ACTS 2—Giving EVERYONE a Chance To Participate

By Felix M. Drennen III, Campaign Chair

“Lord, what do you want to do through me to accomplish your will?”

The financial goal of the ACTS 2 Campaign is to raise $5.5 million dollars for six vital diocesan-wide initiatives, but the underlying goal is to give EVERY person in our diocese the opportunity to support the mission of our Church. In the ACTS 2 update in the November issue of The Apostle, I wrote that our glass was “half full” since we were then at 50 percent of our goal. At that time we were spreading the word about the Campaign with awareness meetings being held all across the diocese. Leadership gifts were sought, and the response has been tremendous.

The Campaign’s ongoing success comes from so many faithful people in our diocese catching the “vision”—a glimpse of our future of “dreaming the dream of God” for the Diocese of Alabama, the theme stated early in this initiative. ACTS 2 is much more than just raising the money—it’s about how we can all participate and what we can do with the commitments that we have in hand.

It goes without saying that our Campaign cabinet has been hard at work over the past year, but many other groups throughout our diocese have provided invaluable support. Through the leadership of Lucy McCain, our cabinet chaplain, the ECW has sustained us with prayer and meeting devotions as well as a corporate gift. The Daughters of the King have upheld us in their devotion to prayer, and the Cursillo Community has made a corporate commitment. The youth and college students of our diocese have devoted the proceeds of a T-shirt fundraiser to the ACTS 2 Campaign. The overwhelming support of our clergy as well as 100 percent of leadership pledges (our diocesan senior staff, members of our Diocesan Council, and the Campaign cabinet) early in the Campaign established a strong foundation. You are invited to join these groups and individuals in ensuring the ultimate success of the ACTS 2 Campaign and cultivating the future growth of the ministry and mission of our diocese (for more information please see page 4 and visit www.acts2campaign.org).

Birmingham Volunteers Help Feed Those in Need

“For most of us Easter dinner was very filling,” notes the Rev. Bill King, our diocesan deputy for ministry development and clergy deployment, “and we tend to forget that in this country of plenty the number of those going hungry is growing, not diminishing. It is a responsibility of all people of faith to care for the hungry and share fully what we have. Community Kitchens allows us to do that in a very direct way.”

With the help of volunteers Community Kitchens of Birmingham serves 150-200 free noontime meals every day at St. Andrew’s and Grace parishes. The organization will thank volunteers and celebrate 26 years of service with a fundraiser on Tuesday, May 8, at historic Rucker Place. For more information please see page 9.
ELECTING A BISHOP SUFRAGAN

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, at the Cathedral Church of the Advent in Birmingham, with the consecration of our new bishop suffragan on January 12.

The Nominating Committee recently released a job description and nomination form to convention delegates, senior wardens, and all canonical clergy of our diocese as well as others outside our diocese. The committee will accept completed nomination forms until April 16.

From May 1 through July 15 the Nominating Committee will review the candidates’ resumes, CDO reports, and responses to written questions. The committee will then select candidates to interview and order 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 on September 30 to vote. For more information, please visit www.dioala.org.

THE HOUSE OF BISHOPS’ SPRING MEETING

Bishop Parsley released this statement on March 21.

As I prepare to return to our diocese following the spring meeting of our House of Bishops, I want to offer a brief word about the work we have done together. For the most part our meeting has been good and collegial, and we have had rich occasions to pray and worship together and to hear of our Church’s faithful and spirited ministry. We have witnessed many encouraging reports of mission, especially our work throughout the world in support of Christ’s work of healing and hope through our commitment to the millennium development goals and relief work on the Gulf Coast.

A central portion of our meeting necessarily was devoted to the recent Communiqué from the Primates of the Anglican Communion and the unfolding Anglican Covenant development process. Our discussion was respectful and full in regard to both of these important matters. As a supporter of the Windsor process I must admit that I was disappointed by some of the tone of the Communiqué, which seems inconsistent with much of the spirit of the Windsor Report and was quite different from that of the previous report of the Primates’ Standing Committee about our General Convention’s responses. The covenant process is in its early stages, and there is much yet to discuss.

It became clear to the bishops gathered at Camp Allen that the proposal of the Primates to establish a Pastoral Council, including appointed bishops from outside our Church, to provide oversight within the Episcopal Church is not compatible with our polity. This pastoral scheme outlined in the Communiqué is not workable within our Constitution and Canons, and it was important for us to say this forthrightly.

Accordingly we have asked for a meeting with the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Primates’ Standing Committee at the earliest possible date to discuss these matters fact to face and in more depth.

This is a most appropriate and reasonable request. I hope that this meeting will come to pass as it is an essential step in the ongoing process of healing and reconciliation in the Communion.*

I personally support the two Mind of the House resolutions that we adopted. The Statement we adopted I believe to be somewhat premature and unnecessarily reactive, though much of the content is accurate. I would have preferred to study and reflect on these matters in preparation for our September meeting of the House of Bishops, and I voted to refer it.

Other issues in the Communiqué will be considered further with the help of a study document to be prepared in the coming weeks. You can find the texts of our resolutions and statement on the Episcopal Church Web site, www.episcopalchurch.org (follow the Episcopal News Service link); you can access the Communiqué on the Anglican Communion Web site, www.anglicancommunion.org.

It is well to remember that this is an ongoing process that involves the many-faceted and multicultural global community that is the Anglican Communion. It requires a patient and prayerful spirit from all of us. I commend to you a prayer I prayed frequently at Camp Allen: Give to your Church, O God, a bold vision and a daring charity, a refreshed wisdom and a courteous understanding, that the eternal message of your Son may be proclaimed as the good news of the age; through him who makes all things new; even Jesus Christ our Lord.

I pray that you are finding this Lent to be a time of deepened devotion and service to our gracious Lord as we journey together toward Easter. It will be good to be back with you in Alabama.

Grace and peace,

R. Andrew Keyse

* On April 16, Archbishop Williams announced that he has accepted the invitation of the House of Bishops to meet with them. He along with members of the Standing Committee of the Primates and the Anglican Consultative Council are planning to come to the United States this fall.
A Risen Life

Dear Friends in Christ:

Easter proclaims the victory of life over death. “Christ is risen!” we say during the Great Fifty Days, announcing once again that the power of sin and death no longer has the last word. The last word is God’s love that was incarnate in Jesus of Nazareth. In the resurrection of Jesus Christ, God’s new creation has dawned. In this new creation death no longer has the last word. The last word is always life.

We who believe are Easter people, living in the power and hope of Christ’s victory over death. We participate in his risen life through baptism and the sacraments. The risen life is not just our Lord’s—it is the life of his new creation dwelling in us and coursing through the universe, making all things new. This proclamation has three radical meanings that profoundly impact our human lives. It tells us something about life after death, about life here and now, and about how we are to live.

The resurrection opens to us the reality that our life in faith is not just temporal. It is eternal, stretching beyond time into eternity. Our journey’s destination is ultimately God’s love in the time beyond time.

An elderly cleric once said, “I never hear the young clergy speak about life after death anymore. But if you believe that like a flower we fall into the earth and disappear, it changes your view of life. It shrinks it.”

He is exactly right. The Easter message enlarges life to its true dimensions. We are not made for time and space alone. Life opens on to eternity and when we die we are raised with Christ to the mystery beyond this life in the nearer presence of God. Dante described it in his Paradiso as the eternal vision of the “Love that moves the sun and the other stars.” No less than this is our dowry and our destiny.

Such faith in eternal life affects not just our ultimate future. It also profoundly affects life here and now. It opens our eyes to see the eternal and sacred dimension of all reality. The strange enchantment of modern secular materialism would have us see the earth and its creatures merely as “things” for human consumption and pleasure. When we see with Easter eyes all things are suffused with divine grace and glory. As the poet William Blake said, “Everything that lives is holy,” and as Elizabeth Browning wrote, “Earth’s crammed with heaven, and every common bush afame with God; but only he who sees takes off his shoes.”

The resurrection shows us that all life is gift and divine blessing. It converts us from being consumers to creators, making all things new. This proclamation has three radical meanings that profoundly impact our human lives. It tells us something about life after death, about life here and now, and about how we are to live.

The risen life is not just our Lord’s—it is the life of his new creation dwelling in us and coursing through the universe, making all things new. This proclamation has three radical meanings that profoundly impact our human lives. It tells us something about life after death, about life here and now, and about how we are to live.
A Diocesan-Wide Campaign To Raise $5.5 million To Grow and Enhance Our Shared Mission and Ministry

A New Chapel at Camp McDowell

$2,300,000 needed

For a new chapel located up the hill to provide a welcome focal point for camp and allow for up to 500 people to gather for worship, meetings, and fellowship.

Land Acquisition for New Parishes

$1,600,000 needed

To acquire new land in growing communities that will provide a foundation for new parishes, which will enable us to reach new members and continue our growth into the future.

A New Campus Center at Montevallo University

$300,000 needed

To fund the much-needed replacement for the current student center at the University of Montevallo; the new facility would house six students and provide a nurturing place for college-age Episcopalians to grow in faith.

A Communication Investment

$325,000 needed

To help spread the Gospel and news about diocesan happenings to our brothers and sisters around our diocese by enhancing our communications abilities and linking congregations through advanced technologies.

Multicultural Ministry Outreach

$400,000 needed

To continue and strengthen our commitment to new ministries among our Hispanic and African American brothers and sisters around our diocese.

$1,600,000 needed

To help spread the Gospel and news about diocesan happenings to our brothers and sisters around our diocese by enhancing our communications abilities and linking congregations through advanced technologies.

$2,300,000 needed

For a new chapel located up the hill to provide a welcome focal point for camp and allow for up to 500 people to gather for worship, meetings, and fellowship.

$300,000 needed

To fund the much-needed replacement for the current student center at the University of Montevallo; the new facility would house six students and provide a nurturing place for college-age Episcopalians to grow in faith.

200,000 needed

To give our parishes the best opportunity for growth by training and educating individuals to serve in their home parishes in Youth Ministries, Christian Education, and Spiritual Formation.

Please visit WWW.ACTS2CAMPAIGN.ORG and add to the success of the campaign with your pledge.

“Lord, what do you want to do through me to accomplish your will?”

If you are called to help accomplish this goal, please fill out this pledge card and return it to:
Episcopal Diocese of Alabama
Attn: ACTS 2
521 North 20th Street
Birmingham, AL 35203
New Life Out of Death: A Message for Easter

By the Most Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori, Presiding Bishop and Primate of the Episcopal Church

I write at the close of our recent House of Bishops meeting. On the way from the airport to the meeting, we saw a few wildflowers of one or two varieties. They stood out from the grass, just beginning to turn to the green lushness of spring. During the week we met in Texas, the trees went from mere hints of green in the topmost branches to having leaves unfolding on all their branches. And on the way back to the airport a week later, the riot of wildflowers was astounding. The new life of resurrection can be just as surreptitious—we look and things seem quite dead; we look away and when our focus returns we discover that God has been at work making all things new. Anyone who has grieved the death of a loved one will recognize the pattern. Those who experience the loss involved in moving away from a beloved community will know it as well. As this Lent draws to a close, take a careful look at your life. Where has God been at work during this fast? What new life can you discern?

For my own part, I will celebrate the new life that has been growing hidden in the lives of leaders in this Church. We are blessed with leaders, lay and ordained, who are increasingly aware of their God-given ministries to lead this people into fuller participation in God’s mission of healing the world. I celebrate the work of God expressed in the gathering of Anglican women at the United Nations in late February and early March, who were able to say to the world that attention to mission is what unites us as a Communion. I celebrate the gathering of people from all across the world in South Africa at the TEAM (Toward Effective Anglican Mission) conference to build stronger partnerships for doing that healing work, especially around AIDS and HIV. I celebrate the gracious way in which the bishops of this Church engaged each other in discussing challenging and difficult matters in the meeting just past and affirmed the focus of this Church on mission. I celebrate the many, many healthy and vital congregations of this Church engaged in God’s mission of healing the world. The Executive Council joined in worship at one, St. Michael and All Angels’, in Portland, Oregon, recently and saw passionate engagement in children’s ministry, the work of Episcopal Relief and Development, abundant outreach in the community, and a lively life of worship.

Among my mail when I returned to the office was a generous check from a congregation in North Carolina. Members there had read about a fire in the Bronx that had killed several members of an immigrant family from Mali and left others injured and homeless. Somehow the news of their suffering had reached across the mountains and plains to touch the hearts of people of St. James’ in Wilmington, and they responded. A new heart of flesh is growing in countless places across this Church.

Alleluia! Christ is risen. The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Daughters of the King
Serving Our Diocese

By Andi Silberman, Our Diocesan President of the DOK

We are very proud of all of our Daughters of the King (DOK) chapters within our diocese. We have 36 chapters with 3 in training plus 2 Junior Daughters chapters. Each chapter has its own personality, and the members are doing wonderful things!

The St. Anne Chapter of Canterbury Chapel in Tuscaloosa recently inducted five new members—Jan Pruitt Duvall, Jan Fargason, Jimelu Hunter, Camilla Huxford, and Patricia Neathery. The St. Brigid of Ireland DOK Chapter of Grace Church in Cullman hosted a celebration of Eucharist and a brunch for the St. Brigid Daughters from St. Thomas’ in Huntsville on February 10. Each year since 2001 the two chapters have alternated hosting the get-togethers in remembrance of St. Brigid on her feast day.

The Daughters Spring Assembly will be Saturday, April 21, from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at St. Andrew’s in Tuskegee. We have mailed invitations to every Daughter, and we cordially invite all Daughters in Training to join us. The Rev. John B. Fritschner, rector of Holy Trinity in Auburn, will help us focus on “What is your Ministry?” You can download the brochure on our DOK Web page, www.dokalabama.org; click on DOK Calendar and then Spring 2007 Assembly. Thanks to Sally Sinclair, our Web angel, our DOK Web page is amazing! We thank Sally from the bottom of our hearts!


Members of the St. Anne chapter of Canterbury Chapel in Tuscaloosa: (front row) Camilla Huxford, Jan Fargason, Jimelu Hunter, Patricia Neathery, (middle row) An Betak, Jane Joslin, Susan Windham, Manella Rhodes, Kristin Frangoulis, Karen Moulton, Pam Bullington, (back row) Laurie Fowler, Roberta Ford, Colleen Beall, Lois Lewis, Joyce Okhoa, Margaret Cooper, Linda Rodgers, and chapter president Sharon Manable

The Rev. Ken Fields, chaplain and rector of Canterbury Chapel in Tuscaloosa, welcoming new DOK member Jan Pruitt Duvall
ECW Scholarships—Submission Deadline April 30

The deadline for applying for an ECW scholarship is April 30. The ECW gives a number of scholarships every year to members of the Episcopal Church in our diocese. To be considered applicants should be actively involved in their church, have a minimum GPA of 3.0, and be able to show evidence of financial need.

You can download scholarship applications and church involvement surveys from the ECW Web site, www.alabamaecw.org. All applications and other requested materials must be postmarked by April 30 and all requested materials must be received before an applicant may be considered. Grants are sent to the student accounts office of the college or university in which the student is enrolled. If you have questions please contact Nancy Thompson, Diocesan ECW Scholarships Chair, 205/879-3938, nst3816@aol.com.

Your generosity is the only way to continue this very important program. If you or your parish would like to contribute to the education of a young person in our Church family, please consider making a gift to the ECW Scholarship Fund. Please mail your contribution to ECW, Diocese of Alabama, 521 North 20th Street, Birmingham, AL 35203-2611.

The Black Belt Convocation will have its Spring Meeting on Friday, May 11, at Old Cahaba Historical Park near Selma. Linda Derry, director of the park, will give a presentation on St. Luke’s Episcopal Church, which was constructed at Cahaba before the Civil War. When Cahaba was abandoned, the church was moved to Martin’s Station, but it has been returned to Cahaba and is being reconstructed. After the presentation and brunch, the group will visit the reconstructed building at its new site. The $10 fee for the daylong event will be donated to the restoration fund for the church. For more information please contact Valerie Pope Burns, Black Belt Convocation Coordinator, at vburnes@uab.edu or 334/683-5137.

Upcoming Events and Deadlines

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<td>Montgomery ECW Convocation Spring Meeting at St. John’s in Montgomery</td>
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<td>May 4</td>
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<td>May 11</td>
<td>Black Belt ECW Convocation Spring Meeting at Old Cahaba Historical Park near Selma</td>
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<td>May 18-20</td>
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<td>October 11-12</td>
<td>118th Annual ECW Fall Conference in Auburn</td>
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Please update your convocation coordinator and the ECW board when ECW leaders change at your parish. You can complete an online form at www.alabamaecw.org/2007ParishECWInfoSheet.pdf. For details and additional events please see the ECW Calendar Handbook and visit www.alabamaecw.org.

The Tennessee Valley Convocation is proud to host the 58th Annual ECW Women’s Weekend, May 18-20, at Camp McDowell. If you’ve ever considered inviting someone to share in this great tradition, this is the year! Call your sister, your mother, your daughter, your best friend, your favorite aunt, and join women from throughout our diocese for a weekend of fun, fellowship, relaxation, and spiritual enrichment. Our speaker, the dynamic Rev. Susan Sloan, rector of St. Stephen’s in Huntsville, will focus on “Celebrate Sisters!”

Women’s Weekend may be a tradition, but this will not be your traditional Women’s Weekend—we have lots of surprises in store for you! Have you ever wanted to try yoga? How about belly dancing? We will offer a variety of “workshops” Saturday afternoon including Creative Music, hat making, an African Safari slide show, and much more. You will have the opportunity to sign up for your choice(s) after your arrival on Friday. We will also have a banquet Saturday night along with karaoke.

Proceeds from our silent auction will go to the ECW Scholarship Fund. And of course the Episcopal Book Store will be there with their usual selection of good books and gift items for your browsing and shopping pleasure. So—forget the cooking, laundry, shopping, your spouse, the kids, and concentrate on YOU for a weekend!

You should bring casual clothing, a jacket for cool nights, a flashlight, your Bible, and snacks to share. If you play the guitar, violin or other instrument, please feel free to bring it and join in—everyone is welcome to participate. Music for the weekend will be from the Alleluia II songbook.

Please check with your parish ECW president or office administrator for registration and “Celebrate Sisters!” T-shirt order forms. You can also find all the information you need along with the registration form on the ECW Web site, www.alabamaecw.org. The deadline for registration is May 4; the deadline for ordering T-shirts is April 25. For additional information please contact Barbara Carpenter 256/721-7599 or bcarp23@aol.com. Be there May 18-20 to “Celebrate Sisters!”
Close your eyes and think back to when you were a child. Did you ever imagine yourself walking in the footsteps of ancient prehistoric creatures or touching the footprint of a Paleozoic amphibian? Ever wander out into a stream and try to catch tiny living things that live there hiding under rocks? All of these magical moments and more await you if you sign up for one of the free teacher workshops at McDowell Environmental Center (MEC) near the Bankhead National Forest.

This summer we are offering two workshops: Lost Worlds in Alabama Rocks and The Living Streams. Legacy, Partners in Environmental Education is sponsoring Lost Worlds in Alabama Rocks, scheduled for June 3-6. Dr. Jim Lacefield, author of Lost Worlds in Alabama Rocks, will lead the class on an adventure into the geological history of Alabama. Dr. Lacefield is a remarkable teacher whose passion for rocks radiates. He not only shares his knowledge of geology, but he will also provide each teacher with a labeled and identified set of rocks he has collected from his travels. The child in each teacher tends to come out when given the opportunity to “play” with all the beautiful specimens. As Dr. Lacefield guides the rock activity, teachers see how they might return to their classroom and use their students’ natural curiosity and interest in rocks to develop a love of science and the natural world. One teacher from the 2006 Lost Worlds workshop reported that this experience has completely changed her perspective on teaching geology. Now instead of dreading this unit she can’t wait to share her excitement with her students.

Geologists from around the world come to Alabama to study our earth’s past. Fossils are found in many of the sedimentary layers throughout our state so it’s common to find them in road cuts, stream banks, and abandoned coal mines. The Lost Worlds participants will visit the Minkin Paleozoic Trackway site, an abandoned surface coal mine protected by the Alabama State Lands Division. For more information on the Minkin site please visit www.outdooralabama.com/outdooralabama/tracks.pdf.

The Southeastern Rivers and Streams Support Fund, part of the World Wildlife Fund and the Sierra Club, is sponsoring the second workshop, Living Streams, July 11-13. The teachers will include Dr. Bill Deutsch, the founder of Alabama Water Watch (AWW), and Francine Hutchinson, one of the expert trainers for the AWW.

While the workshop participants wade the streams and ponds of Camp McDowell, they will study the macro-invertebrates that live in the waters. They will not only gain knowledge for themselves, but they will also learn to make this knowledge fun and interesting for their students. Teachers will become certified to do bio-assessments of streams in their local area, and they can use the free materials (Macro Mania games, dip nets, micro-aquarium kits, and so much more) with their students.

For more information on McDowell Environmental Center or one of these free workshops, please contact me at Maggie@campmcdowell.com or 205/387-1806. For more information about the residential environmental education programs we offer please visit www.campmcdowell.com/cmec.

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2nd Annual Reunion Planned for June 23-24

Everyone who came to the inaugural Camp McDowell Summer Staff Reunion last year had a great time! If you’ve served on summer staff please plan on joining us for the 2nd Annual Reunion June 23-24. Visit http://mcdowellreunion.blogspot.com to see more pictures from last year’s and get updates on this year’s reunion.

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For and About Youth

Young People Painting Birmingham

By Susan Oakes

All rising 8th and 9th graders are invited to participate in the Young People Painting Birmingham outreach project, June 3-8. This is a great event for teens who have just finished junior high and are looking for a wonderful week of working together, serving our neighbors, and having fun in the process with other young people from our diocese. Your room, meals, and supplies are included in the registration fee; the deadline to sign up is May 25, 2007. For more information please contact me at susan@ssechurch.org.

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Upcoming Youth Events

- **June 3-8**: Young People Painting Birmingham for 8th and 9th graders
- **June 15-17**: Happening #51 at Grace Church in Mt. Meigs for 10th-12th graders
- **June 23-July 1**: Sawyerville Day Camp for 10th-12th graders
- **June 28-July 10**: Taizé Pilgrimage for 10th-12th graders, college students, and young adults
- **July 17-22**: PYE Province 4 Youth Event on the Mississippi Gulf Coast for 10th-12th graders

For more information please contact Sarah Sartain at 205/715-2060 ext. 314 or ssartain@dioala.org. Also please visit www.dioala.org.
The members of St. Paul’s in Lowndesboro request the pleasure of your attendance at the celebration of the 150th anniversary of their parish on Sunday, June 17. Bishop Parsley will officiate at the Festival Eucharist at 11 a.m. What a great way to spend this Father’s Day—first remembering our forefathers who built this wonderful house of worship during the special service and then enjoying an old-fashioned Dinner on the Grounds afterwards.

St. Paul’s parish was organized in 1857, and the Rt. Rev. Nicholas Hamner Cobbs, the 1st Bishop of Alabama, consecrated the church in 1858. The building represents a fine example of early Gothic architecture incorporated in a small country church, a style typical of churches built during 1840-1875. A brass “rood screen” separates the chancel from the main body of the church, and the walls in the chancel as well as the tall beam ceilings are made of gleaming curly pine.

We hope you will come join us and be a part of this joyful celebration as we remember the past and look forward to the future of St. Paul’s!

St. Paul’s Celebrates 150 Years of Ministry!
By Gayle Morrow, St. Paul’s in Lowndesboro

Lenten Discipline Deepens Bond with Diocese of Haiti
By the Rev. Marc Burnett on behalf of St. Andrew’s Parish

The members of Saint Andrew’s in Birmingham wanted a parish-wide Lenten discipline this year, and we wanted one that would deepen our preparation for Easter—and, given our companion relationship, one that would deepen our bond with the Diocese of Haiti. So we decided to challenge ourselves to provide care for 200 children in Haiti.

We were able to borrow several of the large photographs we saw at Diocesan Convention of Haitian children. We placed them around the nave, and it was wonderful to see them week after week—wonderful to see Christ shining through them! We knew that $10.50 would provide healthcare for one child for one month. We knew that $20.50 would provide schooling for one child for one month. Our goal was to do something in which everyone could easily participate.

We shared our dream, developed “coupons” for the different categories, stood at the back of church, and encouraged everybody to join in. People rose to the occasion!

I am happy to say that we met our goal—and then exceeded our goal! So celebrate with us our Lord’s resurrection and our gratitude to be his servants.

Ecumenism Is Alive and Well in Prattville
By the Rev. Scott Arnold, Rector of St. Mark’s

The spirit of ecumenism proved to be alive and well in Prattville as St. Mark’s helped host the second annual Lenten series with Christ Lutheran and St. Joseph’s Roman Catholic Churches. “We began the program last year, and it was a huge success,” says the Rev. Scott Arnold, rector of St. Mark’s. “We gathered for a light Lenten evening meal of soup and salad or sandwiches, and then had a short program including prayer and music.”

The Lenten program is but one way St. Mark’s, Christ Lutheran, and St. Joseph’s are working together. According to parish administrator Julie Murphy, the three churches have traditionally hosted a unity service for more than two decades. “Each year we would gather at one of our churches and then have a meal together,” she said. “It has been quite popular.”

After Scott arrived at St. Mark’s in 2005 he began to search for opportunities to build on the already existing relationship. “The foundation had already been laid,” he notes, “and it gave us an excellent opportunity to do even more.” This year will mark the second year the churches will join together for a Vacation Bible School, and it will be the first time St. Mark’s has hosted it.

“More than 140 kids will descend on us this June, and we are very excited about it,” says Senior Warden Doug Murphy. “We have a team of nine people from our churches planning what promises to be a great event.”

The Unity Service, the Lenten Series, and the Vacation Bible School are all paving the way for even more projects together, and several youth activities have been discussed as well. A river-rafting trip was the highlight of last summer for many of the young people from the three churches. Currently St. Mark’s, Christ Lutheran, and St. Michael and All Angels’ in Millbrook have a monthly program that complements the youth programs at each of the churches.

The Branches Ministry Calls for Your Favorites
By Bill McCartney, Grace Church in Cullman

I am the vine you are the branches . . . love each other . . . show your love through action (John 15).

Our Cursillo reunion group began the Branches Ministry to help people bridge financial hardships due to significant healthcare expenses not covered by insurance (hardships for other reasons are also considered as funds allow). We raise the funds, and our rector administers them.

The Branches Ministry issued a global call in mid-February for favorite recipes, scriptures, prayers, mealtime blessings, and/or short inspirational poems. Now we would like to have your favorites.

The submissions will become part of Delicious 4th Day Dishes (working title), which is part cookbook to physically fuel people and part inspirational to spiritually fuel them. The “4th Day” describes life after a Cursillo (or Cursillo-like) three-day weekend. Specifically it refers to the responsibility of those living their 4th Day (i.e., the rest of their life) to accept leadership roles in their church and to Christianize their civic, social, and economic environments; to act based on their Christian beliefs. We have already received submissions from England, Africa, New Zealand, Australia, Korea, Canada, and Puerto Rico as well as from across America from Hawaii to Delaware, and our call is now being translated into other languages to extend its reach. Many people have added personal notes about where or how they received a recipe or inspirational writing, increasing its interest.

Please either E-mail your favorite recipes, scriptures, mealtime blessings, and/or short inspirational poems to bmccartney@askAristo.com or mail them to Bill McCartney, 1440 Greenwood Drive NE, Cullman, AL 35055. Please include your first and last names, the full name of your church, your city, state/province, and country if outside the USA. Also please help us get the word out through newsletters, e-mail, and personal contact.

Delicious 4th Day Dishes is scheduled for completion this fall—we will let you know as soon as it is ready. Thank you for helping bring this Branches Ministry funding source to fruition. May you feel God’s peace and presence always. For more information please log on to www.gracecullman.org.

“We greatly enjoy getting together with other members of the family of God,” Scott emphasizes. “There is a terrific ecumenical spirit here, and I only expect it to grow in the future.” Scott is no stranger to ecumenism—he served a Lutheran parish in Cullman for five years after the Episcopal Church and the Evangelical Lutheran Churches entered into full communion. The Diocese of Alabama and the Southeastern Synod made history when they became the first to utilize the Call to Common Mission as a means of exchanging clergy between the two denominations.
Good Samaritan Health Clinic Named a Jubilee Center

Excerpts from the Convention Presentation by the Rev. Deacon Steve Shanks, Our Diocesan Jubilee Officer

One of the ways we seek to meet the needs of those around us here in the Diocese of Alabama is through the network of Jubilee Ministries. Jubilee Ministry was created by action of General Convention in 1982 and now encompasses more than 700 different ministries throughout not only the Episcopal Church but also 13 foreign countries.

What does it mean to “do” Jubilee Ministry? Well the mission of Jubilee Ministry is to make a direct and dynamic link between our theology and our ethics—in other words—it is where we connect the Talk of Our Faith and the Walk of Our Faith. As Christians we do this by calling the Church to live out its prophetic role of empowering local people to “Do Justice, Love Mercy, and Walk Humbly With Their God” (Micah 6:8) and by responding to the Gospel Imperative to “Feed the Hungry, Give Drink to the Thirsty, Welcome the Stranger, Clothe the Naked, Care for the Sick, and Visit the Imprisoned” (Matthew 25:35).

Jubilee Ministry begins with an Episcopal congregation, an ecumenical mesh with an Episcopal presence, or an agency with connections to the Episcopal Church being involved in ministry programs among and with poor and oppressed people wherever they are located. A Jubilee Center also includes at least one or more of the following: advocacy on behalf of others by being the voice of those who have not yet dared to believe that their voice can literally change society and social structures; empowering volunteers and staff as well as the population being served for the good of others and our own life in community; by working together with others by breathing in sync with the Spirit of God and of each other to bring about a new way of being in which we truly do live out our baptismal vows of respecting the dignity of every human being; evangelism in our action, in our prayers, in a pastoral presence, in inviting others to share in our worship. Jubilee Centers also covenant to actively participate in reflecting theologially on learnings in ministry, demonstrating the operation of programs as models to others, and acting as a resource center for other Jubilee Ministry Centers.

In our diocese Jubilee Ministry Centers take the form of Grace Church in Woodlawn with 55th Place Thrift Store, Grace-by-Day, and Community Kitchens; St. Timothy’s in Athens providing a multicultural preschool with bilingual teachers and a drop-in pantry; the Jubilee Community Center in Montgomery providing after-school programs, an entrepreneurial class, direct health services, job training, and Vacation Bible School; and Christ Church in Fairfield with CityWorks, an interfaith Community Development Corporation that provides affordable housing, a literacy program, thrift store, prison ministry, and emergency services.

It is my great pleasure this morning to present a certificate of designation and affirmation from the Episcopal Church to the newest member of Jubilee Ministry in the Diocese of Alabama, Good Samaritan Health Clinic in Cullman. The idea for the free clinic grew from a conversation in a vestry meeting at Grace Church with then-rector the Rev. Brent Norris and seed money from the Easter Fund and other sources. The clinic is now in its fourth year of operation. Through 2006, more than 7,800 patients visited and the clinic has 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. To Jerry Jacob, executive director of the Good Samaritan Health Clinic, your staff, your supporters, and your community—well done good and faithful servants, and Godspeed on the good work that you’ve begun!

NOTE: The Good Samaritan Health Clinic is looking for a grant writer who is willing to help as part of his or her ministry. For more information please contact Executive Director Jerry Jacob at 256/775-1389 ext. 6 or jjacob@gshealthclinic.com.

Kudos for the EYC!

By Deborah A. Love Hughes, A Member of St. Simon Peter’s in Pell City

The members of the EYC of St. Simon Peter in Pell City thank the parishioners for their generous offering at the Epiphany Service and enthusiastic participation at the Pancake Supper. The funds raised exceeded the youth’s original goal of purchasing one cow through Heifer International—in fact, in addition to a cow the EYC was able to contribute to the purchase of a water buffalo and two goats. (For more information about this important ministry please visit www.heifer.org.)

One of our parishioners had a family member in Nepal who witnessed firsthand a celebration of Worldwide Heifer International People. The women in a village outside Nepal prepared a feast to celebrate the ongoing success of receiving their first village goat. After the first goat had come another goat, and soon the goats were multiplying and being traded between villages, and now the villagers were celebrating the fifth generation of goats. The villagers eventually earned so much from selling goats that they were able to buy a water buffalo as well as fund the building of a dam to maintain flood control.

We hope the people who receive the cow and water buffalo and two goats our youth raised funds for will someday celebrate the same kind of ongoing success. We applaud the youth of St. Simon Peter’s for exceeding their goal for such a worthwhile cause!

Volunteers from Birmingham Churches Help Feed Those in Need

By Karyn Zweifel, A Member of St. Andrew’s and a Community Kitchens Volunteer

In spite of a shrinking state unemployment rate well below the national average for the month of February, Community Kitchens of Birmingham is serving more guests than ever. Andrea Blackert, Program Director, reports that the number of guests coming for a free noon meal at St. Andrew’s on Southside and Grace Church in Woodlawn has actually increased since last year. “We serve 150 to 200 people a day,” she continues. “Even if there are more jobs, there are a number of jobs out there that don’t pay a living wage. A good number of our guests are classified as working poor. They really struggle to make ends meet. Forty-seven percent of our guests have some disability and a full 20 percent are veterans.”

Community Kitchens has been feeding hungry people in Birmingham since 1980. Guests are served nutritious meals 365 days a year at Grace Church and St. Andrew’s, and other area churches and synagogues provide financial support and volunteers. “Our need for financial support is growing,” Andrea emphasizes. “Everybody who goes to the grocery store knows how much prices have increased just in the past year.” Guests include people who are homeless, disabled, unemployed, and underemployed. Anyone who is hungry is welcome without regard to situation or condition. Donations are always appreciated.

Community Kitchens is celebrating its volunteers and 26 years of service Tuesday, May 8, with a fundraiser at historic Rocker Place. Each ticket includes live music, hors d’oeuvres, and wine or beer, as well as the opportunity to win an Escape to Ireland, including airfare for two people and three nights at Dublin’s luxurious Merrion Hotel. For more information or to purchase a ticket please call 205/251-3569; you do not need to be present to win the vacation prize.
Upcoming Retreats, Conferences, and Special Events

**Alabama Environmental Education Consortium (ALEEC) Conference**
April 21 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Sanford University in Birmingham

The Stewardship for Creation Task Force is pleased to welcome Dr. E. O. Wilson and the Rev. Sally Bingham to Birmingham on April 21 for the Alabama Environmental Education Consortium (ALEEC) Conference at Sanford University. Dr. Wilson and Sally Bingham will address the conference in the morning, and the afternoon session will focus on the “Art of Action,” with strategies for action on a local level.

Dr. Wilson, an Alabama native, a Pulitzer Prize winner, and one of the world’s top scientists, will give the keynote address at the conference. As a professor of biology at Harvard University, he is hailed as one of “America’s 25 Most Influential People” and has long been one of the most prominent scientific voices to speak out about the species extinction crisis that has recently engulfed our planet. At the conference he will focus on his book *The Creation*, in which he challenges the religious sector to work with scientists toward the common goal of saving Creation.

The Rev. Sally Bingham, who is serving as the Environmental Minister at Grace Cathedral in San Francisco, has brought widespread attention to the link between ecological issues and religious faith. She has been active in the environmental community for 20 years serving on the boards of Environmental Defense and the Union of Concerned Scientists, and for 6 years as chair of the Diocese of California’s Commission for the Environment. She is also founder and codirector of the Regeneration Project, an interfaith movement to encourage the faith community to take an active role in decreasing the negative impact of human behavior on the global climate. For more information or to be added to the e-mail list for this event, please e-mail e-mail Virginia Brown at vnbrown@samford.edu or call her at 205/726-4246.

**Enneagram Basics Workshop**
April 27 and 28 at Grace Church in Anniston

Mentors in spiritual direction and formation have drawn from the wisdom of the Enneagram for centuries. The Enneagram, which has ancient roots in the Middle Eastern culture, offers a fascinating tool for spiritual illumination and self-inquiry that will help you view yourself and others in different, more helpful ways. Dr. Joseph Howell, a lively and entertaining speaker, is presenting this workshop on the Enneagram at his home church, Grace Church in Anniston. The workshop will begin Friday at 7 p.m. and continue on Saturday from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. A sack lunch will be provided. For more information please call the parish office at 205/726-4246 or visit www.graceanniston.org.

**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 205/648-0432, or your rector or parish office.

**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 to 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 Zara Renander, director of the Nativity Center, at zara.renander@nativity-hsv.org or 256/533-2455 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 Daigle, Bobby Fisher, Deanna Light, Steve Petrunak, Paul Tate, Janet Vogt, and Bishop Ron Herzig (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. For more information and to register, please contact Nancy Brown at nbrown43@bellsouth.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

Keith Sharer, director of music and organist of St. Paul’s in Augusta, Georgia, will direct this year’s conference. For more information and to register please contact Janet Perkins at janet@wingwring.com or 770/498-1678.

**Annual Jonathan Daniels and the Martyrs of Alabama Pilgrimage**
August 11 in Hayneville

The pilgrimage will begin at 11 a.m. in the Court- house 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, Archdiocese of the Anglican Diocese of New Zealand, and Co-Primate of the Anglican Church of Aotearoa New Zealand and Polynesia), the Right Rev. James A. Keeley (Bishop of the Diocese of Northern Michigan), the Right Rev. Frank Neff Powell (Bishop of the Diocese of Southwestern Virginia), the Rev. Stephen M. Keeley (Missioner/Superintendent 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.

**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 Bob Haden, director of the Haden Institute.
What’s New/Noteworthy at the Episcopal Book Store

All Out of Faith: Southern Women on Spirituality by Wendy Reed and Jennifer Horne
The South is identified as the “Bible Belt,” and to be sure religion shapes and defines even those Southerners who don’t think of themselves as particularly religious. Practically no one who grows up Southern can escape being shaped, stimulated, harmed, or informed by religion and spirituality. All Out of Faith gives voice to Southern women writers who represent a broad spectrum of faiths. Frances Meyers and Barbara Kingsolver investigate the importance of place; Dorothy Allison writes of the transformative power of art, a painting of Jesus she loved as a child; Lee Smith writes of religious fervor; Paul Murray, the first black female Episcopal priest, and Jessica Roskin, who became a Jewish cantor, tell of remaining within their original religious tradition while challenging their traditional roles.

The Creation: An Appeal to Save Life on Earth by E.O. Wilson
E.O. Wilson issues a forthright call for unity between religion and science in order to save the “creation,” or living nature, which is in “deep trouble.” Addressing his discourse to “Dear Pastor,” he asks why religious leaders haven’t made protecting the creation part of their mission.

The Gospel According to Job: An Honest Look at Pain and Doubt from One Who Lost Everything by Mark Yancey
Yancey probes the very heartbeat (the most fundamental, challenging, perplexing, and deeply rewarding aspect) of the original religious tradition while challenging their traditional roles.

Jesus Wants Me for a Sunbeam by Hans Wilhelm
From childhood, the rhymed couplets of this book will remain in the reader’s memory. A selection of animals being cuddled and motifs from the Renaissance to the present at 4 p.m. at the Advent. For more information please call 256/226-3505.

What’s New/Noteworthy at the Episcopal Book Store

Time for Bed by Mem Fox and illustrated by Jane Dyer
Jane Dyer’s illustrations fill each page of this lap-sized book with gentle watercolors, while Mem Fox offers sweet verse that bids good night to a cherubic toddler, whose blond head falls into a pillow covered with golden stars as mother offers a hug and the ending text proclaims, “The stars on high are shining bright—Sweet dreams, my darling, sleep well—good night!”

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 Saturday from 9:30 to 1 p.m.

Cursillo Weekends #157 April 12-15, #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
New Beginnings Weekend (7th-8th graders) April 13-15
Province IV Youth Event (10th graders-college freshman) July 17-22
Young People Singing Birmingham (8th-9th graders) June 3-8
April 19 Diocesan Youth Ministers Meeting from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Carpenter House. For more information please contact Sarah Sattain at sattain@fjdiaola.org or 205/715-2060 ext. 314
May 13 Concert featuring countertenor Gregory Peckle at 7:30 p.m. at the Nativity in Huntsville. For more information please contact Organist/Choirmaster Suzanne Purtee at suzanne.purtee@nativity-hsv.org, visit www.nativity-hsv.org, or call 256/533-2455.
May 18 Midday Musical Menu: A Broadway Cabaret “Neither Heroes Nor Cowards”—A Contemporary Music Theatre Review featuring baritone G. William Bugg at 12:30 p.m. at the Advent in Birmingham. For more information please call 205/226-3505; to make table reservations please call 205/443-8553.
May 18 The Nativity Choir in concert with orchestral accompaniment at 7:30 p.m. at the Nativity in Huntsville. For more information please contact Organist/Choirmaster Suzanne Purtee at suzanne.purtee@nativity-hsv.org, visit www.nativity-hsv.org, or call 256/533-2455.
May 22-27 Photography Retreat VI at Kanuga. For more information please visit www.kanuga.org, e-mail info@kanuga.org, or call 828/692-9136.
May 22 Midday Musical Menu featuring organist Charles Kennedy at 12:30 p.m. at the Advent in Birmingham. For more information please call 205/226-3505.
April 27 and 28 Enneagram Basics Workshop led by Dr. Joseph Howell at Grace Church in Anniston. For more information please see the description on page 18 or contact Virginia Brown at vbrown@sanford.edu or 205/726-4246.
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May 2 “William McDowell, Henry Edmonds, and the Scottsboro Case: Progressive Clergy in 1930s Birmingham Confronting Racism” presented by the Rev. Barry Vaughan at noon at the downtown Birmingham Public Library. For more information please contact Jim Baggett at 205/226-3631 or jbaggett@bkham.lib.al.us.
May 6 400th Anniversary of the Founding of Jamestown celebration service officiated by Bishop Parsley at the chapel in the American Village in Montevallo. For more information please contact Program Service Officer and Creative Director Barbara Sloan at bsloan@americanvillage.org or 205/665-3535 ext. 28.
May 6 Spring Choral Concert featuring the Cathedral Choir under the direction of Dr. Stephen Schaeffer performing anthems and motets from the Renaissance to the present at 4 p.m. at the Advent. For more information please call 205/226-3505.
May 6-9 Inaugural Lansing Lee Conference featuring the Very Rev. Samuel T. Lloyd III, dean of the National Cathedral in Washington, DC, at Kanuga. For more information please visit www.kanuga.org, e-mail info@kanuga.org, or call 828/692-9136.
Come Hear E. O. Wilson, Author of The Creation

In the ongoing and tiresome “war” between religion and science, Alabama native and Pulitzer prize-winning entomologist E. O. Wilson emerges from the trenches and, with an urgent and almost desperate plea in The Creation, calls upon the Southern pastor for assistance in the battle to save life on Earth. “Pastor,” he says, “I write to you now for your counsel and help.”

Wilson urges the pastor and Christians everywhere to seek common ground with science, arguing that both secular humanists and devout Christians can fully appreciate nature and work in its favor. The renowned Harvard University professor, however, offers harsh criticism for those extremists on either side of the religion-science debate who fail to acknowledge the world’s growing environmental problems. Wilson uses sophisticated yet easily digestible arguments to rally both sides against inaction. For example, he rejects fantasies about science’s ability to re-create nature’s intricate web through genetic engineering. Likewise he deplores the use of religious belief and dominion theology as an impediment to conservation. Along with describing and praising the Earth’s remarkable biodiversity, Wilson reminds readers that the human condition is not independent of nature. In fact, he explains, the future of mankind depends on our ability to protect and preserve the wonderful natural resources that make up what many call God’s Home.

If you are interested in learning more about Wilson’s viewpoints on nature, religion, and science, please come to the Alabama Environmental Education Consortium (ALEEC) Conference at Sanford University from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on April 21. For free admission please contact Virginia Brown at vnbrown@samford.edu. Representatives of our Diocesan Task Force for the Stewardship of Creation will be there to greet you!

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 May issue is April 15; the deadline for the June issue is May 1; the deadline for the combined July/August issue is July 15.

The deadline for applying for a Parish-Based Outreach Grant is April 24. This year our diocesan Department of Mission and Outreach has a total of $28,000 available to award to parishes to start or expand outreach ministries. For more information about the grants and the application process, please contact the Rev. Bill King at bking@dioala.org or 205/715-2060 ext. 317.

The Rev. Rob Iler, rector of St. Columba in the Cove in Huntsville, is traveling to Homer, Alaska on July 8-19 to frame a wooden church for St. Augustine’s parish. If you would like to join Rob on this mission trip please contact him at rob_stcolumba@bellsouth.net or 256/534-2100.

The Rev. Deacon Roland Ficken, the Rev. Deacon Dave Drachlis, and the Rev. Bill King—members of our diocesan Disaster Response Team—urge all of us to keep the people of Enterprise in our prayers. They are working with the Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast on relief efforts. At this time no one is being allowed into the tornado-devastated area, but you can make a contribution to the Disaster Response Fund by sending a check to the Episcopal Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast, PO Box 13330, Pensacola FL 32591-3330; for updated information you can contact Disaster Response Coordinator Duane Leifur at 850/434-0628.

Bishop Parsley to Help Celebrate 400th Anniversary of Founding of Jamestown

Bishop Parsley will preach at a special service on May 6 at 4 p.m. at the Lucille Ryals Thompson Colonial Chapel at American Village in Montevallo. The service, which will commemorate the 400th Anniversary of the Founding of Jamestown, will be Evening Prayer from the 1559 Book of Common Prayer used in the 1600s in England and America. It will also incorporate readings from the King James Bible and music of this historic period.

On December 20, 1606, 104 men and boys aboard three small ships set sail from London to the New World. Some of the passengers, like George Percy, were younger sons of noble families and therefore had no inheritance. Others, like Captain John Smith, were soldiers who joined the venture to protect the colonists from the native peoples and the Spaniards they might encounter in the “unsettled” land. None of them were farmers or tradesmen—but all of them were seeking a better future. On May 14, 1607, these adventurers landed about 60 miles upstream from the spot where the James River flows into Chesapeake Bay. Here they began to build a settlement they named Jamestown in honor of King James I, who chartered the Virginia Company that sent them to this “new” land. None of them were farmers or tradesmen—but all of them were seeking a better future. On May 14, 2007, these adventurers landed about 60 miles upstream from the spot where the James River flows into Chesapeake Bay. Here they began to build a settlement they named Jamestown in honor of King James I, who chartered the Virginia Company that sent them to this “new” land. None of them were farmers or tradesmen—but all of them were seeking a better future. On May 14, 1607, these adventurers landed about 60 miles upstream from the spot where the James River flows into Chesapeake Bay. Here they began to build a settlement they named Jamestown in honor of King James I, who chartered the Virginia Company that sent them to this “new” land. None of them were farmers or tradesmen—but all of them were seeking a better future.

For more information please contact Barbara Sloan, Program Services Officer and Creative Director, at bsloan@americanvillage.org or 205/665-3353 ext. 28.

Servicios en Español/Services in Spanish

Iglesia Episcopal de la Gracia
901 Kingman Road
Birmingham, AL 35235
205/838-2565

Iglesia Episcopal de Todos los Santos
3rd Avenue NE/PO Box 401
Aliceville, AL 35442
205/372-4071

Iglesia de la Ascensión/Ascension
315 Clanton Avenue
Montgomery, AL 36104
334/263-5529

Iglesia Episcopal de la Gracia/Grace Church
5712 First Avenue North
Birmingham, AL 35212
(Mrs. Magaly) 205/937-2441

English classes are offered at La Ascensión/Ascension in Montgomery every Sunday from 4 to 5:30 p.m. If you would like to serve as a tutor for one or more of the weekly classes, please contact Pam Long at 334/590-1441 or pam@xlanguage.net.

The Creation
Come Hear E. O. Wilson, Author of The Creation

In the ongoing and tiresome “war” between religion and science, Alabama native and Pulitzer prize-winning entomologist E. O. Wilson emerges from the trenches and, with an urgent and almost desperate plea in The Creation, calls upon the Southern pastor for assistance in the battle to save life on Earth. “Pastor,” he says, “I write to you now for your counsel and help.”

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