Bringing Clean, Drinkable Water to Thomazeau, Lilavois, and Croix des Bouquets

By the Rev. Bill King

When our diocesan Companion Diocese Commission team was visiting Haiti in early October, we visited St. Michel’s Episcopal Church and School in Thomazeau, a small village about halfway between Port-au-Prince and the Dominican Republic border. While we were in the fourth-grade classroom, a young girl stood up, welcomed Bishop Parsley and our group, and then asked, “Bishop, will you, please, help us get water here at Thomazeau?” Even though the teacher seemed somewhat surprised by the question, the young girl asked it a second time. Bishop Parsley thanked her for her request and told her he would do what he could to help get water to the school and community.

In December we sent the first $5,000 of our diocesan Millennium Development Goals (MDG) funds to Haiti for the project. We sent another $5,000 in April—and we have now learned that the well has been dug and a good supply of water found at 95 feet. Hopefully by this fall clean water will be available to all of the students and staff at St. Michel’s Episcopal School as well as the community. Our diocese’s $10,000 commitment has brought clean water to a community where for years there has been none.

Thanks to a $5,000 gift from All Saints’ in Montgomery, a second water project has begun at St. Marc’s Episcopal Church and School in Lilavois under the direction of Father Valdema; the preparations for that well have begun, and we expect water to be found soon. Our diocese has made digging wells at the six church sites under the care of Father Valdema and his wife, Carmel, a priority because of the tremendous impact clean water brings to all of the community in terms of public health, quality of life, nutritional care, and everyday life. It also makes it possible for the church in each of these communities to fulfill a basic need—clean, drinkable water—for the entire community.

Our diocese has also been involved with a water-purification project at St. Simeon’s School and Church at Croix des Bouquets. The school had water but it was not potable. Thanks to a generous gift from St. Thomas’ in Huntsville plus part of the offering from our recent diocesan convention and $2,500 from our diocesan MDG funds, a water-purification system has been installed and the children at St. Simeon’s now have safe, clean drinking water.

For more about how your generosity and compassion are helping our sisters and brothers in Haiti through our Companion Diocese commitment, please see “Elsewhere on our Haiti Partnership Front” on page 5.

Clergy Enjoy Annual Gathering at Camp McDowell

About 130 active and retired clergy of our diocese and many of their spouses gathered for the annual conference April 25 through 27 at Camp McDowell. For more about the conference please see page 2.

Venture Out!

Camp McDowell’s Venture Out! schedule offers something for everyone—from river canoeing and whitewater rafting to caving, climbing, canyon-ing, and family adventures. Please see “Venture Out! 2007” on page 7.
Clergy Enjoy Annual Gathering at Camp McDowell

The clergy of our diocese gathered at Camp McDowell on April 25-27 for their annual conference. In the midst of fellowship, worship, good food, hiking, canoeing, and napping they enjoyed listening to Speed Leas, a senior consultant with the Alban Institute and a nationally respected speaker on congregational dynamics, speak on the topic “Leading Anxious People.” Bishop Parsley addressed the clergy on Friday morning during the annual “Bishop’s time.” Clergy families with young children were especially grateful to Michael and Kana Goldsmith for organizing an excellent childcare program that allowed spouses to more fully participate in all the events. Our diocese offers the annual clergy-spouse conference as part of continuing efforts to nurture our clergy in their roles as parish leaders. Many thanks to Kenneth Lewis for providing photos taken at the conference.

ACTS 2—Giving EVERYONE a Chance to Contribute

It goes without saying that our Campaign Cabinet has been working hard this past year cultivating and soliciting donors as well as introducing the ACTS 2 goals. Many other groups throughout our diocese—our diocesan leaders, ECW, Daughters of the King, Cursillo community, youth and college students, and clergy—have offered their support, which has built a strong foundation for the campaign. This group support along with your individual pledges are ensuring the success of ACTS 2.

We are blessed in this diocese with many gracious donors who have answered God’s call and made generous commitments, but there is still work to be done in completing the ACTS 2 campaign. Every dollar raised will help ensure the completion and quality of all six focal projects.

Most importantly, we have not attained one of our primary missions—our desire to give all of the members of the Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Alabama an opportunity to learn about and contribute to ACTS 2. Through the continuing efforts of our parishes and donors, we hope to attain this goal by the end of May. If you have not heard about the ACTS 2 campaign within your parish, please ask your rector about it or visit the campaign Web site, www.acts2campaign.org.

Our Diocesan Council has approved contracts with Williams Blackstock Architects PC and Brice Building Company for help in finalizing details of the new chapel at Camp McDowell. These two companies are collaborating with the members of the Department of Camp McDowell to maximize the value of construction and minimize the cost. For example, repositioning the chapel on the site can result in significant savings without compromising the beauty of the location. Working with existing drawings and using their expertise, architect Joel Blackstock and Brice Construction are moving us ever closer to a celebratory groundbreaking. Watch for your invitation!

Good Samaritan Health Clinic Needs Grant Writer

The Good Samaritan Health Clinic in Cullman, one of our diocese’s Jubilee Centers, is looking for a grant writer who is willing to help as part of his or her ministry. The clinic, which is now in its fourth year of operation, has served more than 7,800 patients and provided $4.6 million in physician/nurse practitioner visits, free non-narcotic medications, labwork, and specialist referrals. The operating budget was $200,000 in 2006, and the clinic received about $325,000 of in-kind services from the community. For more information about the grant writing position or the clinic, please contact Executive Director Jerry Jacob at 256/775-1389 ext. 6 or jjacob@gshealthclinic.com.

Four Deacons To Be Ordained

Bishop Parsley will ordain the following graduating seminarians as Transitional Deacons:

Christian James von Gal at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, May 23, at St. John’s in Montgomery

Jon David Chalmers at 6 p.m. on Sunday, June 3, at Canterbury Chapel in Tuscaloosa

Joan Miller Henrick at 11 a.m. on Saturday, June 9, at Emmanuel in Opelika.

In addition, the Rt. Rev. Frank Neff Powell, Bishop of Southwestern Virginia, acting for Bishop Parsley will ordain Eric James Liles at 4 p.m. on Thursday, May 17, at Immanuel Chapel at Virginia Theological Seminary in Alexandria.
Sewanee Sesquicentennial 1857-2007

Dear Friends in Christ:

On July 4, 1857, the bishops of 10 dioceses of the Episcopal Church met on Lookout Mountain, Tennessee, with a host of other clergy and laity to found what would be known as the University of the South, Sewanee. The Bishop of Alabama, Nicholas Hamner Cobb, was among them, and the Diocese of Alabama was one of the 10 original owning dioceses of Sewanee. Thus began the story of one of the finest universities in America and one of the most visionary ministries of the Episcopal Church in the South.

This year marks the Sesquicentennial Anniversary of the University of the South, a year of celebration that will begin on Lookout Mountain this July 4th with a remembrance of that occasion in 1857. As Chancellor of the University I will be present, as was my predecessor in 1857, now to give thanks for Sewanee’s extraordinary legacy of education, faith, and leadership in the lives of countless students and friends over the years. I invite you to join us as representatives of this founding diocese at 9 a.m. EST in the Church of the Good Shepherd in Lookout Mountain for a historic service of thanksgiving.

The 150th Anniversary will continue with a special University Convocation on Founders’ Day; Tuesday, October 9, in All Saints’ Chapel on campus. Honorary degrees will be conferred; Jon Meacham, distinguished editor of Newsweek and a graduate of the college, will give the 150th Founders’ Day oration; and a Te Deum composed by Richard Shepard of York Minster, the great cathedral in York, England, will be sung. Later that day a Sesquicentennial window will be dedicated, and in the evening there will be a gala dinner and celebration. As the celebration continues other festive occasions will take place at Sewanee including a visit by the Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church at the 2008 Commencement. It should be a memorable year on what the Sewanee community affectionately calls “The Mountain.”

It was a courageous and farsighted venture to establish a new university of the Church in 1857 as the clouds of civil war were gathering in our country. In the most difficult of times men and women of faith were resolute in working for the future, especially for the formation of young lives in the learning and faith of the ages. After the devastation of the war Sewanee was re-founded and became a center of learning that helped rebuild this region of the country, and it has continued to become one of the finest liberal arts colleges and Episcopal seminaries in the country. Sewanee has one of the highest percentages of Rhodes Scholars of any institution of higher learning in this country, and currently the university has the largest enrollment in its history. Sewanee, which is now owned by 28 dioceses of our Church and serves students from 42 states and 22 foreign countries, is the only Episcopal university in America. Its 10,000-acre domain ranks as one of the largest academic campuses in the country and a remarkable natural resource.

I count it an honor to serve as the Chancellor of the university at this time. Bishop Carpenter and Bishop Stough served as Chancellors in their day, and the Diocese of Alabama continues to be a vital part of the life of Sewanee. Our diocese contributes financially the most of any owning diocese to the college and seminary each year, and we are blessed with many gifted Sewanee students from our diocese. I am always proud to be with the Alabama community on The Mountain and to see the children of friends from across the country continue the extraordinary story of this place of scholarship and enlightenment, worship and service.

The University Prayer that we pray regularly in All Saints’ Chapel says, “Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we thy servants implore Thy blessing upon the University of the South. Give the Spirit of wisdom to all those to whom Thou has given the authority of teaching and of government. Let the students grow in grace day by day; enlighten their minds, purify their hearts, and sanctify their wills. Bless all who have contributed in any way to this University, and raise up, we humbly pray Thee, a never-failing succession of benefactors, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.”

—The Prayer of the University of the South, Sewanee

“Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we thy servants implore Thy blessing upon the University of the South. Give the Spirit of wisdom to all those to whom Thou has given the authority of teaching and of government. Let the students grow in grace day by day; enlighten their minds, purify their hearts, and sanctify their wills. Bless all who have contributed in any way to this University, and raise up, we humbly pray Thee, a never-failing succession of benefactors, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.”

—The Prayer of the University of the South, Sewanee

In the Diocese of Alabama
About 36,000 baptized members in
94 congregations and 7 college campus
ministries. Established in 1830.
Bishop
Carpenter House
521 North 20th Street
Birmingham, AL 35203.
205/715-2160

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. Katharine Jefferts Schori
Episcopal Church Center
815 Second Avenue
New York, NY 10017
212/867-6400

The Anglican Communion
A 73-million-member worldwide
community of 38 provinces.
Archbishop of Canterbury
The Most Rev. Rowan R. Williams
 Lambeth Palace, London
England SE17 1JP

The Apostle
Norma E. McKirnick, Editor
Miles G. Parsons, Art Director
Denise Servant, Circulation Secretary
Volume 92, Number 4
May 2007
USPS 975-910
ISSN 1041-3316

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

By the Venerable Louise Thibodaux, Archdeacon

I am often asked by people in my parish what a deacon does. There is no single answer to this question. A deacon is an ordained person whose role in the Church is intended as a sign and symbol of God’s reconciling love for the world. Sometimes the word “permanent” deacon is used to describe this order of ministry. What this means is that each deacon discerns a specific call to serve the wider Church by bringing the needs of those who are poor, forgotten, or underserved to our attention. Although deacons serve at the altar with the priest on Sundays, most of their work takes place as they serve with the laity on college campuses, in prisons, in nursing homes, in soup kitchens, with multicultural ministries, and in countless other places where they can “show Christ’s people that in serving the helpless they are serving Christ himself” (The Book of Common Prayer, page 543).

Rarely are deacons paid for their work in ministry, which leaves them free to serve openly and take risks on issues that might be controversial or unpopular. The compensation they receive is knowing that they are living deeply into our shared baptismal covenant, responding to the promises to which all clergy and laity are called.

The Community of Deacons in our diocese was reactivated shortly after Bishop Parsley became our bishop. After several years of careful planning, the Deacon School for Ministry began in 2000, and through this school deacons complete a course of education lasting two years. Their formation combines work in the classroom and the community. Twelve men and women completed formation and were ordained to the diaconate in 2002, one in 2003, and 14 in 2004. Since 2005 the Deacon School has been taking a sabbatical, but in 2008 a new class of deacons will be invited to begin the two-year program of study. More information about the reactivation of the Deacon School will be forwarded to parishes over the next few months.

Perhaps the best way to catch a sense of what deacons do is to let them speak for themselves.

THE REV. DEACON ADELE STOCKHAM

Adele came into the diaconate through her work in providing affordable housing in the Birmingham area.

My work as a deacon comes out of my understanding of what it means to be a Christian. I can explain this with great economy and simplicity. Jesus did so: Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, and mind and your neighbor as yourself.

The diaconate concentrates on the second part of the great commandment: Love your neighbor as yourself. My job is to find out the needs of the world and take those needs to the Church. My job as a deacon is not about “doing” as much as it is about empowering others to do. The “world” in my case is the neighborhood of the parish in which I serve. Grace Church in Woodlawn (Birmingham) is in a poor inner-city neighborhood. I talk to people in the neighborhood and go to neighborhood meetings to find out the most pressing needs. Then I tell the parishioners about these needs, and they respond. For example, many of the people in our neighborhood have trouble paying utility bills—they are working poor, but they still need a hand.

Grace has a food pantry, which is run extremely well by an active committee. They provide groceries for 75 to 80 families. Years ago Grace started a thrift shop, 55th Place, which many of the parishioners keep open. I am also involved with Grace-by-Day, a place where people on the street can come in and receive hospitality when it is too cold or too hot outside. Soon we hope to begin teaching English as a second language—two of our bilingual parishioners will be able to be teachers.

THE REV. DEACON LYNN BULLARD

Lynn works as a financial analyst at a major bank.

I was ordained as a deacon in 2004, and I serve at St. Stephen’s in Huntsville. My great love is serving the homeless. I do this both as a chaplain and an advocate.

I am affiliated with First Stop, a case-management daycare center for the homeless. One of the things I enjoy most is taking part in worship and memorial services there. I also work with outreach teams to take food supplies, blankets, coats, and insect repellent to the campsites where homeless people gather. It may surprise you to find out how many people live in outdoor campsites, even in a major city like Huntsville. They are in the middle of the city, yet out of plain view. Since homeless people are invisible to the rest of society, it is important to bring their needs to the Church. I have found that people who live on the streets are a lot like you and me. They are made up of all ages, races, educational levels, and work experience—from unskilled laborers to physicians. We tend to think of “the homeless” as one faceless group—but each of them is a child of God, just like you and just like me.

THE REV. DEACON DR. ROLAND FICKEN

Roland, who spent much of his career in education and administration, is retired from the faculty of the University of Alabama.

Let me share with you a brief resume of the opportunities I have been blessed with as a deacon in the Diocese of Alabama and the broader Church. I am assigned to Canterbury Chapel on the campus of the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa.

Several years ago Bishop Parsley asked me to assist in the Diocese of Alabama’s response to disaster relief. That responsibility included coordinating with Province IV Disaster Relief volunteers. As everyone knows, years 2004 and 2005 have required much of our time and energy. Hurricanes and tornadoes have taken a significant toll, but our people have been faithful and forthcoming. We continue to help in the recovery effort, and much more will be required of all of us. I also serve needs closer to home where I spearhead the efforts of our loyal parish volunteers to serve more than 170 meals one Sunday each month through Meals on Wheels.

My role in the liturgy of the parish includes participating in at least two services every Sunday as well as all of the expanded liturgies of Christmas and Easter. In addition to these opportunities to serve we have set aside a time to help our brothers and sisters who have special needs with the necessities of daily living. Help with utility bills is provided from the Deacon’s Discretionary Fund, and help with food comes from the Deacon’s Pantry. Our office is open one day a week to those in need. A most generous congregation makes this possible.

Bishop Parsley has given me the opportunity to serve on the Commission on Ministry, and I am honored to participate in this responsibility to our diocese and the broader Church—it’s a most important ministry. Serving on the Commission has also led to the opportunity to cochair the Committee on the Diaconate with Nancy Terrell and several other colleagues to help structure the formation process for the next class of deacons for our diocese.

Currently, there are 26 deacons who serve actively in the diocese. In the next few issues of The Apostle you will hear other deacons describe diaconal ministry in their own words. If you would like to know more about diaconal ministry please contact Archdeacon Lou Thibodaux at ithibodaux@dioala.org or 205/969-2323.
Elsewhere on our Haiti Partnership Front

Anne Kimzey, cochair of our Companion Diocese Commission, and the Rev. Deacon Dave Drachlis have just returned from the biannual Haiti Connection meeting in Miami, where they met with Father Fritz Valdema, Bishop Zaché Duracin, and the Rev. Fernande Pierre-Louis, director of Holy Trinity School in Port-au-Prince. Plans are being made for two mission trips to Haiti this fall—a medical and a construction mission trip. The commission has developed a way that everyone in our diocese—individuals, groups, and parishes—can help our Haitian sisters and brothers: “The Haiti Connection Catalogue.” The catalogue lists specific items and projects ranging from cinderblocks (50 cents each) and classroom chairs ($5 each) to supporting a seminarian ($100 per month), providing a nursing scholarship ($1,300 per year), and furnishing a simple apartment for volunteers who come to help the Sisters of St. Margaret minister to elderly, indigent women and men in Port-au-Prince ($2,500).

To receive a copy of the “updated” Haiti Connection Catalogue, please contact the Rev. David Hall, rector of Resurrection in Rainbow City and cochair of our Companion Diocese Commission, at 256/442-6862 or revdhall@gmail.com.

If you would like to contribute to our ongoing work in Haiti, please send a check made out to the “Diocese of Alabama” with a notation “Haiti Project” and send it to the Rev. William King at Carpenter House, 521 North 20th Street, Birmingham, AL 35203-2682. For more information or to arrange to have a member of our diocesan Companion Diocese Commission make a presentation about our partnership with our sisters and brothers in Haiti, please contact David Hall or e-mail Anne Kimzey at anne.kimzey@arts.alabama.gov.

Be a Part of This Year’s Sawyerville Work Project

By Emily Rodgers, Project Coordinator

You can be a vital part of the Sawyerville Work Project, June 24–30 in Greensboro—without ever leaving home—by offering your prayers and contributions of much-needed supplies and financial resources to support this diocesan-wide outreach mission. In 1993 our diocesan Youth Department made a commitment to provide a weeklong summer camp for the children in Sawyerville, Alabama, and now, 14 years later, our commitment is just as strong. Members of our Youth Department and members of our diocesan Black Belt Ministries created the “Camp” to meet the needs of the two groups—the Youth Department wanted to be part of a hands-on outreach experience, and the Black Belt Ministries wanted to find a way to keep alive a summer program for the children of Hale County. The groups met, and the Sawyerville Work Project Day Camp was born.

To understand the Sawyerville Work Project, it is important to understand Hale County. Located east of Tuscaloosa, Hale County is one of the most consistently rated “Third World” counties in America. Racism and poverty are common in this community. There are few educational, medical, or social resources in place to lift the people from the stagnant environment, and children born into this culture often stay in this culture. This weeklong “Camp,” as it is affectionately called, helps open the eyes of the children and their families to the possibilities and hope of a better life.

The theme for this year’s Camp, which will be held at Greensboro Elementary West and Greensboro High School, is “Peace.” Together the campers and counselors will explore the many ways God’s peace can be found in their daily lives through movement activities, arts and crafts, role-playing, and just good, old-fashioned fun. On Wednesday, the group Got Rhythm will provide a drum workshop, and on Friday the campers will travel to Alabama Adventures for a day filled with laughter and excitement. Camp will end on Saturday with a carnival, picnic lunch for the children and their families, and a closing worship service.

People in all 93 parishes of our diocese generously support the Camp with their prayers as well as financial and material contributions. For information on how you can play a vital role in this wonderful mission opportunity, please visit sawyervilleworkproject.org or contact one of the coordinators listed below or Sarah Sartain at Carpenter House, ssartain@dioala.org or 205/715-2060 ext. 314.

Emily Rodgers, Project Coordinator, emily34@knology.net
Lauren Banks, Staff Coordinator, laurenbanks@gmail.com
Leslie Bridgers, Upper Camp Co-Coordinator, lbridgers@chistcathedral.org
The Rev. Bill Blackerby, Upper Camp Co-Coordinator, wblackerby@mindspring.com
Brad Landry, Lower Camp Co-Coordinator, brad@stmarysoth.org
Emily Colvin, Meals for Staff Coordinator, colvin.emily@gmail.com
Pam Phillips, Supply Drive Co-Coordinator, pphillips@bellsouth.net
Linda Kennedy, Supply Drive Co-Coordinator, linda.kennedy@bellsouth.net
Andrew Nelson, Saturday Coordinator, andrewnelson@gmail.com
The new diocesan-wide St. Clare’s Needle Arts Guild held its organizational meeting at St. Stephen’s in Birmingham on March 24. Whether you want to start/join a group or work alone; whether you are an experienced “needler” or want to learn; whether you want to stitch shawls, kneelers, baby caps, or caps for the homeless, you’ll find helpful information at www.alabamaecw.org to get started on one of the timeless rituals of servanthood and community. You can also contact guild organizer Sherrie LaDuke at 205/254-1216 (work), 205/970-0573 (home), or sladuke@maynardcooper.com.

Please send information for the 2008 ECW Diocesan Calendar/Handbook to Dee Buzby, 252 Welton Drive, Madison, AL 35757 by July 31. Also, 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 will be “Blessed is she who believes.”

Upcoming Events and Deadlines

**June 2**  Spring meeting of the East Alabama ECW Convocation at St. James’ in Alex City

**June 4-6**  Province IV ECW Conference at Kanuga

**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.

Camp McDowell Announces Summer Staff

*By Michael Goldsmith, Director of Program and Development and Summer Camp Coordinator*

We have an amazing summer staff and an energetic and enthusiastic group of counselors ready to give every camper an amazing experience at Wonderful, Wonderful Summer Camp McDowell. Please keep these energetic and enthusiastic clergy and lay leaders in your prayers as they minister to the children and young people of our diocese.

Head Counselor—Austin Kendrick  
Activities Director—Allison Kendrick  
Arts and Crafts Director—Laura Dixon  
Waterfront Director—Jennifer Hanson  
Ropes Course Director—Stephen Skipper  
Music Director—Worth Stuart  
Emily Venglarik—Lifeguards  
Ryan Woodford—Lifeguards  
Molly Dwyer—Cabin Counselor  
Claire DeBow—Cabin Counselor  
Emily Thornton—Cabin Counselor  
Kathryn Kendrick—Cabin Counselor  
Lyndsey Mullen—Cabin Counselor  
Grace Mullen—Cabin Counselor  
Kathleen Hanson—Cabin Counselor  
Joel Blackstock—Cabin Counselor  
Lee Sneller—Cabin Counselor  
Graham Mullen—Cabin Counselor  
Michael Donovan—Work Crew  
Andrew Cotton—Work Crew  
Alex Cornett—Work Crew  
Nick Recio—Work Crew  
Chris Cook—Office Assistant and Fun Director

Save This Date!

Make plans now to come to the 2nd Annual Father/Son Retreat at Camp McDowell on September 29-30. The Rev. Richard Lawson, rector of St. John’s in Decatur, will lead this year’s weekend event. Applications will be available soon at your parish office, or you can download one at www.campmcdowell.com.

From the ECW President

*Alleen Cater, alleenc@bellsouth.net*

The ECW has given a cross to our diocese in memory of the late Rt. Rev. Furman C. “Bill” Stough, Eighth Bishop of Alabama. The cross, which now hangs in the center window of the chapel at Carpenter House, was designed and executed by artist Cordray Parker.

“The bronze cross and Argentium Sterling Silver Corpus blend two things stylistically,” Cordray notes. “The design of the cross on the outside of the window repeats natural materials to blend with features of the garden: canes and a wreath recalling green spiny vines. The Corpus on the side facing the inside of the chapel is a contemporary figure taken from a drawing for a sculpture for a church in Brooklyn. The ‘S’ positioning adds a Gothic element. The hands are curved down in a welcoming position, sacrificially reaching out to us. The silver contemporary pieces give solidarity against the glass, but not detail.” One ECW board member notes that for her it is an image of “The Lord of the Dance.”

In a sermon Bishop Stough preached during our 165th Annual Diocesan Convention in Tuscaloosa on February 10, 1996, he proclaimed, “I am a Christian only because of Jesus Christ—for no other conscious reason. I find Him unforgettable. I cannot get Him out of my system. . . . I do not find it easy to think of God at all except in terms of Jesus Christ. . . . Just as the Himalayas are dominated by Everest, so the Scriptures are dominated by Jesus. He is the summit, the focal point of attention, the one because of whom I read the rest. Seeing Him there, as He is, the only response I can make is one of love and personal commitment. . . . For in Jesus I find certain realities that may be roughly summed up as: meaning, deliverance from anxiety, the reliability of God, encounter, and final hope.”
Free Summer Workshops for Teachers in Earth Sciences

By Maggie Wade Johnston, Director

McDowell Environmental Center at Camp McDowell is offering two free teacher workshops this summer made possible by grants from Legacy Inc. Partners in Environmental Education, World Wildlife Fund, and Alabama Sierra Club. Both free workshops will take place in God’s Backyard at Camp McDowell Environmental Center.

Lost Worlds in Alabama Rocks: An Up-close Look at the Geology of Alabama and How To Make it Real in your Classroom, June 3-6

Alabama’s own Dr. Jim Lacefield, author of Lost World’s in the Alabama Rocks, will teach this workshop, which is geared for middle-school teachers since the Alabama Course of Study emphasizes Earth Science in the 6th grade. The workshop will involve some hikes of more than a mile to study the ancient sandstone rock layers exposed in McDowell’s canyons. Take-home materials will include a copy of Dr. Lacefield’s book, and teachers will receive CEUs for their attendance. To apply for this workshop please contact Marijean Hadley at marijean@legacyenved.org.

Living Streams: Creating a Real Appreciation for the Water on which We Depend, July 11-13

This workshop is for teachers interested in bringing water knowledge and information to their classrooms as well as taking their students out to explore their local watershed. The primary instructor will be Auburn University’s Dr. Bill Deutsch, who founded Alabama Water Watch (AWW), a statewide organization of volunteers who monitor rivers and lakes. Randy Haddock from Cahaba River Society will also lead workshop sessions. Teachers will take home a Macro Mania game and other goodies for their classroom. Participants will receive CEUs for their attendance. To apply for this workshop please contact Maggie Wade Johnston at maggie@campmcdowell.com or 205/387-1806.

Venture Out! 2007

Joey Jarrell, Director

Venture Out! offers adventure trips for folks of all ages, and spaces are still available for some of this summer’s expeditions. Don’t miss out on all of the fun! Contact me now at outreach@campmcdowell.com or 205/387-1806 for more information.

Expedition One: Cahaba River Canoe
May 28-June 1
For rising 6th-8th graders

Expedition Two: Cave, Climb, Canyon
June 3-7
For rising 7th-9th graders

Expedition Three: Family in the Forest
June 22-24
For rising 3rd-5th graders plus one parent

Expedition Four: Week of Rivers
July 7-13
For rising 9th-12th graders

Expedition Five: Pack and Raft
July 25-31
For rising 8th-10th graders
Domestic Violence

By the Rev. Dr. Hernan Añanador, Our Diocesan Missioner for Hispanic Ministries

La violencia está presente en medio de nosotros, la violencia está en cada uno de nosotros, la violencia, incluso, está en cada rincon de la vida humana en todas sus expresiones. La violencia ha salpicado todos los ambitos de la vida humana: familiar, conyugal, social, educacional, economica, etc. Podemos afirmar que la violencia comienza en casa. Los hijos reciben de sus padres, como esponjas, todo lo positivo y negativo que constituye sus vidas. Un hogar violento genera hijos violentos.Y jóvenes violentos son los adultos violentos del futuro. De modo que se trata de una cadena interminable de violencia y de dolor.

Unos pocos días atrás asistimos a un acto mas de violencia: un joven accionaba un arma para quitar la vida de 32 jóvenes. Las investigaciones han afirmado que este ha sido un joven con un todo pasado tragico.Y que durante todo su desarrollo humano habia mostrado características violentas. Asi como este joven, millones de personas en el mundo son violentos, agresivos y disponibles a enfrentarse a otros con armas o sin ellas. Los asesinatos que se cometen a diario en el mundo, son el resultado de mentes violentas que han recibido desde la niñez una fuerte dosis de agresividad y de odio hacia los demas. Incluso, las palabras del apostol Pablo en su carta a los Efesios, capitulo 5, versiculos 21 y siguientes, mal leidas y mal interpretadas, pueden ser una verdadera causa de violencia domestica, un foco de agresividad del hombre hacia la mujer; de abuso intrafamiliar, de sometimiento, y no, como la lectura biblica lo demanda, signo de redencion y liberacion.

El texto dice: v. 21 “Sed sumisos los unos a los otros en el temor de Cristo”; v. 22. “Las mujeres a sus maridos como al Señor”; v. 23: “porque el marido es cabeza de la mujer, como el Señor es cabeza de la Iglesia, el salvador del Cuerpo”; v. 24: “Asi como la Iglesia esta sumisa a Cristo, asi tambien las mujeres deben estarlo a sus maridos en todo.”

Yo les invito a que revisemos varias cosas que componen nuestras vidas.

Primero, nuestras vidas para descubrir alli toda clase de violencia que permanezca en nosotros, con el proposito de buscar ayuda y asi erradicarla definitivamente.

Segundo, nuestras vidas matrimoniales, nuestras vidas de pareja, para que descubriendo toda clase de dominacion, de abuso, de sometimiento, toda sed de violencia, buscando, tambien la ayuda necesaria, erradicaremos toda clase de violencia, para ser pacificos, generosos, mansos de corazon.

Tercero, la relacion, educacion y actividades familiares que usamos, vivimos e implementamos con nuestros hijos, para lograr encontrar con valor y honestidad, toda clase de elemento violento que pueda llevar a nuestros hijos, a ser los adultos violentos del futuro, y asi, descubriendo lo que es violento, podamos con ayuda, emplear los metodos y tecnicas que hagan de nuestros hijos personas de bien, respetuosos del otro y de Dios.

Cuarto, nuestro sistema escolar a todo nivel, para que descubramos todo aquello que pueda llevar a nuestros hijos a ser violentos, de tal manera que la educacion sea formativa, no desinformativa y destructiva de los valores humanos.

Finalmente, nuestro sistema social, leyes, sistema carceral, fuentes de trabajo, sistema judicial, cuerpos de autoridad (policia, ejercito, etc), medios de entretenimiento, y todo aquello que compone nuestra vida social y la interaccion humana, para que seamos capaces, junto con nuestro gobernantes y lideres, de descubrir todo aquello que contenga violencia y podamos erradicarla para siempre, de tal manera que todos crezcamos y nos desarrollemos en paz y en justicia para un mundo mejor.

Violence is present and among us, violence is even in all of us, violence is in every corner of this world such as family, social, economical, educational, matrimonial, etc., of our human lives. We can affirm that violence starts at home. In our family lives, young children receive, like sponges, patterns that are both positive and negative. A family environment with violence produces violent children, and violent young people will become the violent adults of the future. This is an endless circle of violence and pain. Just a few days ago we were alerted to a dramatic act of violence, a young student used a gun to kill 32 of his classmates. The investigations have concluded that he had been a person with mental disorders and a violent past. Was his childhood spotted by violence? Like this young fellow, millions of people in this world are violent and aggressive, ready to confront the each other. The crimes and assassinations committed daily in this, our world, are the result of people with mental problems, spotted with violence since their childhood, and with a strong dose of aggressiveness and hate against others.

Even the words of the Apostle Paul in his letter to the Ephesians, Chapter 5, verses 21 to 24, read and interpreted, with malicious intentions, this could be read as a case of domestic violence with a focus of aggressiveness from a husband to his wife, and a focus of abuse in all its forms, and a focus of all kinds of domination. On the contrary, the reading means redemption and freedom. The biblical text says: v.21: “Submit yourselves to one another because of your reverence for Christ”; v. 22: “Wives, submit yourselves to your husbands as to the Lord”; v. 23: “For a husband has authority over his wife just as Christ has authority over the church; and Christ is himself the Savior of the church, his body”; v. 24: “And so wives must submit themselves completely to their husbands just as the church submits itself to Christ.”

I am glad to invite you to look in all things and elements that constitute and make up our lives.

First, in our personal lives, try to discover in us all kinds of violence with the purpose to remove it from us forever. If it is happening, search for professional help.

Second, search in our matrimonial lives and try to verify how much violence there is in it and find the appropriate support in order to take it out and begin a peaceful and gentle life together.

Third, check and review the relationship, educational methods, and family activities that we are implementing to educate our children at home and with honor and courage, be able to discover and destroy any kinds of violence to avoid a violent future for our family. In this way search for the help and support to give to our children all the elements to become respectable people of God and each other.

Fourth, at all levels in our school systems, discover all kinds of violence in order to establish an educational system that is able to influence, form, and educate our children and young people for the future. And finally, in our social systems, laws, prisons, judicial systems, authorities, like police departments, military, etc., mass media, entertainment, and everything else that makes up our lives, to be able, along with our leaders, to discover all kinds of violence and to destroy it and to build this our world on a basis of peace and justice.

Let us work together for a better future.
The Rev. Margaret Rose Speaks at St. Joseph’s

The Rev. Margaret Rose, director of the Office of Women’s Ministries of the Episcopal Church, spoke on “Letting God Surprise Us in Repentance: The Effect of Our Lives beyond the Mountain” at the final Lenten Wednesday night program at St. Joseph’s-on-the-Mountain in Mentone. Margaret grew up in the rural South during the early years of desegregation. Her memories of that experience ignited her passion to work on issues of social justice in the community and through the Episcopal Church. While she was a student at Wellesley College, she participated in an activist chaplaincy program and worked as a legal services volunteer, which connected the nurturing faith of her childhood in the Episcopal Church and her commitment to work for a just world. She attended Harvard Divinity School in the 1970s, was ordained in the Diocese of Massachusetts, and served parishes there until 1992. Before joining the staff of the Episcopal Church Center, Margaret served as the rector of St. Dunstan’s parish in Atlanta and worked with the Ford Foundation on a project to identify innovative women leaders in Christianity, Islam, and Judaism.

St. John’s J2A Group Makes a Pilgrimage

*By Katherine Lawson, One of the J2A Leaders*

In the summer of 2006 the J2A (Journey to Adulthood) group of St. John’s in Decatur went on our first pilgrimage to Italy, the culmination of our two years of work, prayer, study, and fellowship. A pilgrimage, a traditional practice of the Christian faith and other religions, is a journey to a place associated with the holiness of God. For example, our diocese hosts a pilgrimage each summer to Hayneville, Alabama, where Episcopal seminarian Jonathan Daniels gave his life to protect a young woman during the Civil Rights movement.

We chose to make a pilgrimage to Italy, a place associated with the development of the faith and the Church. I was one of the three adults who led our 10 high-school pilgrims on a fun-filled spiritual journey to a country with a tremendous history and glorious churches—and delicious food! Our group participated in Morning Prayer as well as Compline each day, and we also offered special prayers in each holy place we visited. One of the themes that several of our pilgrims discussed was that it sometimes takes going away to a holy place to realize that holiness exists in your own backyard.

In the J2A program, these young people took on a new standing in the community as Young Adults in the Church (YAC) after they returned home from their pilgrimage. As YAC at St. John’s, they will spend one or two more years together taking on leadership roles within the parish, participating in mission work, and preparing for confirmation before they graduate from high school. If you would like to know more about our J2A program please contact me at lawson@pclnet.net.

Grace in Mt. Meigs Honors Sandra Allen

The Rev. David Peeples, rector of Grace Church in Mt. Meigs, and the members of the parish honored organist and choirmaster Sandra Allen with an evening of celebration for her 30 years of faithful service. David officiated at the Celebration of Ministry Service, and Sandra selected special music, which was performed by the parish choir accompanied by Barbara Bloomers on the violin, Dennis Herrick on the trumpet, Clay McKinney on the cello, and Robert Scott on the flute. In addition to the personal gifts Sandra received, a tree was planted on the church grounds in her name in thanksgiving for her past 30 years of dedicated service and in hope of another 30 years.

St. Peter’s Offers the Pond House for Retreats

Nestled among pines and hardwoods on 40 acres outside Pell City near Logan Martin Lake, the Pond House Retreat Center offers an ideal environment for both individual and small group reflection. Meandering hiking trails and a fishing pond enhance the relaxing atmosphere, and the facility includes a chapel, kitchen, dining areas, decks, and meeting areas suitable for overnight as well as multiday stays for individuals and small groups. Hugh and Violet Cort gave the property to St. Peter’s in Talladega in October 1999, and the parish administers the facility for the benefit of our diocese. “Our prayer is that all who come to this place will be blessed with the gift of God’s love and restoration so that each may in turn manifest God’s love to all whose lives they touch,” notes the Rev. Neil-St. Barnabas Lawson, rector of St. Peter’s. For more information or to reserve the Pond House Retreat Center please contact the parish at speters@bellsouth.net or 256/362-2505.

Holy Cross Pays Tribute to Harold Nicrosi and Robert Wisnewski

*By Gail Alsobrook, Holy Cross Episcopal School*

Holy Cross Episcopal School’s 2nd Annual Low Country Boil & Silent Auction paid tribute to Mrs. William (Harold) Nicrosi and the Rev. Robert Wisnewski. Harold along with her late husband, Bill, and their daughters Ginger Nicrosi, Michel Nicrosi, and Dr. Katharine Schull donated the land where Holy Cross now stands, while the Rev. Robert Wisnewski pulled together the generous people who made the building possible. Without the love and dedication of these two individuals Holy Cross Episcopal School would still be a dream that someday someone could pursue. Instead it is alive with the voices of many children and filled with the love of many in this community as evidence by the tribute gave “Granny,” as she is affectionately known, and Robert. In addition to honoring these two special people, the event raised more than $68,000 for providing the students opportunities to learn through daily school lessons as well as fields trips and keeping up with the technology required for our students to continue to have the firm foundation they need to be the best they can be.
**Sewanee’s D.Min. Program Runs June 20-July 11, 2007**

The Doctor of Ministry (D.Min.) Program of the University of the South (Sewanee), which begins its 33rd year this summer, will run from June 20 through July 11. It is one of the few D.Min. programs in the United States that operate only during the summer months, which means that clergy can work toward completing their degree without major interruption in their parish responsibilities. The summer program also offers an opportunity for students to study in an Episcopal seminary in a university setting.

Sewanee’s D.Min. program consists of 30 semester hours and stresses the relationship between the practice of ministry and biblical, historical, and theological knowledge. Students are required to complete a major project, which is a study of some dimension of their ministry or the ministry of the Church. The program usually takes three or four summers to complete, and financial aid is available. Sewanee also offers a Master of Sacred Theology program that focuses on research skills.

Courses offered this summer in the Advanced Degrees program will be “Ministry Seminar” by Dr. Donald Armentrout, “The Rhetoric of Jesus and the Rhetoric of Preaching” by Dr. William Brosend, “The Use of the Revised Common Lectionary (RCL)” by Dr. Reginald Fuller, and “Hymnody of the Christian Church” by Dr. Marian Hatchett. For more information please visit [http://theology.sewanee.edu](http://theology.sewanee.edu) or contact Don S. Armentrout, Advanced Degrees Program Director, School of Theology, 335 Tennessee Avenue, Sewanee, TN 37383-0001; 800/722-1974; advdeg@sewanee.edu.

**PROVINCE IV AIDS RETREAT**

**June 8-10 at Kanuga Conference Center in Hendersonville, North Carolina**

The Rev. Dr. Malcolm Marler, chaplain of the UAB 1917 Clinic, will lead this year’s retreat for persons living with HIV/AIDS and caregivers. Limited scholarships are available. For more information and a registration form, please contact Alan Woellhart, a member of our diocesan AIDS Task Force, at zara.renander@nativity-hsv.org or 256/533-2455 or visit www.nativity-hsv.org.

**PILGRIMAGE TO COMPOSTELA**

**June 16-29**

The Nativity Center for Pilgrimage & Reconciliation, an outreach ministry of the Nativity in Huntsville, is inviting a small group of pilgrims to walk a short part (80 miles) of the Camino de Santiago, or the Way of Saint James, to the pilgrimage of Compostela, Spain. The pilgrimage will include backpacking 10-15 miles a day while praying for reconciliation among Christians, Jews, and Muslims. The pilgrims will stay in hostels, giving them the opportunity to meet others from around the world. For more information please contact Sara Renander, director of the Nativity Center, at zara.renander@nativity-hsv.org or 256/333-2435 or visit www.nativity-hsv.org.

**“ONE DESTINATION—MANY PATHWAYS,” ECUMENICAL MUSIC MINISTRY CONFERENCE**

**June 28-30 at John Carroll Catholic High School in Birmingham**

The nonprofit Foundation for Liturgical Music (FLM) is sponsoring its 11th annual music conference (MMS XI) at John Carroll Catholic High School in Birmingham on June 28-30. The theme for this year’s event is “One Destination—Many Pathways.” For the past 10 years, FLM has brought top-notch liturgical musicians to the Birmingham area to serve as faculty for their Music Ministry Series Conferences, which are designed to help improve the quality of music for liturgy by bringing together music educators, church musicians, and others involved in liturgical planning. This year’s outstanding faculty includes renowned liturgical artists Tony Alonso, John Angotti, Jaime Cortez, Gary Duque, Bobby Fisher, Deanna Light, Steve Petrunak, Paul Tate, Janet Vogt, and Bishop Ron Herron (Bishop of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Alexandria, Louisiana). In addition to new sessions that provide a greater variety of choices, a bilingual track has been added especially for participants who are or want to become more involved in bilingual and multicultural ministries. Everyone is cordially invited to a free concert featuring all of the artists at 7 p.m. on Friday, June 29, at John Carroll Catholic High School. For more information and to register, please contact Nancy Brown at nbrown43@sibellouth.net or 205/995-0527 or visit www.foundationforliturgicalmusic.org.

**57TH ANNUAL SEWANEE CHURCH MUSIC CONFERENCE**

**July 9-15 at DuBose Conference Center in Monteagle, Tennessee**

Sewanee Church Music Conference, the largest and oldest Episcopal Church music conference in the United States, will hold its 57th gathering this year. It offers continuing education in liturgy and music with a faculty that includes some of the finest clergy and church musicians in both the United States and Europe. The curriculum is specifically designed for musicians working in smaller parishes.

Keith Shafer, director of music and organist of St. Paul’s in Augusta, Georgia, will direct this year’s conference. Other leaders include Dr. Gerre Hancock, a professor at the School of Music at the University of Texas, and his wife Judith, who serves as senior lecturer in Music at the university; the Rev. Dr. Dennis Maynard, a priest and author from Rancho Mirage in California; Dr. Robert Delcamp, a professor of Music at the University of the South; Donald E. Dupee Jr. of St. Thaddeus’ Episcopal Church in Aiken, South Carolina; Larry Marchese, education manager of Sibelius Software; Susan Rupert of the School of Theology at the University of the South; Mark Schweitzer of St. James Music Press; and Cecilia Tolar-Bane of St. John’s Episcopal Church Press. For more information and to register please contact Janet Perkins at jperkins@sewingwring.com or 770/498-1678 or Keith Shafer at kshafer@saintpauls.org.

**ANNUAL JONATHAN DANIELS AND THE MARTYRS OF ALABAMA PILGRIMAGE**

**August 11 in Hayneville**

The pilgrimage will begin at 11 a.m. in the Courthouse Square in Hayneville. More information will be available in May.

**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 Dioceses of New Zealand, and Co-Primate of the Anglican Church of Aotearoa New Zealand and Polynesia), the Right Rev. James A. Kelsey (Bishop of the Diocese of Northern Michigan), the Right Rev. Frank Neff Powell (Bishop of the Diocese of Southwestern Virginia), the Rev. Stephen M. Kelsey (Missioner/Supervisor 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 Seminaries—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 Seminaries at 800/728-1659 or StMarysSewanee@sibellouth.net, or visit www.StMarysSewanee.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.

**Bishops’ Visitation Schedule**

**May 20, Sunday**

8 and 10 a.m. Bishop Parsley, Natività, Huntsville

10 a.m. Bishop Miller, Holy Comforter, Montgomery

**May 27, Sunday**

10:30 a.m. Bishop Miller, St. Alban’s, Birmingham

11 a.m. Bishop Parsley, St. Andrew’s, Montevallo

**June 3, Sunday**

10 a.m. Bishop Miller, Christ the Redeemer, Montgomery

10:30 a.m. Bishop Parsley, Good Shepherd, Decatur

**June 10, Sunday**

10 a.m. Bishop Parsley, St. Barnabas’, Hartselle

10:30 a.m. Bishop Miller, St. Columba in the Cove, Huntsville

**June 17, Sunday**

10:30 a.m. Bishop Miller, St. Joseph’s on-the-Mountain, Mentone

11 a.m. Bishop Parsley, St. Paul’s, Lowndesboro

**June 24, Sunday**

10:15 a.m. Bishop Parsley, Trinity, Wetumpka

11 a.m. Bishop Miller, St. James’, Livingston
What's New/Noteworthy at the Episcopal Book Store

Heaven edited by Roger Ferlo
Each of the authors included in this book was asked to write a short personal essay on the subject of heaven, and the collected writings gather the hopes and reflections of theologians, novelists, poets, artists, historians, teachers, therapists, and spiritual guides. The authors include Michael Battle, Cynthia Bourgeault, Malcolm Boyd, Barbara Cav thorne Craf ton, Nora Gallagher, Alan Jones, Martin L. Smith, Barbara Brown Taylor, Phyllis Tickle, and many others. The poignant writings mix autobiography, storytelling, and theological reflection and are so wide-ranging that all of us can find ourselves in them—as well as a starting place for telling our own stories about heaven.

Hope for Each Day: Words of Wisdom and Faith by Billy Graham
This book is the latest edition of the Daily Inspirations Series by Jack Countryman. In Hope for Each Day, Billy Graham offers spiritual comfort to guide us through our daily lives. The entry for each day presents a verse from scripture followed by a reflection by Graham. Recommended as a graduation gift.

Religious Literacy: What Every American Needs to Know—And Doesn't? by Stephen Prothero
Stephen Prothero thinks of his book as an exploration of the question “How is it that the United States is one of the most religious places on the earth but most Americans don’t know anything about their own religions, much less about the religions of others?” He tries to answer this question historically, looking back to earlier times when learning to read and learning about religion went hand in hand. But he also offers practical solutions to the problem of religious literacy today, including mandatory Bible and world religion courses in public high schools. Throughout his book he interprets religious illiteracy as a civic problem. How can citizens understand the war in Iraq without knowing something about Islam—debates about stem-cell research and capital punishment without knowing something about the Bible? We may or may not like the fact that religion is rampaging into the public square, but as a matter of fact it is, so it makes sense to know something about it.

The Lord’s Prayer Beaded Bracelet
The beads of this bracelet symbolize the words Jesus gave us when He taught us all to pray the most perfect prayer, the Lord’s Prayer. The beads will help you remember the Lord’s Prayer and its divine message.

Guitar Prayer CD by Bobby Fisher

Mark Your Calendar

Cursillo Weekends #158 June 14-17, #159 September 20-23, #160 October 18-21

Happening Weekends (10th-12th graders) #51 June 15-17, #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

Young People Painting Birmingham (8th-9th graders) June 3-8

May 20-23 Gardens and Grace retreat at Kanuga. For more information please visit www.kanuga.org, e-mail info@kanuga.org, or call 828/692-9136.

June 3 Evensong sung by the Nativity Choir at 5 p.m. at the Nativity in Huntsville. For more information please contact Organist/Choirmaster Suzanne Portee at suzanne.portee@nativi ty-huntsville.org, or visit 256.533.2455.

June 4-6 Province IV Women’s Conference 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 10-15 Spirituality Conference with keynote speaker the Very Rev. Sam Candler, dean of the Cathedral of St. Philip in Atlanta 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 10-15 Christian Formation Conference 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 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 Birmingham. 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@wingnwring.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 contact the Rev. Bill King at 205/715-2060 ext. 317 or bkng@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.

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. James A. Kelsey (Bishop of the Diocese of Northern Michigan), the Right Rev. Frank Neff Powell (Bishop of the Diocese of Southwestern Virginia), the Rev. Stephen M. Kelsey (Missions/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.

Guitar Prayer CD by Bobby Fisher

Revised Common Lectionary Episcopal Lectern Edition
This large, lectionary-sized, hardcover version of the smaller desktop-sized Revised Common Lectionary features a heavywight, burgundy-red cover with a gold embossed Latin cross and fulfills the rubrical desire that the lessons be read from a book “of appropriate size and dignity” (The Book of Common Prayer, page 406). The book includes all of the New Revised Standard Version (NRSV) readings for Sundays in Years A, B, and C, as well as for Major Feast Days and Special occasions. A scripture index makes it easy to find readings for special services.

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

By Charles Scribner IV and Michael Churchman

The benefits of sustainable agriculture are a truly responsible relationship with Creation, and healthy agricultural practices are good for people nutritionally and environmentally because they prevent chemicals from entering both our diet and our waterways. Utilizing the Internet and other resources, you can find sound practices to institute in your yard and garden including decreasing the use of chemicals, planting native species, and finding ways to conserve water. One of the best ways to add soil fertility and conserve water is composting leaves and grass clippings, which decompose naturally into free fertilizer. Organic farming utilizes these sound practices and more, and two organic farms are particularly noteworthy because of their proximities to our 2007 and 2008 diocesan conventions.

Snow’s Bend Farm sits on Snows Bend of the Black Warrior River just 10 miles outside Tuscaloosa, site of our 2007 convention. The farm’s Certified Naturally Grown produce is marketed solely in Tuscaloosa and Birmingham through a CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) farmer’s markets, a few restaurants, and small, locally owned grocery stores. For more information please visit www.snowsbendfarm.com or call 205/242-1054.

In downtown Birmingham, site of our 2008 convention, Jones Valley Urban Farm seeks to enhance the environmental, economic, and social health of the area by promoting locally grown organic food and community activism. For more information please visit www.jvuf.org or call 205/439-7213. Produce from farms utilizing sustainable agriculture can be found at markets throughout our diocese including Pepper Place Farmers’ Market, just a few streets away from our diocesan offices in Carpenter House. For more information about sustainable agriculture please visit www.asanonline.org/index.html or call 256/751-3925. Also please visit www.stewardsforcreation.org

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 is currently reviewing the candidates’ resumes, CDO reports, and responses to written questions in preparation to selecting candidates to interview and ordering background checks. On July 15 the committee will announce a slate of three to five nominees, and from July 20 through 30 our diocesan Standing Committee will accept additional nominations by petition from convention delegates. The Nominating Committee’s nominees and the additional nominees by petition will participate in a Question-and-Answer Walkabout at St. Luke’s in Birmingham on September 8. The convention delegates will gather at the Advent in Birmingham the afternoon of September 30 to vote. For more information about the election process including the timetable, job description, and nomination form, please visit www.dioala.org.

St. Matthew’s “Tops Out” New Church

By Laura Mickels and the St. Matthew’s Vestry

On March 6, Bishop Parsley joined the clergy and members of St. Matthew’s in Madison as well as builders and local officials for a “topping out” service to celebrate reaching the highest peak of their new church building. American and Episcopal flags flew above the new roof on this beautiful spring day, and the reception following the service featured a beautiful cake decorated with a photograph of the rendering of the completed church. This event marks a significant milestone in the construction project, which is expected to be completed before the end of the year. To view the construction progress please visit the parish’s Web site, www.stmatthewsmadison.org, and click on the “New Building” link.

ERD Update

Episcopal Relief and Development (ERD) is working with the Dioceses of Western Kansas and Kansas to provide emergency assistance in the aftermath of the recent deadly tornadoes and flooding in Greensburg and other communities. ERD will continue to support the dioceses in the months to come through the newly created Long-Term Recovery Committee to provide information and help for disaster victims during the recovery process including psychological counseling and aid for communities that do not qualify for federal assistance. ERD is also providing emergency assistance to the victims of flooding in the Northeast following the recent devastating nor’easter, as well as to the victims of flooding in Zambia.

Young People Painting Birmingham

June 3-8
For entering 8th and 9th Graders
Registration Deadline: May 25
For more information please contact Susan Oakes, susan@ssechurch.org.

When I was a teenager, my youth group used to go out of town on “work trips” to help repair people’s homes. It was a great experience for me. Why would a week of work in the hot sun for no pay with modest accommodations (including public showers and bunk rooms), and simple food be such a great experience? Well, my friend, it’s because of the feeling of generosity you get when you show God’s love by giving your time and energy to helping others, the feeling of accomplishment for doing something you may never have tried, the feeling of God’s love when your friendships and community boundaries are extended through living, working, sharing, and learning together. Last year when I participated in the Young People Painting Birmingham service project, I got all of those same feelings I had felt when I was a teenager. It was awesome! I’m looking forward to doing it again, and I’m praying that the teenagers today experience their service to others in a profound way too.

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.