On December 12 at the Cathedral Church of the Advent in Birmingham, Bishop Henry Parsley and Bishop Robert Miller ordained six new priests: John David Barnes, who is serving St. Thomas’ in Huntsville; John Mark Ford, who is serving St. Alban’s in Birmingham; Evan Garner, who is serving St. John’s in Montgomery; Allison Sandlin Liles, who is serving a parish in Washington, DC; Michael Rich, who is serving St. Luke’s in Jacksonville; and Robert St. Germain-Iler, who is serving St. Columba in Huntsville. The Very Rev. William Stafford, Dean of the School of Theology at the University of the South in Sewanee, preached at the service.

Our 176th Annual Diocesan Convention
February 15–17 in Tuscaloosa

The members of Canterbury Chapel, college students, and our diocesan college chaplains will welcome delegates and guests to the Bryant Conference Center in Tuscaloosa on February 15 for the 176th annual convention of the Diocese of Alabama. The convention begins with registration from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. followed by Business Session I. The convention will recess at 4:30 p.m. to prepare for a Festival Eucharist at 5 p.m. The Rt. Rev. Duncan Gray, the Bishop of Mississippi, will preach at the service.

The convention reconvenes with late registration at 7:30 a.m. on Friday and continues with Morning Prayer and Bible Study at 8 a.m. and Business Session II at 8:45 a.m. with Bishop Parsley’s Address at 9:30 a.m., followed by Resolution Committees, the Clergy Spouse Luncheon, and Lunch in plenary. Father Fritz Valdema, who serves as rector of six churches in central Haiti, and his wife, Carmel, will give a special presentation on our Companion Diocese of Haiti at 1:30 p.m. Delegates will be able to choose from a variety of workshop offerings (please see pages 6–7 for details) from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. before attending Business Session III, which will include a report on ACTS 2, our diocesan capital campaign, as well as debate and voting on resolutions. The convention continues on Saturday morning with breakfast at Canterbury Chapel at 7 a.m. followed by Caucus Elections, Business Session IV, and a concluding service of Holy Eucharist at the Bryant Conference Center.

Everyone is cordially invited to attend the convention sessions. For more information please see pages 6–7 and visit our diocesan Web site, www.dioala.org (click on the Convention link on the lefthand side of the page).

Six Priests Ordained

Think Summer!

You can download an application for Summer Camp from Camp McDowell’s Web site, www.campmcdowell.com now, and you can also pick up one at your parish office beginning in February. Please see page 4 for the 2007 camp schedule, and be sure to sign up soon for the session you want to attend! If you would like to serve as a Camp Counselor, please download or pick up an application and submit it as soon as possible. For more information please contact Michael Goldsmith at michael@campmcdowell.com or 205/387-1806.
Fritz and Carmel Valdema Will Visit Our Diocese

Father Fritz and Carmel Valdema and his wife, Carmel, will give a presentation at 1:30 p.m. on Friday, February 16, and lead a workshop at our diocesan convention, and they will also visit parishes across our diocese. Fritz serves six churches in the Croix des Bouquets parish in central Haiti, and his wife, Carmel, directs a nutrition program at five of the churches.

Come Celebrate Happening Weekend #50!

By Jill Smith, St. Thomas’ in Birmingham

The Happening Steering Committee invites all past rectors, Happeners, staff, parents, and loved ones to attend the 3 p.m. closing service of Happening Weekend #50 to be held March 2-4 at the Epiphany in Guntersville. Happening, a weekend retreat designed for 10th-12th graders, is one of the instruments youth leaders use to renew the Church in the power of the Holy Spirit so we can respond more readily to God’s call to spread the Kingdom of God throughout the world.

The Diocese of Georgia brought Happening to our diocese in 1987, and we are now one of more than 40 dioceses that provide Happening Weekends for youth. Over the past 19 years more than 1,000 youth and adults of our diocese have attended Happening weekends. If you have served as a Happening Rector or other staff member, please contact me at 205/426-0076 or jilley_mize@yahoo.com. We are looking forward to seeing you at the reunion celebration on March 4!

The Rev. Dr. James Farwell To Speak at PLTE

The Rev. James W. Farwell, Ph.D., will give the keynote address “Becoming Who We Are: Liturgy and the Christian Life” and teach the workshop “Enriching Our Worship” at this year’s Parish Leadership Training Event (PLTE) on March 24 at St. Stephen’s in Birmingham. The Rev. Dr. Farwell holds the H. Boone Porter Chair of Liturgics at General Theological Seminary, serves as an affiliate member of the doctoral faculty at Drew University, and also teaches religion at Hunter College in New York City. Before he completed his doctoral degree in religion at Emory in 2001 and joined the faculty at General Theological Seminary, he spent 13 years in parish ministry including serving as Canon Theologian at the Cathedral of St. Philip in Atlanta.

For more information about this year’s PLTE, “Exploring Excellence in Liturgical Arts,” please see the description on page 10 or contact Sarah Sartain at ssartain@dioala.org or 205/715-2060 ext. 314.

Brother Robert Hugh Will Lead Lenten Retreat

Brother Robert Hugh, a friar of the Society of St. Francis, will lead our diocesan Lenten Retreat, sponsored by our diocesan Commission on Spirituality, on March 2-4 at Camp McDowell. Born in England and educated at Cambridge and Oxford, Brother Hugh was ordained a priest in the Church of England in 1955 and served a parish in the Diocese of Durham for 10 years before joining the Society of St. Francis. For the past 30 years he has spent most of his time on his ministry of preaching and leading retreats in the United States, Canada, various Caribbean countries, Australia, and New Zealand. In addition he has worked tirelessly in the area of ecumenism and has served on a number of national and international committees.

For more information about the Lenten Retreat, “Making Room for God, Self, Others, and Church,” please see the description on page 10 or contact Sarah Sartain at ssartain@dioala.org or 205/715-2060 ext. 314.

dioaca.org
Be Anxious for Nothing

Dear Friends in Christ,

It has become a truism to say that we live in anxious times. Anxiety about terrorism . . . about Iraq . . . about the economy . . . about global warming . . . anxiety about anxiety . . . these fill much of our modern days. Some anxiety is appropriate of course, and it is necessary to spur us to action. But chronic worry is erosive to the human spirit. From whence does this come and what is to be done about it?

Stuart Blanche, a former Archbishop of York, has written about a time when he became ill and consulted his physician. The wise old doctor told him that his illness was stress related and that he better slow down. Always curious the archbishop asked, “What is the cause of stress?” The doctor replied, “The cause of stress is always fear.”

This is a wise diagnosis indeed. Underneath our human stress is always fear of one sort or another. It is fueled in our day by the mass media—which lets us know more to worry about every minute than ever before in history. It is also compounded by our materialism and modern dependency on a myriad of finite things that we know deep down have no infinite value or meaning. When we come to the hour of our death who will care what car we drive or what is on our 100-plus cable television channels? The ephemeral breeds anxiety like waves in a shallow lake.

The late Edward Friedman, a highly respected teacher of family systems theory, observed that anxiety is one of the great blockers of creativity. It entices us to give in to the quick fix and retards our creative, imaginative juices, causing us to get “stuck” in reactivity rather than move forward in a spirit of risk and adventure. “Chronic anxiety,” he writes, “might be compared to the volatile atmosphere of a gas-fume-filled room where any sparking incident could set off a conflagration, and where people would then blame the person who struck the match rather than having tried to disperse the fumes.” Sound familiar?

The bitterest fruit of anxiety is that it turns us inward toward ourselves all the time. As the Scriptures tell us again and again this is the way of sin and death. God made us to be turned outward toward love for God and others. There is no spiritual bondage worse than fear.

Well, what is to be done about it? Our Christian faith is unequivocally clear in the belief that the only real medicine for fear is faith, faith in the living God. Jesus uniquely called God “Abba, Father,” the caring creator and redeemer of life in whom we can trust infinitely and eternally. He could say (in Matthew 6), “Do not be anxious about your life . . . look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?” The Father God can be trusted to provide what we really need, the things that are soul-deep, that last forever. Because of this faith in the living God, St. Paul could write to the Philippians from his prison cell, “Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God that passes all understanding will guard your hearts.” Such peace indeed surpasses our rational cognitive comprehension, but it is very real. This is why the angels in the Bible are always saying, “Fear not.” They know that, in spite of all our finite concerns, God is infinitely in charge.

This faith is about focusing not on ourselves but on the Father God, who loves us more than we can imagine in time and eternity. It is about being thankful for what we are and have, rather than anxious about what we do not have. It is about living fully in every present moment as a gift, rather than fearing what might happen. It is about making a difference for others rather than stewing about ourselves.

Gratitude and trust are the hallmarks of an authentic Christian spirituality centered in “Abba, Father,” the lover of our souls. Trust and gratitude release our spiritual creativity and vitality, getting us unstuck from ourselves and free to reach forward to what can be in our lives. They liberate us for the vitality of hope and adventure: to live, to dance, to give, and to create. They make us pilgrims of the dawn rather than those who fear the darkness.

“Be anxious for nothing”—God is still in charge. That is the way to life abundant.

I recently discovered a simple prayer that moved me. Pray it with me, and let the Spirit move you from anxiety to new freedom and creativity.

Risen Lord: Give us a heart for simple things: love, laughter, bread, wine, dreams. Fill us with green growing hope. And make us an Easter people: whose song is Alleluia, whose sign is Peace, and whose name is Love. Amen.

Your servant in Christ,

**Noticias Hispanas / Hispanic News**

The Hispanic Ministry in Montgomery has moved from Christ the Redeemer to the Ascension. Father Hernan celebrates Holy Eucharist with the congregation at 2 p.m. the last Sunday of each month.

Father Hernan and Bishop Miller led the celebration of the Feast of the Virgin of Guadalupe at La Gracia in Birmingham on December 9.

**Servicios en Español / Services in Spanish**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Iglesia Episcopal de la Gracia</th>
<th>Sábados 6 p.m.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>901 Kingman Road</td>
<td>Saturday 6 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Birmingham, AL 35235</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>205/838-2565</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Iglesia Episcopal de Todos los Santos / All Saints'</th>
<th>Domingo 9 a.m.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3rd Avenue NE/PO Box 401</td>
<td>Sunday 9 a.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aliceville, AL 35442</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>205/372-4071</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Iglesia de la Ascensión / Ascension</th>
<th>Ultimo Domingo de Mes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>315 Clanton Avenue</td>
<td>2 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Montgomery, AL 36104</td>
<td>Last Sunday of the month 2 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>334/263-5529</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Iglesia Episcopal de la Gracia / Grace Church</th>
<th>Domingo 10:30 a.m. (Bilingüe)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5712 First Avenue North</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Birmingham, AL 35212</td>
<td>Sunday 10:30 a.m. (Bilingual)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Mrs. Magaly) 205/937-2441</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Save the Date**

This year Camp McDowell will be hosting two events to raise funds for scholarships. We hope you will join us on April 14 for a croquet tournament in Huntsville and later in the spring for another fundraiser in Montgomery. Children throughout our diocese rely on our support as their brothers and sisters in Christ to make it possible for them to enjoy the ministries of Wonderful, Wonderful Camp McDowell. The fundraiser we held last year in Birmingham provided $14,000 for the scholarship fund, and we need your help in raising more this year so we can make an even bigger impact on the lives of children.

**Camp McDowell**

**Start Making Your Summer Camp Plans!**

*By Michael Goldsmith, Director of Program and Development*

- **May 25-27** Primary I Camp for entering 1st and 2nd graders with one parent
- **May 29-June 1** Elementary I Camp for entering 3rd and 4th graders
- **June 3-12** Senior Camp for entering 10th-12th graders
- **June 15-20** Junior High I Camp for entering 6th and 7th graders
- **June 22-29** Sophomore Camp for entering 8th and 9th graders
- **July 1-6** Special Session
- **July 7-12** Middler Camp for entering 5th and 6th graders
- **July 13-15** AIDS/HIV Camp
- **July 16-23** Junior High II Camp for entering 7th and 8th graders
- **July 27-31** Elementary II Camp for entering 3rd-5th graders
- **August 3-5** Primary II Camp for entering 1st and 2nd graders with one parent

*This year you will be able to register and pay for Summer Camp online! Go to our Web site, www.campmcdowell.com, and click on Summer Camp. We hope this will make camp registration more convenient for you and your family. If you have any questions or problems with this process please contact Michael Goldsmith at michael@campmcdowell.com or 205/387-1806. We will be distributing Summer Camp applications at the diocesan convention in February, and they will be available in your parish office after February 17.*

*If you are interested in serving on our Summer Staff or as a Counselor-in-Training, you can download an application from www.campmcdowell.com. You must have finished one year of college by this summer or are of equivalent age to serve on Summer Staff. If you are currently a high-school senior, you are eligible to be a Counselor-in-Training. Please consider being a part of this amazing ministry to the children of our diocese—I’ll be glad to talk with you about it. Please e-mail me (michael@campmcdowell.com) or call me (205/387-1806) anytime.*

*And don’t forget to visit our Online Store at www.campmcdowell.com!*

**Upcoming Youth Events**

- **March 2-4** Happening #50 at Epiphany in Guntersville for 10th-12th graders
- **March 17-21** Spring Break Conference at Camp McDowell for 9th-12th graders
- **April 13-15** New Beginnings at Camp McDowell for 7th-8th graders

*For more information please contact Candice Frazier, Youth Ministries Coordinator, at 205/715-2060 ext. 325, 334/874-8421, or cfrazier@dioala.org. Also please visit www.dioala.org.*
Our diocesan ECW board depends on individual parishes to pledge to fund our annual budget. We ask each parish to reconsider every year the amount it is able to give—the more money given results in more good works we can do in our diocese, our nation, and the world. Your contribution provides for Administration (20 percent); Education, Information, and Inspiration (40 percent); and our Corporate Gift (40 percent). Annual gifts are also given to Church Women United, ECW College Scholarship, and the Church Periodical Club. If you haven’t already sent your parish contribution for 2007, please notify the ECW treasurer of the amount and expected date of payment. Please make your check payable to Episcopal Church Women, write “Proportionate Giving” in the lower left-hand corner, and mail it to Episcopal Church Women, Diocese of Alabama, 521 North 20th Street, Birmingham, AL 35203-2611.

At a recent meeting, representatives from the ECWs of Province IV dioceses decided to establish a prayer exchange between the women of “companion dioceses.” The women of the Diocese of Alabama will be praying for the women in the Diocese of Southwest Florida, while the women of the Diocese of North Carolina will be praying for us. Our ECW board has requested that each parish in Alabama select a parish in Southwest Florida. ECW groups attending recent convocation meetings have done that, and the women are now getting in touch with the women in the parish they have chosen. Hopefully we will be able to do much more than just pray as a group—ideally we will ask for a list of the women in our companion parish in Florida and each woman in Alabama will match up with someone in the Florida parish. Our ECW board members of the Alabama ECW have already matched up with members of the Southwest Florida ECW board and have contacted their “partners.” If your parish does not have the name of a parish in Southwest Florida, please contact your ECW convocation coordinator.

The ECW of St. Andrew’s in Tuskegee hosted the East Alabama Convocation on December 2.

Guest speaker Dr. Mary Olson gave an interesting and informative lecture on Julian of Norwich, whose life and writings are our diocesan ECW theme for 2007. The Rev. Liston Garfield, rector of the parish, welcomed the group and invited the gathering of 60 people to participate in the Eucharist. The alms collected during the beautiful service went to the ACTS 2 capital campaign. After a delicious lunch in the parish hall, Dr. Connie Price, St. Andrew’s ECW president, presided over the business meeting. Alleen Cater, Diocesan ECW president, gave an update on national and state issues, including the Triennial Convention and the election of our new presiding bishop. Gethryn Giles gave a presentation on prayer partners that different parishes have chosen from a list of parishes in Southwest Florida and agreed to pray for in the coming year. Gethryn also encouraged the ECW women to appoint a CPC chairperson in each parish and choose a Sunday each year for ingathering. Tana Branch, convocation chairperson, gave an update on the Fall Conference, which will be held in Auburn on October 4 and 5. The ECW of St. James’ in Alexander City will host the spring East Alabama convocation.

The ECWs of St. Luke’s, St. Mary’s on-the-Highlands, and the Advent in Birmingham held their annual tri-parish Christmas Meeting and Bazaar on December 5 at the Advent. The Rev. Canon Heidi Kinner spoke at the meeting.

Lois Robinson, ECW President of St. John’s Deaf Church, reported that their Bazaar/Yard Sale and raffle on October 28 raised $1,123. Junko Haskett from Jasper won the afghan. The members of the ECW thank everyone for helping make the event a success.

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

Greetings for the New Year! It is a good time to reflect and prepare, rejoice, and refresh our focus. ECW rejoices in a wonderful 2006 and anticipates an exciting 2007. We have new offerings for your parish’s involvement as well as for your individual participation. For more information about the following programs please visit www.alabamaecw.org or contact the people listed below:

• Province IV ECW has developed a prayer chain so we can stay in touch with our sisters in neighboring dioceses and know how to help them when needs arise. If your parish has not yet started this, please contact your convocation coordinator or Gethryn Giles at ggiles@tds.net.

• The Province IV ECW conference at Kanuga in June will showcase mission work being done by each diocese. Please contact Anne Kimzey at hanahanford@yahoo.com and let her know what you’re doing or would like to do.

• Our ECW board will establish a goal for a major contribution to the ACTS 2 Campaign. Please contact Tora Johnson at bcarp23@aol.com for more information.

• Women’s Weekend in May will include lots of new activities, so mark your calendars and join in the fun. Please contact Barbara Carpenter at bcarp23@aol.com for more information.

• We’ll establish a diocesan needle arts guild. If you’re interested please send an e-mail to alleenc@bellsouth.net.

• Fall Conference in Auburn will be just as good as in Tuscaloosa in 2006. Please contact Tana Branch at tanabrand@bellsouth.net for more information.

• Remember scholarships, UTO, CPC, and DOK; please visit our Web site, www.alabamaecw.org, for more information.

• E-mail photos of your parish events to alleenc@bellsouth.net.
176th Annual Diocesan Convention

In addition to considering and voting on a wide variety of resolutions, the delegates to our 176th diocesan convention will elect people to serve in a number of positions (please see the nominees below). The delegates will also consider and adopt a budget for this fiscal year (please see page 7).

Nominations Received at Carpenter House by 1/19/07

DIOCESAN COUNCIL
Clerical Order
Northern District (3-year term)

- The Rev. Bruce White
  St. Michael and All Angels' in Anniston
  Rector
  • Department of Liturgy and Music member
  • Department of Parish Development and Evangelism former member
  • Finance Committee (Diocese of Iowa) member
  • Diocesan Council (Diocese of Iowa, 2 terms)

- The Rev. Scott Arnold
  St. Mark's in Prattville
  Rector
  • Youth Council Chaplain (Diocese of Louisiana)
  • Specialize in Parish Growth and Development

- The Rev. Polk Van Zandt
  St. Paul's in Selma
  Rector
  • Standing Committee president (Diocese of Utah)
  • Commission on Ministry chair (Diocese of Utah)

Middle District

- The Rev. Deb Braden
  St. Mary's on the Highlands in Birmingham
  Associate Rector
  • Former rector of St. Mathias' in Tuscaloosa
  • Cursillo Secretariat member
  • Parish Spiritual Director
  • Department of Christian Formation member
  • Hispanic Ministries Committee former member

- Barbara Jacobs
  St. Luke's in Scottsboro
  • Senior Warden (2 years)
  • Vestry member (3 years)
  • Adult Education teacher
  • Altar Guild member
  • Parish Missions Committee member
  • Cursillo participant

- Nancy Terrell
  All Saints' in Birmingham
  • Former Senior Warden (2 terms)
  • Diocesan Consecration on Ministry former member
  • Diocesan Commission on Ministry former member
  • Diaconate Committee chair
  • EFM (Education for Ministry) mentor

STANDING COMMITTEE
Clerical Order

- The Rev. John Fritschner
  Holy Trinity in Auburn
  Rector
  • Commission on Ministry member (1996-2002)
  • General Convention Deputy (2000-03)
  • Ecclesiastical Court member (1996-99)
  • Diocesan Council member (2005-08)

- The Rev. Lee Lowery
  Holy Spirit in Alabaster
  Rector
  • Started new parish in our diocese
  • Department of Parish Development chair
  • Happening Spiritual Director
  • Kairos Spiritual Director

Southern District (3-year term)

- The Rev. Ben Alford
  Trinity in Wetumpka
  Rector
  • Commission on Ministry member (Diocese of Louisiana)
  • Stewardship Commission member (Diocese of Louisiana)
  • Diocesan Council member (Diocese of Louisiana)
  • Cursillo Secretariat member (Diocese of Louisiana)

- The Rev. Lee Lowery
  Holy Spirit in Alabaster
  Rector
  • Started new parish in our diocese
  • Department of Parish Development chair
  • Happening Spiritual Director
  • Kairos Spiritual Director

Lay Order
Northern District (3-year term)

- Lisa Beck
  St. Luke’s in Birmingham
  • Church School Teacher
  • Lay Reader
  • Youth Confirmation Instructor
  • Cursillo participant
  • Bishop’s Commission on Children member

- Nancy Terrell
  All Saints’ in Birmingham
  • Former Senior Warden (2 terms)
  • Diocesan Consecration on Ministry former member
  • Diocesan Commission on Ministry former member
  • Diaconate Committee chair
  • EFM (Education for Ministry) mentor
  • Stephen’s Minister

Lay Order

- James Dorroh
  St. Luke’s in Birmingham
  Director of Music
  • Department of Liturgy and Music former chair
  • Diocesan Convention former dean
  • Member of the Association of Anglican Musicians

Our clergy spouses and our Companion Diocese Commission have worked together to bring a wide assortment of artwork from Haiti to Alabama for sale at diocesan convention. The artwork, which includes canvas paintings as well as metal art, will be displayed at a booth staffed by clergy spouses in the Exhibit Room. The proceeds will support educational ministries to the Diocese of Haiti. For more information please contact Becky Parsley at the parish@bellsouth.net or 205/345-5926, Pat King at bp3king@bellsouth.net or 205/942-5617, Cindy Lawson at clausen1960@excite.com or 256/362-8360, or Vergene Ficken at 205/345-3909.

Workshops and Haitian Art at Convention

Convention delegates and guests can choose from the following five workshops to attend on Friday from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m.

Our Partners in Haiti—A Conversation with the Valdemas
The Rev. (Priest) Fritz Valdema and his wife Carmel will discuss their work in the Croix des Bouquets parish in the Episcopal Diocese of Haiti, our companion diocese. Pere Valdema serves as the priest in charge of six churches and five schools, and Carmel, who is a public health nurse, runs a nutrition program for children.

Healing the Sick andProclaiming the Kingdom of God—A Priest, Doctor, and Administrator Reflect on “Free Medical Clinics” in Alabama
The Rev. Richard Lawson along with Dr. Neil Camp and Mr. Jerry Jacob will talk about the three free medical clinics started by St. Michael’s and All Angels in Anniston, Grace Church in Cullman, and St. John’s in Decatur. They will also offer practical strategies for developing this ministry in other parts of our diocese.

New Orleans Recovery Update
The Rev. Roger Allen, who was serving as rector of the Chapel of the Holy Comforter in New Orleans when Hurricane Katrina struck, will give a presentation on both the progress and continuing problems in the city. Workshop participants will learn more about how they might help with both monetary gifts and volunteer time.

Hispanic Ministries
This workshop will provide information, resources, and networking opportunities for individuals and parishes who are interested in ministry with and for Hispanics in our diocese. It will include a brief presentation covering demographics, civic and church organizations, and current and planned activities of the Episcopal parishes, our diocesan Hispanic Missioner, and our Hispanic Commission followed by a panel discussion on community resources, Hispanic spirituality, church models and worship resources, English as a Second Language (ESL), immigration law, healthcare, and advocacy.

Missionary Opportunities in the Episcopal Church
This workshop will provide information on Official Missionaries of the Episcopal Church (usually 3-year terms), Volunteers on Mission (usually 1-year positions), and the Young Adult Service Corps (1-year opportunities for recent college graduates). The Rev. Bill King will host this workshop for our diocesan Department of Mission and Outreach, and the Rev. Bob and Kay Blackwell, who have just returned from Syria where they served for 18 months as Official Missionaries, and the Rev. Canon Heidi Kinmer, who serves as coordinator for mission ministries at the Cathedral Church of the Advent, will participate.
Our Diocesan Budget

The delegates will receive a summary of our 2006 budget expenses and the 2007 proposed program and budget along with additional information for their discussion and vote on our diocesan budget for the coming fiscal year.
On the Bus To Begin “The Journey” of Advent

By the Rev. Steve Gruman, Rector of St. Matthew’s in Madison

The Advent season got off to a roaring start at St. Matthew’s in Madison at 5 p.m. on December 3, when more than 100 people came to worship and experience the beginning of “The Journey” of Advent with a little help from St. Nick. Our parishioners already knew that St. Nicholas, whose feast day is December 6, loved to help others, and they followed in his footsteps by gifting 200 angels on our parish’s Advent tree and filling a corner of the narthex with gifts for those in need.

After we passed the peace in the worship service that Sunday evening, everyone found a seat on two buses we rented from Trailways. We sang carols as we traveled from destination to destination, stopping to enjoy appetizers at one home, salad at another, and the main course at two neighboring homes. When we arrived back at St. Matthew’s three hours later, St. Nick was gone, but we continued the worship service with the Great Thanksgiving and Eucharist. Afterward everyone came to our home for apple pie with ice cream and apple cider.

Advent is about the journey, and the members of St. Matthew’s members got off to a good start on the bus. Lee Anna Mack, our Christian formation director, and I wanted to do something that would build community and broaden the circle of fellowship at our parish. We came up with this idea, and it was a great success. People left for home that night with big smiles on their faces and many new friends.

Ecumenism at Work at St. Stephen’s in Huntsville

By the Rev. Deacon Lynn Balland

On Sunday, December 10, St. Stephen’s in Huntsville bid a fond farewell to the members of St. Michael the Archangel Eastern Orthodox Church, who have been worshiping in our parish’s chapel for the past three years—serving as a wonderful example of ecumenism at work. It all started when the congregation of St. Michael’s wanted to form an English-speaking Orthodox congregation in Huntsville. The congregation was small in number but large in spirit and needed a worship space that was “economically friendly” to launch their new worshiping community.

St. Stephen’s offered our chapel, and since that time the Orthodox congregation has grown in number and was able to purchase a building of its own. We exchanged gifts and prayers at the farewell luncheon held to honor our partnership. The Rev. Benedict Crawford accepted gifts of a processional cross and two processional fans from our rector, the Rev. Susan Sloan, and we accepted a wonderful new brass-covered Gospel book. At the end of the luncheon the members of the Orthodox congregation sang a lovely parting prayer for us, their Episcopal friends.

I Am So Blessed

By Alexandra Martin

I am a member of the Young Adult Service Corps (YASC) of the Episcopal Church, and I am so blessed to be a missionary in Germany. Since September I have been serving as the Missioner to Children and Youth at two Anglican/Episcopal parishes in the Convocation of American Churches in Europe (the Convocation is directly under the Episcopal Church but serves Anglicans from all over the world). The parishioners, who come from Africa, Asia, Europe, South America, and North America, come to our English-speaking communities for both spiritual and social support while they are living abroad either for a short time or permanently.

YASC brings young adults (age 20–30) into the life of the Anglican Communion and into the daily work of local communities. The emphases of YASC include cultural engagement, spiritual commitment, and vocational reflection. As one of 10 YASCers serving around the world this year, I have come into contact with some of God’s most precious people who have a strong desire to serve their Lord. My work has mostly centered on starting programs for children, youth, and young adults at two small parishes in Frankfurt and Wiesbaden, Germany, but I have also had the wonderful opportunities to preach, perform pastoral visits, and serve as a lay Eucharistic minister.

Through my ministry in Germany, I have grown in so many different capacities. I look forward to returning to the Diocese of Alabama in July to share my experiences with all of you. In the meantime, I invite you to stay in touch with me in Germany by visiting www.girlonamission-yasc.blogspot.com, a blog that allows me to share my experiences with all of my supporters. Thank you for the opportunity to represent both our National Church and our diocese in Germany.
Grace Church Hosts Cullman County’s First Annual Lessons and Carols

Submitted by Bill McCartney

For the first time Grace Church in Cullman invited the community to join our parish for Lessons and Carols on Saturday, December 16. The community responded with about 150 non-Episcopalians coming to hear the Christmas story in scripture and song. Most had never been in our building before and were clearly impressed with its warmth and beauty. They also seemed to be moved by the interplay of scripture, songs, and sights in the service.

It was a Spirit-filled evening with a great crowd. Grace’s Adult Choir and Cullman Middle and High School Choruses joined voices filling the church with a joyful noise accompanied by Grace Church Organist Becky Smith on the organ and First Methodist Church Music Director Rebecca Whited on the piano. Michell Flack, Cullman Middle and High School Choral Director and Grace Choirmaster, selected the music and directed the choirs.

The Rev. Milt Glor officiated at the service, and leaders representing different facets of community life read the lessons. The readers included Cullman’s mayor, our county commission chair, a district judge, Cullman Regional Medical Center’s Chief of Staff, Cullman High School Senior Class President, Cullman Middle School 8th Grade President, a Methodist preacher, the publisher of The Cullman Times, and Grace Church’s Junior Warden. Each one eagerly agreed to participate when asked and helped bring the Christmas story to life with their heartfelt proclamations.

A Dessert and Coffee reception followed the service. Members of our never-say-can’t ECW decorated the parish hall and then prepared and served a delicious array of tasty treats that made lots of tongues very happy. (I still need to get the recipe for Bea Campbell’s thinly sliced pumpkin bread roll filled with a cream cheese mixture. It was the best tasting treat to pass between my lips in a long time!)

Our first annual Cullman County Lessons and Carols effort required a lot of work and involved a few miscues. As with all new initiatives, there was a steep learning curve. Even so we were able to share God’s love with neighbors who had never opened Grace Church’s (perhaps any church’s) doors before. Once inside several asked about our worship times and other information about our church and the Episcopal Church in general. Hopefully they will “come and see” again.

At the same time, working toward a clear, common, and immediate goal drew our parish together more tightly. It seems the Holy Spirit often makes His presence felt when our backs are tired and our brows are damp.

St. Mark’s Angel Tree Ministry

Each year the members of St. Mark’s in Prattville meet the needs of others through the parish’s Angel Tree Ministry. Parishioners “pick” a list of items needed off the Angel Tree in early December and bring their donations to the church’s Outreach Corner. Volunteers sort and box the items before they are delivered to the Autauga Interfaith Care Center, a food and emergency need center the parish helped establish. “Outreach is a very important part of our life here at St. Marks’,” emphasizes the Rev. Scott Arnold, the parish’s rector. “Our members respond very generously, and they inspire others to do the same.”

The members of St. Mark’s in Prattville collected, organized, and distributed 1,700 pounds of food and personal care items through the Autauga Interfaith Care Center, a food and emergency need center the parish helped establish.
“Deepening the Practice of Centering Prayer,”
14th Annual Contemplative Outreach Conference
February 10 and 11 at St. Stephen’s in Birmingham

Contemplative Outreach Birmingham will host its 14th Annual Conference on February 10 (9:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m.) and 11 (1:30–4 p.m.) at St. Stephen’s in Birmingham. The Rev. Cynthia Bourgeault, an author, lecturer, Episcopal priest, and scholar who is passionately committed to the recovery of the Christian Contemplative path, will speak on this year’s theme “Deepening the Practice of Centering Prayer.” Cynthia will also give a presentation on the “Welcoming Prayer.” For more information please visit her Web site at www.contemplative.org; for more information about the conference please contact Diana Tschache at 205/991-6964 or tschache@bellsouth.net.

Walk the Labyrinth
February 23 and 24 at St. Luke’s in Birmingham

The season of Lent calls us to prayer, discipline, and an inward journey of reflection and self-examination. Many Christians have found blessing and renewal through the ancient spiritual practice of walking the labyrinth, a series of intricate, interweaving pathways that parallel our journey through life. Accompanied by soft music and a quiet, meditative atmosphere conducive to prayer and reflection, walking the labyrinth can unlock the quiet places in our hurried souls and cause us to focus on our journey toward God. It is relaxing, satisfying, and spiritually rewarding for anyone seeking a quiet place for peace and restoration.

You are cordially invited to walk the labyrinth in Graham Hall at St. Luke’s in Birmingham on Friday, February 23, between noon and 7 p.m. and again on Saturday, February 24, from 9 a.m. to noon. There is no cost, and no reservations are necessary. If you have questions please contact Mary Ellen Calhoun at mellenc@bellsouth.net 205/733-1244 or Steve DeGweck at 205/802-6203.

“Making Room for God, Self, Others, and Church” Lenten Retreat
March 2-4 at Camp McDowell

Brother Robert Hugh, a friar of the Society of St. Francis, will lead this Lenten retreat sponsored by our diocesan Commission on Spirituality. He will share his insights on Making Room for God...as God really is; Making Room for Self...as I really am; Making Room for Others...as they really are; and Making Room for the Church...as our Anglican Communion is in disarray. He will help the participants clear the clutter, garbage, and baggage from their paths and make room for deeper and more honest relationships with God, others, and ourselves. Renowned for his marvelous sense of storytelling, Brother Hugh often uses humor to make his points. The weekend retreat includes time for small-group discussions as well as periods of silence for personal reflection. For more information please contact Sarah Sartain at ssartain@dioala.org or 205/715-2060 ext. 314.

“Exploring Excellence in Liturgical Arts,” PLTE (Parish Leadership Training Event)
March 24 at St. Stephen’s in Birmingham

Everyone is cordially invited to participate in this year’s Parish Leadership Training Event (PLTE), sponsored by our diocesan Department of Christian Formation. The Rev. Dr. James W. Farwell, an associate professor who holds the H. Boone Porter Chair of Liturgics at The General Seminary in New York, will give the keynote address, “Becoming Who We Are: Liturgy and the Christian Life.” Dr. Farwell will also lead a workshop on the purpose and use of the Episcopal Church’s new liturgical resources Enriching Our Worship (EOW). Additional workshops include Floral Art for the Altar, Needlework, Children’s Choirs, Art with Children, The Inviting Church, The Welcoming Web Site, Designing Effective Bulletins/Newsletters, Why We Do What We Do, Senior Wardens and Vestry, Speaking God’s Word Effectively (Lay Readers), and Keeping a Sunday Focus Throughout the Week. For more information please contact Sarah Sartain at ssartain@dioala.org or 205/715-2060 ext. 314.

“One Destination—Many Pathways,” Eumconical 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 topnotch liturgical musicians to the Birmingham area to serve as faculty for their Music Ministry Series Conferences. This year’s faculty include liturgical artists John Angotti, Gary Daigle, Bobby Fisher, Deanna Light, Steve Petrunak, Paul Tate, Janet Vogt, and Bishop Ron Herzog (Bishop of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Alexandria, Louisiana). For more information and/or to be added to FLM’s mailing list, please contact Nancy Brown at Nbrown43@bellsouth.net.
**What’s New/Noteworthy at the Episcopal Book Store**

*Visit the Episcopal Book Store at the Diocesan Convention in Tuscaloosa “Open the hours you are there.”*

---

**Grace in Practice: A Theology of Everyday Life by Paul F. M. Zahl**

The Very Rev. Paul F. M. Zahl has long been captivated by the idea of one-way love, or “God’s grace.” He begins this book with his response to the classic tension between law and grace and then sets up the four pillars of his own theology of grace: humanity, salvation, Christ, and the Holy Spirit in the Trinity. Paul continues by exploring how grace manifests itself in our families, in society, and in the Church, and he examines the grace that can be found in singleness, relationships, politics, the mall, social class distinctions, and more. He also delves into what grace looks like for those in ministry and how they can model grace for those they seek to help and lead.

---

**Singing Hands by Delia Ray**

In this novel for young adults, Delia Ray re-creates Birmingham and Alabama in 1948 as it follows the adventures of Gusie, a 12-year-old hearing girl, who is the child of deaf parents. Delia, who lives in Iowa, is the daughter of Bobby Fletcher Ray, one of the children of Estelle and the Rev. Robert Fletcher, who founded St John’s Church for Deaf in Birmingham. She based the book on the stories her mother told her about growing up in Birmingham.

---

**Revised Common Lectionary Gospel Book (NRSV Version)**

This handsome Gospel Book features a heavyweight burgundy/red cover with gold embossing on the front and back, making it suitable for use in procession. The interior pages are an easy-to-turn, heavyweight ivory paper with gold edges and a red ribbon marker. It includes all the regular Sunday Eucharist readings as well as Holy Days and Special Occasions; the scripture index makes it convenient to find readings for special services.

---

**365 Bible Stories for Young Hearts**

“A long time ago, God made the world.” So begins God’s great story as related in **365 Bible Stories for Young Hearts**. These brief Bible stories cover important events and truths from the Old and New Testaments, together revealing God’s whole redemptive plan. They are written in straightforward, lively language that little ones can understand and are accompanied by beautiful, full-color illustrations. Suitable for ages five and up, the Bible stories are presented in a devotional format that allows you to share one story with your child each day for a whole year.

---

**Violet Comes to Stay by Melanie Cecka with illustrations by Emily Arnold McCully; presented by Jan Karon**

An offshoot of Jan Karon’s adult **Mitford Series**, this story is written by Melanie Cecka in the voice of Cynthia Coppersmith, a character in the series who writes stories about her cat, Violet. Violet is the last kitten of the litter, and her mother instructs her (as she has all her babies) to remember the mouse-catching rules: prow! yelled, plan your leap carefully, and pounce boldly. When Violet is adopted by a plant nursery owner and later by a bakery chef, she fails each time to remember the rules, causing havoc and resulting in a return to her mother. But the third time, the little white kitten happily discovers what God has planned for her. Emily Arnold McCully’s attractive, clear watercolor illustrations lend just the right small-town atmosphere to the story, which is suitable for kindergartners through 2nd graders.

---

**Mark Your Calendar**

**Diocesan Convention** February 15-17 in Tuscaloosa

**Happening Weekend** (10th-12th graders) #50 March 2-4

**New Beginnings Weekend** (7th-8th graders) April 13-15

**PLTE** March 24

**Spring Break Conference** (9th-12th graders) March 17-21

**February 10-11** “Deepening the Practice of Centering Prayer,” 14th Annual Contemplative Outreach Conference led by the Rev. Cynthia Bourgeault at St. Stephen’s in Birmingham. For more information please contact Diana Tschache at 205/991-6964 or tschached@bellsouth.net.

**February 15** “Second Chance at Love” Valentine concert of classical music presented by the Rev. Barry Vaughn at 6:30 p.m. in the atrium at the downtown Birmingham Public Library. For more information please call 205/226-3742 or e-mail sle@gham.lib.al.us.

**February 23-24** Walk the Labyrinth at St. Luke’s in Birmingham. For more information please contact Mary Ellen Callhoun at mel@callhoun.net or St. Luke’s parish at 205/871-3583.

**February 23-25** “Exploring the Riches of Prayer” retreat led by the Rev. Timothy Jones at St. Mary’s Sewanee, A Center for Spiritual Development. For more information please call 931/598-5342 or e-mail stmaryscc@sewanee.edu.

**February 25** Ensemble Conundrum performance, including the Mass in G Minor by J. S. Bach, at 4 p.m. at the Advent in Birmingham. For more information please contact Timothy Tiller at 205/226-3505 or tim@cathedraladvent.com.

**February 25-28** “Beyond Crisis: God’s Promises for the Church” Bowen Conference led by the Rev. Fleming Rutledge at Kanuga. For more information please visit www.kanuga.org or call 931/598-5342.

**March 8** Diocesan Youth Ministers Meeting from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Carpenter House. For more information please contact Sarah Sartain at ssartain@dioala.org or 205/715-2060 ext. 314.

**March 2-4** “Making Room for God, Self, Others, and Church” Lenten retreat led by Brother Robert Hugh and sponsored by our diocesan Commission on Spirituality at Camp McDowell. For more information please see page 10 or contact Sarah Sartain at ssartain@dioala.org or 205/714-2060 ext. 314.

**March 9-11** “Mindfulness: The Master Skill for Happiness” led by Kathy Woods and the Rev. Gordon Peerman at St. Mary’s Sewanee, A Center for Spiritual Development. For more information please call 931/598-5342 or e-mail stmaryscc@sewanee.edu.

**March 11** EvenSONg for Lent sung by the Cathedral Choir at 4 p.m. at the Advent in Birmingham. For more information please contact Timothy Tiller at 205/226-3505 or tim@cathedraladvent.com.

**March 18-21** “A Lenten Benedictine Retreat” led by the Rev. Doug Schwert at St. Mary’s Sewanee, A Center for Spiritual Development. For more information please call 931/598-5342 or e-mail stmaryscc@sewanee.edu.

**March 24** “Exploring Excellence in Liturgical Arts,” PLTE (Parish Leadership Training Event) with keynote speaker and workshop leader the Rev. Dr. James Farwell at St. Stephen’s in Birmingham. For more information please see pages 2 and 10 or contact Sarah Sartain at ssartain@dioala.org or 205/715-2060 ext. 314.

**March 26-29** “Meditation as Prayer” Lenten Retreat led by the Rev. Marshall and Jan Craver at Kanuga. For more information please visit www.kanuga.org, or e-mail info@kanuga.org, or call 256/692-9136.

**March 30** The Alabama Touring Choir under the direction of Karen Nicolosi at 7:30 p.m. at 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.

**April 22-27** Photography Retreat VI at Kanuga. For more information please visit www.kanuga.org, or e-mail info@kanuga.org, or call 256/692-9136.

**April 27** Midday Musical Menu featuring organist Charles Kennedy at 12:30 p.m. at the Advent in Birmingham. For more information please contact Stephen Schaeffer at 205/226-3505 or stephen@cathedraladvent.com.
ERD Update

Episcopal Relief and Development (ERD) is providing emergency assistance to families affected by devastating ice storms that hit central Nebraska the first week of January. The state has also been hit by a number of devastating snowstorms, making daily life more difficult and dangerous for thousands already left without electricity.

ERD is partnering with the Episcopal Diocese of Nebraska to supply emergency assistance such as food supplies and other critical aid. St. Elizabeth’s Episcopal Church in Holdrege is serving as the local interfaith processing center and is distributing vouchers for immediate needs to people impacted by the storms. “ERD’s support is helping the diocese provide essential aid in the Holdrege community where churches have become information centers after television, radio, and cell towers were severely damaged by the storm,” notes Richard Ohlson, ERD’s Director of Domestic Disaster Response and Preparedness. “Long term we are working to help dioceses across the country be prepared to respond after emergencies and plug into networks such as state and local VOADs.”

Episcopal Relief and Development is the international relief and development agency of the Episcopal Church of the United States. An independent 501(c) (3) organization, ERD’s programs work toward achieving the Millennium Development Goals. ERD saves lives and builds hope in communities around the world, provides emergency assistance in times of crisis and rebuilding after disasters, and enables people to climb out of poverty by offering long-term solutions in the areas of food security and healthcare including HIV/AIDS and malaria. For more information please visit www.er-d.org or call 800/334-7626 ex. 3129; to help support ERD’s work you can send a donation to Episcopal Relief and Development, “Emergency Relief Fund,” P.O. Box 7058, Merrifield, VA 22116-7058.

Ensemble Corund To Perform at the Advent

The Cathedral Church of the Advent cordially invites everyone to a very special and exciting performance by the world-renowned Swiss choir Ensemble Corund at 4 p.m. on Sunday, February 25. Ensemble Corund’s singing has been described as “technically accomplished, musically unman¬nered, and highly soul-satisfying.” The ensemble performed J. S. Bach’s monumental Concerto a Cinque in E-Minor for Holy Cross, “a new tradition, with the Rev. Robert Wisnewski and a student at Holy Cross Episcopal School.”

The proceeds have funded scholarships, chapel improvements, and meeting other needs identified in the school’s Strategic Plan.

In April 2006 “Raise the Cross for Holy Cross,” a new tradition, was born as part of the school’s annual Low Country Boil and Silent Auction Fundraiser. Crosses were placed on each dining table, and those participating were invited to pick one up and “Raise the Cross for Holy Cross” with a pledge. That Sunday afternoon Holy Cross cleared $28,000! The proceeds have funded scholarships, chapel improvements, and meeting other needs identified in the school’s Strategic Plan.

In 2003 to great acclaim. This time they will be performing J. S. Bach’s monumental Concerto a Cinque in E-Minor for Holy Cross, “a new tradition, with the Rev. Robert Wisnewski and a student at Holy Cross Episcopal School.”

Come “Raise the Cross for Holy Cross”!

In 1997 a campaign began to raise startup funds for an Episcopal School in Montgomery. The following year Mrs. William Nicrosi (Harold), a member of the original ad hoc committee and the school’s first benefactor, donated 18 acres of land on Bell Road as the building site for the school, and she recruited the Rev. Robert Wisnewski, rector of St. John’s, to chair the school’s first board. Under the strong, capable, visionary leadership provided by these two people and many others, Holy Cross Episcopal School was built and has continued to grow.

In April 2006 “Raise the Cross for Holy Cross,” a new tradition, was born as part of the school’s annual Low Country Boil and Silent Auction Fundraiser. Crosses were placed on each dining table, and those participating were invited to pick one up and “Raise the Cross for Holy Cross” with a pledge. That Sunday afternoon Holy Cross cleared $28,000! The proceeds have funded scholarships, chapel improvements, and meeting other needs identified in the school’s Strategic Plan.

The 2007 Low Country Boil and Silent Auction, planned for Sunday afternoon, April 22, at 4 p.m., will continue the “Raise the Cross for Holy Cross” tradition. This year’s event will also honor of Harold Nicrosi and the Rev. Robert Wisnewski. The staff and board members of Holy Cross Episcopal School cordially invite you to join them for this very special event. For more information please contact Jan Norred at 334/395-8222 or visit www.hcesal.com.

Holy Trinity Celebrates 50 Years of Ministry

Holy Trinity takes its name from two predecessors in the community of Auburn—the Church of the Holy Innocents and Trinity Church. By 1957 Holy Innocents had been named a student church, now known as St. Dunstan’s, and a new church assumed the name Holy Trinity and moved to its present hillside setting just south of campus. At that time Holy Trinity served 165 communicants and 105 Church School pupils, and over the past 50 years those numbers have grown to be 646 and 188. The parish’s rectors include the Rev. James P. Woodson (1957-73), the Rev. William P. McLemore (1974-86), the Rev. Gid Montjoy IV (1987-94), and currently the Rev. John B. Frischner. Each of the former rectors will make a special visit to the parish during the yearlong anniversary celebration.

Bishop Henry Parsley participated in a celebratory service of worship and confirmation on Sunday, January 21, when a special banner was presented. The members of the parish cordially welcome everyone to join them for the following golden anniversary events.

February 11—The Rev. James Woodson will preach.
March 16-17—Phillip Petree will lead a special Lenten retreat.
April 29—The Rev. Gid Montjoy will preach.
June 3—Trinity Sunday celebration followed by a parish picnic.
July 22—The Rev. Bill McLemore will preach.

The Cathedral Church of the Advent in Holdrege is serving as the local interfaith processing center and is distributing vouchers for immediate needs to people impacted by the storms. “ERD’s support is helping the diocese provide essential aid in the Holdrege community where churches have become information centers after television, radio, and cell towers were severely damaged by the storm,” notes Richard Ohlson, ERD’s Director of Domestic Disaster Response and Preparedness. “Long term we are working to help dioceses across the country be prepared to respond after emergencies and plug into networks such as state and local VOADs.”

Episcopal Relief and Development is the international relief and development agency of the Episcopal Church of the United States. An independent 501(c) (3) organization, ERD’s programs work toward achieving the Millennium Development Goals. ERD saves lives and builds hope in communities around the world, provides emergency assistance in times of crisis and rebuilding after disasters, and enables people to climb out of poverty by offering long-term solutions in the areas of food security and healthcare including HIV/AIDS and malaria. For more information please visit www.er-d.org or call 800/334-7626 ex. 3129; to help support ERD’s work you can send a donation to Episcopal Relief and Development, “Emergency Relief Fund,” P.O. Box 7058, Merrifield, VA 22116-7058.

St. Peter’s in Talladega, a pastoral-sized parish, is seeking a qualified and enthusiastic full or part-time director of Christian Formation and youth ministries. Applicants must have interest and experience in Godly Play and building a comprehensive formation program through high school on this foundation. For more information please contact Father Neil St. barnabas J. Lawson at 256/362.2505 or stpeterson@bellsouth.net.

The members of St. Paul’s in Selma have written meditations for a Lenten booklet. If you would like a copy, please contact the parish at 334/874-8421 or the Rev. Polk Van Zandt at rector@stpauls Selma.org.

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 March issue is February 1; the deadline for the April issue is March 1.