Five Transitional Deacons To Be Ordained in May

Bishop Parsley and Bishop Sloan will ordain Robyn Elizabeth Arnold, Walter Marion “Chip” Broadfoot, Judith Walton Comer, Thomas R. Joyner, and James Lee “Jamie” McAdams to the Sacred Order of Deacons in May at their home parishes. Robyn, who graduated from the Church Divinity School of the Pacific in Berkeley, California, will be ordained at 6 p.m. on May 31 at St. Andrew’s in Birmingham. Chip, a graduate of the School of Theology at Sewanee, will be ordained at 6 p.m. on May 14 at St. Stephen’s in Birmingham. Judith, who also graduated from Sewanee, will be ordained at 11 a.m. on May 17 at Holy Comforter in Montgomery. Jamie, who also is a Sewanee graduate, will be ordained at 11 a.m. on May 24 at the Cathedral Church of the Advent in Birmingham. Thomas, who graduated from General Seminary in New York City, will be ordained at 6 p.m. on May 20 at St. Stephen’s in Huntsville.

Serving Our Sisters and Brothers in Haiti

When a team of volunteers from our diocese went to Haiti in early February, they took medical and nutrition supplies—and a beautiful set of altar and pulpit hangings handmade by Leslie Youngson, a member of St. Mary’s-on-the-Highlands in Birmingham. The Rev. Fritz Valdema (Pere Val) used the hangings for the first time on Easter Sunday. For more about the medical mission trip and our Companion Diocesan Relationship with Haiti, please see page 2.

The Easter Fund Meets Diocesan Needs

Bishop Parsley and Bishop Sloan have invited each of us to celebrate the Great Fifty Days of Easter by making a contribution to our diocesan Easter Fund. The Rt. Rev. Furman “Bill” Stough began the fund, then called Bishop’s Dollars, more than 20 years ago to help clergy and their families during times of special need. In 1998 Bishop Parsley expanded the use of the fund and changed the name to the Easter Fund. Our contributions now support new parishes in our diocese, ministries with children and teens, and outreach projects, as well as continuing to provide help to clergy and their families.

For more information about the Easter Fund and making a contribution, please contact Carpenter House at 521 20th Street North, Birmingham, AL 35203; 205/715-2060; diooffice@dioala.org.
Serving Our Sisters and Brothers in Haiti

Excerpts from “Medical Team Returns from Haiti” by the Rev. Deacon Dave Drachlis

In February, the Rev. Dr. Foster Eich, a priest and pediatrician from St. Bartholomew’s in Florence, and his wife, Ginger, joined the Rev. Deacon Gerri Aston of St. Andrew’s in Birmingham, Charlotte “CJ” Ross of St. Francis’ of Assisi in Indian Springs, Camille Cornett of Grace Church in Mt. Meigs, and Cindy Atkins and Sharon Drachlis of St. Thomas’ in Huntsville on a medical mission trip to Haiti, our Companion Diocese. The team took 11 extra suitcases filled with nearly 600 pounds of vitamins and medical supplies with them, and they used contributions from parishes and individuals throughout our diocese to purchase additional medicines and supplies once they arrived in Haiti.

The Rev. Fritz Valdema (Pere Val), the priest in charge of St. Simeon Church in Croix des Bouquets as well as five churches in other locations, and his wife, Carmel, a public health nurse in Haiti, hosted the team during their weeklong mission. The team members saw and treated a variety of illnesses and maladies—some minor, others life threatening, and sadly some terminal. They saw patients with everything from scabies, parasites, and infections to malaria, AIDS, and advanced aggressive cancer. “There were people with illnesses that we could not treat,” notes Dr. Eich, “but I think we did save some lives.”

For example, they saw a 12-year-old boy with tears running down his cheeks from the excruciating pain of a headache caused by a severe case of malaria; the team provided medication to relieve the boy’s pain, and Carmel will provide follow-up care. They also saw a tiny infant in a beautiful blue dress lying limp—almost lifeless—in her mother’s arms; she was suffering from severe dehydration, and the team members worked patiently and methodically to rehydrate her one drop of liquid at a time.

The team worked with Carmel to identify and treat malnourished children, some of them so severely malnourished that their arms and legs were pencil thin. Lespwa Timoun (Hope for the Children), Carmel’s nutrition clinic, provides protein supplements, immunizations, and monthly follow-up care to significantly malnourished children as well as nutrition education to their parents. The program, which is supported by contributions from our diocese, is making a difference—though malnourishment continues to be a significant problem, the Valdemas have seen a gradual reduction in the number of severely malnourished children in the areas the clinic serves.

This was the first medical mission and the second mission trip of Alabama’s Companion Diocese Relationship with the Diocese of Haiti. A construction team built desks and benches for students in two Episcopal Schools in Haiti in October 2007. For more about these mission trips and our ongoing efforts to work with our sisters and brothers in Haiti, please contact our diocesan Companion Diocese commission cochairs Anne Kimzey at hanahanford@yahoo.com or Dave Drachlis at dave@stthomas-hsv.org, visit our diocesan Web site (www.dioala.org), or contact the Rev. Pat Wingo, our diocesan Deputy for Ministry Development, at Carpenter House, 205/715-2060 ext. 317 or pwingo@dioala.org.

You Can Help with ERD’s Continuing Work on the Gulf Coast

More than two years have passed since Hurricane Katrina, but the work of rebuilding continues both on the Mississippi Gulf Coast and in New Orleans. Deacon Diane Livingston, who is now serving as the director of Camp Coast Care, emphasizes that volunteer plumbers, electricians, carpenters, painters, and quick learners are still needed to accomplish Episcopal Relief and Development’s (ERD’s) mission to BUILD HOUSES!

Contact Michael Magargel at 228/234-5193 or visit www.campcoastcare.com to find out more about the needs and to register. This is a great outreach opportunity for all ages. If your youth group is looking for a mission project, please contact Butch Jones at Mission on the Bay, missiononthebay@yahoo.com or through the link on the Camp Coast Care Web site. You can also contact Diane Livingston at 228/265-4794 or dianelivingston@hotmail.com. For more information or a presentation on the work of ERD in New Orleans and Mississippi or on the good work of ERD around the world, please contact Judy Quick at jquick@bell-south.net or visit www.cer-d.org.

The members of our Jacksonville State University Canterbury Club made their third annual spring break mission trip to Camp Coast Care in March; please see the story and photos on page 9. Also please see the story and photos on page 9 about a recent mission trip members of Epiphany in Guntersville made to St. Anna’s Episcopal Church in New Orleans.

The Rev. H. Vandon Forman will begin serving as rector of the Church of the Resurrection in Rainbow City (Gadsden) on June 1. Van is currently serving as rector of Christ Church in Albertville.

The Rev. Neil St. Barnabas Lawson has resigned as rector of St. Peter’s in Talladega.

The Rev. Frank Roth has accepted a call to serve as rector of St. Matthias’ in Tuscaloosa.
The Lambeth Conference:
“United Worship and Common Counsels”

In 1867 the Archbishop of Canterbury invited the 144 bishops of the Churches in communion with the Church of England to meet together for the first time in what would come to be known as the Lambeth Conference. The 2nd Bishop of Alabama, Richard Hooker Wilmer, was in attendance. Bishop Sloan and I will attend the 13th Lambeth Conference this summer, July 16–August 3, in Canterbury, England. Some 600 bishops are expected to be present, along with many spouses.

Interestingly enough, it was the bishops of the Church of Canada who requested this first meeting of the bishops of what would come to be called the Anglican Communion. In 1867 Archbishop Longley was careful not to describe the conference of bishops as a synod or decision-making body for the Churches. The autonomy of the Churches in communion with England was highly valued, as well as the catholicity of the faith. It was understood to be imperative that decision-making synods include other clergy and laity in addition to bishops.

The Archbishop wrote, “It should be distinctly understood that at this meeting no declaration of faith shall be made, and no decision come to which shall effect generally the interests of the church, but that we shall meet together for brotherly counsel and encouragement . . . Such a meeting would not be competent to make declaration or lay down definitions on points of doctrine. But united worship and common counsels would greatly tend to maintain practically the unity of the faith: whilst they would bind us in straiter bonds of peace and brotherly charity.”

These descriptions have remained the DNA of the Lambeth Conference, valuing at once the common counsel of bishops, the autonomy of each local Church and its Dioceses, and the interdependence we share as members of the one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

In the midst of the Lambeth Conferences there have always been issues and controversies. In 1867 it was the matter of Bishop Colenso of Natal in Southern Africa who had been deposed by Natal for controversial teaching. In succeeding years issues such as divorce, contraception, polygamy, war and peace, the ministry of women, ecumenism, temperance, faith and modern thought, the administration of Holy Communion, racism, and of course in recent days some issues of human sexuality. These have been addressed by the bishops at Lambeth through reports, resolutions, and letters to the Churches, all having moral and spiritual weight but not central synodical authority.

The present Archbishop of Canterbury, Rowan Williams, has emphasized that this Lambeth Conference will not focus on resolutions but on spiritual fellowship, worship, and mutual encouragement in our roles as bishops in the 21st century. He wishes us to strengthen our sense of a shared Anglican identity and help equip bishops for their role as leaders in mission. There will be a two-day retreat in Canterbury Cathedral and a festive opening service there. Each conference day will include Bible study following the Gospel of John, three worship services, each sponsored by one of the 38 provinces in its own language and liturgy, and discussion on a variety of topics.

One of the important matters to be considered will be the draft of a proposed Anglican Covenant, which the bishops will discuss and offer feedback on to the drafting committee. The covenant represents an attempt to provide greater unity to the Anglican Communion while respecting the diversity of our Churches and cultures. Some of the concerns it addresses were at play in the very first Lambeth, as Anglicans have long sought to be a communion that values unity in diversity. Such a covenant’s value would be in clarifying our Anglican identity and how we consult with one another. Its danger would be an over-centralization of the Communion and the role of primates.

The draft covenant is available at http://www.aco.org/commission/covenant, along with a study guide prepared by the Executive Council of our Church. Kee and I will be most grateful for your studying it and using the feedback form to give us your thoughts. Any such covenant could not be adopted by Lambeth. It would have to be accepted by the Anglican Consultative Council, meeting next in 2009, and then adopted by each of the 38 provinces over a period of years.

Lambeth Conference Prayer

Pour down upon us, O God, the gifts of your Holy Spirit, that those who prepare for the Lambeth Conference may be filled with wisdom and understanding. May they know at work within them that creative energy and vision which belong to our humanity, made in your image and redeemed by your love, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

God and Jesus and Love—
Stuff Like That

Part of the story of Jesus Christ is that it is never too late. Part of the story we’re given to share is that no circumstance is beyond the power of God and that nobody is beyond the redemption we are invited to accept.

Years ago, just after I graduated from seminary, I was talking with a woman from the congregation I served as an assistant. She was complaining about the rector, whom she seemed to hold responsible for the new prayer book and the ordination of women, the raging issues of the day back then. When I told her I didn’t think he really had anything to do with any of that, she went on to grumble that his sermons were just the same thing over and over. When I asked her what the sermons were about, she said, “Oh, you know, God and Jesus and love, stuff like that.” I had to admit I couldn’t disagree.

Sometimes it seems like we’re preaching to the choir about 87 percent of the time (actually I just made up that number, but it looks good, and I expect it’s pretty close). Most of the time the people in the pews have heard everything the preacher has to say several times over, for years. The sermon illustrations will change with different stories and different dramatic concluding rhetorical questions, but the message, the essential message remains the same: we are invited more and more fully into the love and grace of God through the life, ministry, teaching, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

But every once in a while, on Easter and Christmas, for weddings and funerals, we have a chance to share the Gospel of Christ with people we don’t see very often. And very often, from my observations facing the congregation as everybody else is facing the altar, it seems to me that some of those folks who are not often among us really need to hear what we have to say. They need to hear about love, about hope, about mercy.

But many times our visitors are not comfortable among us. It’s not usually because this parish is inhospitable or that congregation is unfriendly so much as it is because the visitors have been roughed up in their experience of church before they came to visit ours. Maybe they’ve learned a guilt they think they can’t release, a shame they’ve been told will haunt them forever, or a distance between them and “church people” that can’t be bridged, and they have the idea that there’s an abyss that they are convinced will always keep them from God. They might have rejected much of the teaching of their church, but that part of it they’ve held on to: it’s too late for them—they are beyond redemption.

And the preacher stands in the pulpit and talks about “God and Jesus and love, stuff like that,” knowing that it is the most precious gift we are able to give and not able to understand how someone wouldn’t accept it. The visitors, suspicious of our welcome because it doesn’t match their previous experience, let the sermons wash over them, secure in the knowledge that all that sort of talk is for “good people,” for “church people”—it doesn’t apply to them. They’ve heard the message that they’ve been judged unworthy, and they know it to be true because they know they’re broken and selfish. Sometimes they’re angry at the “good church people” for not being as good as they assume we claim to be, and they think of us as hypocrites because we’re just as broken and selfish as they are.

And it’s true, of course: we are broken and selfish, sinful through and through. But we’ve accepted the great gift of redemption given in the Cross and empty tomb—the wonderful gift we are called to share.

The story that makes us who we are tells us that Jesus was killed, executed by Roman soldiers. He was put away in a tomb, and that, they thought, was that—it was the end. Until he died there must have been hope that he would do something to save himself. But when he died it must have seemed like that hope died with him. It was too late. But then, on the first day of the week, when some of his friends went to tend his body . . .

Part of the story of Jesus Christ is that it is never too late. Part of the story we’re given to share is that no circumstance is beyond the power of God and that nobody is beyond the redemption we are invited to accept. The Gospel is not just for “church people” and not just for “good people,” but for all of God’s children. Our mistakes do not define us, and we are not trapped forever in the messes we make. By the power of God, hope does not die, and in Christ it is never, never too late.

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

The Rt. Rev. John McKee Sloan

Bishops’ Visitation Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Bishop</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sunday, May 4</td>
<td>8:45 a.m.</td>
<td>Bishop Parsley</td>
<td>St. Luke’s, Birmingham</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9 and 11 a.m.</td>
<td>Sloan, Christ Church</td>
<td>Tuscaloosa</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, May 7</td>
<td>6 p.m.</td>
<td>Bishop Parsley</td>
<td>St. Joseph’s on-the-Mountain, Mentone</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday, May 11</td>
<td>8 and 11 a.m.</td>
<td>Sloan, St. John’s</td>
<td>Decatur</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday, May 18</td>
<td>8 and 10 a.m.</td>
<td>Sloan, Nativiny</td>
<td>Huntsville</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10:15 a.m.</td>
<td>Parsley, Ascension,</td>
<td>Montgomery</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Sloan, Good Shepherd,</td>
<td>Decatur</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday, May 25</td>
<td>10:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Sloan, St. Barnabas’,</td>
<td>Hartselle</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday, June 1</td>
<td>11 a.m.</td>
<td>Sloan, St. Andrew’s</td>
<td>Montevallo</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday, June 8</td>
<td>10 a.m.</td>
<td>Sloan, St. Barnabas’,</td>
<td>Hartselle</td>
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Alleluia, Christ is risen. The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.
Daughters of the King

Holy Comforter in Gadsden Begins Junior Daughters of the King Chapter

Dianna Dabbs, our diocesan Junior Daughters of the King Directress, presented a Charter Membership Certificate to members of Holy Comforter in Gadsden during a service on Sunday, December 16. Eight of the parish’s young girls were inducted into the new chapter.

St. Luke’s in Scottsboro Institutes Daughters of the King Chapter

Historic St. Luke’s in Scottsboro, which was established in 1878, instituted its first chapter of the Daughters of the King on Sunday, January 27. The members named the new chapter “Ruth” in honor of Mrs. Ruth Bradford, who spent her life serving Christ and the parish. Jennifer Doss, previously of the St. Anne Chapter at St. Luke’s in Birmingham, led the members-to-be through more than 12 weeks of study and preparation. Six new Daughters and two Daughters-at-Large were admitted to the new chapter. Andi Silberman, our diocesan Daughters of the King president, attended the Eucharist and presented the new members and the Charter to the presiding clergy, the Rev. Matt Doss, rector of St. Luke’s.

You Are Invited!

Come join Daughters of the King from around our diocese at our annual Fall Assembly at Camp McDowell, Friday, November 7, to Sunday November 9. Bishop Sloan will lead the weekend gathering. Please mark this event on your calendar and watch for additional information.

Grace Church in Cullman Hosts DOK Spring Assembly

The Daughters of the King St. Brigid of Ireland Chapter at Grace Church in Cullman hosted this year’s diocesan-wide Spring Assembly on February 2. The Rev. Jim Tuohy, rector of St. Andrew’s in Montevallo, shared his “Meditations on St. Brigid” as well as entertaining the Daughters during lunch by playing his accordion and singing.

New Members of the Brotherhood of St. Andrew

During a special ceremony on December 16, the Brotherhood of St. Andrew at Holy Comforter in Gadsden initiated four Junior Brothers: Darion Campbell, Austin Johnson, Cameron Johnson, and Ben Roper.
From Dee Buzby, ECW President

After a beautiful Easter and spring, I pray that you are all refreshed in heart, mind, and spirit and eager to begin anew to joyfully serve our Lord. I hope you will find time to do so.

Going once! Going twice! Going three times! Sold!

Exciting words heard at the Wine and Cheese Art Auction on April 17 at All Saints’ in Birmingham. A huge thank-you to everyone who supported this event to benefit the ECW’s ACTS29 Pledge by offering such a wide array of items to be auctioned and by attending the event and making it such a success.

Special thanks to Olivia Weingarten of St. Thomas’ and Fiona Watts of St. Stephen’s and their committees: Alleen Cater, Nancy Thompson, Carleton Ambrose, and Kate Cotton of the Advent; Mary Todd Davis, Margaret Sullivan, and Darla Sellers of St. Luke’s; Virginia Phillips of St. Mary’s-on-the-Highlands; Sylvia McClain of St. Mark’s; and Memilry Colvin and Laura Blackstock of All Saints’, as well as the many more who all came together, worked hard, and created a very special evening for everyone.

Ladies, thank you! I will have the final results for you next month.

Kanuga? I am sure most of you have heard the word without knowing what or where it is. Kanuga is a beautiful conference center southeast of Huntsville, North Carolina, and the Province IV ECW Conference will take place there June 2-4. The Rev. Alan W. Hansen, the president and ECW of the Atlanta-based ACTS29 Ministries, will speak on the theme “Lord, Teach Us to Pray.” His presentations are designed to help us develop a more effective prayer life, and he will answer how God answers prayers and also explain the hindrances to prayer and the spiritual requirements for answered prayer.

The Rev. Sharon Lewis of Holy Spirit in Osprey, Florida, will serve as chaplain for the conference. Several members of our ECW Board will be attending, and I hope you will consider joining us—the warm fellowship, beautiful location, and the conference center itself make it all worth the drive. You can find more information at www.kanuga.org.

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I wish all of you who are mothers a very happy Mother’s Day on May 11! I would also like to encourage all of you to bring your mother, sister, daughter, or good friends to Camp McDowell for Women’s Weekend on May 16-18 where we will again be “Celebrating Sisterhood” and enjoying a fun weekend together. Please remember to visit our web site, www.alabamaecw.org, for information about ECW activities and programs.
For it is in giving that we receive, it is in pardoning that we are pardoned, and it is in dying that we are born into Eternal Life.

In compliance with the theme of our 2008 diocesan convention, creation was the main focus of Spring Break Conference (SBC), which concluded the Youth Department events for this year and explored the third facet of the overriding theme of “Living in Love.” For the first couple of days, a small (and eventually close-knit) group of teenagers from around our diocese played and prayed at Camp McDowell before we headed to SIFAT (Servants in Faith and Technology in Lineville). The Rev. Doug Carpenter served as our program director and Daniel Strandlund as lay chaplain; the infamous Fran McKendree provided music for the event.

I can hardly describe how exciting it was to have Doug with us. His words are saturated in inspiration and wisdom, and I’m pretty sure everything he says is at least a little bit magical. Doug, who helped construct Camp McDowell from nothingness alongside Mr. Eppes, used both his knowledge and the documented knowledge of “his hero,” Dr. Albert Schweitzer, to lead us in a program dedicated to the care of our environment.

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**Summer Staff Announced**

By Michael Goldsmith, Director of Program and Development

I am both excited and proud to announce our Summer Staff 2008. These are wonderful young adults who have taken their call to discipleship seriously, and they have chosen to be mentors to the children of this diocese as they model Christian community through their worship, work, and play. Please keep them in your prayers and be sure to tell them thank-you when you see them. They are paid very little and work very hard—all for the glory of God!

**For and About Youth**

Learning More about Creation and Serving Others at Spring Break Conference

*Written by Alice Nix; Photos by Louise Griffin, Kristen Hanson, and Emily Hubert-Willander*

Daniel did an excellent job as well. Throughout the week, he led us in the Prayer of Saint Francis, which proved to be the perfect prayer for the week.

Of course I can’t leave out Fran. But what is there to say besides he is ceaselessly incredible?

When we arrived at SIFAT, the most incredible staff made us feel right at home. We learned how to cook on stoves made of coffee cans and sawdust and had the pleasure of eating the soup we made. We spent a night in SIFAT’s “global village” after earning money doing odd jobs in “the slums,” whose harsh conditions seemed nothing short of reality. Each “family group” cooked their meal in a house modeled after a home in a poverty-stricken country. We awoke the next morning (the girls in Ecuador, and the boys in Uganda) and headed back to the lodge where we spent a rainy morning catching up on sleep. Probably the most incredible thing we did was pick up trash, spread gravel, and cut down brush at a local trailer park. We got to play with precious children and experience the impact of getting yourself dirty for the benefit of someone else. The best part of it all, though, is that our group is scheduled to go back to the same trailer park on Saturday, May 3, to continue our labor and host a fiesta for all the residents.

*Spring Break Conference was a HUGE success. The youth of our diocese are so incredibly gifted, and I think they would all agree with me in claiming that one week of living into being an instrument of God’s peace is enough spiritual fuel to keep us going for a very long time!*

**Upcoming Events**

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>July 1-8</td>
<td>Special Session at Camp McDowell</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 8-13</td>
<td>Episcopal Youth Event in San Antonio, Texas</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 20-27</td>
<td>Youth Pilgrimage to Alaska sponsored by our diocese and Episcopal Mission Exchange</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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*For more information please contact Leslie Manning at lmanning@dioala.org or 205/715-2060 ext. 325 or Sarah Sartain at ssartain@dioala.org or 205/715-2060 ext. 314.*

**Save the Date!**

**July 19-20**

3rd Annual Camp McDowell Summer Staff Reunion

*Lydia Atkins of Epiphany in Guntersville*  
*Connor Barnes or Christ Church in Tuscaloosa*  
*Patrick Combs of St. Matthew’s in Madison*  
*Axl Cornett of Canterbury Chapel in Tuscaloosa*  
*Andrew Cotton of Nativity in Huntsville*  
*Claire DeBow of St. Luke’s in Birmingham*  
*Ella Denny of St. Mary’s-on-the-Highlands in Birmingham*  
*Molly Dwyer of Holy Trinity in Auburn*  
*Ryan Erwin of St. Thomas’ in Huntsville*  
*Elisa Faison of St. John’s in Decatur*

*Caitlin Gillham of St. James’ in Dickson, Tennessee*  
*Wil Heflin of Grace in Sheffield*  
*Kirby Henslee of Christ Church in Tuscaloosa*  
*Bryan Holladay of St. Paul’s in Meridian, Mississippi*  
*Allison Kendrick of Holy Comforter in Montgomery*  
*Kathryn Kendrick of Holy Comforter in Montgomery*  
*Melissa King of St. Thomas’ in Huntsville*  
*Jordan Lee of St. Barnabas’ in Hartselle*  
*Jeff Lollar of Holy Comforter in Montgomery*  
*Lauren Maggart of St. Thomas’ in Huntsville*  
*josh Mallory of Canterbury Chapel in Tuscaloosa*  
*Colin McWhir of Fulton, Kentucky*  
*Alex Moore of St. Francis’ in Indian Springs*  
*Grace Mullen of St. Joseph’s Catholic Church in Sheffield*  
*Elizabeth Poellnitz of All Saints’ in Birmingham*  
*Will Sparks of the Ascension in Birmingham*  
*Emily Venglarik of All Saints’ in Birmingham*  
*Seena Vennam of Huntsville*  
*Jackie Walker of Cedar Creek Church in Perrysburg, Ohio*
St. Michael’s Dedicates Memorial Garden

On Sunday, February 17, Bishop Sloan dedicated the Memorial Garden at St. Michael’s in Fayette. The product of many dreams and hard work, the garden provides a place for spreading the ashes of loved ones. A large rock will hold plaques inscribed with the names of those resting there.

Rhys Greene designed and created the mosaic on the garden’s interior wall. She used stained glass and Herb Lowe for his extensive manual labor in preparation of the wall and sidewalks, and also in memory of Fannie Taylor, a longtime faithful parishioner who generously shared her time and talents with others. Mrs. Fran Gapen and her children, Brian and Keith, gave the garden gate in memory of their husband and father Richard Gapen.

Fourth Sunday Food Ministry at Canterbury Chapel

Submitted by Virgene Ficken

In 1999 a group from the Tuscaloosa area, who for 12 years had been providing Sunday lunch for Meals on Wheels recipients, contacted Canterbury Chapel requesting that our parishioners take over the operation of this outreach program. At that time they were preparing, packing, and delivering 80 meals on the fourth Sunday of each month.

Since the beginning of our involvement in August 1999, the number of persons served in the community has increased to more than 160. We now have four teams of cooks and packers, and we deliver 20 routes across Tuscaloosa and Northport. Although many of the route drivers are Canterbury parishioners, some of the original drivers with the previous group continue with our program.

For many years the financial support for this effort was funded by gifts from parishioners and friends, but currently it is in the Chapel budget. During 2007 Canterbury parishioners and friends raised funds to renovate the church kitchen, making it a state-of-the-art commercial facility. In January 2008 we began using the new kitchen, which not only allows us to accommodate the expanding Fourth Sunday Food Ministry, but also increases our ability to provide fellowship and hospitality to the Chapel, the Student Center, and the community.

Corky Carlisle Gives PLTE Keynote Address

Almost 160 people from around our diocese gathered at St. Luke’s in Birmingham on April 5 for our Tenth Annual Parish Leadership Training Event (PLTE). The Rev. Michael “Corky” Carlisle, the interim rector of St. Thomas’ in Huntsville and a well-known stewardship educator, challenged our parish leaders with his keynote address on “The Blessings of Stewardship.” The daylong program also included workshops on a wide variety of topics ranging from Empowering Congregations to Give from the Heart to Discovering Your Spiritual Gifts.

Nativity Choir Sings at Grace Cathedral

The Choir of the Church of the Nativity in Huntsville, under the direction of organist/choirmaster Suzanne Purtee, sang evensong at Grace Cathedral in San Francisco on Sunday, January 20. Bishop Marc Andrus attended the service and provided a tour of the cathedral and chapter house.
St. Anna's Episcopal Church in New Orleans is truly living out the great commandment—they are reaching out to the community through a myriad of ministries. I first became aware of St. Anna's two years ago while I was leading an adult mission trip to New Orleans. We attended their Wednesday evening service and dinner, which is dedicated to local musicians. Each week St. Anna's hires a local band to play during and after dinner; when the band takes a break it is open-mike time, and local musicians are encouraged to sing a song or play an instrument. An offering is taken up and divided between the local musicians. The people who take advantage of the open-mike format are incredibly talented, and most are homeless. The musicians come to St. Anna's where they can eat a hot meal free of charge and experience a sense of community and family.

Also on Wednesday nights anyone can receive a free health screening, including medical and mental health screenings. In addition St. Anna's provides limited health care to the community at large. In July 2006, the parish secured a motorhome, remodeled it into a mobile medical unit, and staffed it with a registered nurse and a nurse practitioner. St. Anna's Medical Mission (SAMM) screens people for hypertension, diabetes, and mental health and provides a referral system so people with more severe health problems can be receive follow-up care. By taking their mobile services to the people in their neighborhoods, SAMM brings care where it is needed. Between July 2006 and August 2007, the SAAM's staff treated more than 5,000 clients.

St. Anna's needs our help in continuing to fund these two vital ministries. If you would like more information on St. Anna's and the ministries they provide please feel free to contact me at mojenn@bellsouth.net or 256/582-4897 or visit St. Anna's Web site, www.stannanola.org. The people of St. Anna's are indeed making a difference in New Orleans!

On Maundy Thursday members of Jacksonville State University's (JSU's) Canterbury Club returned from their third annual spring break mission trip to the Mississippi Gulf Coast to assist victims of Hurricane Katrina. Five students made the trip to Camp Coast Care, a Katrina relief organization in Long Beach, Mississippi, that is sponsored by the Episcopal Church and the Lutheran Church in America. My wife, Tienhan Ma, and I accompanied the collegians and worked alongside them. The spring breakers from JSU worked three days installing wood molding, caulkling around windows, painting, laying floor tiles, grouting tile, installing wood flooring, and spackling wallboard.

Two and one-half years after the storm there is still work to be done, and some homes appear untouched by repair or reconstruction workers. Members of Canterbury Club, sponsored jointly by the Diocese of Alabama and St. Luke's parish in Jacksonville, have begun discussing future efforts to assist hurricane victims along the Gulf Coast.

Making a Difference in New Orleans

On Palm Sunday morning about 40 members of Trinity Episcopal Church joined members of Resurrection Roman Catholic Church in a procession through downtown Clanton. This is the third year the two churches have shared in the remembrance of Jesus’ entry into Jerusalem by waving palms, reading psalms, and singing hymns together.
EpEN Earth Day Message: What the Earth Wants

By the Episcopal Ecological Network Leadership Team (EpEN)

This great globe of grace, this undeserved blessing that we call the Earth does so much for us... does the Earth want anything from us?

According to Isaiah 45:18, God gave the Earth a job to do: He who created the heavens, he is God; he who fashioned and made the earth, he founded it; he did not create it to be empty, but formed it to be inhabited.

In the ongoing spirit of Earth Day, which was officially celebrated on April 22, we encourage you to help the Earth do her job in the following ways:

Enjoy yourself—go outside and walk, hike, garden, or relax and enjoy being at home on Earth.

Express yourself—make up your own prayer to give thanks to God for what you appreciate most about living on the Earth.

Affirm yourself—make a list of all the things you now do to honor the Earth, especially in reducing water, energy, gas, food, or plastic consumption.

Challenge yourself—do something new to help the Earth and our poorest neighbors... find a new way to consume less water, energy, gas, food, or plastic.

Engage yourself—witness to and encourage your family, friends, congregation, workplace companions, and elected officials to make Earth-honoring choices.

By helping the Earth do her job better, we might just get better at doing our job as Christians. “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.” The second is this: “Love your neighbor as yourself.” There is no commandment greater than these. Mark 12:30–31

The EpEN is a grassroots network of lay and clergy Episcopalians around the United States who have committed themselves to encourage hope and faithful action through the Episcopal Church regarding ecological concerns. Please visit EpEN online at http://eeno.org and be part of those encouraging hope and faithful action. For more information about environmental efforts specific to Alabama’s Episcopal Diocese, please visit the Task Force for the Stewardship of Creation Web site, www.stewardsforcreation.org.
What's New/Noteworthy at the Episcopal Book Store

Graduation Bible (NRSV)
This Graduation Bible offers inspirational messages to help the graduate on his or her adventure in the days ahead. A gift suitable for high-school or college graduation, this Bible will become a guide to the recipient—a guide to a new life filled with change and challenge. Special features include a presentation section for personalizing; a custom section with prayers, reflections, devotions, and selected Bible verses to encourage; Journaling suggestions; and practical study ideas.

Beloved: Henri Nouwen in Conversation by Henri Nouwen with Philip Roderick
In this rare interview Nouwen reflects on themes that were central to his life and thought. This book records—in both spoken and written form—a treasured conversation that took place in 1992 at a retreat center in England. The enclosed CD enables us to listen to Nouwen’s distinctive voice as he speaks about transforming our loneliness, escaping the tyranny of busyness, and choosing to live in ways that, moment by moment, remind us of who we are—the beloved of God. The book includes questions for reflection or discussion, making it perfect for individual or group retreats as well as personal listening and reading.

Is Your Lord Large Enough? How C. S. Lewis Expands Our View of God by Peter J. Schakel
C. S. Lewis was very concerned about Christian formation, and he strongly desired to help believers deepen their faith and broaden their vision of God. Peter Schakel presents the more practical parts of Lewis’s books, covering areas of struggle such as prayer, suffering, doubt, and love. He draws principles from Lewis’s nonfiction as well as illustrations from the Chronicles of Narnia to help us see God in new ways. With reflection questions included, this deeper look at Lewis’s formational writings is valuable for both personal devotions and group discussions.

The Words of Jesus: A Gospel of the Sayings of Our Lord with Reflections by Phyllis Tickle
This book offers us an invitation to enter the Gospel afresh. Phyllis Tickle has taken Jesus’ words out of the context of the Gospel narratives and organized them according to the audience to whom they were spoken rather than by the evangelist who recorded them: Words of Public Teaching, Words of Private Instruction, Words of Intimate Conversation, Words of Healing Dialogue, and Words of Post-Resurrection Encounter. Set into these new groupings, the words prompt us to hear them as they are: bold and stark, without interpretation. Tickle says that these words can speak to us as they did to those who heard Jesus during his time on earth.

View from Under the Pew by Diane Winters-Johnson
This storybook, written especially for children ages 4 to 8, tells the true story of Walter, a guide dog that assists Pastor Diane through her day at the church. Walter helps Pastor Diane minister to others as they visit the sick at the hospital and attend church meetings and potluck suppers. Walter also serves as Pastor Diane’s faithful companion as she conducts Bible studies and leads worship. Walter loves his view from under the pew, where he can listen to the choir sing and see the faces of families who have come to church to worship God together.

Mark Your Calendar

Diocesan Convention February 19-21 in Montgomery
Cursillo Weekends #163 June 11-15, #164 September 17-21, #165 October 15-19
Episcopal Youth Event (EYE) July 8-13
Province IV Youth Event June 24-30
Sawyerville Day Camp June 21-29
Special Session at Camp McDowell July 1-8
Young People Painting Birmingham June 1-6

May 10 “One Size Doesn’t Fit All—How To Select Curriculum for Your Congregation” workshop led by Christian Formation specialist Sharon Ely Pearson from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at St. John’s in Montgomery. For more information please see the description on page 10 or e-mail spearson@spg.org.

May 16 Midday Musical Menu featuring an organ recital by Cathedral Music Associate Charles M. Kennedy at 12:30 p.m. at the Advent in Birmingham. For more information please contact Music Associate Charles Kennedy at 205/226-3505 or kennedy@cathedraladvent.com.

May 18 Families in Recovery Healing Service sponsored by our diocesan Department of Recovery Ministries for all who suffer from any addiction and all who struggle with them in sorrow, patience, and love. From 2 to 5 p.m., at St. Luke’s in Birmingham. For more information please contact Sarah Sartin at ssartin@diola.org or 205/715-2060 ext. 314.

May 18 The Cathedral Choir, under the direction of Dr. Stephen G. Schaeffer, presents Evensong for Trinity Sunday at 6 p.m. at the Advent in Birmingham. For more information please contact Music Associate Charles Kennedy at 205/226-3505 or kennedy@cathedraladvent.com.

May 18-21 Gardens and Grace at Kanuga Conference Center in Hendersonville, North Carolina. For more information please call 205/692-9136, e-mail info@kanuga.org, or visit www.kanuga.org.

June 2-4 Province IV Women’s Conference at Kanuga Conference Center in Hendersonville, North Carolina. For more information please call 205/692-9136, e-mail info@kanuga.org, or visit www.kanuga.org.

June 8-13 Spirituality Conference at Kanuga Conference Center in Hendersonville, North Carolina. For more information please call 205/692-9136, e-mail info@kanuga.org, or visit www.kanuga.org.

June 15-20 Christian Formation Conference at Kanuga Conference Center in Hendersonville, North Carolina. For more information please call 205/692-9136, e-mail info@kanuga.org, or visit www.kanuga.org.

June 20-21 Peace On and With the Earth Conference at St. Mary’s Retreat Center in Sewanee. For more information please see the description on page 10, visit www.episfpational.org, or contact the Rev. Allison Sandlin Liles at Holy Trinity in Ashburn, 334/887-9506 or holytrinityassistant@charterinternet.com.

June 22-27 Youth Week Conference at Kanuga Conference Center in Hendersonville, North Carolina. For more information please call 205/692-9136, e-mail info@kanuga.org, or visit www.kanuga.org.

June 23-30 Introduction to Centering Prayer Retreat at the Benedictine Retreat Center in Cullman. For more information please call 256/734-8302.

June 26-28 “Our Mission of Love: I Send You Out,” the 12th Annual Foundation for Liturgical Music Ecumenical Music Ministry Conference at Our Lady of the Valley Catholic Church in Birmingham. For more information please see the description on page 10, visit www.foundationforliturgicalmusic.org, or e-mail Nancy Ryan at niryan95@jalltel.net.

June 29-July 4 Renewal Conference at Kanuga Conference Center in Hendersonville, North Carolina. For more information please call 205/692-9136, e-mail info@kanuga.org, or visit www.kanuga.org.

Pastor Diane’s faithful companion as she conducts Bible studies and leads worship. Walter loves his view from under the pew, where he can listen to the choir sing and see the faces of families who have come to church to worship God together.

For more 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@episcopalbooks.com. You can also visit the bookstore online at www.episcopalbooks.com. The bookstore is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.
Young People Will Be Painting Birmingham

Mama Oakes “MO”, Mission Coordinator

The Diocese of Alabama in partnership with the Joe Rush Center for Urban Mission is offering this fourth Diocesan Junior High summer mission and outreach opportunity for all rising 7th and 8th-graders on June 1-6. This project is more than just working and serving together—it is an entire experience filled with many gifts of grace. During our closing Eucharist at last year’s event, I was filled with joy when we read our prayers of thanksgiving for the grace we felt during our week together. There were many common threads woven through our prayers, such as new experiences, memories, music, and games, but most of all the week was about people. It was about old friends, new friends, true friends, and helping others. Although we had a lot of work to do, we also had a lot of fun together. I know I did—and I am looking forward to meeting new people again this year and getting to know old friends even better. The deadline to register is May 25. For more information please contact Leslie Manning (lmanning@dioala.org or 205/715-2060 ext. 325) or Sarah Sartain (ssartain@dioala.org or 205/715-2060 ext. 314).

The Rev. J. Barry Vaughn, rector of St. Alban’s in Hoover, and John Carter, the parish organist, will present a concert of music for piano four hands at the Ascension in Vestavia Hills at 3 p.m. on May 4. The concert is free and open to the public, but a minimum donation of $10 per person is requested; all proceeds will benefit the St. Alban’s ECW. The concert will feature music of Ravel, Schubert, and Barber, as well as an original composition by Father Vaughn.

Episcopal Place II in Birmingham has announced that the current wait for an apartment is one to six months. Qualified applicants must be 62 or older have limited income. For more information please call 205/939-0085 (weekdays only) or log on to www.episcopalplace.org.

Students Raise Funds for Prattville Tornado Relief Efforts

Submitted by Gail Alsobrook, Holy Cross Episcopal School

Young People Will Be Painting Birmingham

Mama Oakes “MO”, Mission Coordinator

The members of St. Paul’s in Carlowville cordially invite everyone to attend the parish’s 170th Annual Homecoming on Sunday, May 18. Registration will begin at 10 a.m., followed by the worship service at 11 a.m. The Rev. James P. Woodson, a former rector of St. Paul’s and longtime college chaplain, will preach. Please bring a covered dish to share at the picnic lunch after the service. For further information please contact Halsa Owens at 334/872-0124 or halsaok@aol.com.

Students Raise Funds for Prattville Tornado Relief Efforts

Submitted by Gail Alsobrook, Holy Cross Episcopal School

The week of March 10-14, the 6th-grade class at Holy Cross Episcopal School in Montgomery class sold ice cream schoolwide to benefit the tornado relief efforts in Prattville. They provided ice-cream cups and sandwiches each day during lunch and raised $301, which they gave to the Rev. Scott Arnold, rector of St. Mark’s in Prattville, who is helping coordinate the relief efforts.

Special thanks to Kim and Todd Brown who donated the ice cream and to the children in Mrs. MacDonald’s 4th-grade class who donated their ice-cream money even though the ice cream ran out and they did not get any! Also a very special thank-you to Mary Ellen Neeley for starting us off with a $50 donation from her own piggy bank! Everyone who participated in this successful project both showed and saw a lot of love for others.

Celebrating Stewardship of Creation Sunday

As part of the parish’s celebration of Stewardship of Creation Sunday, April 27, members of Trinity Church in Clanton planted a fig tree in the church backyard. Care of Creation Coordinator Jennie Segars, Catherine White, the Rev. Deacon Steve Shanks, and Father Bill King watched while Glenn Kennedy (kneeling) planted the tree. You can read Bill’s Stewardship of Creation sermon on the parish’s Web site, www.trinityclanton.org.

Celebrating Earth Day

Volunteers from St. Andrew’s in Montevallo celebrated Earth Day a bit early this year by picking up litter on April 19 in the city’s Orr Park. Cindy Crouch organized the parish’s community service/Earth Day event.

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 and photos to Apostledit@aol.com or mail them to 2156 Kent Way, Birmingham, AL 35226.

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