Our Diocese Reaches Out to Storm Victims

People across our diocese have been reaching out to storm victims across the Gulf Coast as well as in our companion diocese of Haiti, on the Caribbean island of Hispaniola, with prayers, much-needed supplies, financial support, and hands-on cleanup efforts. About a week after Hurricane Gustav hit Louisiana, the Rev. Stephen Hood, rector of the Ascension in Birmingham (Vestavia Hills), led a team of six volunteers from his parish and All Saints' in Birmingham (Homewood) to Louisiana to help clear debris in Thibodaux. In the wake of Hurricane Ike's destructive winds, rain, and storm surge, even more help is needed now not only in Louisiana but also in Texas and other states where the storm has claimed lives and destroyed homes and businesses.

The Episcopal Diocese of Haiti is still trying to evaluate the needs of Haitians in the wake of four storms that battered Hispaniola in less than a month, reports the Episcopal News Service. "What has happened is very hard to us," Bishop Jean Zache Duracin wrote on September 10. "The whole [of] Haiti has been affected, a country where the socio-economic situation was already bad," he explains. "Many of our church buildings have been affected. We are now doing an evaluation of what we have lost, but because of problems of communication that will take some time."

"It's something I haven't ever seen since I was born. I can understand how it was in the time of Noah when people were drowning in the water," wrote Carmel Valdema, wife of the Rev. Fritz Valdema, the Episcopal priest in charge of the Croix des Bouquets parish. "There are places where the road has been cut off. There are places where the bridges are completely collapsed. There are places with landslides. There are places where the raging wind is demolishing homes, destroying gardens. All the animals are in the water. Thousands of victims have lost all of their possessions. They have lost family, children, friends, and so on," she says. "What we are thinking here is that after these natural catastrophes more misery will spread in the country. More epidemics of illness, diarrhea, rashes, typhoid, pneumonia, more children who become malnourished, more hunger because the gardens are almost entirely gone. Each time these problems appear and we have an opportunity to take these actions, we say thank you to God and we thank all the people who do these things to help us," she adds. "Always remember us in your prayers, and we will pray for you too."

Please see page 3 to learn more about how you can help reach out to our sisters and brothers in need along the Gulf Coast and in Haiti.

Wonderful, Wonderful Camp McDowell

"Thanks to the faithful support of the people of our diocese, we have had yet another ‘Wonderful, Wonderful’ summer at Camp McDowell!”
Summer Camp Coordinator
Michael Goldsmith

Thank You for Making Sawyerville Happen!

The staff members of this year’s Sawyerville Day Camp express their deepest gratitude to everyone who was involved in making the weeklong camp possible this summer. With your help and support, 80 youth, college, and adult volunteers gave 200-plus campers, age 6 to 14, from Hale County a life-changing personal experience of God’s unconditional love and joy.

For more about Sawyerville Day Camp please see page 10.
Early Campers Reunion

By the Rev. Doug Carpenter

If you attended Camp McDowell between 1923 and 1953, please join your fellow campers for a reunion from lunch on Wednesday, November 5, through lunch on Friday, November 7. (PS. Don’t forget to vote on November 4!)

Perhaps you attended Camp McDowell in Baldwin County, where it was held from 1923 through 1937 first at Magnolia Beach and later at Battles Wharf. Or maybe you were among the campers who went to Shooco Springs in Talladega between 1938 and 1940. If you went to camp in 1941, you stayed at Judson College in Marion. Our diocese didn’t host Camp McDowell during the war years of 1942 through 1944, but sessions resumed from 1945 until 1947 at Oak Mountain State Park in Helena. Since 1948 Camp McDowell has met on our own property in Winston County.

This will be the second such reunion held at Camp McDowell. The first one in spring 2006 had the title “Old Timers,” but since some people in this group are not yet 70 years old, we changed the name to “Early Campers.” Sixty-two Early Campers from 10 states attended the 2006 reunion, and we expect a larger number at this second one. If you can’t come for the entire reunion, please join us for a day or even just one meal. The schedule will include age-appropriate activities, reflection on our experience at Camp McDowell and how this has influenced our lives, an update on Camp McDowell from Vicar and Executive Director Mark Johnston, sharing of photographs and memorabilia, and plenty of time for conversation. Please contact me at 205/381-3553 or carpenter.doug@att.net if you want an application or additional details. Also please spread the word to those who were at camp with you or send me their names and addresses so I can contact them.

Clergy Spouses Retreat

By Laura McCown

The Clergy Spouses Retreat, scheduled for November 7-9, is your weekend to get away from it all and do just what you want to do in the beautiful surroundings of wonderful Camp McDowell. Rejuvenation and fellowship are the goals of the weekend. If you just need some downtime please remember that all of the planned activities are optional so you can pick and choose and do all or none!

Our theme for the weekend is “Sharing Our Talents”—come join in the fun and share your talent or enjoy learning about the interests of others. Back by popular demand is Susan Hammack, with Healing Touch Spiritual Ministry Inc., who will provide massages throughout the weekend. Friday evening begins with a wine tasting hosted by Katharine Jefforts Schori and Maggie Johnston will lead a nature journaling and a talk on native plants.

On Saturday Janice Gior will lead a book discussion on A Wing and A Prayer by Katharine Jefforts Schori, and Maggie Johnston will lead a senses walk including Johannesburg and a talk on native plants.

You can also take a trip to the Dancing Rabbit Pottery Studio for their Open House, and the Alabama Folk School at Camp McDowell will be hosting classes on playing the dulcimer, broom making, quilting, glass making, knitting, and possibly a pottery class. In addition Jennifer Doss will teach us the art of sushi making (we can eat our creations!), Beth Keyes will share her expertise in skin care, and Sharon Draichs and Vickie Shanks will report on what is being done and future ways we can support diocesan outreach projects. As always there will be stargazing, a hayride, and possibly Bunco.Vernon Kroll and Toms Lewellan have agreed to host Saturday lunch this year, and if it is anything like last year it will be quite a treat! For more information please contact me at lmmccown@bellsouth.net or 205/298-7922.

ACTS 2 Update

The success of the ACTS 2 Campaign has allowed our Department of Parish Development to make plans to purchase land in two areas of our diocese that are among the fastest-growing in the state: Monrovia (north of Huntsville) and Springfield. These two communities could soon be home to newly planted Episcopal Churches through the generosity of our diocesan community. The department is also looking for land in other growing areas of our diocese.

Several visionary Episcopalians are hoping to not only buy land for new parishes through ACTS 2 but also establish a “land bank,” which would be used to accept donations of land that could be used to plant a new parish or sold to fund future land purchases. If you are a landowner, please consider helping this idea grow and flourish by giving property to the diocese. The property does not have to be in a place where a parish might be planted—it only has to be marketable. Your land in the middle of nowhere could be the beginning of an Episcopal parish in the middle of a place where it is greatly needed—a place where God’s love through Jesus Christ can be shared with others. For more information about making a donation of this type, please contact the Rev. Rob Morpeth (rmorpeth@dioala.org or 205/715-2060 ext. 311) or the Rev. Pat Wing (pwingo@dioala.org or 205/ 725-2060 ext. 317).
We Can All Help with Hurricane Recovery Efforts

By Members of Our Diocesan Staff

In less than a month four killer storms—Faye, Gustav, Hanna, and Ike—have pummeled their way across the Caribbean and onto the southern shores of the United States leaving behind paths of destruction, death, brokenness, and great need. Almost immediately our diocese responded to help our sisters and brothers in hard-hit Haiti, our companion diocese, and also in the Diocese of Louisiana by sending initial monetary gifts.

Within a week of Hurricane Gustav’s landfall along the Gulf coast, volunteers from two Birmingham churches were at work in Louisiana. Equipped with food, water, camping gear, and chainsaws, the six-member team from the Ascension and All Saint’s, cut trees and cleared debris from a battered woman’s shelter and the churchyard and cemetery at St. John’s in Thibodaux. The team also cleared debris from the yard of the Rosedale’s chief of police, who had been on the job without time off since the hurricane hit, reports the Rev. Stephen Hood, the rector of Ascension and leader of the team.

Haiti, the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere, has suffered disproportionately. Hundreds are dead, thousands are displaced, roads are impassable, and thousands have no food, shelter, or clean water. Even though the churches and communities in the Croix des Bouquets parish, where our companion diocese relationship is focused, were spared the worst of the disaster, the Rev. Fritz Valdema and his wife, Carmel, have reported that the entire community of Gorman was flooded and the churchyard looked “like a river” (please see the letter from Carmel below).

Episcopal Relief & Development (ERD) is partnering with the Episcopal Diocese of Haiti to assist communities throughout the country. Father Frantz Cole, the Development Officer for the diocese, is on site where needed, coordinating with development agents and local churches to deliver food, water, medical supplies, and clothing, as well as seeds to help replant crops. ERD has also contacted other affected dioceses in the Caribbean, including the Dominican Republic, Cuba, and Jamaica, as well as Florida, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Texas to respond to their requests for emergency support.

Parishes and parishioners who want to help can designate where their contributions go. For hurricane relief in general, which includes relief to the Caribbean, please make checks payable to your parish with “Hurricane Relief Fund” in the memo line, and for contributions to support relief along the Gulf Coast, please make checks payable to ERD with “U.S. Hurricane Relief Fund” in the memo line; parishes are asked to gather the checks and mail them to Carpenter House. If you wish to support recovery work in Haiti, please make checks payable to your parish with “Companion Diocese Haiti Relief” in the memo line; parishes are asked to send one check to Carpenter House payable to the Diocese of Alabama with the same memo line. If you wish to designate your gift for a particular diocese please make your check payable to your parish and indicate in the memo line where the funds are to go; parishes are asked to send one check to Carpenter House payable to the Diocese of Alabama along with copies of the checks.

We ask everyone to continue to hold those suffering the effects of these devastating storms in their prayers. For updated information about recovery efforts in Haiti please visit our diocesan Web site, www.dioala.org.

A Letter from Carmel Valdema

Editor’s Note: Carmel, a Haitian public health nurse and the wife of the Rev. Fritz Valdema, an Episcopal priest in charge of the Croix des Bouquets parish, sent the following letter on September 8 to our diocese and others who have ministries in the Valdema’s parish.

We thank you very much for your prayers. It is with much sorrow that we write this letter to you. Because we believe very strongly in prayer, we hold fast to the belief that God will not destroy the country completely. There must be people who remain to give testimony to what we are seeing happen today in the country of Haiti. It’s something I haven’t even seen since I was born. I can understand how it was in the time of Noah when people were drowning in the water.

We have already had rain for two weeks in our country. Every time we think a hurricane is gone and we take a little breath of relief, they announce another. So in this way the earth can’t accept any more water. All the rivers have begun to overflow. We are having floods all over in all 10 departments. All places we are calling are flooded. There isn’t a department that can give relief to another department. Each of these places has their own problems. There are places where the road has been cut off. There are places where the bridges are completely collapsed. There are places with landslides. There are places where the raging wind is demolishing homes; destroying gardens. All the animals are in the water. Thousands of victims have lost all of their possessions. They have lost family, children, friends, and so on.

I must tell you that we in Croix des Bouquets have some places nearby with problems such as Bon Repos and La Plaine. MINUSTAH [the UN] and the Red Cross are working to gather up the people who are in the water. We have Gorman which is completely flooded. At Crochu nearly all the homes are damaged. This morning we spoke with Louis-Jacques and Tazia. They told us their home and little toilet are both badly damaged. The church, the rectory, and the former church are all badly damaged. They lost all of their gardens. They don’t have a road. Up to now we haven’t been able to go there because there is still wind and rain. The water at Gorman is too high. Pere Val still hasn’t been able to go to this area. We get the news by telephone. Raymond, supervisor of our health workers, and his wife and child almost died in Gonaives. They lost their home too. They spent three days on the roof of their house without food, without water.

Right now it is very difficult for one to leave one parish and go to another. That demands a lot of thinking about how one would go. I must tell you that last week we had nutrition clinics. We had a chance to go some places, but there are some areas we can’t go. But we learned that in some of the places we can’t go there were children that the health workers had just accepted into the program who were very sick. We were obligated to find a way to meet the families on the road where a car could go and take those who came down with them who are sickest. There are some among them we can’t keep ourselves because we don’t have a hospital. They have kwashiorkor, marasmus. When we took them to Little Brothers and Sisters Hospital, they didn’t have room for them. We took them to the general hospital.

I must tell you that it is always the program Lespwa Timoun [the children’s nutrition program] that buys medicine for these children. Right now they are still in the hospital because their parents don’t have the means to help them. The others we saw are still at the compound at St. Simeon where we can take care of them and can give them enriched milk, akamil, and other medicine. They come from Crochu, Thomazeau, and Thomian. They are still with us.

What we are thinking here is that after these natural catastrophes more misery will spread in the country. More epidemics of illness, diarrhea, rashes, typhoid, pneumonia, more children who become malnourished, more hunger because the gardens are almost entirely gone. Each time these problems appear and we have an opportunity to take these actions, we say thank you to God and we thank all the people who do these things to help us through our churches and Lespwa Timoun. They should know that they have a special place in the hearts of all of these families. It is always a gesture of solidarity and one that they know they won’t lose. God will bless them and their families because they helped someone who is weaker. According to what is written in Matthew 25:40: “The King answered them: ‘Truly I say to you, each time you did this for one of the least of these among my brothers, you did it for me.’ “Always remember us in your prayers, and we will pray for you too. Thank you.
By now you will have had the chance to read all you want to about the Lambeth Conference. There are people disappointed that we didn’t resolve the controversy (in the way they wanted it settled, of course), and others who think that whoever they imagine themselves to be opposed to gained some sort of advantage. Some have written that the whole thing was a huge waste of time and money. And in truth, in some sense, nothing has changed: the voices of despair calling out doom for our Church will continue to sound the alarm, and those who blithely assume the rest of the world just need to catch up will sail on in indifferent arrogance.

In the bigger picture, largely filtered through the portion of the media we most agree with, we can all find support for whatever position we’ve already chosen to take. My take on Lambeth is that we did what we went to do: bishops from all over the world came together as one of the Instruments of Unity to listen to each other and to learn from other bishops whose settings and cultures and theological assumptions might be very different. That’s what I believe we were invited to do, and that’s what I think we did.

Was it worth going? Did anything get done? My answer is yes to both.

The smaller picture is filled out and colored by the other bishops I met and the building of relational bridges between people of different cultures and contexts. The Church at our best is made up of people loving God and God’s children through Jesus Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit—the love of God and love for the children of God was abundantly evident at Lambeth. All of us had to step outside our familiar contexts and understand that God’s Church is alive and working hard all over the world in many different ways.

Most mornings we had Bible studies. In my group there were three from the United States, two from England, one from the Sudan, one from Northern India, and four from Myanmar in Burma. The five “Western” bishops had the great advantage of speaking the only language that all of us knew; but I was amazed to realize not only that English was not the first language for most of the others, but for several it wasn’t the second either. In spite of differences in language, culture, and theology, the eleven of us became very close. I learned about the effects of the cyclone in Myanmar that killed so many thousands of people and left thousands more without shelter or food. I learned about the ravages of famine, drought, and civil war in the Sudan. I learned about the violence of extremist Hindus in Northern India. I learned about government systems unable or unwilling to address the needs of their people. And most importantly I learned about the faith of the people of God in places far away who are the hands and heart of Christ for people in terrible need—for our brothers and sisters, children of our Father in heaven, who are in terrible need.

The controversies of the Church are important, but we have many other issues to address. I was very proud to march with the other bishops through

This, I think, was the real purpose for Lambeth: for the bishops of the Anglican Communion to come together in the love of God. It wasn’t compelling news, it wasn’t exciting politics, and it didn’t settle any issues. But it strengthened the bonds of love that keep our Church together.

London on our way to Lambeth Palace in support of the Millennium Development Goals. I was humbled to see the work being done by faithful members of God’s Church in very difficult situations with very limited resources. I was inspired by the stories of my new friends who serve Christ in our Church in the face of debilitating poverty, the threat of violence, the indifference of people near the situation, and people like me who have a hard time finding their countries on a map. We have a lot to do.

One of the bishops in my Bible study group we called Bijay, though I think his actual name is a lot more complicated and difficult to pronounce than that. He is a very small man, and as you might have noticed, I am not. Both of us are relatively new as bishops, and he is very shy. We struck up a friendship and most days had tea together after Bible study. One morning he noticed Rowan Williams, the Archbishop of Canterbury, surrounded by people who wanted to meet him. Bijay said, “I would like to have my picture taken with that man.” I told him I thought that sounded like a good idea and asked him if he had a camera. He pulled his digital camera out of his bag, and I suggested that he go ask the archbishop. Bijay was scandalized—there was no way this little man would just go up and talk to the Archbishop of Canterbury. He said, “You go. You ask him.”

Well, actually, I’m a little shy myself. And this is the Archbishop of Canterbury, after all. I have several of his books, as yet unread, to prove how much smarter he is than I am. But I could see that it meant a lot to Bijay, so I gathered my courage, waited my turn, and then said to the archbishop, “My little friend would like to have his picture taken with you.” Rowan Williams was very gracious, and I lined the two of them up and took the picture. I thanked the archbishop and showed Bijay his picture. After a while he tugged on the sleeve of my shirt and said, “I will show this picture to my people. Today I am not such a small man.”

There were many, many such moments, stories from the small picture of people making connections and building bridges. This, I think, was the real purpose for Lambeth: for the bishops of the Anglican Communion to come together in the love of God. It wasn’t compelling news, it wasn’t exciting politics, and it didn’t settle any issues. But it strengthened the bonds of love that keep our Church together, and I am proud to have been a part of it.

The Rt. Rev. John McKee Sloan
The Feast of Jonathan Myrick Daniels and the Martyrs of Alabama

By the Rev. Kerry Holder Joffrion, a Member of Our Diocesan Committee of the Martyrs of Alabama Pilgrimage; Photographs by the Rev. Polk Van Zandt, Rector of St. Paul’s in Selma

The Jonathan Myrick Daniels and Martyrs of Alabama Pilgrimage of 2008, which was sponsored by our diocese and the Episcopal Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast in partnership with Rural Enrichment Accessing Community Hands Inc. (REACH) of Lowndes County, provided a moving tribute to the saints in light who from our own red clay soil sought to make a difference in Christ Jesus. But it was more than a remembrance—it was Eucharist to the soul . . . not simply a remembering of a long ago act of ultimate resonance but a resonating act of lives living well in the now. This pilgrimage is about calling forth the unlimited power of the Spirit of God to act in accordance with God’s nature of justice, compassion, and mercy. The Champion of the Poor moves through the ordinary lives of saints, living and dead, in every act of kindness, sorrow made in the name of Christ. We remember, we struggle, and we act accordingly.

And so we walked together again, pilgrims side by side down a sweltering street singing, “I woke up this mornin’ with my mind stayed on freedom, Woke up this mornin’ with my mind stayed on freedom, Hallelu, hallelujah.” With people from as far away as Trinity Wall Street we walked. We followed the cross with banners waving, voices wafting, and brows beading. We followed the cross to the jail where we saw the jagged barbed wire like daggers to the heavens—the kind you get stuck on, not just scratched. We heard “Almighty God, who gave your servant Jonathan Myrick Daniels boldness to confess the Name of our Savior Jesus Christ before the rulers of this world . . . .” We hung our heads. We prayed.

We followed behind the cross to Varner’s Cash Store. Collars white against black cloth, clean necks, stiff necks all the same . . . we walked a very level, a very human field, a moving field. Here we wept, knelt, kissed the concrete stoop where the martyr’s blood flowed. It was our own blood. It was God’s heart overflowing and breaking all at the same time. We said aloud, “The blood of the martyrs is the seed of the Church.” We left, and as we walked away someone prayed, “Take away the arrogance and hatred that infect our hearts, break down the walls that separate us, unite us in bonds of love, and work through struggle and confusion to accomplish your purposes on earth.”

We followed the cross to the courthouse. There we heard the names, the necrology, of holy ones: Willie Edwards Jr., January 23, 1957; William Lewis Moore, April 23, 1963; Addie Mae Collins, Denise McNair, Carole Robertson, and Cynthia Wesley, September 15, 1963; Virgil Lamar War, September 13, 1963; Jimmie Lee Jackson, February 26, 1965; the Rev. James Reeb, September 11, 1965; Viola Gregg Liuzzo, March 25, 1965; Willie Brewster, September 18, 1965; Jonathan Myrick Daniels, August 20, 1965; Samuel Leamon Younger Jr., January 3, 1966; and all others known to God.

The band played “America the Beautiful.” Darryl K. Horne, Virginia Military Institute (VMI), Class of 1982, stood there with us behind the cross. He reminded us in his address that Jonathan Myrick Daniels is one of three names under vaulted arches that reach toward the heavens at VMI. We were humbled by the suggestion of this martyr’s importance among the saints and that he had come to us. God is with us.

Darryl K. Horne, Virginia Military Institute (VMI), Class of 1982, stood there with us behind the cross. He reminded us in his address that Jonathan Myrick Daniels is one of three names under vaulted arches that reach toward the heavens at VMI. We were humbled by the suggestion of this martyr’s importance among the saints and that he had come to us. God is with us.

Jonathan was born in 1939 in Keene, New Hampshire, and graduated from Virginia Military Institute (VMI) before entering Episcopal Theological School in Cambridge, Massachusetts. From high school in Keene to graduate school at Harvard, Jonathan wrestled with the meaning of life and death and vocation. Attracted to medicine, the ordained ministry, law, and writing, he found himself close to a loss of faith before his search was resolved with a profound conversion experience on Easter Day 1962 in the Church of the Advent in Boston.

In March 1965 the televised appeal of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. to come to Selma to secure for all citizens the right to vote placed Jonathan where our nation’s racism and the Episcopal Church’s share in that inheritance was exposed. He asked for a leave of absence from seminary to work in Selma under the sponsorship of the Episcopal Society for Cultural and Racial Unity. Jonathan felt the conviction of his calling deepen at Evening Prayer during the singing of the Magnificat: “He has cast down the mighty from their thrones and has lifted up the lowly. He has filled the hungry with good things.” Later Jonathan said, “I knew I must go to Selma. The Virgin’s song was to grow more and more dear to me in weeks to come.”

Jonathan was arrested with a group of protesters in Fort Deposit on August 14, 1965, for joining a picket line. They were transferred to the jail in Hayneville, but on August 20 they were unexpectedly released. Sensing that they were in danger and also thirsting in the scorching August heat, the four walked to nearby Varner’s Cash Store. As 16-year-old Ruby Sales reached the top step of the entrance, Tom Coleman, an unemployed highway worker who had been “deputized” in Hayneville just that day, appeared with a 12-gauge rifle and started cursing her. Jonathan pulled Ruby out of the way to shield her from the threat. Seconds later Tom Coleman fired the rifle, and Jonathan fell to the stoop mortally wounded. Tom Coleman was tried and acquitted for Jonathan’s murder, which prompted the soon and certain integration of American juries. After Jonathan’s funeral at his home church, St. James’ in Keene, a small group of whites and blacks gathered around his grave and softly sang “We Shall Overcome.”

The 2008 pilgrimage concluded with a rousing “Lift Every Voice and Sing,” a rendition of the African American National Anthem composed by James Weldon Johnson. With singing hearts, damp handkerchiefs, and solemn embraces we left the grounds to make anew our vows in the places where we live to “love our neighbors as ourselves.”
2008 McDowell Watercolor Workshop, October 19-24: Although the classes by Pat Dubs and Janet Rogers are full, there are spaces available in Wayne Spradley’s class. Wayne accepts students of all levels from beginners to advanced. He will work with and assist artists who wish to paint on their own in his classroom. For more information please contact Tora Johnson at 256/238-2172.

United Thank Offering: Barbara Carpenter reminds us that grant application time is just around the corner. Applications will be available at Carpenter House in October, and they can also be downloaded from the UTO Web site. Please be aware that new criteria have been established this year. To implement our new Vision Statement, “We will significantly impact the lives of women and children because of Christ’s love,” UTO will support projects that address poverty of women and children, are significant in nature and address compelling human need, demonstrate new and innovative work, are part of a planned diocesan mission. The simplified grant application now consists of five pages of instructions and a five-page application form instead of the previous eight pages. As some of you know, in the past we have been able to send in two applications from each diocese, but this year only one from each diocese will be accepted. In addition, one from a companion diocese, in our diocese that is Haiti, will also be accepted; our diocese will be responsible for the implementation and accounting of such a grant, and all the same criteria apply to it. In addition, these companion diocese applications require a letter from the overseas bishop in support of the project. The deadline for all applications to be sent to Carpenter House is mid-December. The UTO committee will meet in late December or early January to review and make recommendations to Bishop Parsley’s office so that he has time to review, recommend, and approve the one application that will be submitted from our diocese as well as the one for Haiti, if applicable, before the January 31 deadline to the national UTO Office.

Convocation Meetings:
Cheaha Convocation—October 15 at St. Luke’s in Jacksonville
Eastern Alabama Convocation—November 1 at St. Stephen’s in Phenix City
Birmingham Convocation—November 3 at St. Luke’s in Birmingham
Tennessee Valley Convocation—November 15 at St. Barnabas’ in Huntsville

Upcoming ECW Events and Deadlines

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>October 9-10</td>
<td>ECW Fall conference at St. Stephen’s in Birmingham</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 19-24</td>
<td>Annual Watercolor Workshop at Camp McDowell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 7-9</td>
<td>Alabama Diocese Daughters of the King (DOK) Fall Assembly led by Bishop Sloan at Camp McDowell</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please update your convocation coordinator and the ECW board when ECW leaders change at your parish; visit http://www.alabamaecw.org/ParishECWInfoSheet.htm to download the form. For details and additional events please see the ECW Calendar Handbook and visit www.alabamaecw.org.

The Annual ECW Fall Conference is almost here, October 9-10 at St. Stephen’s in Birmingham. We invite you to join us for three inspirational talks by our speaker, the Rev. Dr. Jo Bailey Wells, director of Anglican Studies at Duke Divinity School and associate professor of the Practice of Christian Ministry and Bible, who teaches Old Testament and biblical theology, particularly in relation to the contemporary relevance for ministry. Dr. Wells, who was one of the first ordained in the first wave of female priests in England, received her Ph.D. in Old Testament from the University of Durham, served as dean of Clare College in Cambridge and was a lecturer at Ridley Hall, a seminary in Cambridge. Dr. Wells is also a wife, mother, and author of God’s Holy People and Isaiah in the People’s Bible Commentary Series. Her extensive travels in Africa, Haiti, Uganda, and India will bring us a unique opportunity to explore the theme for 2008, “Blessed Is She Who Believes.”

I know you will enjoy being with your diocesan sisters as we gather at St. John’s Deaf for the Wine and Cheese reception and at St. Stephen’s for an informative business meeting, Sharing Session, and delicious dinner. One of the most touching moments at the Fall Conference is the Memorial Eucharist on Friday morning when the names of those ECW members who have died in the past year are read aloud. The Memorial Roll and our theme “Blessed Is She Who Believes” go hand in hand this year as we remember these women whose faith has blessed us and others. We are so enriched and inspired by these women and those who came before them. May we strive to follow their example of faith knowing that God keeps his faith in us. I look forward to seeing you at Fall Conference as well as the Fall Convocation Meetings. Y’all come!

If you have questions or suggestions concerning the ECW, please don’t hesitate to contact me or one of the board members—we are here to help and serve you. Please continue to visit our ECW Web site, www.alabamaecw.org, for all the diocesan ECW news and board information.

If you have not registered for the Fall Conference, please visit our ECW Web site, www.alabama.ecw.org for a registration form or call Liz Ensey, Birmingham Coordinator, at 205/951-0075.

“If faith is lacking, it is because there is too much selfishness, too much concern for personal gain. For faith to be true, it has to be generous and loving. Love and faith go together, they complete.” —Mother Teresa
Since the early 1900s when Bishop Richard Hooker Wilmer established the first scholarship fund to enable the daughters of diocesan clergy to further their education, our diocesan ECW has granted more than $100,000 to aspiring students in our diocese. Thanks to the addition of other named funds and the growth of the ECW General Scholarship Fund, the ECW continues to assist male and female students throughout our diocese achieve their educational goals. The ECW awards these scholarships on the criteria of need, church/community involvement, and an academic commitment. Each scholarship recipient is a communicant of the Diocese of Alabama and is endorsed by his or her parish priest.

The ECW is proud to announce scholarship awards for 2008-09 to 15 students who represent parishes throughout our diocese. We commend these students for all they have accomplished, and we send our blessings with them as they continue their educational and spiritual journeys.

The ECW gratefully acknowledges all the contributions and honorariums that have helped establish these scholarships and the continuation of the ECW tradition of giving back to the men and women of our Church. If you or your parish would like to contribute to the ECW Scholarship Fund, please send your contribution to ECW, Diocese of Alabama, 521 North 20th Street, Birmingham, AL 35203-2611.

### The 2008-2009 ECW Scholars

- **Amanda C. Bell**
  St. Michael’s, Fayette
  ECW Scholarship

- **Holly E. Caraway**
  Canterbury Chapel, Tuscaloosa
  ECW Scholarship

- **Sarah Catherine Cooper**
  St. Matthew’s, Madison
  ECW Scholarship

- **Faith Healy Dorn**
  Grace, Anniston
  ECW Scholarship

- **Sara Elizabeth Dunn**
  St. Peter’s, Talladega
  ECW Scholarship

- **Megan Gallagher**
  Ascension, Montgomery
  ECW Scholarship

- **Kristin Hanson**
  St. Thomas’, Huntsville
  ECW Scholarship

- **Cade Wallace Kistler**
  Epiphany, Guntersville
  ECW Scholarship

- **Alesia M. Lindsay**
  Epiphany, Leeds
  ECW Scholarship

- **Alice Ann Nix**
  St. Luke’s, Birmingham
  ECW Scholarship

- **Mary Adelaide O’Neal**
  Christ Church, Tuscaloosa
  ECW Scholarship

- **Alonso E. Reyes**
  Grace Church, Woodlawn
  ECW Scholarship

- **Charles K. Simpson**
  Holy Comforter, Montgomery
  ECW Scholarship

- **Caitlin M. Watwood**
  Christ Church, Albertville
  ECW Scholarship

- **Donna W. Webb**
  St. Michael’s, Fayette
  ECW Scholarship
Wonderful, Wonderful Camp McDowell

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

Thanks to the faithful support of our diocese, we have had yet another “Wonderful, Wonderful” summer at Camp McDowell. This summer we had 115 more summer campers than last year—including our Special Session and our camp for children affected by the HIV/AIDS virus, we had more than 1,400 campers drive down DeLong Road to experience the beauty, love, and joy of this amazing place! We had an unbelievable staff of dedicated young adults who took having fun very seriously. They are gifted disciples of Christ, and we are truly lucky to have them mentoring the children of our diocese.

As you know summer camp doesn’t just happen. It takes the hard work of Camp McDowell’s maintenance, housekeeping, and kitchen staffs plus Nurse Nancy, more than 35 CITs (counselors-in-training), and 27 summer staffers all working together to provide the best possible experience for the campers. It is a huge job, but the rewards are boundless. Summer Camp gives our counselors the tools and experience to become even stronger disciples of Christ, and it equips the campers with the knowledge of God’s presence in their lives—I truly believe that it strengthens the very foundation of the Church.

Thinking about this summer and the faithful dedication of all those who make summer camp what it is, I am reminded of one of the truths of the Gospel. Too often I focus on the troubles of this world—financial disasters, political finger-pointing, war and rumors of war, and I am often “wearied by the changes and chances of this life” (Book of Common Prayer, page 133). Summer camp however reminds me that God’s love is always greater than the world’s sin. Camp McDowell is a place where the “harvest is great” (Matthew 9:37) and the workers are many! Hope is at the heart of our ministry here, and at the end of the day, camp is a place where beauty and love always win. Above all I pray that this is the lesson the hundreds of children who pack into Eppes Hall each summer learn—I pray that they come to know that God’s love always wins.

Thank you all so much for your prayers and gifts and for allowing us to be a part of the Christian formation of your children. God’s Peace.

Bishop Stough Teaches Me To “Fly” at Camp McDowell

By Bebe Gish Shaw, Ph.D., a Member of St. Timothy’s in Athens

When the sweltering heat and humidity of an Alabama summer smothered us once again like an unwelcome, sweaty blanket, I was reminded of the cool reprieve provided by the gypsy-winded trees dancing overhead deep in the Bankhead Forest at Camp McDowell. The Web site calls it “God’s Backyard,” and because of my heavenly experience there more than 30 years ago with Bishop Furman Stough directing, I would have to concur.

One act of human kindness can make a difference, and Bishop Stough certainly changed my outlook on life. I went to camp crippled both physically and emotionally. I had scoliosis, a curvature of the spine caused by growing too tall too fast. I had to wear a big, ugly brace to correct the problem and even bigger, uglier clothes to attempt unsuccessfully to conceal the contraption. Mean-spirited schoolmates treated me like I was a monster: “Freak!” “Frankenstein!” “Iron Sides!” “Cage Girl!” they’d taunt. Even insensitive adults would stare and ask my constant companion, my grandfather, “What happened to that poor little thing?” as if I could neither speak nor hear. Infuriated, he’d reply, “She fell out of an airplane!” or “She got hit by the train!” just to stun them into an uncomfortable silence.

But Bishop Stough noticed my ostracism in “God’s Backyard,” and it hurt him, and he decided that he was going to do something about it. Mother and Daddy had gone on a vacation, knowing I’d be well nurtured at Camp McDowell, so Bishop Stough was unable to reach them by telephone when he called with his special request. But he had a plan; a God-inspired plan. He always sat with me on the back pew at Evening Prayer, and the night before our final day, he whispered, “Bebe, how would you like to spend your last day at Camp McDowell out of your brace?”

“Oh, Bishop Stough, I can’t!”

“What if I told you that I had spoken with your doctor today and that he had approved?” he reassured me.

“I’d think a miracle had happened. I’d think you were Jesus!”

“I’m not Jesus,” he chuckled, his eyes beginning to sparkle with something he was trying to hold back, “but I can control who gets to start the snowball dance tomorrow night.” A snowball dance is where one girl and one boy are selected to begin the dance, and as with the old row night. “A snowball dance is where one girl and one boy are selected to begin the dance, and as with the old row night,”

Thus, like releasing a little bird from the confinement of a cage, Bishop Stough spilled my plumes and gave me the confidence to fly beyond the bars of my damaged self-image. Dear God, I adore that man who had heard my silent plea “Let me out!”

Early Campers—Come for a Reunion!

If you were a camper between 1923 and 1953, please come to Camp McDowell for a reunion November 5-7. For details please see “Early Campers Reunion” on page 2 and contact the Rev. Doug Carpenter at 205/381-3553 or carpenter.doug@att.net.
We Had It Good at Camp McDowell

By the Rev. Marc Burnett, Rector of St. Andrew’s in Birmingham

We had it good at Camp McDowell this summer. The place is always, always great, but at the end of May it was spectacular. Not too many mosquitoes, bunches of fresh, ripe watermelons, a great slew of third and fourth graders, and a summer staff who never forgot how to have fun and always remembered their mission.

I was program director for the Elementary Session, and so got to hang out with about a hundred of God’s kids. We spent our time working with the theme of play—of how God likes us and likes to play with us. This, I thought, would work well for rising third and fourth graders, who still love to play—but it works well for any age group, though we adults sometimes forget all about this. And sadly some of God’s small people are every bit as burdened and heavy-laden as the big ones.

Play can remind us that, at the heart of things, God delights in us. We acclaim this every Sunday at church. Every time we pray Eucharistic Prayer A we say: “Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself . . .” (Book of Common Prayer, page 362). We talked about the Father’s infinite love, about how God made us for himself: to be with, to hang out with, to delight in. We heard how God’s mercy through Jesus Christ forgives and heals the whole world and everyone in it. We pondered how the Holy Spirit gives gifts to us and opens our eyes to see the Lord’s presence in the creation, at Camp McDowell and within our own selves.

We had a “Creation Olympics” to celebrate and meditate on Genesis 1; we had a scavenger hunt; we hiked to St. Christopher’s where red, construction paper twirlies dropped down like flames of the Holy Spirit to every individual camper, by name, bearing the name of one of their gifts of the Spirit. On the last night of Compline we had no less than 500 “glowsticks” in the chapel (a Camp McDowell record)—a gift of light for the fun of it that also called several things to mind. They reminded us that the light of the Risen Jesus shines in the darkness, and the darkness cannot put it out. They reminded us that we are the light of the world, called to spread the light of the Gospel everywhere (“This little light of mine, I’m going to let it shine”). As you can imagine, 500 of those things make a lot of light, and when the kids twirled and swung and waved them all around, it was like the aurora borealis came right down to us, right into the chapel!

Our theme was Come Out and Play: God’s Call to All. We heard that call and said “Yes!” to it, but summer camp doesn’t last forever. After the summertime week at camp, we return to school and work, both of which aren’t always full-time fun. But we need not say, “Now we must get back to reality.” Camp McDowell, the communal Christian life we live there, is reality. It is a foretaste of Heaven, and do we really believe that Heaven is anything less than a playful Paradise?

If you really do want some real Heaven here on Earth, send your child and come yourself to Camp McDowell as soon as you can. God will be waiting for you there, ready to play.
Thank You for Making Sawyerville Happen!

By Kristin Hanson

What time is it? IT’S TIME TO GET TO CAMP!
Sawyerville Day Camp, that is. This summer from June 21 to 29, 80 youth, college, and adult staff were called to Hale County to serve as staff for the annual day camp for economically disadvantaged children and youth. Held at Greensboro West School and coordinated by Youth Ministries Coordinator Leslie Manning, the camp draws staff from all over our diocese (and this year, a few from our friends in the Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast!). Sawyerville Day Camp is made possible by a $10,000 allocation from our diocesan budget as well as generous monetary donations and numerous supply drives held by parishes across our diocese and with support from our friends in the Black Belt.

Who’s it all for? IT’S ALL FOR THE KIDS!
200-plus campers, age 6 to 14, attended this year’s week-long camp themed “What’s Your Story?” Each day the campers and counselors participated in a program on diversity and identity led by Birmingham resident Smith Williams, storytelling with Matt Layne, music by Corey Jones and Worth Stuart, swimming at the Marion Military Institute, and various other activities like tie-dye, basketball, and music workshops. Highlights of the week included an educational workshop on AIDS led by Tommy Watkins from AIDS Alabama; a drum workshop led by John Scala; the annual family carnival, worship service, and potluck; and field trips to Montgomery’s Rosa Parks Museum and Birmingham’s hands-on McWane Center. The counselors were challenged to put campers’ wants and needs before their own for the week, while the campers were challenged to establish new relationships with people different from themselves—people of other races, other towns, and other personalities.

Where’s God? GOD’S HOUSE!
Each day the campers and counselors were reminded that despite our obvious differences, we have one important thing in common: we are all God’s beautiful children. Camp Sawyerville’s staff was privileged to have the Rev. Mark Waldo, rector of St. Michael and All Angels’ in Millbrook, and Brooks Boylan, youth minister of St. Mary’s-on-the-Highlands in Birmingham, serve as our chaplains. As each day came to a close, the staff was given an opportunity to process each day together and reflect on God’s call to look past one another’s differences as we share in His unconditional love. It was a wonderful time to rest our weary bodies and rejoice in all that God had given us that day. We even had a visit from Bishop Sloan during chapel one afternoon—what a gift!

The staff’s deepest gratitude goes out to everyone who was involved in making Sawyerville Day Camp possible this summer. Next year’s camp promises to be equally abundant in joy, love, and life-changing relationships!

WANT TO KNOW MORE?
Would you like a Sawyerville Day Camp presentation for your church’s youth group, ECW, adult Sunday school class, or outreach fair? Please contact Leslie Manning at lmanning@dioala.org or 205/715-2060 ext. 325, and we will send a person or a team to give you an interesting and engaging presentation about the camp and our diocese’s continuing work in Hale County.

Feeling God’s Love in Sawyerville

By Seton Parsons, a Member of St. Simon Peter’s in Pell City

After serving on the staff of Sawyerville Day Camp in the summer of 2007, Seton Parsons wrote an article for his parish newsletter about his life-changing experience.

Witnessing for myself the poverty that is Greensboro, Alabama, was at first glance breathtaking. At the beginning of camp, I was clueless—clueless as to how God Himself could find His way through the rusted doors and crumbling walls of Greensboro Middle School and into the hearts of more than a hundred boys and girls. Some of the children were not much younger than me, and it seemed to me that none of them were eager to do anything other than play basketball. So toward the middle of camp I gave up—I was frustrated, fed up with the children’s attitudes, and tired of the lack of respect for others and me.

Somewhere in the middle of my complaining however, I stumbled on the real reason we all were there. God certainly opened my eyes in the most captivating of ways—the more I sat down and really talked with the kids, the closer attached to them I became. They told me stories of their lives, the kind you don’t even hear in the middle of camp themed “What’s Your Story?” Each day the campers and counselors were reminded that despite our obvious differences, we have one important thing in common: we are all God’s beautiful children. Camp Sawyerville’s staff was privileged to have the Rev. Mark Waldo, rector of St. Michael and All Angels’ in Millbrook, and Brooks Boylan, youth minister of St. Mary’s-on-the-Highlands in Birmingham, serve as our chaplains. As each day came to a close, the staff was given an opportunity to process each day together and reflect on God’s call to look past one another’s differences as we share in His unconditional love. It was a wonderful time to rest our weary bodies and rejoice in all that God had given us that day. We even had a visit from Bishop Sloan during chapel one afternoon—what a gift!

The staff’s deepest gratitude goes out to everyone who was involved in making Sawyerville Day Camp possible this summer. Next year’s camp promises to be equally abundant in joy, love, and life-changing relationships!

WANT TO KNOW MORE?
Would you like a Sawyerville Day Camp presentation for your church’s youth group, ECW, adult Sunday school class, or outreach fair? Please contact Leslie Manning at lmanning@dioala.org or 205/715-2060 ext. 325, and we will send a person or a team to give you an interesting and engaging presentation about the camp and our diocese’s continuing work in Hale County.

Feeling God’s Love in Sawyerville

By Seton Parsons, a Member of St. Simon Peter’s in Pell City

After serving on the staff of Sawyerville Day Camp in the summer of 2007, Seton Parsons wrote an article for his parish newsletter about his life-changing experience.

Witnessing for myself the poverty that is Greensboro, Alabama, was at first glance breathtaking. At the beginning of camp, I was clueless—clueless as to how God Himself could find His way through the rusted doors and crumbling walls of Greensboro Middle School and into the hearts of more than a hundred boys and girls. Some of the children were not much younger than me, and it seemed to me that none of them were eager to do anything other than play basketball. So toward the middle of camp I gave up—I was frustrated, fed up with the children’s attitudes, and tired of the lack of respect for others and me.

Somewhere in the middle of my complaining however, I stumbled on the real reason we all were there. God certainly opened my eyes in the most captivating of ways—the more I sat down and really talked with the kids, the closer attached to them I became. They told me stories of their lives, the kind you don’t even hear in the middle of camp themed “What’s Your Story?” Each day the campers and counselors were reminded that despite our obvious differences, we have one important thing in common: we are all God’s beautiful children. Camp Sawyerville’s staff was privileged to have the Rev. Mark Waldo, rector of St. Michael and All Angels’ in Millbrook, and Brooks Boylan, youth minister of St. Mary’s-on-the-Highlands in Birmingham, serve as our chaplains. As each day came to a close, the staff was given an opportunity to process each day together and reflect on God’s call to look past one another’s differences as we share in His unconditional love. It was a wonderful time to rest our weary bodies and rejoice in all that God had given us that day. We even had a visit from Bishop Sloan during chapel one afternoon—what a gift!

The staff’s deepest gratitude goes out to everyone who was involved in making Sawyerville Day Camp possible this summer. Next year’s camp promises to be equally abundant in joy, love, and life-changing relationships!

WANT TO KNOW MORE?
Would you like a Sawyerville Day Camp presentation for your church’s youth group, ECW, adult Sunday school class, or outreach fair? Please contact Leslie Manning at lmanning@dioala.org or 205/715-2060 ext. 325, and we will send a person or a team to give you an interesting and engaging presentation about the camp and our diocese’s continuing work in Hale County.

Feeling God’s Love in Sawyerville

By Seton Parsons, a Member of St. Simon Peter’s in Pell City

After serving on the staff of Sawyerville Day Camp in the summer of 2007, Seton Parsons wrote an article for his parish newsletter about his life-changing experience.

Witnessing for myself the poverty that is Greensboro, Alabama, was at first glance breathtaking. At the beginning of camp, I was clueless—clueless as to how God Himself could find His way through the rusted doors and crumbling walls of Greensboro Middle School and into the hearts of more than a hundred boys and girls. Some of the children were not much younger than me, and it seemed to me that none of them were eager to do anything other than play basketball. So toward the middle of camp I gave up—I was frustrated, fed up with the children’s attitudes, and tired of the lack of respect for others and me.

Somewhere in the middle of my complaining however, I stumbled on the real reason we all were there. God certainly opened my eyes in the most captivating of ways—the more I sat down and really talked with the kids, the closer attached to them I became. They told me stories of their lives, the kind you don’t even hear in movies or on the news. I met kids who have never known either of their parents. I met others who only got to visit them when the state prison permitted it. Broken bricks and leaking ceilings house these children during the day camp and school year, and they literally have nothing to do outside of school activities. This is a place where most children raise themselves—and this place is just three hours away from my own backyard and yet unfathomably far away from my lifestyle.

But in the middle of all this darkness, this impoverished community seems to have a heart beaming with hope and courage. When you sit and talk with a child from Greensboro, you just can’t help but feel God’s love and blessings shower over you. Sawyerville was an experience like no other for me. Spending a week away from home and going to bed at night with more than 50 other guys who could say they knew what an “acolyte” is certainly was a blessing in its own unique sense, but sharing the Gospel with strangers and exchanging peace with these children was my gift from Christ. I went to Sawyerville to teach, but I learned that love dwells even in the darkest of places and things aren’t always what they seem to be at first glance. The people of Greensboro have discovered God’s love in its most abundant form, and they are not afraid to share it with others.
St. Francis of Assisi—Patron Saint of God’s Creation

By Elizabeth Scribner, Member of Our Diocesan Task Force for the Stewardship of Creation

If you wish to share with children the spiritual link between God, man, and nature, Robert F. Kennedy’s beautifully illustrated book St. Francis of Assisi is a must-read! St. Francis is the patron saint of animals and the environment, and as Robert, who is the chairman of Waterkeeper Alliance, explains, “Francis understood that we need to love nature and spend time in it because it is through His creation that the Creator communicates to us His grace and joy.”

St. Francis was born in 13th-century Italy, where he grew up as the son of a prosperous cloth merchant. He is described as a boisterous and fun-loving youth who loved making music in the streets. When he was in his early twenties, Francis fell ill after returning home after fighting in a war and had a vision from heaven that instructed him to abandon the life of a soldier and serve God. Francis began his mission by caring for lepers—the most despised and feared members of society. He also took seriously Jesus’ teachings in Luke 9:1-3: “Announce the kingdom! Possess no gold or silver or copper in your purses, no traveling bag, no sandals, no staff.” Francis therefore gave away all of his possessions, against of the will of his father; and dedicated himself to a life of poverty and service to others.

Francis, whose feast day is October 4, is most known for his love and compassion for God’s creation. He reveled in the joy and wonder of nature, and he appreciated its many gifts—beauty, sustenance, and life. According to accounts of his life, one of his sermons attracted an entire audience of animals and he also tamed a wolf so it would cease attacking the town of Gubbio.

Francis’ ministry reminds us all that Christians can both live in harmony with nature and experience the many joys and gifts of God’s creation. His life also provides a wonderful lesson in frugality because is it only through conservation of our natural resources that we can continue to enjoy the precious gifts of nature.

Editor’s Note: Copies of St. Francis of Assisi by Robert F. Kennedy are available at the Episcopal Book Store, 2015 Sixth Avenue North, Birmingham, AL 35203; 205/323-2959; e-mail ebsinfo@episcobooks.com.

Ascension Youth Called to Mission Work

Submitted by Nancy Gennari, Vestry Member

Seven youth and six adults from the Ascension in Birmingham (Vestavia Hills) recently traveled to St. Ignace in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan for the parish’s first annual youth mission project. By traveling to Michigan and through serving the children and adults entrusted to their care, our young people proclaimed by example the Good News of God in Christ. As part of their work of leading Vacation Bible School, they sang songs, told Bible stories, and made crafts. During the week they spent in the town, they also painted buildings and sorted apparel at the thrift store supported by the local churches.

This mission trip allowed the youth of Ascension to experience a culture and way of life different from their own. It gave them an opportunity to meet strangers and build new relationships. Their hope was that God’s love was reflected in their actions because they discovered God’s love working through the ones they served—in serving they discovered themselves being served.

“Living Wisely in the Household of God”

Every year our diocese invites college students from throughout Province IV to bring their Episcopal chaplains and faculty members with them to Camp McDowell for the Fall College Conference. Terry Parsons, the program officer for diocesan services in the Episcopal Church, will bring a fun and provocative approach to the topic of stewardship to this year’s conference, scheduled for November 7-9. Focusing on the theme of “Living Wisely in the Household of God,” Terry will help participants explore using the gifts that God has given each of us, living into God’s hope of us, and the holiness of the life that God has given us. In addition to presentations and small group activities, the relaxing agenda includes time for canoeing, hiking, the ropes course, music jams, and the traditional Saturday-night talent fest, Sarsaparilla Saloon. For more information about the conference please contact the Rev. Michael Rich, rector of St. Luke’s in Jacksonville, at revmichaelrich@gmail.com or 256/435-9271.
St. Alban’s Adds New Staff Members

St. Alban’s in Birmingham (Hoover) is pleased to announce two additions to the parish staff: Janet Nelson and Mary Vandagriff. Janet Nelson will begin serving as organist and master of the choir on October 12. Janet, who has served in similar positions in Baptist, Methodist, and Presbyterian churches, holds bachelor’s and master’s degrees in music education from Samford University and has done additional graduate work in South Carolina and Connecticut. She replaces John King Carter, who is leaving to assume a position at Holy Family Episcopal Church in Jasper, Georgia, after serving St. Alban’s for almost five years.

The Rev. Deacon Mary Vandagriff began serving as St. Alban’s deacon on September 7. Mary most recently served on the staff of the Birmingham Campus Ministry.

The Rev. J. Barry Vaughn, rector of St. Alban’s, will preach at a service honoring deceased members of his graduating class at the 30th Reunion of the Harvard College Class of 1978. Harvard’s chaplain, the Rev. Professor Peter J. Gomes, and other clergy from the Class of 1978 will also participate in the service on October 11 at First Parish Church in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Nativity Choir Premieres Anthem

On May 18 the choir of the Nativity in Huntsville, under the direction of Organist and Choirmaster Suzanne Purtee, premiered a new anthem by distinguished composer Robert Powell, “Lord you have searched me out and known me.” The anthem, which is based on Psalm 139, was composed “To the glory of God and in grateful appreciation for the ministry of Martha and Emile Joffrion on the occasion of the Jubilee celebrating their long and faithful service, 1957-2007.” If you would like to use the anthem in your parish, please contact Suzanne Purtee at Suzanne.purtee@gmail.com.

Helping Build Homes and Lives

On Saturday, June 28, 25 members of St. Andrew’s in Montevallo and Trinity in Clanton took part in a habitat for Humanity workday on a new home under construction in the area.

Servicios en Español/Services in Spanish

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Iglesia Episcopal de la Gracia</th>
<th>Sábado 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>Domingo 2 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>205/838-2565</td>
<td>Sunday 2 p.m.</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>205/372-4671</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Iglesia de la Ascensión/Ascension</th>
<th>Primero 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>First Sunday of the month</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>334/263-5529</td>
<td>2 p.m.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

English classes are offered at La Ascensión/Ascension in Montgomery every Sunday from 4 to 5:30 p.m. If you would like to serve as a tutor for one or more of the weekly classes, please contact Pam Long at 334/590-1441 or pam@xlanguage.net. For more information about services and/or Spanish-speaking classes, please contact the Rev. Dr. Hernan Afanador, our Diocesan Missioner for Hispanic Ministries, at 205/381-4885 or hernan_afanador@yahoo.com.
Cathedral Choir Sings in Durham, England

By Dr. Charles M. Kennedy, Cathedral Music Associate

Members of the choir of the Cathedral Church of the Advent in Birmingham, under the leadership of Director of Music and Organist Dr. Stephen G. Schaeffer, enjoyed a very successful tour to the United Kingdom from July 19 to 30. During their weeklong residency at Durham Cathedral, they sang six daily Evensongs as well as Matins and Eucharist on Sunday. Fifteen Advent friends and parishioners accompanied the choir on the trip, which included tours to places of interest and two free days in York.

St. Andrew’s Place Asks for Our Help

By David Smith, a Member of St. Stephen’s in Birmingham and Chair of the Board of St. Andrew’s Place

St. Andrew’s Place, which is marking its 35th anniversary of service this year, is an independent nonprofit corporation established in August 1973 as a ministry of St. Andrew’s in Birmingham to meet the need for community residences for de-institutionalized clients of the State of Alabama mental health system. St. Andrew’s Place provides permanent residences for up to 30 adults who are mentally challenged in five group homes, three of which our diocese provides rent free.

Due to today’s higher fuel, utility, food, insurance, and other operating costs as well as the ever-increasing cost of maintaining our aging buildings, we are asking the people of our diocese for financial help. For the short term we need cash donations to help with monthly operating cost expenses; our board of directors is working on long-term fundraising projects, but we need immediate help to get us through the next six months’ projected cash-flow shortfall. For the long term we appeal to parishes to support us by considering including St. Andrew’s Place in your 2009 outreach budget.

For more information about St. Andrew’s Place, our cash and maintenance needs, board of director vacancies, or to schedule an appointment to discuss adding St. Andrew’s Place to your parish outreach budget, please contact me at smith6633@bellsouth.net, 205/590-4179 (home), or 205/907-0506 (cell phone). Please send contributions to St. Andrew’s Place, 1024 12th Street South, Birmingham, AL 35205. Thank you!

DOK Chapter Instituted at St. James’ in Livingston

By Maggie Noland, a member of St. James’

On Sunday, August 17, the St. Cecilia Chapter of the Daughters of the King (DOK) was instituted at St. James’ in Livingston. During the service using the original 1891 wording, our diocesan DOK President Andi Silberman presented the Rev. Brian Hatchett with the charter for the new chapter and Dorothy Boyd, Valerie Burnes, Odell Collins, Madelyn Mack, Lydia Mansfield, Linda Munoz, and Maggie Noland were admitted as charter members.

Each Daughter took a lifetime vow to live by the Rule of the Order. The Rule of Life requires a spiritual discipline of daily prayer, service, and evangelism; a vow that makes the Daughters of the King an order and not an organization; the order’s mission is to extend Christ’s Kingdom through prayer, service, and evangelism. Each Daughter received a silver cross that had been blessed at the altar, to be worn every day as a symbol of her commitment. Each cross, which is a modified Greek fleury, is inscribed in Latin with “Magnanimiter Crucem Sustine,” which broadly translated means “With heart, mind, and spirit uphold and bear the cross.” At the base of the cross are the letters “FHS,” initials that stand for the Motto of the Order: “For His Sake.” This emblem has never wavered from the original design.

Daughters from St. John’s in Montgomery and St. Michael’s in Fayette as well as family members of some of the new Daughters attended the service, and their support and presence were greatly appreciated. After the service everyone enjoyed a reception hosted by the new chapter of the Daughters of the King. It was a truly joyful occasion that marked the end of a three-month study for these women and the beginning of a new life of service to Christ.
**Upcoming Retreats, Conferences, and Special Events**

**PRAYER OF SPIRIT AND BODY**
October 3-4 at Holy Trinity in Auburn
Everyone is cordially invited to Prayer of Spirit and Body—An Introduction to Various Forms of Body Prayer as Christian Spiritual Practice, a two-day retreat sponsored by Holy Trinity in Auburn with a grant from our diocesan Commission on Spirituality. Marshall and Jan Craver will lead us in exploring and celebrating the truth that prayer is a response to God of our entire being—body, mind, and spirit. Participants will experience a variety of ways of praying including gentle movements and postures of prayer drawn from themes of Holy Scripture, breath prayer, walking meditation, deep relaxation meditation, and yoga as Christian spiritual practice.

Marshall, who serves as an associate rector of St. Paul’s in Mobile, is a graduate of the Shalem Institute as well as Spring Hill College’s Certificate Program in Spiritual Direction. Jan, who is a registered nurse, is a member of the Yoga Alliance and Kripalu Teachers Association. Together they have facilitated numerous retreats across the Southeast. For more information please contact Ellen Cantwell at Holy Trinity, 334/887-9506 or holytrinityadmin@charter.net.

**GRIEF RECOVERY MINISTRY**
Tuesday evenings, October 7, 14, and 21, 7-8 p.m., in Birmingham
Everyone who has experienced the loss of a loved one is cordially invited to join Canon Joe Warren and other facilitators on Tuesday evenings, October 7-21 at the home of Laurie and Frank Jones (3001 Woodleigh Road) for the fall series of the Advent’s Grief Recovery Ministry. The six-week program offers support through the griefing process and provides road signs for the journey ahead. For more information and directions to the meeting place please call Laurie Jones at 205/967-7402

**ACOLYTE FESTIVAL AND WORKSHOP**
October 9-13 at Washington National Cathedral
Join acolytes from across the country at this year’s festival and workshop at the magnificent National Cathedral on Columbus Day weekend. Bring processional crosses, banners, flags, and other liturgical items for the festive procession. Alabama’s special tour will include a tour of the U.S. Naval Academy, the Pentagon, a Night Light Tour of Washington, the Acolyte Festival, and special seating at the cathedral for Sunday’s service, as well as an additional day to visit other sites including churches, museums, galleries, and federal buildings. For more information please contact Bettye Benjamens at 334/278-3381 or bettye@htcnet.net.

**“SPIRITUALITY AND RECOVERY—THE JOY IS IN THE JOURNEY”**
October 24-26 at Camp McDowell
Our diocesan Department of Recovery Ministries cordially invites everyone to this year’s annual Recovery and Spirituality Retreat, which will focus on “Spirituality and Recovery—The Joy Is in the Journey.” Keynoter Kate Haak, from the Talbott Recovery Campus in Atlanta, will speak on the spirituality of the 12 Steps, and Tom Milhancich will lead a workshop on Native American Spirituality. For more information please contact Fergus Tuohy at fergusatuohy@hotmail.com or Sarah Sartain at ssartain@dialo.org or 205/715-2060 ext. 314, or visit www.dialo.org.

**LIVING STREAMS WORKSHOP**
October 27-29 at Camp McDowell
The Camp McDowell Environment Center is offering the free teacher “FunShop” Living Streams: Creating a Real Appreciation for the Water on which We Depend on October 27-29. The workshop, which is a collaboration of many qualified sponsoring partners including Legacy, Alabama Water Watch, and Sierra Club, will give you the opportunity to wade the streams and ponds of Camp McDowell and study the macro-invertebrates that live in the water, gaining knowledge for yourself and also learning how to make teaching this information fun and interesting for your students. For more information about the McDowell Environmental Center (MEC) or this teacher workshop, please contact Maggie Johnston at maggie@campmcdowell.com or 205/387-1806.

**DAUGHTERS OF THE KING (DOK) FALL ASSEMBLY**
November 7-9 at Camp McDowell
Bishop Sloan will lead this year’s annual diocesan Daughter of the King (DOK) Fall Assembly November 7-9 at Camp McDowell. For more information and a registration form please visit the DOK Web site, www.dokalabama.org.

**2008 BISHOPS’ CONFERENCE ON SHARED MINISTRIES**
November 18 at the Ascension in Montgomery
Our diocese and the Episcopal Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast will host this year’s annual Bishops’ Conference on Shared Ministries on November 18 at the Ascension in Montgomery. The day will begin with registration and continental breakfast at 9 a.m. and adjourn at 3 p.m. Keynoter the Rt. Rev. C. Christopher Epting, the Presiding Bishop’s Deputy for Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations, will speak on the theme “What Does Unity Mean for Episcopalians?” For more information please contact the Rev. James Elliott Jr. at 256/546-2254 or frelliott@bellsouth.net or visit our diocesan Web site, www.dialo.org and click on the link to the 2008 Bishops’ Conference on Shared Ministry.

**THE SPIRITUALITY OF HENRI NOUWEN**
November 21-22 at St. Stephen’s in Birmingham
Our diocesan Commission on Spirituality cordially invites everyone to a workshop on The Spirituality of Henri Nouwen led by well-known lecturer and group leader on spiritual growth Joseph “Joe” B. Howell, Ph.D., a member of Grace Church and a practicing clinical psychologist in Anniston. When Joe was a student at Yale Divinity School in the 1970s, he studied under Henri Nouwen, who became his friend and mentor. Having studied Nouwen’s teachings as well as knowing him personally, Joe presents a unique insight into this gifted Christian writer and teacher. Joe will provide a look into the psycho-spiritual dynamics of Henri Nouwen, focusing on self-esteem, rejection, grief, individuation, woundedness, intimacy, healing, and wholeness. By exploring selected writings, the participants will have the opportunity to look into their own psychological and theological frame of reference within the holy container of being the beloved of Christ, a concept that Henri Nouwen embraced. For more information please contact Lark Howell at 256/238-1560 or jilhowell@bell-south.net or Sarah Sartain at ssartain@dialo.org or 205/715-2060 ext. 314.

**SIXTH ANNUAL CHURCH MUSIC CONFERENCE**
January 30-31 at the University of Alabama School of Music
Everyone is cordially invited to the sixth annual church music conference at Moody Music Building on the University of Alabama campus in Tuscaloosa. This year’s conference, A Mendelssohn Year (1809-1847), features organist Dr. Gail Archer and includes workshops on sacred small organ repertoire, handbell techniques, organ and vocal masterclasses, liturgical dance, liturgical drama, commissioning new choral works, choral vocalises for the older voice, and “How To Fix a Choir in 30 Minutes.” Dr. Archer will present an organ concert on Friday evening, and the University Singers along with a massed choir of members of local church choirs under the direction of Dr. John Ratledge will perform “Hymn of Praise” featuring the compositions of Felix Mendelssohn. For more information please contact Faythe Freese, associate professor of organ at the university, at faythefreese@earthlink.net or visit www.music.ua.edu/organ/events.

**Bishops’ Visitation Schedule**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Bishop</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sunday, October 5</td>
<td>Bishop Sloan, St. Michael and All Angels’, Anniston</td>
<td>10:30 a.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday, October 12</td>
<td>Bishop Miller, St. Andrew’s, Prairievile</td>
<td>10 a.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday, October 19</td>
<td>Bishop Sloan, St. Barnabas’, Roanoke</td>
<td>9:30 a.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday, October 26</td>
<td>Bishop Sloan, Trinity, Bessemer</td>
<td>10:30 a.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday, November 2</td>
<td>Bishop Sloan, All Saints’, Montgomery</td>
<td>10:30 a.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday, November 9</td>
<td>Bishop Miller, Epiphany, Leeds</td>
<td>10:30 a.m.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**“JESUS IS COMING—ARE YOU BUSY?”**
December 13 at St. Stephen’s in Birmingham
Our diocesan Commission on Spirituality cordially invites everyone to this year’s Advent Quiet Day from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at St. Stephen’s in Birmingham. Bishop Sloan will lead participants in reflections on the theme “Jesus Is Coming—Are You Busy?” For more information please contact Sarah Sartain at ssartain@dialo.org or 205/715-2060 ext. 314.

**COMMISSION ON SONG**

**SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Bishop</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sunday, October 5</td>
<td>Bishop Sloan, St. Michael and All Angels’, Anniston</td>
<td>10:30 a.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday, October 12</td>
<td>Bishop Miller, St. Andrew’s, Prairievile</td>
<td>10 a.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday, October 19</td>
<td>Bishop Sloan, St. Barnabas’, Roanoke</td>
<td>9:30 a.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday, October 26</td>
<td>Bishop Sloan, Trinity, Bessemer</td>
<td>10:30 a.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday, November 2</td>
<td>Bishop Sloan, All Saints’, Montgomery</td>
<td>10:30 a.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday, November 9</td>
<td>Bishop Miller, Epiphany, Leeds</td>
<td>10:30 a.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday, November 16</td>
<td>Bishop Sloan, Advent, Birmingham</td>
<td>10:30 a.m.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### What’s New/Noteworthy at the Episcopal Book Store

**Eternal Seasons: A Spiritual Journey Through the Church’s Year** by Henri J. M. Nouwen, edited by Michael Ford

“This Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, Ascension, and Pentecost; these seasons and feasts teach you to know Jesus better and better and unite your heart more fully with the divine life he offers you in the Church,” wrote Henri Nouwen. This book, edited by Michael Ford, offers a compilation of Nouwen’s writings on each of the Church’s seasons and is scattered throughout the considerable body of his work. It serves as a fine companion to the unfolding Church year and the appointed readings and Feast Days for each season.

**Life with God: Reading the Bible for Spiritual Transformation** by Richard J. Foster

With a wealth of examples and simple yet crucial insights, *Life with God* provides an indispensable guide to approaching the Bible through the lens of Christian spiritual formation based on an expectation to be transformed by the reading of the Bible, as opposed to seeking specific information or some formula that will solve our pressing needs of the moment. The book concludes with a helpful chart that chronologically cites Scripture, describes God’s actions, the human reaction, the context, and the key spiritual disciplines involved.

### Mark Your Calendar

#### Christmas Conference (9th-12th graders)
- **December 28-30**

#### College Conference
- **November 7-9**

#### Corsillo Weekend
- **#165 October 15-19**

#### Diocesan Convention
- **February 19-21 in Montgomery**

#### EYC Convention (9th-12th graders)
- **January 30-February 1**

#### Happening Weekends (9-12th graders)
- **#53 November 7-9, #54 March 6-8**

#### New Beginnings (for 7th-9th graders)
- **October 10-12**

#### Province IV Youth Event/PYE 2009
- **June 23-28**

#### Sawyerville Day Camp
- **June**

#### Spring Break Conference (9-12th graders)
- **March 14-18**

#### Taizé Pilgrimage (ages 16-30)
- **May 23-26**

#### Winter Weekend (for 7th-8th graders)
- **January 16-19**

#### Youth Ministry Sabbath Retreat (all Youth leaders)
- **April 24-25**

#### October 5
- Evesong featuring the music of Craig Phillips, Herbert Howells, and Bryan Kelly sung by the Cathedral Choir under the direction of Dr. Stephen G. Schaeffer at 4 p.m. at the Advent in Birmingham. More information please contact Music Associate Charles Kennedy at 205/226-3505 or kennedy@cathedradvent.com.

#### October 9-13
- Acolyte Festival and Workshop at Washington National Cathedral. For more information please see the description on page 14 or contact Bettey Benajmin at 334/278-3381 or bettyb@batten.net.

#### October 10-12
- New Beginnings—A Spiritual Retreat for 7th-9th graders at Camp McDowell. For more information please contact Youth Ministries Assistant Leslie Manning at lmanning@dioala.org or 205/715-2060 ext. 325.

#### October 24
- Midday Musical Menu featuring organist Suzanne Purree 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@cathedradvent.com.

#### October 24-26
- Spirituality and Recovery—The Joy Is In the Journey,” annual Recovery and Spirituality Retreat weekend hosted by our diocesan Department of Recovery Ministries and featuring speaker Kate Hauk and workshop leader Tom Mihokanich at Camp McDowell. For more information please see the description on page 14, contact Ferguson Tilley at ferguson@hotmail.com or Sarah Sarant at ssarant@dioala.org or 205/715-2060 ext. 314, or visit www.dioala.org.

#### November 6
- Diocesan Youth Ministers Monthly Gathering from 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. at St. Stephen’s in Birmingham. For more information please contact Leslie Manning at lmanning@dioala.org or 205/715-2060 ext. 325.

#### November 7-9
- “Living Wisely in the Household of God,” College Conference sponsored by our diocese and Province IV at Camp McDowell. For more information please see the description on page 11 or contact the Rev. Michael Rich at mrich@dioala.org or 256/435-9271.

#### November 7-9
- Daughters of the King (DOK) Fall Assembly led by Bishop Sloan at Camp McDowell. For more information and registration form please visit www.dokalabama.org.

#### November 9-12
- Latino/Hispanic Ministries Conference at the Kanuga Conference Center in Hendersonville, North Carolina. For more information please call 828/692-9136, e-mail info@kanuga.org, or visit www.kanuga.org.

#### November 14-16
- Fall Fling for 5th-6th graders at Camp McDowell. For more information please contact Youth Ministries Assistant Leslie Manning at lmanning@dioala.org or 205/715-2060 ext. 325.

#### November 15-17
- Lansing Lee Conference with Marcus Borg and Dom Crossan at the Kanuga Conference Center in Hendersonville, North Carolina. For more information please call 828/692-9136, e-mail info@kanuga.org, or visit www.kanuga.org.

#### November 18
- Bishops’ Conference on Shared Ministry: “What Does Unity Mean for Episcopalians, Roman Catholics, and ELCA Lutherans in 2008?” featuring guest speaker the Rt. Rev. C. Christopher Earp at the Ascension in Montgomery. For more information please contact the Rev. James Elliott Jr. at 256/546-2254 or jelliott@bellowth.net or visit www.dioala.org and click on the link to the 2008 Bishops’ Conference on Shared Ministry.

#### November 21
- Midday Musical Menu featuring chamber music performed by Sanford University faculty members Jeff Flaniken (violin), Angela Flaniken (viola), and Donald Sanders (piano) 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@cathedradvent.com.

#### November 21-22
- Workshop on Henri Nouwen led by Dr. Joe Howell and sponsored by our diocese on Contemplative Spirituality at St. Stephen’s in Birmingham. For more information please contact Sarah Sarant at ssarant@dioala.org or 205/715-2060 ext. 314.

### Products from Thistle Farms

**Epicor priest Becca Stevens founded the nonprofit business Thistle Farms in Nashville to provide employment for the residents of Magdalene, a two-year residential community for women with a history of prostitution and drug addiction. Thistle Farms products include body balm, hand lotion, and hand-poured candles in Tuscan and Lavender. You can find more information about this compelling ministry in the bookstore.**

**Everything Belongs: The Gift of Contemplative Pray**er

Richard Rohr has written a very readable expose on what it means to be contemplative in all areas of life, secure in the freedoms described in Galatians 5:1: “It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.” The practice of Contemplative Prayer offers a means of protection from the burdens bestowed on us as it narrows the distance between the one praying and the one who frees us, Jesus Christ.

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 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturday from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. The bookstore will also be open Saturdays, December 6, 13, and 20, from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. and until 5 p.m. on Tuesday evening, December 16, before the ordination service at the Cathedral Church of the Advent.
Our Deacons Use Web Site To Focus on Hunger
By Archdeacon Lou Thibodaux

The members of Trinity Church offer free meals to hungry people in Clanton.

Our Deacon Community has begun posting a series of articles on our diocesan web site, www.dioala.org, to highlight how parishes are responding to hunger in our local communities. “I love to hear about what different congregations are doing,” notes Archdeacon Lou Thibodaux. “People have amazing stories to tell, and this is a good way to get the word out.”

Part of a deacon’s call is to act in ways that focus the needs, concerns, and hopes of the world for the Church. With rising gas and food prices putting additional strain on household budgets, many more needs and concerns are calling out for attention. There is also much more that Episcopalians can do locally to minister to the whole body of Christ in tangible ways. Articles posted so far have dealt with the theology of feeding, cutbacks in school lunch programs during the summer months, and an innovative mentoring program that was founded by our diocese about 50 years ago, is the first in Alabama to offer the Green House-style, state-of-the-art, inviting facilities where elders can receive assistance and support with daily activities and clinical care in a comfortable social setting. St. Martin’s, which is open to everyone, serves more than 500 retirees annually. For more information please contact Archdeacon Lou Thibodaux at yellowboots@charter.net or 205/715-2060 ext. 325.

The staff of St. Martin’s in Huntsville cordially invites everyone to visit their recently completed Cottages on Sunday, October 5, from 2:30 to 5 p.m. In addition to tours of the homey living spaces, you can enjoy live music and entertainment. St. Martin’s, a nonprofit retirement community that was founded by our diocese about 50 years ago, is the first in Alabama to offer the Green House-style, state-of-the-art, inviting facilities where elders can receive assistance and support with daily activities and clinical care in a comfortable social setting. St. Martin’s, which is open to everyone, serves more than 500 retirees annually. For more information please contact St. Martin’s, 4941 Montevallo Road, Birmingham, AL 35210; 205/956-1831; or www.stmartinsinthepines.org.

Go Fish!

At St. Joseph’s on-the-Mountain in Mentone, people are welcome to take items they need from a grocery cart.

The members of St. John’s in Montgomery are hosting their annual crafts and food bazaar on Wednesday, November 19, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the education building, with lunch served in the parish hall. This year’s theme, “Prosper the Work of Our Hands,” reflects the talents of the women of the parish, including hand-sown baby and children’s clothing and accessories, garden items, fine artwork, and homemade pantry goods. All proceeds will benefit outreach projects. For more information please contact Kathleen Bradford at kbradbrad@aol.com or the parish office at 334/262-1937.

The members of the ECW of St. John’s in Montgomery are hosting their annual crafts and food bazaar on Wednesday, November 19, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the education building, with lunch served in the parish hall. This year’s theme, “Prosper the Work of Our Hands,” reflects the talents of the women of the parish, including hand-sown baby and children’s clothing and accessories, garden items, fine artwork, and homemade pantry goods. All proceeds will benefit outreach projects. For more information please contact Kathleen Bradford at kbradbrad@aol.com or the parish office at 334/262-1937.

The members of St. Thomas’ in Huntsville cordially invite everyone to the parish’s Lobsterfest on November 8. The annual event raises funds for the annual medical mission to Honduras and Habitat for Humanity. Please call 256/880-0248 or e-mail lobster@stthomashuntsville.org to place advance orders.

Attention GPS Users!

William Henderson, a member of the Nativity in Dothan and a former member of St. Mary’s on-the-Highlands in Birmingham, used some recovery time from a surgery to develop Points of Interest (POI) files for the parishes in our diocese. He is offering the files as a gift to everyone who uses a GPS (Global Positioning System).

You can download the files FREE from POI Factory, www.poi-factory.com, in the category “Places of Worship.” Once you load them into your GPS device, they will guide you to any parish in our diocese. To load the files to your device or data card, you need POI Loader, a small software file that is available FREE from Garmin online; type “POI LOADER” into your browser to locate the download. If you have any questions please e-mail HEN1901@aol.com and include POI Files in the subject line of your message.

TheRev. Deacon Katy Smith, Director of Development Jennifer Ray, and President and CEO Terry Rogers

The Rev. Deacon Katy Smith, Director of Development Jennifer Ray, and President and CEO Terry Rogers

Go Fish!

What do you get when you invite parents and children to go fishing? A great day of fun! St. John’s in Montgomery hosted its first Parent-Child Gone Fishing Event on Saturday, July 12, at Lanark in Millbrook. Thanks to great weather, a huge pond, an assortment of fishing bait and lures, and different kinds and types of fishing rods, the anglers set out to “catch the big ones!” Everyone caught fish—some of them the largest catfish seen in a long time. The best statement of the day came from Michael Clark when he was heard asking, “Why is it that Anna Mitchell’s 3-foot pink Barbie fishing rod is getting hits by large fish right after [her father] casts it instead of catching them on his professional man fishing rod?” Well, that’s fishing!

The members of St. Thomas’ in Huntsville cordially invite everyone to the parish’s Lobsterfest on November 8. The annual event raises funds for the annual medical mission to Honduras and Habitat for Humanity. Please call 256/880-0248 or e-mail lobster@stthomashuntsville.org to place advance orders.

Come Visit the Cottages at St. Martin’s

The members of St. Thomas’ in Huntsville cordially invite everyone to the parish’s Lobsterfest on November 8. The annual event raises funds for the annual medical mission to Honduras and Habitat for Humanity. Please call 256/880-0248 or e-mail lobster@stthomashuntsville.org to place advance orders.

The members of St. Thomas’ in Huntsville cordially invite everyone to the parish’s Lobsterfest on November 8. The annual event raises funds for the annual medical mission to Honduras and Habitat for Humanity. Please call 256/880-0248 or e-mail lobster@stthomashuntsville.org to place advance orders.

Go Fish!

What do you get when you invite parents and children to go fishing? A great day of fun! St. John’s in Montgomery hosted its first Parent-Child Gone Fishing Event on Saturday, July 12, at Lanark in Millbrook. Thanks to great weather, a huge pond, an assortment of fishing bait and lures, and different kinds and types of fishing rods, the anglers set out to “catch the big ones!” Everyone caught fish—some of them the largest catfish seen in a long time. The best statement of the day came from Michael Clark when he was heard asking, “Why is it that Anna Mitchell’s 3-foot pink Barbie fishing rod is getting hits by large fish right after [her father] casts it instead of catching them on his professional man fishing rod?” Well, that’s fishing!

The members of St. Thomas’ in Huntsville cordially invite everyone to the parish’s Lobsterfest on November 8. The annual event raises funds for the annual medical mission to Honduras and Habitat for Humanity. Please call 256/880-0248 or e-mail lobster@stthomashuntsville.org to place advance orders.

Go Fish!

What do you get when you invite parents and children to go fishing? A great day of fun! St. John’s in Montgomery hosted its first Parent-Child Gone Fishing Event on Saturday, July 12, at Lanark in Millbrook. Thanks to great weather, a huge pond, an assortment of fishing bait and lures, and different kinds and types of fishing rods, the anglers set out to “catch the big ones!” Everyone caught fish—some of them the largest catfish seen in a long time. The best statement of the day came from Michael Clark when he was heard asking, “Why is it that Anna Mitchell’s 3-foot pink Barbie fishing rod is getting hits by large fish right after [her father] casts it instead of catching them on his professional man fishing rod?” Well, that’s fishing!

The members of St. Thomas’ in Huntsville cordially invite everyone to the parish’s Lobsterfest on November 8. The annual event raises funds for the annual medical mission to Honduras and Habitat for Humanity. Please call 256/880-0248 or e-mail lobster@stthomashuntsville.org to place advance orders.

Go Fish!

What do you get when you invite parents and children to go fishing? A great day of fun! St. John’s in Montgomery hosted its first Parent-Child Gone Fishing Event on Saturday, July 12, at Lanark in Millbrook. Thanks to great weather, a huge pond, an assortment of fishing bait and lures, and different kinds and types of fishing rods, the anglers set out to “catch the big ones!” Everyone caught fish—some of them the largest catfish seen in a long time. The best statement of the day came from Michael Clark when he was heard asking, “Why is it that Anna Mitchell’s 3-foot pink Barbie fishing rod is getting hits by large fish right after [her father] casts it instead of catching them on his professional man fishing rod?” Well, that’s fishing!

The members of St. Thomas’ in Huntsville cordially invite everyone to the parish’s Lobsterfest on November 8. The annual event raises funds for the annual medical mission to Honduras and Habitat for Humanity. Please call 256/880-0248 or e-mail lobster@stthomashuntsville.org to place advance orders.

Go Fish!

What do you get when you invite parents and children to go fishing? A great day of fun! St. John’s in Montgomery hosted its first Parent-Child Gone Fishing Event on Saturday, July 12, at Lanark in Millbrook. Thanks to great weather, a huge pond, an assortment of fishing bait and lures, and different kinds and types of fishing rods, the anglers set out to “catch the big ones!” Everyone caught fish—some of them the largest catfish seen in a long time. The best statement of the day came from Michael Clark when he was heard asking, “Why is it that Anna Mitchell’s 3-foot pink Barbie fishing rod is getting hits by large fish right after [her father] casts it instead of catching them on his professional man fishing rod?” Well, that’s fishing!

The members of St. Thomas’ in Huntsville cordially invite everyone to the parish’s Lobsterfest on November 8. The annual event raises funds for the annual medical mission to Honduras and Habitat for Humanity. Please call 256/880-0248 or e-mail lobster@stthomashuntsville.org to place advance orders.

Go Fish!

What do you get when you invite parents and children to go fishing? A great day of fun! St. John’s in Montgomery hosted its first Parent-Child Gone Fishing Event on Saturday, July 12, at Lanark in Millbrook. Thanks to great weather, a huge pond, an assortment of fishing bait and lures, and different kinds and types of fishing rods, the anglers set out to “catch the big ones!” Everyone caught fish—some of them the largest catfish seen in a long time. The best statement of the day came from Michael Clark when he was heard asking, “Why is it that Anna Mitchell’s 3-foot pink Barbie fishing rod is getting hits by large fish right after [her father] casts it instead of catching them on his professional man fishing rod?” Well, that’s fishing!