The Alabama Episcopalian
January - February 2011

This issue highlights the key role campus ministry has continued to play in serving college students throughout our diocese since 1919, when one of the Episcopal Church’s first “student inquiry stations” was established at St. Dunstan’s in Auburn. Continuing St. Dunstan’s 90-year legacy as the Episcopal Church at Auburn University, the Rev. Dr. Wells Warren, chaplain and rector of the worshipping community, is guiding students in experiencing personal and spiritual growth by serving others both on and off campus. Please see “Campus Ministry in the Diocese of Alabama” on page 12 and “Serving in the Year of Mission—St. Dunstan’s Commitment to Alabama Rural Ministries” on page 16.

The Rev. Michael Rich and the Rev. Deacon Stan Easton, the Episcopal chaplains at Jacksonville State University, are also helping students learn more about themselves by reaching out to others through a variety of hands-on projects. In the past few years they have done everything from mucking out and repairing hurricane-ravaged houses to packaging rice and other staples to be distributed through a local area food ministry. Please see “Experiencing Purpose and Meaning While Serving Others” on page 17.

The Rev. Linston Garfield, rector of St. Andrew’s in Tuskegee, and the members of his parish are continuing their church’s 60-year history of serving the students and faculty of historic Tuskegee University by sharing their parish life and providing welcome holiday meals and quiet places to study. Please see “Sharing Our Christian Faith and Life” on page 15.

Rector and Chaplain Marc Burnette and the members of Canterbury Chapel in Tuscaloosa initiated a new program this year to bring University of Alabama students of all faiths together for a meal and discussions. Gathering around a common table has provided a unique opportunity for respectful interfaith dialogue. Please see “God and Grits at Canterbury Chapel” on page 13.

Chaplain William “Bill” Blackerby Jr. and student leaders at Trinity Commons at the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) planned a retreat at Camp McDowell to provide some time away from studies to develop stronger relationships through a variety of shared experiences. Please see “Stories, Stars, and Spaghetti—Nurturing Community at Trinity Commons” on page 14.

Rector and Chaplain John Wesley and the members of St. Andrew’s in Montevallo are delighted that their newly completed Canterbury House is providing a “home” where University of Montevallo students can find community and participate in the life of the parish. Please see “All Are Welcome at Canterbury House” on page 15.

Bishop Sloan describes campus ministry as “throwing seeds” (please see page 4). “In all the ways you do it, with all the plans and programs and dinners and lunches and conversations and guidance and sitting with the next generation in their most joyful and most tragic moments—just keep throwing the seeds out there. The seeds you’re throwing are nothing less than the love of God, in the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. And you will not run out.”

In “Happiness” on page 3 Bishop Parsley explores our natural “quest” to be “outrageously happy.” Noting that happiness tends to be short-lived and leaves us wanting more, he suggests that it is helpful “to make a distinction between joy and happiness.” He also reminds us “that joy is at the heart of our faith. It is always at hand. Kiss it as it flies. This is God’s invitation to our quest to be ‘outrageously happy.’ Noting that happiness tends to be short-lived and leaves us wanting more, he suggests that it is helpful “to make a distinction between joy and happiness.” He also reminds us of the “Gathering of Knowledge” (which includes a computer and a microscope), and a larger student gathering. Another window, also created by Lamb Studios and installed at the same time, parallels the University Window in both location near the altar and theme.

The Biblical Window features angels with musical instruments, the young Jesus teaching in the Temple, the Feeding of the Five Thousand, and Jesus enthroned and surrounded by the Gospel Tetramorph (four traditional angel-winged creatures). In the initial correspondence between the Rev. Jim Woodson and Lamb Studios about the design of the two windows, the overall themes were designated as “Way-Truth-Life—University Life” and “I Am the Light of the World—Biblical.”

Search/Nomination and Transition Committees Hard at Work

Since the close of nominations in October, the Search/Nominating Committee for the election of the 11th Bishop of Alabama has been working hard and prayerfully to identify a slate of candidates. “The process is going very well, and we have identified a rich pool of diverse candidates that we are very excited about,” reported Dr. Drew Clark, Search Committee chair. “We are confident that we will fulfill our charge by presenting a slate of excellent candidates. We have a gifted group of candidates who are united in their passion for ministry and commitment to the Episcopal Church,” Clark said.

The committee began by reviewing the paper credentials of all of the candidates including resumes, letters of support, and the candidates’ answers to a series of essay questions. “We met in October to screen forward a number of candidates from the original group,” said Clark.

In November, the committee broke into three sub-teams and conducted in-depth telephone interviews with the candidates. The committee as a whole met again on December 4 to review the results of the interviews and identify a more manageable list of candidates who will be visited for face-to-face interviews/discussions in January and February.

“The process calls for our best diligence,” said Clark, “but our interactions with the nominees and with one another have felt like occasions of joyful discernment and spiritual growth. It’s definitely a job, but it doesn’t feel like work.”

The committee is scheduled to announce a slate of candidates on April 25, 2011. Meanwhile, the Transition Committee has been working to plan the walkabout, election, and consecration, according to Alleen Cater, Transition Committee chair.

The walkabout is scheduled for June 25 at St. Luke’s in Birmingham. “While open to everyone in the diocese, the walkabout provides an opportunity for elected convention delegates to see and hear each of the candidates,” said Cater. Delegates will have an opportunity to submit questions in writing, which will be submitted to the candidates as they proceed from one room/group to another.

The election is scheduled for July 16, and the consecration is planned for January 7, 2012. Both of these events will be held at the Cathedral Church of the Advent in Birmingham.

Our diocesan Standing Committee has asked all parishioners to join in the work of the committees through individual and corporate prayer. “We would like to remind parishes to continue to include the process in their weekly prayers of the people,” said the Rev. Alison Carmody, Standing Committee president. The Standing Committee wrote and offers the following prayer for use:

Prayer for the Election of a Bishop

Almighty God, Send down upon your Church and the Diocese of Alabama the comfort of your Holy Spirit, that this same spirit may lead us in this time of transition. Guide us as we seek your wisdom, so that we may choose a bishop who will walk in your ways, and share our hearts with you, that in all that we do we may glorify your name. We pray this through your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

On the Cover

Lamb Studios in Philmont, New York, created the University Window for Canterbury Chapel in 1992. Donald Simick, the proprietor of the company, which was established in 1857 and is the oldest continually operating stained-glass studio in the United States, designed the background, and artist Hendrick J. VandeBurg designed the vignettes in close consultation with then-Rector and Chaplain Jim Woodson.

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Happiness

Much is being written at the moment about happiness. I understand that some 4,000 academic papers on the subject have been published in the past decade. All address in one way or another the great question: What does it mean to be happy? What are the elements of a happy life? What is the “art” of happiness?


He speaks for all of us. We all want to be “outrageously happy.” It is a quest built into our being. The problem is “how?” We see millions of messages throughout our lives that promise to do it for us—Coca-Cola, Lexus, the perfect home, the right self-help book, the finest tailored suit, or dress, a fabulous trip, or a fat 401k. All of them promise something else to make me smile. But when the cake is gone, I quickly need something else to make me smile.

Joy, on the other hand, comes from a deeper level in our being. It does not necessarily depend on a stimulus. It remains with a person in both good and bad times. Happiness glitters on the surfaces of life like light on a lake, but joy comes from the depths.

Happiness is a good thing, as far as it goes. Since it never fully satisfies, however, the constant quest for it can make us narcissistic and self-indulgent. Joy is better. We cannot create or possess it. It is always a gift we receive. William Blake wrote:

He who binds to himself a joy
Does the winged life destroy.

There are no secrets to joy, to living a joyful life. I have always found it helpful to make a distinction between joy and happiness. It is a subtle distinction perhaps, but very important. Our Lord did not exactly promise pure happiness, but he did say emphatically that he wanted “my joy to be in you and your joy to be full.”

What makes us most joyful is thinking of the other way by day all of the world’s messages tell us that having is the way to a fulfilled life. “The one with the most toys wins”—it is not true.

What makes us most joyful is thinking of the other and giving for the other, not dwelling on ourselves. The one turns us inward; the other turns us outward. Outward is always the way to joy. The good of the whole, not just my individual good, brings joy. “It is in giving that we receive,” prayed Francis of Assisi. There are few more eloquent prayers. Finally, and most fundamentally I believe, is the reality that true joy always comes from God and from loving God. In spite of all the world’s delights and promises, nothing can fill the deepest place in our hearts except the love of God. We can pursue worldly happiness in innumerable ways and places, but none satisfies our soul.

Augustine of Hippo wisely wrote, “We were made for thee, O Lord, and our hearts are restless until they rest in thee.” When we abandon our pride and self-centeredness and fall to our knees in adoration before our maker and redeemer, then we glimpse the joy that is God and the love that is eternal. In the end, this is what our soul seeks. The vision of God alone can make us “outrageously happy.”

I am sure that you know secrets to joy that I have yet to learn. Let me know what you think. More importantly share your insights with each other for as the saying goes, joy not shared dies young.

Meanwhile remember that joy is at the heart of our faith. It is always at hand. Kiss it as it flies.

Live it. Don’t keep it to yourself.

Your servant in Christ,

Hello friends,

When I was the chaplain at Ole Miss, I was invited to serve the Diocese of Mississippi on the search committee for the next bishop. It was quite an honor; it was a whole lot of difficult work; it was exciting and tiring; I was happy to do it—and glad when it was over.

The night before the nominees were to meet with the delegates and other people (it’s called the “walkabout” now—back then we called it the “dog and pony show”) they were asked to come to a short meeting with the whole committee. Then Miss Tina and I were to take one of the nominees out to dinner at a local restaurant. It shouldn’t have been a surprise, but the meeting went on and on, and by the time it finally ended and the nominee I’d been assigned and I went to collect our spouses and spent a few minutes being lost in Columbus (because somebody knew a shortcut), and we finally got to the restaurant where I’d made reservations, that restaurant was in the process of closing.

While we were discussing that situation, another nominee and spouse attended by their dutiful but flustered companion and spouse came up—they’d come to the same restaurant we were hoping for and then tried the eatery across the street but had accurately assessed it as a dive. And then two more sets of nominees, attendants, and spouses arrived; they’d gotten even more lost than we had!

So it happened that we wound up eating at Denny’s, which we were assured was the only place that was both acceptable and still open. Some of the attendants and a few of the spouses thought they’d do better at the motel, but the rest of us embraced the adventure, and making the best of things, we pushed several tables together and called ourselves “a party of eleven.” The members of the committee served as impromptu waiters and took orders from extensive but imaginary menus, returning with cheeseburgers and fries for everybody.

It was a relaxed evening after all of that, and the conversation was lively. The nominees wanted to know all about the diocese, and we all wanted the inside scoop on the nominees and their spouses. At some point in the evening, one of the nominees said, “So Kee, how are you doing with campus ministry?”

“Well, to be honest,” I said, “I don’t really know.” He asked what I meant, and I told him that one of my frustrations was that it was hard to know how things were going. Sometimes I worked really hard with my group of students to put together what seemed like it would be an engaging program and lined up people to provide a great dinner for all the people who would surely respond to some sort of publicity—and 20 students would show up; other times we planned to have hot dogs and chips and just sit around and chat—and 60 students would come. It had more to do with which fraternity was having a party and which band was playing at one of the clubs downtown and when midterm exams were scheduled than any of my designs or the liturgical season.

He listened patiently until I ran out of steam and nodded his understanding. Then he reminded me that he’d been a college chaplain years before and knew exactly what I was talking about. He said, “You know your job is to plant seeds, right? Somebody else will water the seeds, others will fertilize them, and God will bring about the growth. Just throw the seeds out there.” It seemed too simple, and I started to mount an objection but didn’t know where I was going with it when he concluded, “The seeds you’re planting are an invitation to the love of God through Jesus Christ. You’re not going to run out of seeds—just keep throwing them out there.”

That’s mostly all I know about college ministry. Oh I know a little about programs that worked and a little more about other programs that didn’t. I know even the most wonderful speaker or program doesn’t have a chance if the SAEs or the Chi-Os are having a party at the same time. I know that in some college towns the difference between religion and football is that people are really serious about football. But the most important thing I know, the only really important thing I know about college ministry is that we are there to throw out the seeds of the love of God.

So what I really want to do here is to thank our college chaplains, present and past, and all the students and members of parishes in our college towns for your good and valuable work. In all the ways you do it, with all the plans and programs and dinners and lunches and conversations and guidance and sitting with the next generation in their most joyful and most tragic moments—just keep throwing the seeds out there. The seeds you’re throwing are nothing less than the love of God, in the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. And you will not run out.
Year in Review—Our Diocese Responds to the Ongoing Haiti Disaster

By the Rev. Deacon Dave Drachlis, Our Companion Diocese Commission Cochair

In 2010 a deadly earthquake, a hurricane, a cholera epidemic, and political unrest brought a deep darkness to the long struggling nation and people of Haiti. Responding in the spirit of Christian love and with a sense of mission, the people of our diocese worked to bring the light of hope—the light of Christ—into that darkness through their prayers, time, and resources.

Within days of the January 12 earthquake, emergency relief funds were on the way to the Diocese of Haiti and the six-church St. Simeon Parish, with which our diocese is partnered in a companion relationship, for use in meeting the immediate needs of survivors. In the weeks and months that followed, contributions from parishes, organizations and individuals enabled our diocese to provide funds to clear debris from schools and churches destroyed by the quake and build temporary structures, pay salaries to keep teachers on staff, purchase much-needed medications, and hire additional Haitian medical personnel to staff clinics that were turning away patients because of a lack of staff and medicines.

“[It continues to be heartening to see the response of our diocese to the many needs of our dear friends in Haiti],” says Bishop Parsley. “[Their faith and courage is extraordinary, and our generosity is helping them move from rubble to reconstruction.]”

Our diocese and parishes fielded six medical missions in 2010 to deliver medical supplies and equipment and provide primary healthcare. The first mission traveled to Haiti within weeks of the quake at the invitation of Haiti’s bishop to provide medical care in a tent city in downtown Port-au-Prince and other locations where the Diocese of Haiti was caring for some 23,000 earthquake refugees.

When the Diocese of Haiti could no longer pay its priests due to the loss of its revenue-generating infrastructure, contributions from Alabama parishioners enabled the diocese to support Father Fritz Valdema (Pere Val), the priest-in-charge of St. Simeon Parish.

Our diocese entered the fight against cholera by helping fund a prevention and treatment program operated by Pere Val’s wife, Carmel, who is a public health nurse.

Throughout the year our diocese continued to support its ongoing ministries as well as initiate new ones. In October our clergy spouses inaugurated their “Krik? Krak!” program to provide lunches to schoolchildren in the remote village of Crochu.

In addition, thanks to contributions and a United Thank Offering (UTO) grant, construction began on a church and school at Crochu to replace the structure that was destroyed by the 2008 hurricanes. Our diocese has also continued to support the nutrition program for significantly malnourished children in Haiti and began construction on the long-awaited water project to bring safe drinking water to St. Michael’s school in the village of Thomazeau. Construction also continued on the permanent home for Lespwa Timoun (Hope for the Children) nutrition and medical clinic in Croix des Bouquets, which is operated by Carmel Valdema.

As the new year began, two additional medical teams were scheduled to work in Haiti in January and February as our diocese continues to live into the fifth year of its companion diocese relationship with the Diocese of Haiti. “Haiti’s journey will be long and difficult, but we will journey together. And as the Haitian proverb ‘Anpil men chay pa lou’ implies: ‘With many hands the load isn’t as heavy,’” notes Bishop Parsley.
Our 180th Annual Diocesan Convention
February 11-12 at St. Luke’s in Birmingham

“We will meet in the 180th Annual Convention of the Diocese of Alabama to renew our life together and invigorate our ministry and mission as God’s people,” notes Bishop Parsley. “May our gracious Lord bless and guide us as we prepare for this important convention and in all that we do together in God’s loving and faithful service.”

The Rev. Richmond Webster, rector of St. Luke’s in Birmingham, and convention cochairs Cheryl Mayer and Karla Grieber extend a warm welcome to all the lay and clergy delegates and guests as they prepare to gather for the two-day/one-night convention. Registration will begin at 8:30 a.m. on Friday, February 11, followed by Business Session I at 10 a.m., the Festival Holy Eucharist at 11:30 a.m., and lunch. Friday afternoon’s schedule includes Ministry Reports, Business Session II, resolution committee meetings, and Bishop Parsley’s Address. The convention will continue at 8 a.m. on Saturday with Caucus Elections, Morning Prayer, Business Session III, Bishop Sloan’s Address, Resolution Debate and Vote, Noon Day Prayer, Elections, Business Session IV, and Closing Prayers.

The Rt. Rev. Edwin Gulick, the 7th Bishop of Kentucky (retired), will serve as the preacher for Friday’s Eucharist. He will also offer two meditations on Saturday on the convention theme “Gospel Hospitality.”

The delegates will elect members to our Diocesan Council, Standing Committee, and Disciplinary Board (formerly the Ecclesiastical Court) as well as Deputies to General Convention (please see page 7). They will also vote on a wide variety of proposed resolutions including our 2011 diocesan budget. In addition the delegates will return to St. Luke’s on June 25 for a day of conversation with the nominees for the 11th Bishop of Alabama, and they will reconvene at the Advent in Birmingham on July 16 to elect our new bishop. For more information, please visit www.dioala.org.

2011 Diocesan Budget Highlights
By the Rev. Rob Morpeth, Our Deputy for Finance and Administration

Following the Alabama Plan, our diocese seeks to allocate the resources for ministry made available through our parishes based on parish covenants reported in January. At the time this document was prepared, a majority of the parish covenants had been received. The trend in the covenants is for income to support this year’s plan for ministry to be approximately the same as in 2010. Using these figures, our Diocesan Council conservatively estimated the total income from parish covenants (99 percent of the funds available to support the budget).

The council was able to include all the requests from our various diocesan departments and commissions as presented in their fall budget meetings. This was possible, even though the budget is slightly lower than in 2010, because of savings from the reduction in the formula for calculating our support of the program and ministry of the General Convention. This 1 percent reduction was adopted by the last General Convention and became effective this year. An earlier decision not to replace our Montgomery-area campus chaplain also contributed to the funds available to support other work in our diocese.

This year’s budget also benefited from an agreement we struck in 2009 with the Episcopal Medical Trust to hold premiums for medical benefits steady in 2010 and 2011. Intended to help our parishes hold the line on medical benefit costs during the economic downturn, this agreement resulted in no increase in benefit costs in 2011. In addition this year’s budget proposes no cost-of-living adjustment and no raises for our college chaplains and Carpenter House staff. The budget does include compensation for the bishop-elect anticipating that this person will join our diocesan staff in December, one month before consecration as the 11th diocesan Bishop of Alabama. The council noted that there had already been reductions in our diocesan staff. The council committed itself to review our overall financial status midyear with the intent of implementing raises if funds were available.

The budget proposes increases for “The People and Their Ministries,” including youth ministry, Christian formation, spirituality, and young adults. Funding for “Parish Development and Evangelism” and “Lay and Ordained Leadership Development” also increased. Funding for “Mission and Outreach” fell primarily because of the reduction in the “asking” for the General Convention program and budget. Increases for “Administration” allow for increases in insurance, utilities, and software costs. The reduction in “Communications” reflects a decision to distribute the 2011 diocesan Journal and Directory on CD. The budget continues to draw resources from our ACTS2 Campaign (“Communications” and “Hispanic Ministry”), “Sawyerville Project” (“Director’s Compensation”), and the trust and designated funds (“Sawyerville,” “Parish Development and Evangelism,” “Youth Mission,” and “Support of the Episcopate”).
Nominees for Office

The following nominations were received as of January 14.

DIOCESAN COUNCIL (3-year term)

Lay Order

NORTHERN DISTRICT

Bingham Edwards
St. John’s in Decatur
• Vestry member
• Church school teacher
• Cursillo Secretariat member
• Cursillo lay rector

MIDDLE DISTRICT

Rip Britton
St. Stephen’s in Birmingham
• Department of Camp McDowell chair and former member
• Senior warden
• Vestry member
• Parish father/son and men’s retreats committee member

SOUTHERN DISTRICT

No Nominees

STANDING COMMITTEE AT LARGE

Lay Order

No nominees

Clergy Order

No nominees

DISCIPLINARY BOARD AT LARGE

Lay Order

No nominees

Clergy Order

No nominees

DEPUTIES TO GENERAL CONVENTION

I District Nominees

Lay Order

NORTHERN DISTRICT

Barbara Meyer
St. Thomas’ in Huntsville
• Parish outreach mission trip to Honduras
• Parish finance and administration
• Parish inreach
• Choir member

Rusty Stephenson
The Nativity in Huntsville
• Vestry member
• Parish stewardship and finance
• Bishop search committee member
• Lay reader
• Lay Eucharistic Minister
• Acolyte master
• Cursillo

MIDDLE DISTRICT

Virginia Hillhouse
St. Stephen’s in Birmingham
• Deputy to General Convention (2009)
• Commission on Ministry member
• Former senior warden
• Vestry member
• EFM graduate and mentor
• Parish volunteer

SOUTHERN DISTRICT

Ernest Edgar
Holy Trinity in Auburn
• Alternate Deputy to General Convention (2009)
• Delegate to diocesan convention
• Senior warden
• Vestry member
• Lay reader
• Lay Eucharistic Minister

II District Nominees

Cecil Williamson
Trinity in Demopolis
• Deputy and Alternate to General Convention (5 times)
• Diocesan Cursillo Ulucrea coordinator and Secretariat member
• Director of the Wellspring Center for Spirituality
• Lay reader

Clergy Order

NORTHERN DISTRICT

The Rev. Dr. Andy Anderson
Nativity in Huntsville
Rector
• Alternate Deputy to General Convention (2006)
• Representative to General Convention for the University of the South
• Diocesan Finance Committee member and trustee
• Executive Council former member in the Diocese of Atlanta

The Rev. Susan Sloan
St. Stephen’s in Huntsville
Rector
• Bishop search committee member
• Standing Committee president and member
• Former Diocesan Council member
• The University of the South trustee

MIDDLE DISTRICT

The Rev. John Mark Ford
St. Catherine’s in Chelsea
Rector
• Deputy to General Convention (2009)
• Founding rector of St. Catherine’s parish
• Department of Parish Development and Evangelism member
• Task Force for Stewardship of Creation member

SOUTHERN DISTRICT

The Rev. John David Barnes
Trinity in Demopolis
Rector
• Diocesan Council member
• Commission on Spirituality member
• Sawyerville staff member
• Kairos prison ministry

The Rev. Evan Garner
St. John’s in Montgomery
Associate Rector
• Bishop transition committee member
• Department of Ministry and Higher Education member
• Youth Department chaplain

III At Large Nominees

Lay Order

Marcellus Smith
St. Mark’s in Birmingham
• Deputy to General Convention (4 times)
• Episcopal Church Standing Commission on Constitution & Canons secretary
• Bishop search committee member
• Commission on Ministry member

Clergy Order

The Rev. John Fritschner
Holy Trinity in Auburn
Rector
• Deputy to General Convention (3 times)
• Standing Committee member
• Commission on Ministry former member
• Cursillo spiritual director
Register Now for Summer Camp!

By Susanna Whitsett, Summer Camp Coordinator

Applications are online now for the BEST SUMMER EVER at Camp McDowell! Camp sessions tend to fill up quickly, so please register early for an experience of worship, work, and play that will last a lifetime. Children entering 1st through 3rd grades may attend with one adult—what a great way to introduce your child, relative, or special friend to camp!

Make your plans now for a wonderful, wonderful camp experience this summer! For more information about each session listed below and an application, please visit www.campmcdowell.com, check with your parish office, or call Camp McDowell at 205/387-1806.

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<td>May 27-29</td>
<td>Primary I Camp</td>
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<td>June 6-15</td>
<td>Senior Camp</td>
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<td>July 22-29</td>
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Camp McDowell 2011 Camp Schedule

Alabama Folk School Offers “Retreats” for Adults

By Danielle Dunbar, Camp McDowell Staff Member

The Alabama Folk School continues to welcome adults from far and wide to participate in our retreat programs. During a stay with us, you can “recharge” by having time away from your daily responsibilities to do things you want to do, enjoy the woodland trails, look up in wonder at the stars, and/or just sit in a rocking chair on a cabin porch. As a bonus you can take classes with our expert instructors and perhaps go home with a new hobby.

In many ways the Alabama Folk School provides year-round “summer camp” for adults. You will meet new people, reconnect with old friends, hear great music, and feel at peace with the world. Join us soon for your retreat!

Our upcoming classes include:

April 4-7

- **Gee’s Bend Quilters** taught by Mary Ann and China Pettway
- **Illustrated Travel Journal in Pencil & Watercolor** taught by Marilynn Brandenburger
- **Beginning Banjo** taught by Herb Trotman
- **Intermediate/Advanced Banjo** taught by Alan Munde
- **Beginning Mandolin** taught by Jason Bailey
- **Intermediate/Advanced Mandolin** taught by Roland White

For more information about the Alabama Folk School and upcoming classes, please contact me at danielle@campmcdowell.com or 205/387-1806, or visit www.campmcdowell.com/folkschool.
Come to “God’s Backyard” at Camp McDowell!

By Susanna Whitsett, Summer Camp Coordinator

Spring and summer are not too far away... how do you plan to spend yours? We hope you want to spend some time in “God’s Backyard” at Camp McDowell!

There are many ways to experience worship, work, and play in the context of Christian community in the splendor of God’s Backyard. I invite you to prayerfully consider how your life might be enriched by spending time and sharing your gifts of time, energy, and talent at camp this spring and summer!

For more information about any of the following opportunities, please visit Camp McDowell’s Web site, www.campmcdowell.com, or contact me at susanna@campmcdowell.com or 205/387-1806.

Father/Son Retreat, February 18-20
For fathers, sons, brothers, grandfathers, grandsons, nephews, godfathers, special friends... you get the picture! Come get away and have some fun in the woods, the canoe, and in front of the campfire while enjoying the fellowship that happens particularly at camp.

Volunteer
Volunteers—both adult and high-school seniors—are invited, needed, and appreciated at Summer Camp sessions! Serving as a CIT (counselor in training) or volunteer staff member (assisting with program and/or activities and music) brings many rewards and a few challenges. Room and board are included, as well as free entertainment and lots of hugs.

2011 Summer Camp Staff
Applications are being accepted through the beginning of February for one of the toughest jobs you will ever love. Approximately 25 college students and adults will be selected to serve as leaders and caregivers to almost 1,500 children and youth as a member of the 2011 Summer Staff. Job descriptions and applications are available at www.campmcdowell.com. Staff Training Weekend is April 1-3.

The Rev. Doug Carpenter Reflects on Working at Camp McDowell

Thanks for noticing in the picture of the work boys and the camp truck what good shape we got in working for Scott Eppes—building the water tank, digging all the pipe lines, working in the hay field, putting in all those fence posts, doing construction work, etc. etc. Albert Brame became tough enough to be Auburn’s best first-string guard, playing offense and defense while weighing less than 190 pounds; he later had a distinguished career in the Air Force. Carol Smith became one of the youngest admirals in the Navy; Chuck Carpenter became the youngest professor of medicine at Johns Hopkins and one of the world’s best infectious disease doctors, still working full-time at age 80. Jim Shelburne has recently retired as a doctor in California.

Scott Eppes taught us a lot more than how to work hard physically. We all owe much to that amazing man. I truly believe that working those nine summers at Camp McDowell, from age 14 to 22, was much more important to me in every way than my Princeton University education. And after a few years we even started getting paid a little bit! My first check was the summer I was 17—I was paid $75, and I used $65 of it to buy a typewriter that lasted for more than 30 years.
CCC Was a HUGE Success!

By Betsy Cobb, Youth Department Member

Christmas Conference at Camp McDowell (CCC) was a huge success! More than 189 people gathered on December 28-30 to enjoy the chilly days of Christmas in community. We give a big thank you to all the college and adult staff, the Youth Department committee, the program directors, music directors, and especially all the high-school youth who attended. We definitely want to thank Fran McKendree, who was “Frantastic” as everybody said, for joining us as program and music director. The Rev. Jeremy Lucas and Thomas Kozak also helped with the program this year. This conference would not have been possible without these special people.

I asked some of the participants what they thought or enjoyed most about Christmas Conference, and this is what they said:

“I like Christmas Conference because it’s God’s way of saying Merry Christmas to all of the crazy children in the Diocese of Alabama.”
—Rich Bailey

“It’s a very meaningful experience that allows us to share our spirituality with others and learn more about our faith.”
—Andrew Rains

“CCC was so much fun. At first it was a little intimidating not knowing too many of the older campers and it also being my first real Youth Department (YD) event, but everyone was really welcoming, and after the first night I felt like I was welcomed into the family. I really love all of the YD people and think they planned a really great event. I can’t wait to come to lots more YD things so I can get to know everyone better. It was definitely the highlight of my break!”
—Margaret Blackerby

“It is a meeting of the Jesus fan club.”
—Alice Whatley

Another Fun Weekend at Camp McDowell

Spring Break Conference, March 18-20

By Betsy Cobb, Youth Department Member

Spring Break Conference is March 18-20 for all 9th-12th grade students in our diocese, and we’re looking forward to seeing ALL of you there!

This year the conference falls over a weekend due to the fact that it is not everybody’s Spring Break. Therefore there is no excuse not to join us for another awesome, fun weekend at wonderful, wonderful Camp McDowell!

The theme for this year’s conference is “The Reset Button: Being Made New.” Since spring is a great time to talk about renewals, we decided to focus on what it means to “be made new” through Baptism and our Christian faith. Our program director is the Rev. Stephen Hood, rector of the Ascension in Birmingham (Vestavia Hills). In addition to the program sessions, we will have skits, music, hikes, ultimate Frisbee, canoeing, and so much more!

For more information and to sign up, please visit our Youth page at http://www.dioala.org/ministries/youth.html or contact Leslie Manning at lmanning@dioala.org, alabamayouth@gmail.com, or 205/715-2060 ext. 325.
Sawyerville Day Camp—It’s On Now!

Session I: June 17–June 25 and
Session II: July 6–July 14

Compiled by Leslie Manning, Our Diocesan Youth Ministries Coordinator

If you’d like to be a part of the staff experience, please visit the Sawyerville Web site, www.sawyerville.org, and click on the Staff Information link to complete the online application. Please take a few moments to fill out some basic information, let the staff registrar know when you are available, and prayerfully answer some questions. For more information please contact Crystal Jones, staff registrar, at sawyervillestaff@gmail.com.

The deadline to apply for staff is April 1. Apply now and join us in making our 18th year a great one. Remember, it is all for the kids!

*If you’re not quite old enough or can’t commit to an entire week of being at a camp session, check out some of these other volunteer opportunities and ways you can help support Sawyerville Day Camp!*

- Volunteer to be a prayer partner for the week.
- Host a supply drive at your church or place of work to collect items that are given to the campers at registration (bathing suits, goggles, books, pool towels, etc.). Please e-mail Memily Colvin at memily.colvin@gmail.com for more information.
- Prepare a meal for the staff. To get on the list, please e-mail Evelyn Pritchard at esp0921@aol.com.
- Request a presentation for your youth group or other church group to raise awareness about the Sawyerville Day Camp and its programs!
- Support a camper’s week at the pool—$10.
- Help offset a staff member’s meals—$45.
- Pay for 3 campers’ lunches for the entire camp—$75.
- Send 10 campers on the annual field trip—$200.
- Sponsor a camper for 1 week—$110.
- Sponsor a 2-day HIV/AIDS Awareness workshop for staff and campers—$500.
- Sponsor a Drumming Workshop—$850.
- Sponsor the Carnival—$2,000.

*Thanks for volunteering!*
Campus Ministry in
The Diocese of Alabama

FEED THEM AND THEY WILL COME
By the Rev. Michael Rich, Chair of Our Diocesan Department of Ministry in Higher Education

As they say in campus ministry, feed them and they will come. And they do come, all around our diocese—not just for food, but for worship and fellowship and Christian outreach too.

Late-night Eucharist at Canterbury Chapel in Tuscaloosa Coffee shop theology at the University of North Alabama in Florence. A beach retreat sponsored by St. Dunstan’s in Auburn. And everywhere you look, there is food—free and bountiful meals for students.

Campus ministry has helped define mission in our diocese for almost a century. Its varied forms reflect the diversity and especially the potential of our Episcopal Church.

On many campuses, Episcopal ministries are called Canterbury Club—though it’s more than a club of like-minded Episcopalians. Campus ministry is missional, often giving nonreligious students a taste of Christian life. Because of the open and often rollicking conversations about theology, disgruntled Christians regularly find “a path back home” in Episcopal campus ministries.

Campus ministries are often called “student ministries”—though they’re for more than just students. The schools’ faculty and staff also participate. They can be powerful supporters of campus ministries, and they often turn to chaplains and the church for support themselves.

One of the most important roles of campus ministry lies in offering leadership opportunities for young adults, which is why our diocesan Department of Ministry in Higher Education has sponsored Vocare weekends for the last few decades. Vocare—Latin for “call”—shares elements of Cursillo and Happening and emphasizes personal discernment in life, career, and ministry. Vocare weekends are run entirely by young adults, most of whom have participated in campus ministries (for more about Vocare please contact this year’s lay rector, Margaret Warren, at warrema@gmail.com).

Who Are We?
Our diocese has long been a leader in campus ministry in the broader Church as well, with several chaplains having served as the Province IV campus ministry coordinator. In addition our diocese hosts an annual Fall College Conference at Camp McDowell that draws participants from around the Southeast (for more information please contact me at revmichaelrich@gmail.com).

The three largest campus ministry centers in our diocese—St. Dunstan’s in Auburn, Trinity Commons in Birmingham, and Canterbury Chapel in Tuscaloosa—are led by full-time chaplains. These are residential facilities and offer housing plus gathering places for students, who by tradition are called “church mice.”

St. Dunstan’s, the Episcopal Church at Auburn University, sits just a few doors down from Toomer’s Corner, the crossroads where the campus and town meet. The Rev. Dr. Wells Warren serves as both priest and chaplain of this historic campus ministry, which is recognized as a worshipping community. Established in 1919 as one of our national Church’s first “student inquiry stations,” St. Dunstan’s can be considered the mother chapel of our diocese. Its first chaplain was the Rev. William McDowell, who later became the 5th Bishop of Alabama. (Please see “Serving in the Year of Mission—St. Dunstan’s Commitment to Alabama Rural Ministries” on page 16)

Trinity Commons in Birmingham, which shares a city block with St. Andrew’s just off the UAB (University of Alabama at Birmingham) campus, has a ministry to UAB students as well as those at Birmingham-Southern College and Samford University. The Rev. Bill Blackerby Jr. serves as the chaplain. (Please see “Stories, Stars, and Spaghetti—the Nurturing Community at Trinity Commons” page 14.)

Canterbury Chapel in Tuscaloosa is both a parish and student ministry housed in a set of buildings in the heart of the University of Alabama campus. The Rev. Marc Burnette serves as both rector and chaplain. (Please see “God and Grits at Canterbury Chapel” on page 13.)

Smaller but no less vibrant campus ministries reach out to students in Florence, Jacksonville, Marion, Monte vallo, and Tuskegee.

One of the best-kept secrets in our diocese is the campus ministry led by the Rev. Dan Thornton, rector of St. Wilfrid’s in Marion. Each week parishioners host home dinners for students from Judson College and Marion Military Institute.

Dr. Callie Plunket-Brewton serves as the lay chaplain of the Canterbury Club at the University of North Alabama in Florence. Supported by local parishes, Canterbury Club hosts gatherings for meals and fellowship on campus and also at a local coffee shop. “Each week we discuss spirituality, politics, and assorted topics guaranteed to blow your mind!” notes Callie.

Canterbury House, the new Episcopal student center at the University of Montevallo, opened its doors to resident church mice this academic year. Built with the support of our diocesan ACTS 2 campaign, the comfortable and welcoming building sits alongside St. Andrew’s just off campus.
It has been a very busy year for all of us at Canterbury Chapel, but perhaps the most important work that our student group undertook this semester was the creation of a discussion series called “Speak Up and Chow Down.” This series came about as a result of a growing feeling on the campus of the University of Alabama that real interfaith dialogue was both needed and desired. “God and Grits” was born out of this spirit of communication.

“God and Grits” turned out to be a true, interfaith dialogue. I do not use the word “dialogue” lightly. We invited members of ALL faith traditions and even those who didn’t have a faith tradition and rejected the belief in a higher power entirely. We sat down to eat a meal together and talked earnestly and candidly about our beliefs and about our perceptions of the beliefs of others in a safe, controlled environment.

The first “Gods and Grits” gathering was not a screaming match, it was not an attempt to evangelize, it was not an attempt to degrade, destroy, or demean other faiths—each person with his or her own fears, anxieties, hopes, and beliefs came to the table with an open mind. We sat down to eat a meal together and talked earnestly and candidly about our beliefs and about our perceptions of the beliefs of others in a safe, controlled environment.

We came together in the spirit of peace, cooperation, and understanding, and God was with us. It was a poignant moment for my hope that there can be real and lasting understanding between all faith traditions.

The Christians demonstrated the love of Christ, the Muslims demonstrated the compassionate and merciful nature of Allah, the Buddhists demonstrated the peace of the path of enlightenment, and the atheists displayed a respect for the human condition that we all share. What happened was more than a simple “getting to know your neighbor” meeting. I feel that we corrected some misconceptions, constructed bridges across deep chasms, and forged new friendships where there had only been suspicion and mistrust before.

Looking back on that night, I realize something very important—in the eyes of God we are all one family. As it is with most families, sometimes we fight, sometimes we argue, and sometimes we downright don’t like each other very much but we are still family. Families, by their very nature, are sometimes messy, but that does not dissolve the bond that we have with each other. The greatest thing about the Kingdom of God is that through Christ’s work of redemption on the cross we are all reconciled to God. If we keep that reconciliation in mind as we go about our daily lives and do our daily work, we can do many things to bring reconciliation to the family of God.
Stories, Stars, and Spaghetti—Nurturing Community at Trinity Commons

By the Rev. William Blackerby Jr., Chaplain

Most Sunday afternoons from 4 to 5:30 p.m., college students Holly Bauer, Emily Collette, and Will Sparks gather around a table in the chaplain’s office at Trinity Commons Episcopal Student Center. At these weekly gatherings, the three interns explore their individual vocations and discuss life at the Commons with me. It was during this time of discernment that the interns decided that one of the things they would like to see happen this academic year is a deepening of relationships among the many students who feel a connection to Trinity Commons.

In some ways Trinity Commons is a community of communities with students coming from UAB (the University of Alabama at Birmingham), Birmingham-Southern College, and Samford University. There are those who worship and eat supper on Sunday evenings, a Wednesday afternoon gathering for tea and conversation called “Episco-tea,” the Thursday lunch crowd, a vast array of students who study and hang out at the Commons day and night, and students who participate in monthly service projects. While there is some overlap among these various groups, the interns felt more could be done to strengthen connections within the larger Trinity Commons community. As the interns and I explored ways to do this, the idea of a weekend retreat emerged.

The retreat began Friday, November 12, when Charles Daniel, Yu Huang, Veerendra (VJ) Jadhav, Kenny and Kirsten Lewis, Hillary Miller, Stephanie Norwood, David Rooney, and Sarah Watts joined the interns and me at Camp McDowell for “Stories, Stars, and Spaghetti.” During the weekend people told stories about turning points in their lives, spoke of things they enjoy, and shared their dreams. Holly helped each person represent his or her past stories, future dreams, and presentment enjoyments on cloth squares, which she will use to create a quilt commemorating the weekend. Following a bonfire on Friday evening, Emily had everybody stretch out on the ball field looking up at the sky as she led a “star liturgy.” After the spoken portion of the worship service, everyone laid silently on the grass gazing at the sparkling nighttime sky that provided a visual “Amen” with a shooting star.

Saturday included a morning program and afternoon canoeing, hiking, napping, and a little studying for a few diligent souls. That evening, one and all helped prepare a great meal of homemade spaghetti, salad, garlic bread, and apple cake. After supper we celebrated a candlelit Holy Eucharist in the chancel of the lower camp chapel. I reminded everyone that each person’s past, present, and future are connected to the Eucharistic meal where Christ’s Presence in the present moment brings us in contact with the Church’s past and anticipates a future heavenly banquet. Throughout the day, Will set the tone by leading the hike, coordinating supper, and arranging the chapel for worship. The day ended with the group sitting around a table in Arts and Crafts sharing stories and laughing a lot, especially about all the armadillos rustling in the leaves outside. The weekend concluded after breakfast Sunday morning.

While all of the gatherings, worship, and monthly service projects at Trinity Commons bring people closer together, there is something wonderful about going off for time away from the demands of school and work. The retreat accomplished its goal: relationships were strengthened through stories, stars, and spaghetti, and through laughter, games, singing, and a sacred meal.

To hear more from students about their experiences at Trinity Commons, please visit www.trinitycommons.org and view the video “Welcome to Trinity Commons.”
All Are Welcome at Canterbury House

By the Rev. John Wesley, Rector and Chaplain

Campus ministry at St. Andrew’s, located adjacent to historic Tuskegee University, is parish based but yet mindful of the opportunity to share aspects of the Christian faith and life as expressed in the Anglican tradition with the university family. We welcome and encourage faculty, staff, and students to be part of our parish life, and many serve as lectors, choir members, acolytes, guild members, ushers, and part of special outreach projects.

Our parish also hosts Thanksgiving Dinner for the band and other students who remain on campus for the holiday and Annual Tuskegee University Sunday featuring the Golden Voices Choir, and we provide a quiet place to study during exam week. I also offer counseling as needed, and I participate in campus events.

The members of St. Andrew’s enjoy the blessings of serving the Tuskegee University family and having them share in our parish life.

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Montevallo is blessed with the newest Canterbury House in our diocese. A residence for six University of Montevallo students and a Campus Ministry Center, Canterbury House attracted community-wide attention last January when we allowed the volunteer fire department to burn down the old Canterbury House as a training exercise. The new building, with its inviting front porch, large commons room inside, six rooms (two completely handicap-accessible), and top-of-the-line electronics continues to elicit “wows” from everyone who sees it for the first time.

The “church mice” currently residing in Canterbury House range from freshmen to seniors with a wide variety of majors including Literature, Psychology, Art, and Music. More than just a place to live, Canterbury is a kind of experiment in Christian community. As Jake Finn, a senior majoring in music, commented, “Everyone is nice. I enjoy coming home to people who don’t stress me out.” Referring to himself as an introvert, he adds that his Canterbury House living experience has given him an opportunity to become more socially comfortable.

Susan Howard notes, “The phrase that comes to mind when I think of the Episcopal Church is ‘All are welcome.’ That is the message that Canterbury House sends to the Montevallo community.”

“The college experience is a little easier when you can come home to a group of people who are going through the same things you are,” Jake adds.

We host our weekly college program night on Wednesdays. We always serve a home-cooked meal, and the programs vary from Eucharist and discussion two nights a month to a movie night and other topical discussions. While student residents are not “required” to participate in the weekly program at Canterbury House or activities at St. Andrew’s, many students do participate.

We are especially grateful for the students’ help with our parish’s new clothing give-away outreach program. We sort donated clothing, and people come on Saturdays to pick out much-welcome clothing for their family. We believe this is really meeting a community need, and the students are especially good at greeting visitors with a friendly smile.

“The college experience is a little easier when you can come home to a group of people who are going through the same things you are.”

A Halloween pumpkin carving party at Canterbury House

Devin Collar studying in the Common Room of the new Canterbury House

The Tuskegee Golden Voices Choir singing at St. Andrew’s during the parish’s recent University Sunday

Sharing Our Christian Faith and Life

By the Rev. Liston A. Garfield, Rector of St. Andrew’s in Tuskegee

The Tuskegee Golden Voices Choir singing at St. Andrew’s during the parish’s recent University Sunday
Serving in the Year of Mission—
St. Dunstan’s Commitment to Alabama Rural Ministries

By Savannah Hein, Student Vice President

Each year the students and friends of St. Dunstan’s, the Episcopal Church at Auburn University, adopt a theme that becomes a major focus of their program activities, sermons, theological conversations, and outreach projects. For the 2010-11 academic year, we selected the theme “The Year of Mission.”

“We have had years of celebration, fellowship, spiritual journey, growth, agape love, and community over the past 10 years,” recalls Chaplain Wells Warren, “but we decided to focus on mission work this year.” Much of the interest came from the mission work of two 2009 graduates—Maegan Collier and Jaime Burchfield. Maegan spent a year in Hong Kong working with women at risk, and Jaime taught English in Beijing. “Their letters home were inspiring and challenging for all of us,” notes Wells. Then we learned about the strategic plan initiative of the Episcopal Church USA to recognize the need “to see campus ministry and young adult ministry as the most important evangelism and mission area there is. It is where our culture is the most dynamic, most committed, most culturally diverse.”

“We began looking for ways to expand our mission work on and off the campus,” Wells adds. In the extreme heat of last summer, Wells and Bob Humphrey, an Education for Ministry (EFM) graduate and longtime friend of St. Dunstan’s, rode 200 miles in the “Bike Across Alabama” to raise awareness and money for Alabama Rural Ministries. Together they received $3,100 in contributions to improve low-income housing in Lee, Macon, and Sumter Counties. “Our students really put the Year of Mission theme to work this fall,” explains Wells. “They were eager to take part in one of Alabama Rural Ministries’ work projects so they selected a local family in need, planned the work, and did it all in one day, October 30.”

In fact 12 students joined with three experienced carpenters among the friends of St. Dunstan’s to construct a handicapped entrance to the home and make much-needed repairs. Conrad Carpenter, Lan Lipscomb, and Anthony Bath provided the supervision and training and were on-site throughout the day to make sure the work was done properly and to specifications. “We were amazed how hard they all worked,” said Lan, who is an English professor and one of St. Dunstan’s facilities advisors. “Megan Chard, our student president, spent three hours operating a nail gun.”

The mission work planned for the rest of 2010-11 includes raising money for Habitat for Humanity in Auburn, reaching out to the LGBT student organization at Auburn University, and sponsoring the 11th year of the Martin Luther King Jr. celebration. This year’s program is entitled “Black Church/White Church/One Church” and highlights the sharing of St. Dunstan’s chapel and facilities with a new African American congregation in Auburn, Cross Roads Community Church (please see “11th Annual MLK Celebration” on page 19).
Experiencing Purpose and Meaning While Serving Others


For the past five years, students from Jacksonville State University (JSU) have headed to the Gulf Coast not for vacation but to work on disaster relief. “Our first mission to the Mississippi coast was seven months after Katrina,” recalls the Rev. Deacon Stan Easton, one of JSU’s Episcopal chaplains. “We saw the devastation left by wind and water and visited with survivors who had lost many of their worldly goods. We helped sort out the ruins of one man’s home—the only home he had ever known, since he had been born in it.”

Stan and I serve as the chaplains of JSU’s Canterbury Club, which is based at St. Luke’s. The first Spring Break trip was a joint effort with JSU’s Methodist Center. Trips in the following years have been to Camp Coast Care and last year to Lutheran Episcopal Services in Mississippi. Ernesto Noguera, a graduate student from Nicaragua studying Emergency Management, has been on four Spring Break trips. “These trips have been so important for me that they have helped me decide on a career helping communities deal with natural disasters. I come from a country that has experienced natural disasters constantly and has not completely recovered from them, so I identified very easily with the people on the Gulf Coast and their frustration,” he explains.

“Tearing down a trailer on the Mississippi Gulf Coast

Ernesto’s reaction to the outreach opportunity is typical of those who have made the trek to the Coast. “For each nail I hammered in, I got back a huge feeling of purpose and meaning,” he emphasizes. “I confess that I felt almost guilty when the people whose houses we were working on tried to thank me because I felt that I was the one who had to thank them for the opportunity I had of feeling part of the human family.”

Stan adds that outreach efforts have a bonus: a strong student community. “The mission trips have been bonding experiences for the members who participated,” he notes. “There’s a closeness that comes from working hard together all day and knowing that the labor was for another—for a cause bigger than ourselves.”

That cohesion translates into more regular participation at Canterbury Club when students return to campus. At its last gathering of the fall semester, more than 20 students had dinner together and watched the movie Amazing Grace. But before the movie started, they packed bags of beans and rice for their newest project, a food ministry in Jacksonville.

How to Reach Us

For more information please contact:

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Birmingham Episcopal Campus Ministries at Trinity Commons at St. Andrew’s in Birmingham
The Rev. Bill Blackerby Jr.
205/320-1500
bill@trinitycommons.org

Canterbury Club at the University of North Alabama in Florence
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256/335-2504
callie.plunket@ptsem.edu

Canterbury Club at St. Luke’s in Jacksonville
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256/282-4458
seaston@mac.com

St. Wilfrid’s in Marion
The Rev. Daniel I. Thornton
334/633-5124
thor2742@bellsouth.net

Canterbury House in Montevallo
The Rev. John Wesley
205/329-3002
jwesley1644@charter.net

Canterbury Chapel in Tuscaloosa
The Rev. Marc Burnette
205/345-9590
canterburymarc@gmail.com

St. Andrew’s in Tuskegee
The Rev. Liston Garfield
334/727-3210
lgarfield@mailcity.com
The first weekend in January each year, our diocesan ECW board holds a retreat at Camp McDowell to plan activities for the year. We recommend that each parish also hold an annual retreat for the parish ECW officers and others. During this time plans can be finalized for the coming year’s events.

The 2011 ECW Calendar/Handbook can be a helpful tool for your parish planning meeting. Page 9 of the calendar/handbook includes a “Checklist for Parish Presidents,” and page 7 lists additional information about ECW activities.

Mentioning the 2011 ECW Calendar/Handbook reminds me that by this time each parish should have received two copies. If your parish has not received your copies, please contact your convocation coordinator.

Birmingham Convocation, Alyce Daniel, 205/854-1522
Black Belt Convocation, Paula Bird, 334/289-3004
Cheaha Convocation, Jane Wood, 256/831-1258
East Alabama Convocation, Joal Jenkins, 334/724-0956
Montgomery Convocation, Mitzi Waldo, 334/324-2354
Mountain Convocation, Joanna Brooks, 256/588-4617
Tennessee Valley Convocation, Joan East, 256/325-1418

Record Keeping

By Lynn Edge Reeves, ECW Publicity Chair

It isn’t always easy to be the record keeper for any group, but that is an important task. This may be a good time for ECWs to make a new year’s resolution to put forth a concerted effort to preserve their documents and memories.

While many people understand the importance of keeping parish records, we often overlook the fact that it is important to maintain the records of parish ECW groups as well. The work of the women of the church is vital to the life of the Episcopal Church in Alabama. Keeping a record of that work is necessary to honor the sacrifice and commitment these women make to their church and the kingdom of Christ.

So much parish history is tied directly to the work of the ECW that it is necessary to keep ECW records in order to have a full understanding of the history of the parishes in Alabama. ECW groups are responsible for annual fundraisers that provide money for kitchen remodelings and new roofs on parish halls. They often serve as the outreach arm of the parish, honoring births, remembering birthdays, and acknowledging deaths. The record of these events in the minutes of ECW groups generates a wealth of information about the life of a church and its members.

So what records should be kept? The most obvious set of records to maintain for long-term use is the minutes of meetings. The minutes should be dated and include a list of everyone in attendance as well as a list of officers. Treasurers’ reports should be filed with the minutes as well as any correspondence such as letters requesting donations and “thank you” notes from parishioners and others in the community. Documents related to any gifts to ECW, monetary or otherwise, should be kept as well. This information not only provides great insight into the history of the parish, but it also helps answer questions and can solve disputes. Make sure the minutes of each meeting are approved and signed by the secretary.

Other items to consider holding onto include photographs, books and ledgers, programs of events, flyers, posters, and tickets. If your ECW holds a fund-raising event, keep at least one ticket, one flyer, and one program from the event for your files.

Photographs are always great to keep, but they are almost useless if they are not labeled meticulously. Information to include with photographs includes the name of the event, the date, the location, and the names of everyone pictured. Write this information on a mailing label and adhere it to the back of the photo. Never write directly on the photo, even on the back. The writing goes through to the front and can ruin the photo. Make sure the writing is legible. It’s probably best to print.

Make sure to label other items as well. Again, it is best to write the information on a separate label and then find a spot for it on the inside of the item where it doesn’t cover any other information. Include the date and location of the event and a short description as well as an explanation of the event’s importance to the group or parish.

Once you’ve gathered this information, it must be stored properly. In an ideal world, all paper items would be stored in acid-free folders and housed in acid-free boxes. Since this is not always possible, be sure to store items in folders in sturdy, clean boxes. Remove all staples and other metal that will rust over time.

Many groups choose to store their items in folders filed in chronological order. Some groups choose to use binders instead of folders. If you use a binder, make sure all of the items are firmly secured into the book and the binder is labeled with dates and subjects on the cover and spine. (A word of warning: Holes will have to be punched in the items to put them in the three-ring binder and information will be lost where the holes are punched.) Do not use photograph albums with pages that have an adhesive backing for storing any items. The backing makes the removal of items difficult, and the acid in the adhesive will destroy the items. It is always best to use photo sleeves or albums with archival-quality inserts to store these items. (Many photo albums on sale today use archival-quality sleeves so check to make sure the item you purchase has these.)

Most of these tips came from Valerie Pope Burnes, director of the Center for the Study of the Black Belt and assistant professor of history at the University of West Alabama. If you have any questions about what to save or how to save it, please contact Valerie Burnes at vburnes@uwa.edu or 205/652-3829.
Two churches sharing the same building in downtown Auburn jointly hosted St. Dunstan’s 11th Annual Martin Luther King Jr. (MLK) Celebration on January 15–16. For the past two years, Cross Road Community Church has been holding Sunday morning services, Bible study, and choir practice in the chapel of St. Dunstan’s—The Episcopal Church at Auburn University. We think of it as an experiment in Christianity. Dr. King spoke of a “beloved community,” and we are trying to become just that. Cross Road, a predominantly African American congregation, meets on Sunday mornings at 11 o’clock and Thursday nights at 6 o’clock. The rest of the week belongs to St. Dunstan’s, a ministry serving the Auburn University community since 1919. St. Dunstan’s congregation has included international students from 14 different nations as well as African Americans, Asian Americans, and Native Americans, but the sad fact is that religion in America is still dramatically segregated.

“We want to renew the dialogue between black and white Christians,” explains Dr. Johnny Green, pastor of Cross Road, former Auburn University (AU) dean of students and now coordinator of the AU Student Veterans and Transfer Student Center. “There is no better place to have this kind of conversation than where we are—a black church and a white church demonstrating that we are all one church.”

When Cross Road Community Church was a new congregation in Auburn, they needed a place to meet. Since our services are all at night, to accommodate student schedules, we were a natural fit. What we have discovered in the process is true friendship, fellowship in Christ, and a lot of common ground. Dr. Green and I have hosted the MLK Celebration every year since 2001—at St. Dunstan’s and White Street Missionary Baptist Church in Auburn and at St. Andrew’s in Tuskegee. In recent years we have hosted a seminar on Saturday and worship services on Sunday. This year’s seminar, presented on Saturday, January 15, was titled “Black Church/White Church/One Church,” with the Rev. W. E. Pitts and Mrs. Ruthie Hodge Pitts speaking on “The Black Church in the South” and Dr. Wayne Flynt speaking on “The White Church in the South.”

W. E. Pitts, a native of Uniontown, Alabama, has pastored seven Baptist churches in his 70 years of ordained ministry. He served the National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc., for 60 years and the Alabama State Convention for 65 years. Educated at Central College in Springfield, Missouri, and Selma College, he has received honorary doctoral degrees from four seminaries.

His wife, Ruthie Hodge Pitts, also an Alabamian by birth, is a retired professor and has participated in the life of the Baptist church for more than 70 years. She graduated from Selma University and Alabama State University and earned her master of education degree from the University of Missouri. She completed additional study at Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri; Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois; the University of Edinburgh in Scotland; and the University of Alabama. Her personal mission is to preserve the heritage of African American history and culture in Alabama. Mrs. Pitts, who serves as vice president of Black Heritage Council of the Alabama Historical Commission, recently initiated the research, purchase, and restoration of the Will T. Murphy Home to become a museum for African American History and Culture in Tuscaloosa.

Dr. Wayne Flynt, who earned his undergraduate degree at Samford University (formerly Howard College) and both his master’s and doctoral degrees at Florida State University, is professor emeritus in the department of history at Auburn University. He also serves as editor-in-chief of the new Online Encyclopedia of Alabama, which is the product of a partnership between the Alabama Humanities Foundation and Auburn University. Dr. Flynt has actively devoted his life to bringing the issues of history and poverty and their social impact to the forefront of the public’s consciousness. He has authored 11 books, including the Pulitzer Prize-nominated Poor But Proud: Alabama’s Poor Whites. His most recent book, Alabama in the Twentieth Century, was awarded the 2004 Anne B. and James B. McMillan Prize. Widely recognized as a leading authority on Alabama history and Baptist history in Alabama, he was inducted into the University of Alabama’s 2005 Communication Hall of Fame, which honors communication personalities who have brought lasting fame to the state.

On Sunday, January 16, Cross Road Community Church hosted a praise and worship service in the Black Church tradition in the morning, and St. Dunstan’s hosted an evening celebration of the Feast Day of Martin Luther King Jr.—Civil Rights Leader and Martyr, with Holy Eucharist. After the service everyone enjoyed a special supper of fried chicken, turnip greens, sweet potato casseroles, black-eyed peas, cornbread, and banana pudding.

From Advent to Epiphany

Submitted by Kathy Greham, Director of Children’s Ministry

St. Stephen’s in Birmingham started the season of Advent with an intergenerational Wednesday night program that centered around the four Advent candles—the “candles” were represented by adults dressed as an angel, shepherd, Wise Men, and Mary who each told their part of the Christmas story during the “getting ready” season. The children performed their annual Christmas pageant on Christmas Eve, and then for the Wednesday night service on January 5th, the adults reprised their roles from the Advent program and added others to complete the story. The children enjoyed seeing the whole story played out from Advent to Epiphany.

We based the Epiphany service on the children’s book The Twelve Prayers of Christmas by Candy Chand.
The members of Calvary in Oneonta recently held their first big Christmas celebration. Josephine Rouse, Ph.D., led the choral group and actors, while Frances Sellers organized the arts and craft displays. Members of the parish ECW, led by Pat Clanton, provided the traditional refreshments of gingerbread and spiced cider. Jean Sanderson supplied the graphic work and also designed the handout, program, wristbands, and Web site postings for the event.

The Twelfth Night Celebration began with Samuel Burke Jr. playing the Hinners/Zimmer/Hand Pipe Organ as everyone enjoyed a group of beautiful Christmas melodies. Next a choral group, sang Christmas songs followed by a flute solo performed by Josephine Rouse. Then the Jester, Duke, King, and Queen arrived in period costumes and presented a skit describing Twelfth Night, which was followed by a program that left the crowd laughing and ready to enjoy fellowship.

Last fall the family of James A. Wagstaff gave a bench in his memory to Camp McDowell in recognition of his many years of serving on senior camp staff. “Jim loved his times at camp and the many people he worked with there,” recalls his wife, Betty. “Now he will be forever in God’s Backyard.”

The Rev. Mark Johnston, vicar and executive director of Camp McDowell, dedicated the bench, which sits behind Eppes Hall. The family hopes that all who need rest or a moment of quiet will find it here.

Bench at Camp McDowell Honors James A. Wagstaff

Calvary in Oneonta Hosts Twelfth Night Celebration

The members of Calvary in Oneonta recently held their first big Christmas celebration. Josephine Rouse, Ph.D., led the choral group and actors, while Frances Sellers organized the arts and craft displays. Members of the parish ECW, led by Pat Clanton, provided the traditional refreshments of gingerbread and spiced cider. Jean Sanderson supplied the graphic work and also designed the handout, program, wristbands, and Web site postings for the event.

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Thanksgiving Meals by the Hundreds


Hundreds of people in Jacksonville had a traditional hearty meal on Thanksgiving, thanks to an annual outreach effort by St. Luke’s parish. In its 15 years, St. Luke’s Community Thanksgiving Dinner has dished up thousands of plates for anyone in Jacksonville who calls in or just drops by for a free meal. “It’s important to everybody in our church to make sure that people have something to eat on Thanksgiving and are made to feel special,” says Cindy Burch, a St. Luke’s member and organizer of the meal for the past five years.

“This year we served about 400 plates,” Cindy notes. That total included more than 200 meals delivered by 11 teams of volunteers.

About three dozen people volunteer on Thanksgiving Day, but more are involved in the weeks leading up to the event. The Parish Hall is filled with delicious aromas all week, as volunteers gather for pie day, rolls and gravy day, and dressing day. This year volunteers baked 70 pies, roasted about 60 turkeys and hams, and cooked up countless gallons of corn, green beans, dressing, yams, and mashed potatoes.

Most of the food comes from parishioners, but each year sees increasing financial and volunteer support from the community. “People gave us checks from so many churches,” notes Cindy. Parish children spend one day preparing fruit and rolls for each delivery bag, and teenagers post information around town in laundromats, housing offices, and senior housing. The meal is free, and more than half the meals are carry-outs or delivered within the city limits. The rest are served in the festively decorated parish hall.

“We could serve the food on paper plates to the people who choose to sit down and eat here, but we use our best plates and coffee cups and tablecloths and give them a real meal,” says Cindy. “It sure is a wonderful feeling!”

Want information on how to organize a community meal? We’d love to share our 15 years of accumulated wisdom. Please contact St. Luke’s at office@stlukesal.org or 256/435-9271.

Throwing Kisses to Chelsea!

By the Rev. John Mark Ford, Rector of St. Catherine’s in Chelsea

Thirty-five members of St. Catherine’s in Chelsea piled onto a wet float on the cold Saturday morning of December 18 to participate in the 11th annual Chelsea Christmas parade. Chelsea’s parade grows bigger each year, and this year was no exception as we tossed hundreds of pieces of candy kisses to onlookers. We also tossed hundreds of bags filled with candy, informational cards, and seed packets with St. Catherine’s name and the logo “Come Grow With Us!” printed on the side.

The annual parade is one of many, many ways our parish is involved in our community as we grow St. Catherine’s into a full and vibrant partner in the Chelsea area. Sometimes we bring Christ to our community with Beans & Rice—and sometimes it’s with Hershey’s kisses!
**Upcoming Events, Workshops, and Retreats**

**“Celebrating Times of Change” Workshop**
February 18 and 19 at St. Stephen’s in Huntsville
Speaker, retreat leader, spiritual director, teacher, and artist Diana McKendree and well-known musician, conference leader, and mentor Fran McKendree will lead this two-day workshop, which is hosted by St. Stephen’s and cosponsored by the Nativit in Huntsville. The workshop will begin with registration at 7 p.m. on Friday followed by the first session, “Opening Awareness” featuring music, prayer, and reflection. The workshop will continue on Saturday morning with the second session, “Deepening Conversation” featuring music, prayer, reflection, and dialogue. “Understanding and Integration,” after lunch on Saturday, will focus on “moving between our inner and outer selves.” For more information please visit our diocesan site www.dioala.org, and click on “Parish & Organization News” or contact Beth Cook at 256-653-1070 or bethcook@knology.net.

**Parish Leadership Training Event (PLTE)**
April 2 at All Saints’ in Birmingham
This annual diocesan-wide event provides an opportunity for training and encouraging core parish leadership. This year’s event will focus on Young Adults but include workshops in a wide variety of areas. For more information please contact Sarah Sartain at ssartain@dioala.org or 205/715-2060 ext 314.

**“Mountains to the Gulf: Helping Teachers Make Connections”**
June 25-July 2 at the McDowell Environmental Center
The McDowell Environmental Center at Camp McDowell is partnering with Jacksonville State University Field Schools and Dauphin Island Sea Lab in offering this weekend workshop for formal and informal teachers and environmental educators. The workshop, which is sponsored by the Environmental Education Association of Alabama (EEAA) and funded by the Gulf of Mexico Alliance and Legacy, Partners in Environmental Education, will be led by three leading experts—Dr. George Cline, Dr. Ball Deutsch, and Dr. Jim Lacefield. The “journey” of learning how all things are connected will begin at McDowell Environmental Center and then zigzag down and across our state to Dauphin Island, including stops at Little River Canyon, Mt. Cheaha State Park, and the Wetumpka Crater. Participants will also canoe the Coosa River and explore the Gulf aboard a research vessel. The deadline for applications is April 29; for more information please contact Maggie Wied Johnsen at Maggie@campmcdowell.com or 205/387-1896.

**March 27 Designated as Episcopal Relief & Development Sunday**

By Judy Quick, Our Diocesan Coordinator
Bishop Parsley has designated the third Sunday in Lent, March 27, as Episcopal Relief & Development Sunday. We are all asked to offer up our contributions to the poor and suffering on this day.

For Lent this year, Episcopal Relief & Development is offering a booklet of meditations written by a group of leaders from across the Episcopal Church. The Rt. Rev. Duncan Gray III, Bishop of Mississippi, is one of the contributors. Here is his meditation for Saturday, March 19, Feast Day of St. Joseph:

Matthew 1:18-25

“Look the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel, which means ‘God is with us’”

It was a crazy dream—one that seemed to relieve Joseph of his great concern over Mary, but that hinted at something far greater than an ill-timed pregnancy. This child will be called “Emmanuel, God with us.” The naming of this miracle announces the uniting of heaven to earth so that God’s holiness will be known in human flesh.

No longer would human flesh be understood as anything less than holy. From this moment on, no one could be disposable; all have transcendent and eternal value because He is Emmanuel. The widow and orphan, the sick and destitute, the refugee and the prisoner, the invisible and the forgotten—all bear the divine image and are dearly loved by Joseph’s son. Care for me, says Jesus, through your care of the least of these.

If you would like Lenten Devotional Guides for your parish or a presentation on the work of Episcopal Relief & Development, please contact me at jjquick@bellsouth.net or 205/669.6862. Also please visit www.ev-d.org.

**Clergy News**

The Rev. David Dill will begin serving as the rector of the Good Shepherd in Decatur on June 1. David is currently serving as an associate rector at Trinity Church at Copley Square in Boston.

**Bishops’ Visitation Schedule**

**February 6, Sunday**
10 a.m. Bishop Sloan, St. Peter’s, Talladega
10:30 a.m. Bishop Parsley, St. Thomas’, Huntsville

**February 13, Sunday**
10 a.m. Bishop Parsley, St. Mark’s, Birmingham
10 a.m. Bishop Sloan, St. James’, Alexander City

**February 20, Sunday**
10 a.m. Bishop Parsley, St. Michael’s, Fayette
10:30 a.m. Bishop Sloan, St. Matthias’, Tuscaloosa

**February 27, Sunday**
10 a.m. Bishop Sloan, St. Michael and All Angels’, Millbrook
10:30 a.m. Bishop Parsley, Christ Church, Fairfield

**March 2, Wednesday**
6:30 p.m. Bishop Parsley, Messiah, Heflin

**March 6, Sunday**
10:30 a.m. Bishop Parsley, Holy Apostles’, Birmingham
10:30 a.m. Bishop Sloan, Good Shepherd, Decatur

**March 13, Sunday**
9 a.m. Bishop Sloan, Holy Comforter, Gadsden
11 a.m. Bishop Parsley, St. Paul’s, Carlowville

**March 20, Sunday**
10 a.m. Bishop Parsley, St. Stephen’s, Eutaw
10 a.m. Bishop Sloan, Holy Comforter, Montgomery

**April 3, Sunday**
10 a.m. Bishop Parsley, St. Barnabus’, Hartelle
10 a.m. Bishop Sloan, St. Stephen’s, Huntsville
4 p.m. Bishop Sloan, Holy Cross-St. Christopher’s, Huntsville

**The Chenault Duo To Perform February 13 at the Advent**
The Cathedral Church of the Advent in Birmingham will present a major organ concert by the Chenault Duo, Raymond and Elizabeth Chenault from Atlanta, on Sunday, February 13, at 4 p.m. The Chenaults have become synonymous with the term “four hands, four feet,” through their more than 40 commissioned works for organ duet. Since 1975 they have been Organists and Choirmasters at All Saints’ Episcopal Church in Atlanta. The concert is free of charge, and the public is warmly invited to attend.
**WHAT’S NEW/NOTEWORTHY AT THE EPISCOPAL BOOK STORE**

**Amazing Grace: God’s Pursuit, Our Response** by Timothy George

The doctrine of God’s grace has sparked some heated controversies in the history of the Christian church. What are dispensations of grace? Is grace really irresistible? In *Amazing Grace*, Timothy George looks at some of these debated questions. Grounded in Scripture, his insights continually draw the reader back to the fundamental truth of God’s free and sovereign favor to ill-deserving sinners. Originally written to address the “Calvinism controversy” and used in thousands of churches and study groups, this popular primer on the basic themes of Reformed theology has been updated and expanded. Though written from the author’s Southern Baptist perspective, the book’s ironic tone appeals to a wide audience and shows how sound Reformed theology has taken root within several Reformation traditions.

**Jesus Mean and Wild: The Unexpected Love of an Untamable God by Mark Galli**

Jesus is often portrayed as meek and mild, but a thorough reading of the gospels reveals that the Son of God was anything but passive. Mark Galli, managing editor of Christianity Today and a former Presbyterian minister, takes a hard look at the real Jesus—one whose actions, words, and wisdom are anything but gumby-like. In 17 short chapters *Jesus Mean and Wild* walks readers through the book of Mark, digging deep into bite-size portions of scripture. The author writes, “For those who truly want to know and love God as he is, the warm and friendly Jesus, although an attractive idea, is but an idol. And the fascist God will simply not do. To enjoy a full-bodied faith will require that our idea of God gain some unnerving texture, some dynamic energy, some subtlety and depth. It will require that we live into the love of God as manifested in the mean and wild Christ. This Jesus reveals not a one-dimensional, sentimental love—a love that merely makes us feel good—but a love capable of saving a desperate world.”

**Sacred Rhythms by Ruth Haley Barton**

Do you long for a deep, fundamental change in your life with God? Do you desire a greater intimacy with God? Do you wonder how you might truly live your life as God created you to live it? Spiritual disciplines are activities that open us to God’s transforming love and the changes that only God can bring about in our lives. Picking up on the monastic tradition of creating a “rule of life” that allows for regular space for the practice of the spiritual disciplines, this book takes you more deeply into understanding seven key disciplines along with practical ideas for weaving them into everyday life. Each chapter includes exercises to help you begin the practices individually and in a group context. The final chapter puts it all together in a way that will help you arrange your life for spiritual transformation. The choice to establish your own sacred rhythm is the most important choice you can make with your life.

**Lent with Evelyn Underhill edited by G. P. Mellick Belshaw**

Half a century has passed since Evelyn Underhill’s death, yet her devotional writings have endured as a beacon to those who seek a deeper understanding of the “interior life” in the mystical Christian tradition. The editor’s personal discovery of Underhill’s works when he was a young student at General Theological Seminary moved him to pursue an extensive knowledge of her writings. From these he has skillfully culled readings appropriate for every day of Lent, from Ash Wednesday to Easter Eve, and broadly following liturgical themes.

**Tale of Three Trees: A Traditional Folk Tale retold by Angela Elwell Hunt with illustrations by Tim Jonke**

Three trees growing on a hilltop dream of grand futures, but when they’re claimed by woodcutters, other things happen. One becomes a manger that holds the Christ child, another a humble fishing boat that carries Jesus and his followers, and the third is cut into stout timbers that become Jesus’ cross. This traditional folk tale highlights the power of God’s love to transform and renew.

**What Good Is God? In Search of a Faith That Matters by Philip Yancey**

Philip Yancey says, “Most of my books—like this one—have a question as a title because, frankly, my own faith starts with questions. In this book I tackle perhaps the most basic faith question of all: What good is God? It’s a universal question that I put to the test in 10 places on four different continents. Although the book addresses issues of faith, it does so in real-world settings, not abstractly. In my travels I have found a deep longing in almost everyone: the desire for change, the hope that somehow God can wrest permanent good out of this flawed planet and us, its flawed inhabitants. Dare we entertain such a hope? This book is my attempt to answer the question. First, as a journalist, I search for a faith that matters. Then the tables get turned, and I’m the one who has to speak to an audience hungry for answers. And now you, the readers, join that audience.”

**Cursillo Weekends** #176 March 2-4, #178 June 8-12, #179 September 7-11, and #180 October 19-23

**Diocesan Convention** February 11-12 at St. Luke’s in Birmingham

**Parish Leadership Training Event (PLTE) April 2 at All Saints in Birmingham**


**February 13** Organ Recital featuring Raymond and Elizabeth Chenault at 4 p.m. at the Advent in Birmingham. For more information please see the description and photo on page 22 or contact Music Associate Charles M. Kennedy at 205/226-3305 or kennedy@cathedralavent.com.

**February 18-19** “Celebrating Times of Change” two-day workshop led by Diana and Fran McKendree at St. Stephen’s in Huntsville. For more information please see the description on page 22; visit our diocesan Web site, www.diosa.org, and click on “Parish & Organizational News” or contact Beth Cook at 256/653-1070 or bethcook@knology.net.

**February 25** Midday Musical Menu featuring the Cathedral Ringers Handbell Ensemble at 12:30 p.m. at the Advent in Birmingham. For more information please contact Music Associate Charles M. Kennedy at 205/226-3305 or kenedy@cathedralavent.com.

**February 27-March 1** Bowen Conference “Into the Hands of the Living God: Spirituality for the Real World” featuring Kathleen Norris at Kanuga Conferences in Hendersonville, North Carolina. For more information please call 828/692-9156 or visit www.kanuga.org.

**March 6** Choral Concert featuring Bach’s “Mass in B Minor” presented by the Georgia Institute of Technology Chamber Choir and New Trinity Baroque at 4 p.m. at the Advent in Birmingham. For more information please contact Music Associate Charles M. Kennedy at 205/226-3305 or kenedy@cathedralavent.com.

**March 6** 14th Annual ECW Tea and Fashion Show from 2 to 4 p.m. at St. Stephen’s in Birmingham. For more information please contact St. Stephen’s at 205/967-8786 or visit www.sischurch.com.

**March 7** Evensong for Lent presented by the Cathedral Choir at 4 p.m. at the Advent in Birmingham. For more information please contact Music Associate Charles M. Kennedy at 205/226-3305 or kenedy@cathedralavent.com.

**April 2** Parish Leadership Training Event (PLTE) at All Saints’ in Birmingham. For more information please see the description on page 22 or contact Sarah Sartain at ssartain@diosa.org or 205/715-2060 ext. 314.

**April 9** “The Mystery of Faith”—A Lenten Quiet Retreat Day led by Bishop Parsley from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at St. Mary’s-on-the-Highlands in Birmingham. For more information please contact Sarah Sartain at ssartain@diosa.org or 205/715-2060 ext. 314.

**March 27** Evensong for Lent presented by the Cathedral Choir at 4 p.m. at the Advent in Birmingham. For more information please contact Music Associate Charles M. Kennedy at 205/226-3305 or kenedy@cathedralavent.com.

**April 2** Parish Leadership Training Event (PLTE) at All Saints’ in Birmingham. For more information please see the description on page 22 or contact Sarah Sartain at ssartain@diosa.org or 205/715-2060 ext. 314.

**Everything You Always Wanted to Know about God (But Were Afraid To Ask)—The Jesus Edition by Eric Metaxas**

We all have questions about Jesus, but very few of us get the answers we’re looking for—if the answers even exist! Do they? Where (in heaven’s name) do you go to find out? New York Times bestselling author Eric Metaxas (author of Bonhoeffer: Pastor, Martyr, Prophet, Spy) understands how hard it can be to get hard truths, and that’s why he has written this hilarious, entertaining guide to the most influential single Person to have ever lived on the face of the earth.

**NOTE:** The bookstore has a new location and new hours. Our address, phone, e-mail, and Web site are still the same, but we’ve moved up one floor into a new space that has been designed and built especially for us and for you—with more visibility and easier access. You can enter the bookstore down the small garden path on 6th Avenue North or from the Cathedral’s parking lot on the corner of 6th Avenue and Richard Arrington Boulevard or from the church through the parish hall. We are now open Monday through Thursday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday from 8:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.

*For information about these and other books, or to have us research and special order a particular book, please contact the Episcopal Book Store, 2015 Sixth Avenue North, Birmingham, AL 35203; 205/323-2959; csinfo@episco books.com; or visit the bookstore online at www.episcobooks.com.*
Bishop Parsley and Bishop Sloan Ordain Two Priests

Bishop Parsley and Bishop Sloan ordained the Rev. Geoffrey Evans and the Rev. Bradley Landry to the Sacred Order of Priests on December 7 at the Cathedral Church of the Advent in Birmingham. The Rev. Susan Sloan, rector of St. Stephen’s in Huntsville, served as the preacher for the service.

Geoffrey, who graduated from Virginia Theological Seminary and was ordained a deacon on June 2, will serve as associate rector of St. Mary’s-on-the-Highlands in Birmingham. Bradley, who graduated from the School of Theology at Sewanee and was ordained a deacon on May 19, will serve as associate rector of Nativity in Huntsville.

Think Summer!

Making snow angels and snowmen is fun, but going to Summer Camp is fantastic! So start thinking summer and make plans now to come to the BEST SUMMER CAMP EVER at wonderful, wonderful Camp McDowell!!

For more information please see page 8 or visit www.campmcdowell.com.

The Alabama Episcopalian

The Alabama Episcopalian is published six times a year (January/February, March/April, May/June, July/August, September/October, and November/December). For the most current news about recent and upcoming events, please visit our diocesan Web site, www.dioala.org.

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Keep up with the latest news from around our diocese between issues of The Alabama Episcopalian on our diocesan Web site, www.dioala.org. If you are not already receiving our “Web Site Update,” you can sign up to receive a weekly e-mail containing headlines with links to the latest news, photos, and videos about and from around our diocese. Simply send an e-mail with your name and e-mail address to ddrachlis@dioala.org and put “Headlines” on the subject line. You can “opt out” anytime.