birmingham, with the consecration of our new diocesan bishop suffragan on January 12, 2008.

The Nominating Committee, chaired by Judge Bernard Harwood, continues its work in interviewing and conducting background checks on a number of candidates for the position of Bishop Suffragan. All of the finalists will be interviewed by the entire committee during early July with a final slate of three to five nominees selected and announced no later than July 15. During the final two weeks of July, our diocesan Standing Committee, chaired by Rev. David McGinnis, will accept nominations by petition.

The Nominating Committee’s nominees and the additional nominees by petition will participate in a question-and-answer session at St. Luke’s in Birmingham on September 8. Everyone is invited to attend this event. For more information about the election process including the timetable, job description, and nomination form, please visit www.dioala.org.

A Prayer for the Election of a Bishop Suffragan

Contemporary Wording

Almighty God, who by Your Son directed the Apostles to feed Your flock, lead, we pray You, the minds and hearts of those who shall choose a Bishop Suffragan for the Diocese of Alabama; provide for us a Bishop who will faithfully preach God’s holy Word, administer the sacraments of the Church, and equip Your people for ministry; through Your Son Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Traditional Wording

Almighty God, who by Thy Son didst direct the Apostles to feed Thy Flock, lead, we beseech Thee, the minds and hearts of those who shall choose a Bishop Suffragan for the Diocese of Alabama; provide for us a Bishop who shall preach faithfully God’s sacred Word, administer the sacraments of the Church, and equip Thy people for ministry; through the same Thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Parish–Based Outreach

Grants Awarded

On May 16 our diocesan Department of Mission and Outreach awarded 10 grants to 9 parishes in our diocese. According to the Rev. Deacon Janet Mason, chair of the department, this year’s grants totaled $28,000. This marks the third consecutive year that parish-based outreach grants have been awarded back to parishes from the operating budget of our diocese.

The following parishes received grants this year:

- **St. Timothy’s in Athens**—$5,000 for outdoor playground equipment for the parish’s preschool program
- **Grace Church in Birmingham (Woodlawn)**—$3,700 for a washer, dryer, and handicap ramp for the parish’s ministry to the homeless
- **Epiphany in Huntsville**—$4,000 for the parish’s Young Lions Mentoring Program
- **Grace Church in Cullman**—$3,000 for the parish’s Jubilee Health Clinic Project
- **Nativity in Huntsville**—$4,000 for an expansion for the parish’s Adult Learning Center
- **Ascension in Montgomery**—$2,500 for materials for the English as a Second Language program
- **St. Mark’s in Birmingham**—$4,000 for the parish’s Moses Basket Ministry
- **St. Luke’s in Prattville**—$1,000 for the parish’s Threads of Love ministry
- **St. Luke’s in Scottsboro**—$2,430 for the parish’s Moses Basket Ministry

Clergy News

The Rev. Mary Anne Akin, a priest of the diocese of Virginia, will begin serving as assistant rector of Nativity in Huntsville in mid-June.

The Rev. Deacon Jon Chalmers, a newly ordained transitional deacon, is serving as an assisting rector at Canterbury Chapel in Tuscaloosa.

The Rev. David Hall has resigned as rector of Resurrection in Rainbow City effective June 30 to accept a senior position with the United Way of Central Alabama. David will continue to serve our diocese as a nonstipendiary priest.

The Rev. Deacon Joan Miller Henrick, a newly ordained transitional deacon, is serving as deacon in charge of Holy Cross/St. Christopher’s in Huntsville.

The Rev. Allison Liles has accepted a call to serve as assistant rector of Holy Trinity in Auburn. Allison has served in the Washington, DC, area for the past year.

The Rev. Deacon Eric Liles, a newly ordained transitional deacon, is serving as deacon in charge of St. Stephen’s in Phenix City.

The Rev. Chris von Gal, a newly ordained transitional deacon, is serving as assistant rector of All Saints in Birmingham (Homewood).

The得了 Very Princess

The Episcopal Church

Established in 1789.

38 provinces.

In the United States

A community of about 2.5 million members in 119 dioceses in the Americas and abroad. Established in 1789.

Presiding Bishop

The Most Rev. Rowan Williams

Archbishop of Canterbury

The Most Rev. Rowan Williams

Lambeth Palace, London

England SE17JU

In the Diocese of Alabama

About 36,000 baptized members in 94 parishes and 7 college campus ministries. Established in 1830.

Bishop


Bishop

94 congregations and 7 college campus ministries. Established in 1830.

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Deacons in Our Midst

By the Venerable Louise Thibodaux, Archdeacon

Among the many reforms brought about by the 1979 Prayer Book revision was the recognition of diversity in the ministries of the Church. Nowhere is this more apparent than in the liturgy for the Eucharist where laypeople and different orders of ordained ministers take part joyfully in the service.

When a deacon takes part in the Sunday liturgy he or she “acts out” the role of a messenger, a servant or a helper. For example, a deacon may introduce the Prayers of the People, inviting a member (or members) of the congregation to continue the prayers. Or a deacon calls the people to confession and then blends in with the congregation, acknowledging that every one of us is in need of forgiveness. When a deacon walks in procession bearing the Gospel book, she or he is calling attention to the Word of God that has been spoken in creation, lived in the life of Jesus, and shared with the Church through the Holy Spirit. When a deacon reads the Gospel, he or she becomes the herald of the Good News shared with all of creation. When a deacon arranges the elements of bread and wine on the altar, we are all reminded that all who are hungry and thirsty and poor are invited to the heavenly banquet. In each of these ways, a deacon brings into church on Sunday the aspects of his or her “outside” ministry of feeding the hungry, praying for those in need, and sharing the Good News at home or at work.

This month three more deacons from our diocese share with us what this means for them.

THE REV. DEACON DON OWEN

After taking medical leave from his job as a program manager, Don began working with victims of domestic violence.

I work as a volunteer with SafeHouse of Shelby County, which provides shelter and services for victims of domestic violence. That ministry has continued and includes such mundane activities as grocery shopping, making repairs to the facility, and projects simply requiring muscle power. It has also involved interaction with clients such as conducting mock job interviews. What I love best is working and playing with the children at the shelter, most importantly providing them with a positive, loving interaction with an adult male. I’ve also helped write grant proposals and solicit corporate support for the annual duck race at the Buck Creek Festival (individuals and corporations “sponsor” little and big plastic ducks that are released into the water and “race” downstream to the finish line).

Domestic violence work takes a real toll on one’s emotional well-being, and as a deacon I am in a position to offer pastoral care to staff as well as clients.

My work with SafeHouse led naturally to my work with Oak Mountain Mission Ministries (OMMM). The clients come to OMMM to get food and diapers and other assistance to set up households when they move out from the shelter. I could not do all of this without the help of my parish, St. Francis of Assisi in Indian Springs. The parishioners have provided me with a generous discretionary fund, and they also ensure that the community needs are made known to the entire congregation. I also work closely with the Outreach and the Pastoral Care Committees and visit people who are in the hospital. This is the way I bring the needs of the world to the Church and the gospel of the Church to the world.

THE REV. DEACON CAROLYN FOSTER

Carolyn, who is a tireless advocate in the Birmingham community for peace and justice, serves as a mentor to young people, a voice for Alabama Constitutional reform, and an advocate for homeless people.

The first years of my ordained ministry as a deacon were dedicated to working with an AIDS service organization. I provided HIV education, administered HIV tests, and linked clients to services. I made arrangements with a local church that ministers to the homeless to provide weekly HIV education and testing. This afforded me the opportunity to become more familiar with the culture of homelessness, and I am now associated with the Old Firehouse Shelter, a homeless shelter in Birmingham.

I am privileged to coordinate a mentoring program for African American boys age 11 to 14 through the Brotherhood of St. Andrew of St. Mark’s in Birmingham. This program, which meets every Saturday morning from September to May, targets teenage boys who need positive male role models.

I also serve as chair of Greater Birmingham Ministries’ Constitutional Reform Task Force and as secretary to the Alabama Citizens for Constitution Reform (ACCR). In addition I serve as cochair with the Rev. Deacon Tom Osborne of our diocesan Commission on Race Relations. Most recently I have been busy serving on the Nominating Committee for Suffragan Bishop of our diocese.

During my free time I enjoy reading, listening to music, singing, and trying my hand at gardening.

THE REV. DEACON BRUCE DRUBE

Bruce works with the US Army Reserves in the 81st Regional Readiness Command as a specialist in healthcare services available to reserve soldiers and their families.

As an ordained deacon my primary responsibilities are governed by service in “word, worship, and charity,” never forgetting that everything we do as deacons should convey the existence of Christ in the world and the fact that he came to serve and not be served.

A deacon’s ministry is truly a balancing act that requires each of us to be deeply rooted and active in both the Church and world at the same time. Many times the worldly role we play calls us into conflict with the established Church in the name of the weak and the marginalized. These actions can be viewed as simply a challenge to the members of the Church community to live out their baptismal vows and to accept their call to service and mission in their everyday lives.

My diaconal ministry in the community and the diocese is focused in several areas, and I find the diversity a welcome and challenging one. I serve as the administrator and deacon for the Silver Chapel at McClellan, Alabama. In this capacity I lead evening prayer services every Friday night and provide logistical and administrative support to individuals who request to use the chapel for weddings, memorial services, and other appropriate events. Also in the capacity of administrator for the chapel, I perform many of the traditional duties assigned to the junior warden of a parish. I have served for the past four years as a member of our diocesan Mission and Outreach Committee and will serve as our diocesan representative to the Global Episcopal Mission (GEM) Network Education Institute in June 2007. One of the most rewarding experiences I have experienced as a deacon was attending the Reformation Education Institute in June 2007. One of the most rewarding experiences I have experienced as a deacon

“Deacons in Our Midst” continued on page 5
Our Diocesan Sawyerville Commission at Work

By Commission Cochair Joanna Ware

Youth Leaders Speak to the Commission

Five high-school students from Greensboro—Evie Lawson, Nina Murray, Shanell Murray, Promise Paige, and Vanessa Shelton—made a formal presentation to our diocesan Sawyerville Commission at our March meeting in Tuscaloosa. Jamie Bryars, a University of Alabama student majoring in social work and a member of Christ Church in Tuscaloosa, assisted the students, who were putting into practice the leadership skills they acquired at the August 2006 Sawyerville Leadership College. The University of Alabama School of Social Work organized and led the Leadership College sessions, which were held at Canterbury Chapel.

The purpose of the presentation was for the students to make suggestions to the members of the Sawyerville Commission about possible changes to consider for the 2007 Summer Day Camp and the Leadership College Weekend. The students told the commission that they would like to see the camp expanded from one to two weeks, and they also would like to have better lunches served to the campers.

After the commission meeting each student wrote a short statement describing his or her experience at last year’s Sawyerville Leadership College.

“The leadership program helped me improve my leadership skills. I participate widely in many leadership programs and activities in which my skills have to be put to use. This program allowed me to apply these skills and strengthen them so that I could be a better leader.” — Vanessa Shelton

“I enjoyed both the Leadership College and the Sawyerville Day Camp because they both helped me in becoming an effective leader. By being in the camp first, I learned how to follow. Then in the Leadership Program, I learned how to lead. To be a leader, you must first follow.” — Promise Paige

“The Leadership College helped me overcome my fears and speak my mind. I am usually shy around lots of people, but I am not anymore.” — Shanell Murray

“The Leadership College was a good experience for me because I learned more about being a leader and the qualities and the importance of being a leader. And I also met new people who I am cool with today.” — Evie Lawson

“The Leadership College helped me learn and experience more things. It also taught me how to be a leader. Especially since I am a cheerleader, I have to inspire, and that’s what leaders do.” — Nina Murray

Commission Hosts Anti-Racism Training in Greensboro

On April 15, 14 members of our diocesan Sawyerville Commission along with several members of the Greensboro community participated in a five-hour training led by Smith Williams of Birmingham. Smith led the group in a series of conversations that encouraged us to consider (1) our own personal histories and lifestyles and question how those factors influence our identity and (2) white privilege and how that has helped or harmed each of us in our multiracial society. Although this was the first formal antiracism training sponsored by the Sawyerville Commission, Susanna Whitsett, the founder of the Sawyerville Work Project, reminded the group that working for racial harmony has been a cornerstone of the work of the Sawyerville Day Camp since its inception in 1993.

The commission has asked Smith Williams to provide antiracism training at the Sawyerville Day Camp staff training day on June 12 in Greensboro and also during the Day Camp session. The commission is also committed to making this type of training an annual event.

Mark Your Calendar

Sawyerville Summer Day Camp, June 23—July 1
Sawyerville Leadership College, August 4-5

For more information on how you can support this year’s Summer Day Camp please contact Interim Director Emily Rodgers at Emily34@knology.net. To learn more about how you can support the Leadership College please contact Jamie Bryars at jcbryars@um.edu.

“Deacons in Our Midst” continued from page 4

was the opportunity to assist in our diocesan disaster response in meeting the basic needs of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita evacuees in Calhoun County, utilizing funds provided by the Diocese of Alabama.

As a deacon at St. Michael and All Angels’ in Anniston, my liturgical role is to assist the priest, the Rev. Bruce White, during services, proclaim the Gospel, write the Prayers of the People, prepare the table, assist with communion, clear the table, and dismiss the people to “Go out into the world to love and serve the Lord.” The dismissal is especially important to me because it is where my role as the deacon and the people present intersect with each of us looking beyond the walls of the church in an effort to live out our call to servant ministry to all.

Simply stated our lives as deacons should be a model to all, and we should always endeavor to live in love and service to others. Mother Theresa said it best: “We cannot all do great things, but we can do small things with great love.”
From the ECW President

Alleen Cater, alleenc@bellsouth.net

Many of you will be taking summer vacations, and I wish each and every traveler a safe journey and a wonderful, restful trip. Even though your attention will turn to other things, please keep a couple of ECW items in mind. In fact, please consider this a request, rather than a reminder, to see that the following things are done.

Plans are under way for another great Fall Conference to be held in Auburn on October 11-12. Please be sure that your parish has two delegates for the annual business meeting held at the conference. If your officers are not able to attend this meeting, anyone can be appointed to this responsibility. The ministries of all of the women of the diocese operate effectively with the participation of all. Every parish is encouraged to send as many women as possible for the program, the wine and cheese hour, the Thursday evening dinner, and the Friday Memorial Eucharist.

Don’t forget about UTO, CPC, scholarships, and the other ministries that your parish contributions support. Those ministries never get vacations!

Have an enjoyable summer and come back to the fall energized and ready to help with our ACTS 2 funding, convocation meetings, and the rest.

Blessings!

Episcopal Church Women

Compiled by Sally Sinclair, Communications Chairman

Start making your plans to come to our 118th Annual ECW Fall Conference in Auburn on October 11-12. Our East Alabama Convocation is hosting this year’s event, which will feature keynoter Dr. Julia Gatta. Julia, who is on the faculty of the University of the South, will speak on Julian of Norwich. To make lodging reservations please call AU Hotel and Conference Center at 334/821-8200; please contact your parish ECW leaders and/or convocation’s coordinator to receive your conference registration packet. For more information please contact Tana Branch in Auburn at tanabrack@bellsouth.net or 334/332-5076.

Please send information for the 2008 ECW Diocesan Calendar/Handbook to Dee Buzby, 252 Welton Drive, Madison, AL 35757 by July 31. Each ECW in our diocese receives two calendar/handbooks free, but if your ECW would like to order extras at $3 each, please send your request to Dee by July 31. The theme of the 2008 calendar/handbook is “Blessed is she who believes.”

ECW in our diocese has published and distributed copies of a Diocesan Clergy Pictorial Directory, which included contact information and photos of the bishops, priests, deacons, and seminarians in our diocese. We have now updated that directory, and you can access it on our ECW Web site, www.alabamaecw.org/links.htm. We encourage everyone to visit our Web site and read the directory to help you get to know our dedicated clergy; you can also download and print copies of the directory. Please let us know if any information needs to be further updated.

Upcoming ECW Events and Deadlines

June 22-24 Province IV DOK Annual Summer Retreat in Kanuga, North Carolina
July 31 Deadline to send information to be included in the 2008 ECW Calendar/Handbook
October 11-12 118th Annual ECW Fall Conference in Auburn

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.

It has been a whirlwind couple of months, but the Alabama Folk School at Camp McDowell is finally in full swing! We have a wonderful line up of teachers for our first season of classes, which will begin in September. All of our teachers love what they do and are ready to share their excitement and passion as well as their expertise.

Please visit our Web site—www.campmc-dowell.com/folkschool. It’s still a work in progress, but you will be able to find out more about the school as well as find a complete list of dates, classes, and prices—and starting July 1 you will be able to register for fall classes online. If you do not have access to the Internet, please feel free to call me at 205/387-1806.

We would love for you to be on our mailing list, and we would appreciate having your input, ideas, and comments so we can better serve our students’ interests. Even if you do not think you can attend any classes, you can still participate in the Alabama Folk School at Camp McDowell by making a donation to enable us to expand and improve our programs. Please don’t hesitate to contact me at folkschool@campmc-dowell.com or call 205/387-1806. Thank you!

A stepping-stone crafted by Folk School teacher Linda Munoz
Although Camp McDowell has had an Environmental Center for almost 15 years now, many parishioners in our diocese are not sure what we do here. Camp McDowell’s Environmental Center (MEC) represents one of the first steps in our diocese’s and Church’s focus on stewardship of creation.

We offer a residential program for school groups, and lots of 3rd-9th graders from schools around our diocese stay in our cabins for three to five days at a time. Many schools make our program an annual event for their entire 5th grade, while others plan special trips here for their enrichment classes each year. The teachers can choose classes ranging from Pond and Stream, Native Americans and the Earth, and Down to Earth (a geology class about coal) to Team Challenge and High Ropes. The children and teachers learn all day long—even during mealtimes. Before and after each meal, the skits, songs, and games of our Food for Thought program help everyone make wise choices about the foods we put on our plates and the use of our other natural resources—it is all CONNECTED!

The MEC hosts more than 5,500 schoolchildren a year, and they go home with a greater respect for the Earth and all the creatures—who live on our “fragile island home.” Over the past 15 years, more than 70,000 people have participated in the MEC’s programs.

Our world has many environmental problems—from global warming to pollution in our air and water. Most of these problems can be solved through education. How can we expect people to take care of something they do not respect and understand? Have you ever walked into a room full of strangers and felt that uneasy feeling, almost a fear? Compare that to the feeling you get when entering a room full of friends and family. How joyous!

This is similar to the reaction of people in God’s Creation. For those who are unfamiliar with nature, a walk in the woods can bring on fear and dread. Many inner-city children who come to the MEC ask with wide eyes and fear in their voice if lions and tigers will be in the 1,100-acre forest. After spending three or four days exploring and learning to identify trees, plants, and tiny creatures here, these same children shed tears about leaving to return home.

The children who come through our residential environment program and the adults who chaperone them are honored guests at Camp McDowell. It is amazing how many people write after returning home to tell about the feelings of joy and spirituality that they felt at McDowell—and what a pleasure for those of us lucky enough to work here to share our love for this special place with so many who come to learn and experience God’s love.

This quote from Martin Luther (1483-1546) is one of my favorites: “Now if I believe in God’s Son and remember that He became man, all creatures will appear a hundred times more beautiful to me than before. Then I will properly appreciate the sun, the moon, the stars, trees, apples, as I reflect that he is Lord over all things...God writes the Gospel, not in the Bible alone, but also on trees, and in the flowers and clouds and stars.”

If you would like to learn more about McDowell Environmental Center, have me come to your church or school to make a presentation about it, or find out how to arrange for your school to participate in the programs, please contact me at Maggie@campmcdowell.com or 205/387-1806.
Montgomery Jubilee Community Center Hosts Two May Celebrations and Receives UTO Grant

By Maggi Steele Odell and Eileen Knott

May began with two days of celebration at the Jubilee Community Center in Montgomery—a ribbon-cutting ceremony on May 4 followed by an open house on May 6, both commemorating the renovation of Holy Comforter’s original church building. The month ended with yet another reason to celebrate—we learned that the Jubilee Community Center has received a UTO grant of $6,400! The grant will allow the Jubilee Youth Enrichment Program to hire dance, music, and drama teachers as well as a certified secondary-school teacher to enhance the center’s programming and fill the newly renovated space with creative possibilities.

The Jubilee Community Center grew out of a meeting 10 years ago of an ecumenical group of leaders. Inspired by the Jubilee Ministries of the Episcopal Church, the group decided to form a nonprofit organization with the goal of rehabilitating the former church building and offering humanitarian services to the surrounding neighborhood. All who have participated in the decade-long journey of the Montgomery Jubilee Community Center have personally experienced the dynamic link between the talk of faith and the walk of faith that the National Jubilee Ministries of the Episcopal Church promotes.

Jubilee Community Center board members past and present joined Executive Director Eileen Knott on the steps of the former church for the ribbon-cutting ceremony. Linda Drummeller represented the Montgomery Chamber of Commerce, and Jeff Downes, assistant to the mayor, represented the City of Montgomery. Montgomery Mayor Bobby Bright arrived in time for the reception and expressed his congratulations and appreciation for the Jubilee Community Center’s neighborhood revitalization work. The Rev. David Peeples, rector of Grace Church in Mt. Meigs, and current board members Barbara Johnson, Scott Danidis, and Cynthia Bisbee represented the Episcopal Church at this very special event.

Children from the community entertained guests, volunteers, and the center’s board members and staff at the May 6 open house. Pianist Ophelia Jackson of Old Ship AME Zion Church accompanied a group that sang “This Little Light of Mine,” and Adrienne Brown, a student volunteer from Booker T. Washington High School, led Jubilee Youth Enrichment Program children in a Praise Dance.

One word heard often at both celebrations was “miracle.” The Jubilee Community Center truly is a miracle. The building has been restored to its historic 1887 exterior color palette, and the inside has been transformed into welcoming light-filled rooms. What was once was a condemned, deconsecrated Episcopal church has been reborn as a vibrant, updated gathering place where an ecumenical community can envision and live into new possibilities.

Reducing Your Carbon Footprint

By Our Diocesan Task Force for Stewardship of Creation

Have you noticed more climate change and/or global warming reports in the media? Did you know that a worldwide event will take place on 7/7/07 to call for a stop to global warming?

A February Montgomery Advertiser article noted that January 2007 was the warmest ever recorded for this area. Marked increases in global atmospheric carbon dioxide, methane, and nitrous oxide (all greenhouse gases) are reported to be a result of human activity—primarily fossil fuel use, land-use change, and agriculture.

In 2002 religious leaders nationwide issued an open letter to US auto companies asking them to increase fuel economy in cars due to “their impact upon God’s creation and God’s children on earth.” Our Province IV bishops issued a pastoral letter speaking to us on “the theology of earth stewardship, the imminent earth crisis that demands our attention as stewards of the earth,” and they specifically called us to engage in environmental education in dioceses and parishes.

We are available to help our diocesan Task Force for the Stewardship of Creation liaisons and parishes educate people about environmental concerns. What can you do to help? Have you started your “Carbon Diet” to reduce your carbon footprint? You can replace an incandescent bulb with a compact fluorescent today— and you can drive a little slower going to purchase it. See—you’ve helped already! Check out www.stewardsforcreation.org for more ideas, and check out www.liveearth.org for more about the July 7, 2007, Concert for Climate Crisis.

Artist and Bare Hands Gallery Support ACTS 2 Campaign

Glass artist Kathleen Rose-Byington, a parishioner of St. Mary’s on-the-Highlands in Birmingham, has chosen to donate a percentage of the proceeds from the sale of her creations presented as part of the upcoming Wearable Art show at Bare Hands Gallery to our diocesan ACTS 2 campaign. The gallery will also donate a percentage from the show’s sales to the campaign.

For the Wearable Art show Kathleen has combined her artistic talents with the beauty of the symbols of the Episcopal faith to create Anglican rosaries, crafting these one-of-a-kind creations from fused glass and beads in her extensive vintage and contemporary collection. While the method of prayer using knots or beads on a cord is tied historically to nearly every major religious tradition, the Anglican form developed in the late 20th century when an Episcopal priest created the 33-bead Anglican rosary.

Bare Hands Gallery is open Wednesday through Saturday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. and by appointment. The Wearable Art show will open with a reception from 6 to 10 p.m. on July 6 and run through August 4. For additional information please call the gallery at 205/324-2124.
Women Bring Joy with Teddy Bears and Christmas Dolls

By Grace Burleigh, a Member of the Ascension in Birmingham

In the 1970s I learned from Urban Ministry Inc. about two little sisters who were very ill. That Christmas I sent them twin baby dolls dressed in long christening dresses and ruffled bonnets. That was the modest beginning of what has grown to become a wonderful, year-round project.

I believe we dressed 12 dolls the second year, and that number increased until eventually we were donating about 100 dolls annually to Urban Ministry. ECW members Dorothy Rodger, Mary Reynolds, Kathy Lounsbery, Polly Powell (a member of the Advent), Pat Thompson, and I purchased the doll bodies and dressed them. Other ECW members made donations to help cover the cost of the dolls and clothes, and we raised additional funds each Christmas by raffling a porcelain doll, beautifully dressed by Lyn Emanuel, Sue Collins, and Mary Tomlinson.

During the 1990s we learned that we could buy attractive teddy bears at less than half the cost of the dolls, with the added advantage that they also are appropriate for little boys. Now each year we donate about 300 teddy bears dressed in colorful sweaters and ties hand-knit by our ECW members. When we learned a few years ago that Urban Ministry needed lap blankets for people in wheelchairs, we enlarged our program and began donating about 10 beautiful multicolored hand-crocheted blankets each year.

Marguerite Handlin is now serving as the generous, enthusiastic, hardworking chair of our joyful program. She shops all year to buy supplies on sale, and she keeps us all motivated and busy. Her helpers include Carolyn Woodson, Dot Duke, Susan Higgins, Mary Reynolds, Jean Smith, Carol Pyle, Shirley Womble, Elizabeth Chastain, Mary Gillespie, and Elizabeth Tanner.

St. Mark’s in Prattville Has 12 New Members

Bishop Miller confirmed 10 people and received 2 into the congregation of St. Mark’s in Prattville on April 29. The Rev. Scott Arnold, rector of the parish, and Junior Warden Robert Gaston presented the 12 new members to the bishop during the 3 p.m. service of Holy Eucharist with Confirmation.

A Day of Celebration at St. Andrew’s in Montevallo

On May 27 the parishioners of St. Andrew’s in Montevallo observed “The Day of Pentecost,” welcomed Bishop Parsley for his annual visit, and celebrated the baptism and confirmation/reception of six new members of their church family. Bishop Parsley baptized Gwen Cunningham and Carey Heatherly, and he also confirmed Mandy Heatherly, Nealy Vardaman, Susan Vaughan, and Alicia McDonald Smith.

Unceasing Support of Katrina Recovery Sites

By Judy Quick, ERD Representative for St. Andrew’s in Montevallo

What love, what compassion, what work there is to be done! Thanks be to God, caring, competent souls throughout our country wear the mantle and mission of Episcopal Relief and Development (ERD).

I represented the Rev. Deacon Janet Mason, our diocesan ERD Network Coordinator, at the annual Network Meeting on May 17-20 in New Orleans. The ERD Network is a group of volunteers who support and promote ERD and its programs throughout Episcopal parishes, dioceses, and seminaries. Currently the network has almost 3,000 members, including 2,800 parish representatives. A total of 138 attendees representing 67 dioceses and six seminaries attended this year’s meeting, which focused on the theme “Partners in Hope, Partners in Life.”

We visited ERD-supported Katrina recovery sites in New Orleans and on the Mississippi Gulf Coast, eye-opening visits that were full of both tragedy and hope. ERD is partnering with the Diocese of Mississippi and local organizations by providing funds to construct a dorm and meeting facility for the volunteers at Camp Coast Care, where churches and other groups can meet; the Hallelujah Housing Project is complementing the Camp Coast Care building project to fund and build affordable housing. In New Orleans, ERD is partnering with the Diocese of Louisiana and local organizations, in supporting the Jericho Road Housing Initiative by providing financial, technical, and leadership resources for affordable housing in the Central City District. ERD is also supporting the Welcome Home Centers (St. Luke’s and St. Paul’s), the Mobile Medical Unit, and the Mobile Respite Unit.

For more information or to arrange a presentation on the work of ERD in New Orleans and Mississippi or on the good work of ERD around the world, please contact me at jgquick@bellsouth.net or the Rev. Deacon Janet Mason at jandlmason@charter.net.
Everyone is cordially invited to a free concert featuring all

For more information please see “Tonea Stewart To Give Address at This Year’s Jonathan Daniels Pilgrimage” below or contact the Rev. William King at bking@dioala.org or 205/715-2060 ext. 317.

ALL UNDER ONE ROOF—FORMING FAMILIES IN THE FAITH
August 25 at St. Stephen’s in Birmingham
Our diocesan Department of Christian Formation cordially invites everyone to this daylong workshop featuring the Rev. Dick Hardel, of the Youth and Family Institute. The workshop will include sessions on Faith Talk in the Home, God Talk with Your Children, Intergenerational Events, Discerning a Child’s Spiritual Gifts, and Wellness Ministry. For more information please download a brochure at www.dioala.org or contact Sarah Sartain at ssartain@dioala.org or 205/715-2060 ext. 314.

CREATIVE MODELS OF SACRAMENTAL LEADERSHIP IN THE SMALL CHURCH CONFERENCE
October 7-10 at Kanuga Conference Center in Hendersonville, North Carolina
This conference will focus on different models of sacramental leadership in churches with an average Sunday attendance of 70 people or less. The presenters will include the Most Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori (Presiding Bishop and Primate of the Episcopal Church), the Most Rev. David Moxon (Co-Bishop of the Anglican Diocese of the Waikato, Archbishop of the Anglican Diocese of New Zealand, and Co-Primate of the Anglican Church of Aotearoa New Zealand and Polynesia), the Right Rev. Frank Neff Powell (Bishop of the Diocese of Southwestern Virginia), the Rev. Stephen M. Kelsey (Missioner/Supernintendent of the Greater Hartford Regional Ministry), and the Rev. Mary Jane Oakland (of the Diocese of Iowa). For more information please contact the Rev. Suzanne Watson at swatson@episcopalchurch.org, 800/334-7626 ext. 6185, or 212/716-6185.

THE TRUTH SHALL MAKE YOU ODD
November 9-11 at St. Mary’s Sewanee—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 Sewanee at 800/728-1659 or StMarySewanee@bellsouth.net, or visit www.StMarySewanee.org.

DREAM WORKSHOP
November 16-17 at St. Luke’s in Birmingham
Our diocesan Commission on Spirituality invites everyone to mark your calendar and save this weekend to attend a Dream Workshop led by the Rev. Bob Haden, director of the Haden Institute.

Tonea Stewart To Give Address at This Year’s Jonathan Daniels Pilgrimage
Dr. Tommie “Tonea” Stewart, an acclaimed actress, professor, and director of the theatre department at Alabama State University in Montgomery, will give the address at this year’s Jonathan Daniels and All Martyrs of Alabama Annual Pilgrimage in Hayneville on August 11. Tonea, who is a native of Greenwood, Mississippi, received the National Association of Dramatic and Speech Arts Lifetime Achievement Award in 2005 in recognition of her exemplary work in television and film, her long career as an educator at Alabama State and Jackson State Universities, and her outstanding, lasting contributions to the dramatic and speech arts. Best known for her role as Aunt Eta in the series In the Heat of the Night, Tonea also performed in the film adaptation of John Grisham’s A Right to Kill as well as in Constellation and Mississippi Burning. In the CBS movie The Rose Parks Story, she played longtime civil rights activist Johnnie Carr.

The Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast, Reach Inc. of Lowndes County, and our diocese are once again sponsoring the annual pilgrimage honoring Jonathan Myrick Daniels and others who gave their lives in helping others during the civil rights movement. The pilgrimage begins at 11 a.m. at the Courthouse Square with a procession to the old county jail where Jonathan, Ruby Sales, and other civil rights workers were detained for a week in August 1965. Jonathan was born in 1939 in Keene, New Hampshire, and graduated from Virginia Military Institute before entering Episcopal Theological School in Cambridge, Massachusetts. In March 1965 he came to Selma to assist in voter registration work in Dallas and Lowndes Counties. He and his coworkers were arrested on August 14 in Fort Deposit for joining a picket line, and they were transferred to the county jail in Hayneville, where they remained until their release on August 20.

The pilgrimage procession continues on to the old Cash Grocery Store where Jonathan stepped forward to protect Ruby from sheriff’s deputy Tom Coleman, who was threatening her; Jonathan died from a blast from the officer’s 12-gauge shotgun. The procession ends back to the square and the monument placed by Virginia Military Institute in Cambridge, Massachusetts. In March 1965 he came to Selma to assist in voter registration work in Dallas and Lowndes Counties. He and his coworkers were arrested on August 14 in Fort Deposit for joining a picket line, and they were transferred to the county jail in Hayneville, where they remained until their release on August 20.

For more information please contact the Rev. William King at bking@dioala.org or 205/715-2060 ext. 317.
What’s New/Noteworthy at the Episcopal Book Store

My Very First Bible Stories: Our Father by Lois Rock
This is one of a set of eight boardbooks designed with the youngest reader in mind. The set also includes Noah and the Ark, Jonah and the Whale, Daniel and the Lions, Baby Jesus, Jesus and His Friends, The Good Samaritan, and The Lost Sheep. These new books feature bright, papercut illustrations and simple language that introduce favorite Bible stories. Each book concludes with a prayer and a glossary of Special Words used throughout the story.

Welcome to the Bible by Vicki K. Black and Peter W. Wemer
When you started studying the Bible you quickly realized that the texts and doctrines are embedded in our prayers, liturgies, and creeds—and even hymns. In Welcome to the Bible, newcomers to the Episcopal Church as well as those who have been sitting in the pews for many years will learn about the ways Scripture informs their faith. It introduces readers to Bible basics from the kinds of literature in the Bible to the ways the Bible is interpreted, making it perfect for individual reading and also for parish study groups. Readers will also find practical suggestions for beginning to read the Bible and ideas for incorporating it into their daily prayers and devotions.

The Book of Buechner: A Journey Through His Writings by Dale Brown
The most thorough and extensive investigation ever written on the much-beloved writer, The Book of Buechner explores the ways in which his writings, particularly his fiction, present the possibilities of grace in the midst of the ambiguities of human existence and introduces themes of Christian faith. Both longtime readers and neophytes seeking a guide through his writings will delight in the illuminating analysis Dale Brown offers.

BOOKS ON CD
Traveling this summer? Consider taking along these books on CD for your “reading” enjoyment.

The Question of God: C.S. Lewis and Sigmund Freud Debate God, Love, Sex and the Meaning of Life written by Armand Nicholi and read by Robert Whitfield. Based on years of studying both men and teaching a popular course at Harvard comparing the two, renowned psychiatrist and educator Armand Nicholi presents a fascinating comparison of the beliefs of Sigmund Freud and C.S. Lewis as a debate on the existence of God.

Chronicles of Narnia by C.S. Lewis
C.S. Lewis’ seven timeless tales of the land of Narnia are rendered in this collection of unabridged recordings.

The Return of the Prodigal Son: A Story of Homecoming written by Henri Nouwen and read by Dan Anderson. This powerful meditation illuminates the parable of the prodigal son found in Luke’s Gospel. Nouwen discovers anew the reality that God’s love is unconditional, and he shares his own experience as the wayward son as well as the vengeful older brother and compassionate father. He speaks to all who have known loneliness, dejection, jealousy, or anger, and he invites us to homecoming, affirmation, and reconciliation.

Cursillo Weekends #159 September 20-23, #160 October 18-21
Happening Weekend (10th-12th graders) #52 November 3-4
Jonathan Daniels and the Martyrs of Alabama Pilgrimage August 11
Province IV Youth Event (10th graders-college freshman) July 17-22

June 24-29 “The Power of the Holy Spirit in an Age of Weakness: Renewing the Church Today” with former Archbishop of Canterbury George Carey giving the keynote address and the Advent’s Five O’Clock Band providing music at Kanuga in Hendersonville, North Carolina. For more information please call 828/692-9136, e-mail info@kanuga.org, or visit www.kanuga.org.

June 28-30 “One Destination—Many Pathways,” 11th annual Ecumenical Music Ministry Conference sponsored by the Foundation for Liturgical Music at John Carroll Catholic High School in Baltimore. For more information please see the description on page 10, e-mail Nancy Brown at Nbrown43@bellsouth.net, or write to FLM, PO Box 530324, Birmingham, AL 35253-0324.

July 9-15 57th Annual Sewanee Church Music Conference directed by Keith Shafer, director of music and organist of St. Paul’s in Augusta, Georgia, at DuBose Conference Center in Monteagle, Tennessee. Please see the description on page 10, for more information and to register please contact Janet Perkins at janet@swimmingcup.com or 770/498-1678.

August 11 Jonathan Daniels and the Martyrs of Alabama Pilgrimage beginning at 11 a.m. in the Courthouse Square in Hayneville. For more information please see “Don’t Stewart To Give Address At This Year’s Jonathan Daniels Pilgrimage” on page 10 or contact the Rev. Bill King at 205/715-2060 ext. 317 or bhing@dioala.org.

August 19-24 “Holy Works for Holy Places” focusing on needlework, choral singing, and weaving as liturgical arts 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.

Mark Your Calendar

August 25 “All Under One Roof—Forming Families in the Faith” workshop featuring the Rev. Dick Hardel, of the Youth and Family Institute, at St. Stephen’s in Birmingham. For more information please see the description on page 10, download a brochure at www.dioala.org, or contact Sarah Sartain at ssartain@dioala.org or 205/715-2060 ext. 314.

August 31-September 3 “Flying Solo”—on Pilgrimage,” Solo Flight XVII with keynoted the Rev. Dr. Brett Webb-Mitchell 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.

September 14-16 “Moving from Loss to Gratitude—with Henri Nouwen As Guide” retreat with presenter Sister Mary Mosteller at St. Mary’s Sewanee—A Center for Spiritual Development. For more information please call 800/728-1659, e-mail StMarysSewanee@bellsouth.net, or visit www.StMarysSewanee.org.

September 23-25 “Centering Prayer” retreat with presenters the Rev. Geoffrey Butcher and the Centering Prayer Staff at St. Mary’s Sewanee—A Center for Spiritual Development. For more information please call 800/728-1659, e-mail StMarysSewanee@bellsouth.net, or visit www.StMarysSewanee.org.

October 7-10 “Creative Models of Sacramental Leadership in the Small Church” conference presented by the Most Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori (Presiding Bishop and Primate of the Episcopal Church), the Most Rev. David Moxon (Co-Bishop of the Anglican Diocese of the Waikato, Archbishop of the Anglican Dioceses of New Zealand, and Co-Primate of the Anglican Church of Aotearoa New Zealand and Polynesia), the Right Rev. Frank Neff Powell (Bishop of the Diocese of Southwestern Virginia), the Rev. Stephen M. Kelsey (Missioner/Superintendent of the Greater Hartford Regional Ministry), and the Rev. Mary Jane Oakland (of the Diocese of Iowa) at Kanuga Conference Center in Hendersonville, North Carolina. For more information please contact the Rev. Suzanne Watson at swatson@episcopalchurch.org, 800/334-7626 ext. 6185, or 212/716-6185.

Please note: The Episcopal Book Store will be closed for inventory from June 25 to July 1.

For information about these and other books or to have a staff member research and special order a particular book, please contact the Episcopal Book Store, 2015 Sixth Avenue North, Birmingham, AL 35203; 205/323-2959; e-mail: ebsinfo@episcobooks.com. You can also visit the bookstore online at www.episcobooks.com. The bookstore is open Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
**UAB Honors BECM**

UAB honored Birmingham Episcopal Campus Ministries (BECM) at the university’s 17th Annual International Awards Banquet on March 29. BECM received an award for “Outstanding Volunteer Service with International Scholars and Students” for the ministries’ volunteer service at the UAB International House, including the Friday lunch program, the annual school-supply drive, the First Annual Spring Fling, and especially for hosting the Children’s Fall Festival for the past five years. Chaplain Bill Blackerby and BECM Administrator Krstin Richman were on-hand to receive the award on behalf of all the students, faculty, and friends of BECM.

**Holy Cross in Trussville** has begun a school with the mission of providing legal means of homeschooling for Christian families seeking to educate their children and raise them to be disciples of Christ. This year Holy Cross Episcopal School is accepting up to 25 families with children in the 1st through 6th grades; upper grade levels will be added over time. For more information please contact Catherine Brown (cat@brownfamilyenterprises.com or 205/629-3229) or Brenda Jean (Rjbj75@aol.com or 205/833-6409).

**Episcopal Place**, a HUD-subsidized supportive housing community for older and disabled adults on Birmingham’s Southside, has an opening effective July 5 for a part-time coordinator of resident and community involvement. For more information please contact Executive Director Jill Hoogstra at ep1jill@bellsouth.net or 205/939-0085.

You can now access the latest news from both *Episcopal Life* and the Episcopal News Service at *Episcopal Life Online*, [www.episcopalchurch.org/eflie](http://www.episcopalchurch.org/eflie). The multimedia, interactive Web site provides information as well as evangelism resources.

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**Hog Heaven BBQ Benefits Homeless Day Center**

*By the Rev. Deacon Lynn Billard*

St. Stephen’s in Huntsville hosted its first annual Hog Heaven BBQ in April and raised $3,000 to benefit First Stop Homeless Day Center. Mark Evans-Williams and Chad Hinton headed up the effort, and lots of good food, fun, music, and fellowship was had by all! This parish-wide effort involved a large percentage of church members serving in a variety of ways—from barbecuing to directing traffic. Microwave Dave and the Nukes (Dave Gallagher of Nativity) provided the musical entertainment.

First Stop offers case-management services for homeless individuals and assists people with benefit applications, healthcare, next-of-kin registry, employment, and housing. The center also offers showers and a laundry room as well as lockers, access to a telephone, and a mailing address. The common room provides space for gathering, sharing a cup of coffee, enjoying a volunteer-sponsored breakfast or lunch, and just getting inside for a while. On a weekly basis, teams of volunteers visit the homeless campsites and deliver meal packs, hygiene kits, and seasonal necessities (blankets, insect repellent, and bottled water).

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**Enjoying Great Food and Fun While Raising Funds**

*By Bill Davis, a Member of Holy Apostles’ in Birmingham*

The members of Holy Apostles’ Men’s Club and their wives and children got up extra early Saturday morning, May 26, to transform the parish’s parking lot into a “Crazy Cajuns” festival site. The 10th annual Holy Apostles’ Crawfish and Shrimp Boil opened at 7 a.m. with a prayer and Pat Davis’s smoked sausage biscuits. With their souls and bodies fed, Paul Gilbert’s cooking crew fired up the large boiling pot and started fixing the feast—cutting up onions and new red potatoes, slicing lemons, and shucking sweet corn.

The spicy fragrances of South Louisiana started drifting across the neighborhood whetting the appetite for great food—and FUN.

As squealing children launched the giant inflatable Moon Walk and the little ones began running and bouncing the day away, the church grounds looked like a large cake covered with very busy ants. Hungry folks started filling up the tables at 10:30 a.m., and the live music kicked off at 11 with Gary Peeples serving as the master of ceremonies. The Hoover Jazz Ensemble, with our own David Newhouse and Senior Christopher Coffee, started us off right with a really cool big band sound, and their final number, “In the Mood,” set the tone for the rest of the day. Frankie Velvet and the Mighty Veltones cranked us up a notch with their Southern Rock, Country, and Why-Do-You-Want-To-Go-Home-Now music. The Shaun Pezant Trio topped off the festivities with Elnora Spencer singing “Last Dance” — with memorable backup provided by two of our parish’s three-year-olds.

We struck our tents, power-washed the parking lot, and ended the festival with Holy Eucharist at 5:30 p.m. What a great party! We hope y’all will join us next year as we once again enjoy lots of great food and fun while raising funds for outreach programs.

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**Mailing Addresses and Deadlines**

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

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

The submission deadline for the combined **July/August** issue is **July 15**; the deadline for the combined **September/October** issue is **August 15**.

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