Welcome Home!

“Wonderful, Wonderful” Camp McDowell is renovating Stough Lodge with all new furniture and bedding. Come enjoy a relaxing visit!
Thank You, Friends of Camp McDowell!

By Danielle Dunbar, Development Director

Diana Legg, a member of the housekeeping staff and the Rev. Mark Johnston, executive director and vicar, enjoying a relaxing break in some of the new rocking chairs at Camp McDowell.

We launched our first Friends of Camp McDowell annual campaign in 2011 to help us sustain our low rates, enhance facilities, improve camp technology, and provide for staff infrastructure. Your most welcome donations have helped us continue to renovate Stough Lodge, upgrade Miller Commons, and purchase new rocking chairs, a copy machine, and walkie-talkies for the staff.

Our 2012 Friends of Camp McDowell annual campaign is now in full swing, and we are grateful for your faithful support. Soon we will be adding a T1 (fiber optic) line to improve our phone system and Internet accessibility, and we will continue renovating Stough Lodge and upgrading Miller Commons. We have already completed some of the projects—installing new vanities and ceramic tile in some of the bathrooms, replacing all of the mattresses as well as some of the bedding and furniture, and giving the roof a fresh coat of paint. Things look great “down the hill!”

Your generosity is helping us fulfill our mission and ministry of hospitality. Our future is in good hands with such a wonderful community of friends—we could not be “Wonderful, Wonderful” Camp McDowell without you. THANK YOU!

You can be a “Friend of Camp McDowell” by making a tax-deductible donation at www.campmcdowell.com (click on the Friends of Camp link) or mailing it to Camp McDowell, 105 DeLong Road, Nauvoo, AL 35578. For more information please contact me at danielle@campmcdowell.com or 205/387-1806.
Getting Ready for General Convention

Hello, friends:

When I was in college, several of us decided to go to the 65th General Convention of the Episcopal Church. The Church would be considering two important matters: the ordination of women and a new Prayer Book. We thought that controversy sounded like fun, so we registered as visitors, and five of us drove from Starkville, Mississippi, to Minneapolis, Minnesota, to be part of it.

I don’t actually remember how long we were there, or where we stayed, or much about the convention. I do remember driving up there through oceans of tall corn and how exciting it was to know that I was with people from all over the country. I remember being distinctly disappointed that all of that good juicy controversy was no fun at all—people on all sides of the issues were disproportionately angry and agitated, vindictive or wronged, as if they were being defined by the issues in question, as if their connection to their Church and their Lord was diminished or broken if their side didn’t win the argument. On the way home I remember telling my friends that we could file General Convention under things I’m glad we did but not something I’d ever want to do again. It turns out that controversies are more fun from a distance than they are up close.

Now, 36 years later, after some unexpected twists and turns that resulted in me serving God as your bishop, I’m getting ready for the 77th General Convention this summer in Indianapolis. The tide of anxiety and uneasiness that always seems to precede General Conventions is rising, and I want to take a minute of your time to assure you that we’re going to be fine and to explain a little about what to expect.

I’m getting ready for the 77th General Convention this summer in Indianapolis. The tide of anxiety and uneasiness that always seems to precede General Conventions is rising, and I want to take a minute of your time to assure you that we’re going to be fine and to explain a little about what to expect.

The media will be there for the controversy. We can’t expect them to cover any of the good worship or capture any of the moments of grace or collegiality. They’ll be there for the dispute, to record the anger and pain. They’ll interview the far left and the far right—it’s not an adequate presentation of the moments of grace or collegiality. They’ll be there for the contest, for arguing who would be the greatest to the decision to accept Gentiles as followers of Jesus; through all the heresies about our Lord’s humanity and divinity; through the Great Schism of 1054, which split the Church into Orthodox and Catholic; and through the struggles of the Reformation in the 16th century to our own day and the struggles we face now. And as always, they seem more fun from a distance—up close, they’re not much fun at all.

I believe the continuing existence of the Church, despite all the effort and energy we’ve put into winning the arguments we’ve had for more than 20 centuries, is sure proof of the existence and grace of the Holy Spirit of God. If it had been just us all this time, we would have destroyed the Church centuries ago. It is not, cannot be, and should never have been all about winning the argument. It’s all about accepting and sharing the love of God through Jesus Christ, about shining the Light of the Gospel. And here is our hope: that the Spirit of God has never abandoned us, even when we’ve been contentious, selfish, and silly—and will not abandon us now. God is with us still: “our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,” as the grand old hymn goes.

Just before, during, and right after the General Convention we’ll post videos on our diocesan Web site, www.dioala.org, to try to give a fuller picture of what’s going on and what it’s like. I suppose a certain amount of “spin” or “slant” is inevitable—we’ll try to keep it to a minimum, and more importantly, we’ll try to keep it in the middle.

I thank God that in this part of God’s Church we are doing our best to keep our eyes on Jesus and the mission we’ve been given in the Church—to bring the Good News of God’s love in Jesus Christ.

The Rt. Rev. John McKee Sloan
11th Bishop of Alabama

77th General Convention—Follow Our Deputation Online

The Episcopal Diocese of Indianapolis is hosting the 77th Episcopal Church General Convention from July 5 through 12 at the Indiana Convention Center. General Convention, which is held every three years, is the bicameral governing body of the Episcopal Church. It is composed of the House of Bishops, with upward of 200 active and retired bishops, and the House of Deputies, with more than 800 elected clergy and lay deputies representing our Church’s 130 dioceses.

Both Bishop Sloan and our recently retired Bishop Henry Parsley Jr. will attend this year’s General Convention. Our diocesan deputies include the Rev. John Fritschner (Chair), the Rev. John Ford, the Rev. Evan Garner, the Rev. Susan Sloan, Ernest Edgar, Virginia Hillhouse, Barbara Meyer, and Marcellus Smith. Our alternate deputies include the Rev. Andy Anderson, the Rev. David Peeples, the Rev. Eric Stelle, the Rev. Charles Youngson, Jane Pounds, Rusty Stephenson, Paul Thibodaux, and Cecil Williamson.

For more information about General Convention please visit http://generalconvention.org. Keep up with the convention proceedings and see updates, including blogs and video reports from our deputation, on our Web site (www.dioala.org) and also via Facebook (http://www.facebook.com/dioala) and Twitter (http://twitter.com/DioAlaNews).

The Alabama Episcopalian • May/June 2012
From Fiona Watts, ECW Diocesan President

One of the great delights of being our diocesan ECW President is representing all of you.

In early June, I will be attending the Province IV ECW Conference at Kanuga in North Carolina. This promises to be a really fun time. Katrina Witt will be the guest speaker, and Fran McKendree will provide the music, however the best part will be spending time meeting women from all of the other dioceses and sharing ideas.

In July, I have the great honor of attending the

47th Triennial Meeting of the Episcopal Church Women in Indianapolis. The Triennial meeting will run concurrently with the 77th General Convention of the Episcopal Church, and we will share worship with them every day. I will be accompanied by three members of our ECW Board—Brenda Mayhall (from Christ Church in Albertville), Linda Kennedy (from the Cathedral Church of the Advent in Birmingham), and Jolai Jenkins (from St. Andrew’s in Tuskegee).

The theme of the Triennial Meeting is “Many Paths, One Journey.” We will hear great speakers and attend wonderful workshops all with this theme in mind. There is even an opportunity for us to literally take “Many Paths” during the planned 5K Walk/Run. I am really excited about this opportunity and look forward to sharing the great work that we do here in Alabama with our Episcopalian sisters from around the country. We will tell you all about our adventures in Indianapolis in the next issue of The Alabama Episcopalian. (For more about the Triennial Meeting, please visit our diocesan ECW Web site, www.alabamaecw.org, and click on the National ECW link on the righthand side of the page.)

Blessings.

The members of our diocesan ECW Board enjoyed a lunch meeting with Bishop Sloan on March 29 at the Cathedral Church of the Advent in Birmingham. He shared with us his hope for our diocese to be “live in love . . . live in joy and hope.” He believes there is a huge value to loving each other and listening to each other.

The Birmingham Convocation held its spring meeting at the Cathedral Church of the Advent in March. “The ladies of the Birmingham Convocation ventured downtown to the Cathedral Church of the Advent and enjoyed the Lenten speaker and lunch as part of their spring meeting,” Birmingham Convocation president Diane Weatherford reports. “The business session at the beginning of the meeting centered around new ways to make participation easier for the convocation’s 24 member parishes. Many thanks to Mary Hanson and the Advent ECW for hosting the group for this meeting.”

Calling all members of the Episcopal Church Women (and you are one of those if you are a woman and a member of an Episcopal parish or worshiping community in our diocese) to this year’s Fall Conference at Christ Church in Albertville on October 4-5. It is sure to be an event filled with spiritual inspiration and connections as well as good old-fashioned camaraderie with your fellow ECW members, some you know and love and some you will grow to know and love! Anne Burke notes that she attended her first Fall Conference last year in Montgomery and she can’t begin to tell you how impressed she was with the women she met. She emphasizes that these “servants of the Lord” were delightful in every way! So save the date for an opportunity to meet women from all over our diocese and share information about events in your own parish. Bishop Sloan will give the keynote address, and we are looking forward to growing in Christ’s love through our reflections with him. Please contact your ECW president about this very special event; for more information please contact ECW Publicity Chair Anne Burke at atcburke@gmail.com or ECW President Fiona Watts at rgw2940@aol.com.

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DOK Members Host Quiet Day

By Judy Wilson, a member of St. Timothy’s in Athens

The Very Rev. Frank F. Limehouse III, dean of the Cathedral Church of the Advent, welcoming the members of Birmingham Convocation

DOK Members Host Quiet Day

By Judy Wilson, a member of St. Timothy’s in Athens

Current Birmingham Convocation ECW president Diane Weatherford with past presidents Liz Emsley and Alyce Daniel

Daughters Carlene Frechauf, Beth Magie, Glenda Richardson, and Regina Montgomery preparing lunch for the Mission Athens group

The members of the Lois and Eunice Chapter of the Daughters of the King at St. Timothy’s in Athens recently sponsored a Quiet Day of Reflection. In addition to having discussions on C. S. Lewis’s The Great Divorce, they prepared lunch for Mission Athens, a homeless advocacy group.
“It’s All for the Kids!”

By Leslie Manning, Sawyerville Day Camp Coordinator and Director

Our motto during Sawyerville Day Camp sessions is “It’s all for the kids!” It is a way for us to simplify the meaning of camp and help us “get over ourselves” and “get out of the way” of the fun and formation. As summer quickly approaches, the other coordinators and I find ourselves saying that to ourselves already! Mostly we just cannot wait to see all those faces—old and new—and gather our staff communities together and begin making this season’s memories.

Soon we will be in Greensboro again for Sawyerville Day Camp sessions. The staff volunteer deadline for overnight staff was April 1, and we had more than 200 young people and adults apply online! Of those volunteers, 97 are staffing for the first time, 111 (not counting adult coordinators) are returning for another year, and almost 20 are former campers. We also expect to have a good number of former campers come again and serve as “counselors-in-training” during the day. Last year this program was wonderfully successful! What a way to continue the formation and learn from our former campers as we plan and grow the program. We also have roughly 40 coordinators between the two sessions who organize, plan, and facilitate everything from arts, music, program, activities, worship, supplies, good, pre-camp staff training, and more. Special thanks to those people and their hard work thus far!

This summer’s theme is the “Sawyerville Summer Olympics.” Each day of camp we will have a “word of the day,” and the lessons will draw upon these highlighted words. Five days of camp, five Olympic rings, five words: Character, Glory, Grace, Endurance, Hope. These words were first pulled from Romans 5, and we also hope to use Hebrews 12 and several parables and stories from the Old Testament as the basis of our teachings. We have both clergy and lay leaders (and a seminarian and their family!) helping us lead this portion of camp. All of the other activities and programming will work with the theme as well, and we can’t wait to incorporate the Olympics into our weeks together! Who doesn’t love the Olympics? The ritual, tradition, diverse community, miracles happening before our eyes, and people taking risks and dreaming bigger than ever before. The Camp Family night, the Friday night of each session, will be our “closing ceremonies” and a wonderful celebration of our time together as we welcome friends and neighbors from all over the community, particularly the campers and their families. We are even going to have Vonetta Flowers, an Olympic gold medalist from Alabama, and the first African American bobsled champion, spend a day with us! Vonetta has an inspirational story that she will share with the campers and staff.

Her Web site notes: As Vonetta Flowers crossed the finish line in victory at the 2002 Winter Olympic Games, she was not bashful about sharing the secret to her success. From a woman who describes herself as “reserved,” Vonetta Flowers has a very powerful, succinct way of giving credit where credit is due: “God has blesed my family. I give Him the glory and honor.” Johnny Flowers adds, “It may not always be the ‘in thing’ to talk about God, but we’re not ashamed of him. He got us to this point. Besides, Vonetta is not strong enough to push that 450-pound sled and make it go that fast. Standing at the finish line I knew that it was the prayers of a lot of church members and other people praying for us that allowed the team to do what they did.”

We look forward to welcoming Vonetta Flowers as well local ministers and community leaders, musicians, and young people to share their stories of character, glory, grace endurance, and hope! We give thanks to God for the opportunity to serve and be served in Hale County. We come to this ministry each year with grateful and humble hearts, thankful for the deep and meaningful relationships we have formed in Christ year after year.

Thank you to everyone, the more than 60 parishes that are actively involved, the local community, and individuals for their support. We look forward to having close to a total of 600 campers this summer and more than 200 staff members. Bring on the Olympics!

For more information or to find out how you can support Sawyerville Day Camp, please visit www.sawyerville-workproject.org or contact me at sawyervillecamp@gmail.com or 205/358-1375.

SawyervilleDayCamp

The finish line

Dreaming Big Makes Middler Camp a Reality

By Worth Stuart, Youth Minister at St. John’s in Montgomery and a Middler Camp Co-Coordinator

When planning for Sawyerville Day Camp each year, we try to “dream big.” Dreaming big is how this ministry grew from one session to two sessions and from two sessions to three sessions in 2013 (Sawyerville Day Camp’s 20th year)! Dreaming big fuels the creative energy behind camp every summer, and because of that creative energy, this ministry is able to grow and thrive year after year.

When the “dream big” philosophy meets even the simplest of ideas, it has the potential to turn into something wonderful!

At the end of last summer’s first session, I approached Camp Director Leslie Manning with an idea. It wasn’t very thought out at the time, but it was an idea. What if we fine-tuned Sawyerville even more? What if we came up with a way to make camp more age-appropriate and in doing so bring in more campers per session?

And so Middler Camp was born. This year Sawyerville Day Camp will feature a Middler Camp at each session to go along with the already established Upper and Lower Camps. Middler Camp will consist of 9, 10, and 11-year-olds and give the kids an opportunity to grow and learn with other kids closer to their age. This year, Lower Camp will be 6, 7, and 8-year-olds; Middler Camp 9, 10, and 11-year-olds; and Upper Camp 12, 13, and 14-year-olds. Middler Campers will have the same opportunities as the other campers, including swimming, gym activities, and a field trip to the McWane Science Center in Birmingham! We are also tremendously thankful and superexcited about the opportunity to welcome even more kids per session!

Sawyerville Day Camp continues to grow and thrive—and the future of this unique and blessed ministry is bright indeed! I am so proud to be a part of something so lifegiving, so hopeful, and so full of Love! I pray that all of us with the Sawyerville Day Camp continue to “dream big”!

The Alabama Episcopalian • May/June 2012

We Are Going Live!

By Jessica Harris

You can follow the Sawyerville Day Camp sessions this summer by reading the daily updates on our new summer blog, http://sawyervillecamp.wordpress.com/. Several times every day, we will add new videos, photos, and messages from the staff and campers. We want to keep YOU updated and help you feel even more a part of the experience!

So many people are involved in this wonderful day camp ministry that we want all of our supporters, staff parents, camper families, and churches to be able to stay connected with us while we are at camp. We are also going to be tweeting out bits of info, highlights, and stories, so if you’re on Twitter, be sure to follow us at @sawyervillecamp. For more information, suggestions, or to find out more, please e-mail me at jessharris03@gmail.com.
YD Graduating Seniors Reflect on the Rites of Spring Event

By Susan Oakes, Interim Youth Ministries Coordinator

This has been a fantastic year, filled with lots of love, laughter, and hard work by the members of our diocesan Youth Department (YD). Our last event for the 2011-12 school year was the Rites of Spring, a combination of the former Spring Break Conference and EYC Convention, on March 23-25 at Camp McDowell. Here are reflections about the year and the Rites of Spring from some of this year’s graduating seniors.

Youth Department has been the focal point of my spiritual growth as a youth, as well as the center of my calendar for two years now. Every person I’ve been blessed enough to meet through these events has shown me the reason that I joined this ministry—and that reason is to serve my neighbors, and to not only serve them, but also to love them . . . unconditionally. And I can’t think of a better way to spend my high-school career than serving the people with whom I’ve formed relationships and grown spiritually.

The fact that a group of teenagers can come together only once a month to plan and lead events like this . . . now that is messy. This year has especially motivated me because of all of the issues that we’ve had to deal with as a group. Not only did we start off the year with a new youth director, but we also had to create a whole new event (the Rites of Spring). So if you haven’t already guessed, these messy situations that we’ve had to face became the inspiration for the theme of this new event—Life Is Messy. And sometimes taking hold of that fact, looking it straight in the eye, and telling it that love is bigger than it is what it takes to overcome the mess.

It is an honor to be a part of the beautiful, talented, incredible group of people that is our Youth Department. I love every single one of them so much, and I have cherished the time we’ve spent together as a family. The past two years have shaped me as a human being, and I would not trade that for anything. So what I plan to take with me from these experiences and from these people is love. —Abbey Moore, Youth Department Chair 2011-12

During Rites of Spring, the attending youth had the unique opportunity to go on a first-ever Mystical Hike. While roaming about in the woods near Clear Creek, the hikers encountered several mystical creatures. Among their number were two mischievous, people-shy garden gnomes; a bellicose Bigfoot; and a friendly Smurf. This hike provided a fun, positive environment for both humans and mystical creatures to become friends and grow in community and in understanding of one another. —Maddie Webb

The focus of this youth event was Life Is Messy, and we had a “box of crayons” themed dinner. A box of crayons can be pretty messy, and we had an interesting time sorting ourselves and mixing colors during our yummy dinner. What a meaningful mixture of colors! This made for very colorful one-of-a-kind group photos! —Hannah La Rue

The theme for Rites of Spring this year was Life Is Messy; Sticking true to the theme, the activities committee came up with “The Chronicles of Nar Nar,” which involved us all getting down and dirty at each station in order to win the token—the first team to retrieve all the tokens won. It was messy, but it was one of my favorite memories from Rites of Spring. —Taylor Lollar
The election of the new members for the 2012-13 Youth Department was run professionally and prayerfully as the youth voted for members at-large and district representatives. As you can see in the photo, the Episcopal Church in Alabama has a bright future with the enthusiastic and sincere members of the youth who feel called to lead and put themselves out there in front of their peers for something they love. The new Youth Department includes:

- **Members At-Large**—Jessica Lingle, Katherine McCown, Logan Oakes, Ashley Grace Passey, and Aidan White;
- **Birmingham District Representatives**—Margaret Blackerby and Ward Taliaferro;
- **Montgomery District Representatives**—Sarah Reeves and Parker Turner; and
- **Tennessee Valley Representatives**—Spencer Anglin and Eva Marie Faison. —*Sabol Rodgers*

The youth in our diocese have an overabundance of talent, and on Saturday night some of our musically gifted brothers and sisters performed in our second Open Mic Night. It was a fabulous show followed up with an equally fabulous concert by our “Episcopal Friends”—Corey Jones, Daniel Strandlund, and Worth Stuart! “Sing unto him a new song; play skillfully with a loud noise” (Proverbs 33:3). —*Meredith Byars*

**Parishes Inaugurate a Special Day Camp**

From Grace Church in Anniston

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**Jonathan Daniels Pilgrimage Lock-In**

August 10 at the Ascension in Montgomery

The Ascension in Montgomery is hosting a lock-in on Friday, August 10, for youth entering 7th through 12th grades as well as youth leaders and other interested chaperones who plan to participate in this year’s annual Jonathan Daniels Pilgrimage on Saturday, August 11. For more information please contact Youth Director Holly Bauer at hbauer@coascension.org.
Additional Lodges in Bethany Village Will Accommodate Additional Groups

Camp McDowell is a success! One indicator of our success is that it can be difficult to schedule a time to have a retreat because more than 250 groups fill our conference center facilities every year. The Camp McDowell Strategic Planning Committee took this information into account in 2010, and the result was including additional lodges, like those in Miller Commons, in the Bethany Village master plan.

The vision is for a complex with six new lodges to be constructed near the site of Bethany Village Camp. Each new lodge will have 11 hotel-style rooms plus a great room, with a comfortable gathering/meeting building nearby. The complex will also include a playground, a pavilion complete with an outdoor grill, and a swimming pool in the vicinity. The back porches of the lodges will provide a view of a lake we plan to construct. In addition to a walking trail, the lake will offer opportunities for canoeing and fishing.

The new lodges will be within easy walking distance of the Chapel of St. Francis and the Stough Lodge dining hall. By the way, have you dined at Stough Lodge lately? The buzz is that the food is better than ever. During the first four months of this year we served twice as many meals there as we did in 2011!

With more available conference center space, our camp staff will be able to plan more conferences and retreats that will meet the spiritual needs of our diocesan family. We were too excited to wait for the additional lodges to be constructed, so we initiated two new retreats this spring. In March, Joe and Lark Howell led a wonderful Enneagram Conference, and in May, we hosted a Small Parish Retreat for churches in our diocese that are too small to have their own retreat. The attendance at both conferences was excellent.

The new lodges will also be used by the Alabama Folk School at Camp McDowell. At this time most of the Folk School events must be scheduled when no one else wants to use the current facilities for a retreat. Additional facilities will make it possible for the Folk School to continue to grow.

Camp McDowell is already a success, and soon there will be opportunities for more of our diocesan family to visit God’s Backyard!

Members of St. Stephen’s in Birmingham during their 2009 annual retreat at Camp McDowell

Be Here—Or Be Square!

Come to the Summer Camp Reunion on August 17-19! There will be lots of music, old friends, worship, and big fun. Families are welcome. Above all, be here or be square—and you do not want to be square!

Check out our Facebook page or visit our Web site, www.campmcdowell.com, for more information.
The 5th Annual Mother/Daughter Retreat 
April 13-15 at Camp McDowell 

sprinkled blossoms of joy
in celebration of girl power

did you hear the hellos whispered the trees?
and all the giggles and squeals running down the lane?
could you feel the hugs wrapped around friends
from camps past
and the camps today?

yes, the creek declared!
did you hear the mothers, too?
bugging each other in delight—welcome back!
how was your drive?
how are you?
where did the year go?

and the crickets chirped—listen …
pass the syrup please!
pancakes for supper—my favorite
could i have just one more?!

what about the music, sang the wildflowers?
miss kaki played her guitar
which called everyone near
tiny fingers shook tambourines, plastic eggs & spoons,
new bodies and wise ones wild with laughter
kept time to the beat

sweet dreams … dear girls … hooted the owls
sleepy mothers hands curled around coffee cups
let’s eat and go pulled the girls
pounding leaves
finding flowers
canoe, hike, get wet—get dry
swing from the giant tree
i’m starving again!

quiet whispered the rocks
but i’m not tire …said the sleepy girls
yes, you are soothed the happy mommas
the day is young and so are you

AWESOME boomed big dave!
with his teacher friends
the barred and great horned owls
the red-headed corn snake
tyteh taught
reverence . . . space . . . respect

come & play proclaimed the grass
the path to the pasture
sneakers, frisbees, balls, and blankets
burgers and sides
lining up—you go first, no you
let’s go together
eating and running and hayriding

draw near, beckoned the night
walking in the dark
sharing each other’s light
sweet stanley ambling near
everybody’s dog now
serving council
cate’s flute
kaki’s guitar
all voices praying one prayer

the day is done whirled the soft wind
back to camp together
sharing the satisfied sigh
of time well spent
deep now you awesome creatures

awake! summoned the sun
one more activity
i like my leaf so much—i need to pound another
oh, let’s canoe
or try the upside yoga
promises of e-mails
addresses written on napkins
exchanged with hugs of good-bye

and all of camp sang farewell!
we will hold your memories
until you return
our whispering limbs and waves
and dropped tulip poplar petals
will welcome the next band of humans
gathering here
we will not forget
your squeals and giggles
the hugs you shared
the joy and love you sprinkled here …
it has become part of the whole,
a whole of the part
a singing dancing running
stampede in the name of love
in praise of God
and sisterhood
and all that is good.
Continuing To Help 2011

As We Serve, Blessings Abound!

By the Rev. Deacon Judy Quick

As part of the Spring Break Blitz—the Alternative Spring Break activity in our diocese, a small but enthusiastic team of Campus Ministry students and parishioners from Canterbury House and St. Andrew's in Montevallo worked on Pastor Kervin Jones's home in Sawyerville.

We were one of many teams who have volunteered over the past year to help build his new home to replace the one that the April 27, 2011, tornadoes destroyed. The Sawyerville Commission has raised funds to build Pastor Kervin's home, and our team installed insulation and sheetrock on the walls.

We also dug holes for the Leyland cypress and encore azaleas we had brought, but as we were planting them, Pastor Kervin suddenly stopped us. He said we had better wait until he sold his goats because he was afraid they would gobble up the new plants!

One never knows where service may lead. One of our Campus Ministry graduate students who is graduating this spring wants to work for AmeriCorps, and Katie Walch, the representative from HERO (Hale Empowerment and Revitalization Organization) who led us to Pastor Kervin's home that day, previously served with AmeriCorps. She told the student about working with AmeriCorps and a possible long-term opportunity to serve in the Black Belt.

We were reminded once again that as we serve, blessings abound!

Generous donations from St. Mary's-on-the-Highlands and St. Stephen's in Birmingham as well as other groups and private donors provided funds to establish Camp Alabama Storm, a community-driven effort created by volunteer experts in children's grief and trauma. Last November, Camp McDowell hosted a free weekend healing camp for children ages 8-11 who had been affected by the April 27th tornadoes. Twenty-four children from across Alabama attended the weekend camp.

To help reach even more children this spring, the therapists designed a therapeutic art activity to take out to communities in a mini-camp format to promote emotional healing. In addition to being supportive, the Camp Alabama Storm Art Line mini-camps focused on gratitude for help given and help received in trying times.

Each child who participated in a mini-camp created an art piece around the theme “helping hands—who helped you this last year and whom did you help?” The art pieces were exhibited at the Magic City Art Connection event the weekend of April 27-29, 2012, in Linn Park in downtown Birmingham.

Here are some of the messages of hope and gratitude from elementary school-age children who survived the tornadoes.

“When the tornado was over, we went outside to see the damage. That's my story. I didn't help nobody. Somebody helped me.”

“When the tornado happened I was at the mall closest to where it happened. When we came out it was really sad because we saw everything destroyed. My uncles came to stay at my house and 20 people stayed at my house.”

“When the tornado hit I was scared. I could not speak. I could only cry. My heart was destroyed like my house in Hackleburg. I went threw a lot, I prayed that my classmates were OK. I hugged everyone in the classrooms and cried on their shoulders. They asked me what was wrong. I said 'my house is gone. Everyone is OK so that's why.' After the tornado everything was all better. I was happy after because we were all safe.”

“I helped my family find the way through the dark.”

“I helped mom out of a truck when the tornado came.”

“I helped my great-grandma after our house got destroyed. I got some of her belongings out of the debris. Some of it was broke, but we got it fixed but if it was ripped we left it alone. I know my great-grandma is in a better place. In Heaven.”
Tornado Survivors Recover

“They gave us food. They gave us clothes for being alive. They had some old people on oxygen tanks. We let people help us. I was crying after the storm. I helped my neighbors get out of Crescent East. I helped other people out by giving clothes, giving shoes. I cut down trees. I helped a lot of children during the storm. I helped some babies out during the storm. I lent my favorite toys to people who lost their favorite toys. I also help some babies who were in sorrow.”

“We help my Mawmaw because my Pawpaw died. When we got down there we hunted and hunted and then we found him between two trees. So she lived with us for two months. Some people gave her clothes and food. Afterward my Mawmaw had to go to the hospital. She didn’t know why but she was hurting. Then after that we had to go to school in a church, but after that people helped and it got better.”

“Some people at my church let us borrow their generator. We helped warn some people in cars that were driving that the road was blocked. My best friend’s house was destroyed and she had to move. Our road was blocked off. We cleaned up some of the destroyed houses. Our power was out for 3 weeks. After it my neighbor got out and got some food for us all. The next morning we walked down Crescent Ridge Road and you could see back really far back. Just up the street from us there was a house destroyed and we were really lucky to not have our house destroyed. People would donate food and things to us. I’m thankful to have met my new friends because they helped get us someone to cut down the tree that blocked our basement.”

“They gave me food and water. I gave a hug to someone. I help my aunt because she broke her leg. V.A. helped us by letting us stay with them. People gave me clothes. I picked up branches.”

“When the tornado came I helped people get food.”

“Someone found my baby puppy, Scrappy, and I was so happy. Trever helped me. He took care of my puppy.”

“When the tornado happened I helped my friend Abby, when she broke her foot and her leg, by getting her tray at school.”

“People helped us pick up all the stuff. I am thankful that my family did not get hurt. I’m glad to go to see them give people food and my dogs are OK.”

“I am grateful for the people that helped us with food and water cause if they didn’t bring food or water we wouldn’t of made it.”

“After the tornado I helped by working in the trailers. I boxed up supplies and gave them to people in need. I am thankful for all the people that helped my community and I am thankful for all my friends and family.”

“GeGe gave us food. We gave food to others. It felt good.”

“Some one gave me clothes. Some one gave me a house. Some one gave us food and water. They help me clean up my house. They gave us shoes. I helped my mom get stuff out of the house that the tornado hit and I had flip flops on and there was glass.”

“Some people at my church let us borrow their generator. We helped warn some people in cars that were driving that the road was blocked. My best friend’s house was destroyed and she had to move. Our road was blocked off. We cleaned up some of the destroyed houses. Our power was out for 3 weeks. After it my neighbor got out and got some food for us all. The next morning we walked down Crescent Ridge Road and you could see back really far back. Just up the street from us there was a house destroyed and we were really lucky to not have our house destroyed. People would donate food and things to us. I’m thankful to have met my new friends because they helped get us someone to cut down the tree that blocked our basement.”

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“The people that helped me were my friends. My church helped. I’m thankful for my friends and family and God keeping his hands on us.”

“Things I am thankful for: My family and friends, surviving the tornado, my home, Jesus and God, my school, my church, and the people who came and helped Hackleburg.”

“Right now I am thankful for my family, travelers, my church, and my dad’s family. My church taught me that through every bad outcome a good outcome comes.”

“I am so greatful for my family. I’m so greatful for my life. I’m so greatful for the people that help me move my self. I’m so thankful for all the church. I’m so thankful for the people that gave me food. I’m greatful to have a new house. I’m so thankful for my mom and dad.”

“Some one gave us food. Some one gave me clothes. Some one gave me a house. Some one gave us food and water. They help me clean up my house. They gave us shoes. I helped my mom get stuff out of the house that the tornado hit and I had flip flops on and there was glass.”

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“The day will start with a Breakfast and cleanup) and lunch.

For more information please e-mail campalabamastorm@gmail.com or visit http://campalabamastorm.wordpress.com.

Birmingham Area Episcopal Churches in partnership with the Christian Service Mission, the Community Furniture Bank, Mt. Moriah Baptist Church, and Habitat for Humanity invite everyone to participate in an Episcopal Day of Service for Tornado Recovery on July 21. The day will start with a Breakfast and Prayer gathering at Mt. Moriah Baptist Church (316 Avenue U in Birmingham) followed by work projects (gardening, lawn care, construction, maintenance, painting, and cleanup) and lunch.

For more information please contact the Rev Jack Alvey, associate rector of All Saints’ in Birmingham, at jalvey@allsaintsbirmingham.org or 205/769-3180. You can register online at http://www.dioala.org/digital_faith/events/3152376.
Trinity Church Featured in National Documentary

By Justin Averette

Trinity Episcopal Church in Clanton will be featured in an Episcopal Church Center video project called “Transforming Churches, Changing the World.” The project features parishes that are growing and making a difference in their communities. A Church Center film team was in Clanton on Palm Sunday weekend to conduct interviews and cover services as well as the parish’s Beans and Rice ministry. The video is scheduled to appear on the Episcopal Church Web site, vimeo.com/episcopalchurch, in September.

The Clanton Advertiser, a local newspaper, covered the team’s visit. The following article, published on April 5, 2012, is reprinted here with the permission of author Justin Averette and The Clanton Advertiser.

When Bill King came to Trinity Episcopal Church nine years ago this week, there were only eight people in the pews. Fast forward to 2012, when the sanctuary was nearly filled for Palm Sunday services.

That growth and renewed vitality has not gone unnoticed—Trinity will be one of just a handful of congregations across the country featured in the Episcopal Church USA’s “Transforming Churches, Changing the World” project. The short, 5-minute film will be featured online this fall on the national Church’s Web site and VIMEO channel, vimeo.com/episcopalchurch.

The documentary project, which is in its second year, highlights churches that are growing and making a difference in their community. Last year, the short films focused on larger congregations in Boston, Chicago, Philadelphia, and other cities. However, this year the spotlight will be on smaller churches, much like Trinity. “(We are) doing profiles of churches that are growing and giving insight into how they are growing,” said Olivia Silver, editor and producer. Silver said the churches, which include parishes in California, Nevada, Missouri, and North Carolina, all have one thing in common—community. “These churches are becoming integrated in the community,” Silver said. “They are getting out there and interacting.”

A film crew in town this past weekend recorded Trinity’s worship service as well as members working Saturday in the church’s rice and beans ministry, which helps to feed as many as 100 families in the winter months. It’s that ministry as well as other outreaches that may help explain why the church has grown in recent years, King said. “I’ve done many things with the church over the years—(the rice and beans ministry) is the most rewarding thing I have done,” King said. “Believe me, it’s the most miraculous thing I have ever done, that this parish does.”

The fact that the church still exists today is somewhat of a miracle itself. The sanctuary that houses Trinity will be 100 years old next year, making it one of the oldest buildings in downtown Clanton, but many of those years the building sat vacant. The Seventh Day Adventist Church bought the property and built the church building around 1913. The Episcopal Diocese of Alabama bought the building in 1954 and had an active congregation through the 1950s and 60s. However, attendance waned and eventually disbanded altogether. From 1970 through 1995, no church held services in Trinity.

The Episcopal Church was reestablished in 1995 though numbers were still low, but they grew steadily. In 2009, the Alabama Diocese approved Trinity as a permanent parish. The little church that could, once without a congregation, now enjoys one 80 strong.

Bagging a Few for the Kingdom of God

By the Rev. Josiah Rengers, Rector of St. Stephen’s in Eutaw

In January, the members of the vestry of St. Stephen’s in Eutaw brainstormed about possible fundraisers for the parish. Dan Garraud, our senior warden and an avid hunter, suggested that we hold a hunting event. St. Stephen’s is located in the middle of an outdoor enthusiast’s dream—come—true, and Greene County is known far and wide as a deer and turkey hunter’s mecca.

This fall, the church decided to work together. It turned into a huge celebration with many asking the resounding question, “When can we do this again?” This was the first step into other conversations about St. Stephen’s and our ministries. It seems that God challenged us to be hunters for men this year, and we pray that we bagged a few for the Kingdom of God.

Nativity Team Builds a Sustainable Garden in Haiti

From the Church of the Nativity in Huntsville

Church in Murphysboro, Tennessee, installed the sustainable irrigation system in the garden in February as part of our diocese’s companion relationship with the Diocese of Haiti. Our diocese funded the installation of a well and water system at the complex last year to provide drinking water for the children at the school. The Mary Garden is an extension of that project.

The Mary Garden at St. Michael’s Church and School in Thomazeau, Haiti, is green, growing, and producing its first fruits. The sustainable community garden, which is a ministry project of the young adults at the Nativity in Huntsville, is helping provide nourishing food as well as teaching students and their families about nutrition and how to grow healthy food. A team from the Nativity and St. Paul’s Episcopal Church in Murphreesboro, Tennessee, installed the sustainable irrigation system in the garden in February as part of our diocese’s companion relationship with the Diocese of Haiti. Our diocese funded the installation of a well and water system at the complex last year to provide drinking water for the children at the school. The Mary Garden is an extension of that project.

“Well, I finally got to the garden at Thomazeau today (May 1, 2012), and I couldn’t believe my eyes,” reported Daniel Church, a missionary from the Diocese of Arkansas, in an e-mail to the Nativiry team. “The entire compound is green, but the garden is something else. The corn is already producing. The okra is huge. The spinach looks killer. The eggplant is good. It will feed many hungry children.” Daniel is completing three-months in Haiti working with the diocese and the St. Simeon Parish to coordinate visiting medical mission teams.

By the Rev. Josiah Rengers, Rector of St. Stephen’s in Eutaw

The beauty of the event wasn’t the needed funds it raised, but the opportunity for everyone in the parish to work together. It turned into a huge celebration with many asking the resounding question, “When can we do this again?” This was the first step into other conversations about St. Stephen’s and our ministries. It seems that God challenged us to be hunters for men this year, and we pray that we bagged a few for the Kingdom of God.

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“The most miraculous thing I have ever done, that this parish does.”

The fact that the church still exists today is somewhat of a miracle itself. The sanctuary that houses Trinity will be 100 years old next year, making it one of the oldest buildings in downtown Clanton, but many of those years the building sat vacant. The Seventh Day Adventist Church bought the property and built the church building around 1913. The Episcopal Diocese of Alabama bought the building in 1954 and had an active congregation through the 1950s and 60s. However, attendance waned and eventually disbanded altogether. From 1970 through 1995, no church held services in Trinity.

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By the Rev. Josiah Rengers, Rector of St. Stephen’s in Eutaw

With only two weeks left in the hunting season, the men, women, and children of our parish came together to put on a spectacular fundraising event that drew more than 60 hunters. Each hunter paid an entrance fee, and whoever brought in the biggest doe won the $1,000 pot. The rest of the money raised went toward our parish ministries.

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Perhaps the holiest aspect of the hoagie sale is the sense of time and talent St. Michael’s was offering to God. But the hoagie roll (a “holy roll,” as it became) to symbolize the transformation into a massive assembly line.

Prep work and sales had begun weeks before, and with watering smells of bread, cheese, salami, and hot peppers. McDowell scholarships, and fund other outreach ministries as our diocese’s Bethany Village and locally the Harris Home for Children.

Around Our Diocese

St. Stephen’s Bistro Benefits Outreach Projects

Last month, more than 100 members and guests of St. Stephen’s in Huntsville were transported back in time to experience the Latin flair of Little Havana and the elegance of the early days of Miami Beach’s Fontainebleau Hotel. This was the third year of St. Stephen’s Bistro; in the past, those attending have experienced the elegance of European dining and the frivolity and excitement of the streets of “N’awlins.”

This year, guests were welcomed with one of Ernest Hemingway’s Cuban favorite, the Mojito. The meal began with Sopa de Frijoles Negros, black bean soup with avocado mousse; followed by Ensalada Cubana, a tropical mixed green salad topped with ceviche. Lechon Asado, tender pork with a splashy mojito marinade, was the star of the evening, while Torta Borracha, a homemade chocolate custard-filled rum cake, rounded out the meal. Each course was paired with its own special wine, personally selected by Bistro St. Stephen’s own sommelier; and keeping with the Latin theme, the wines selected were from Spain, Portugal, and South America. Nationally recorded artist Devere Pride and Guests filled the room with jazz and kept toes tapping and bodies swaying with popular and Latin jazz throughout the evening. Thirteen lucky winners walked away with raffle prizes from area merchants and parishioners totaling well over $3,000—the premier raffle prize being a four day/three night stay at the winner’s choice of a mountain cabin or beach condo.

It was truly a night elegance and fun, but equally important were the profits that will be supporting such ministries as our diocese’s Bethany Village and locally the Harris Home for Children.

Homecoming at Historic St. Andrew’s in Prairieville

A baptism and four confirmations highlighted the homecoming at St. Andrew’s in Prairieville on May 5 as nearby Trinity in Demopolis hosted its annual bishop’s visitation at the historic building. Although St. Andrew’s does not house an active parish, services are held there once or twice a year. The red board-and-batten Carpenter Gothic Revival-style church, which belongs to our diocese, has been designated a National Historic Landmark by the National Park Service.

St. Andrew’s was organized as a mission in 1834 to serve the settlers who mostly came from the Atlantic Seaboard. The church became a parish in the Diocese of Alabama in 1844. The current church building, which was constructed in 1853, features wooden buttresses and a large door hung on strap iron hinges and is virtually unaltered with the original pews, organ, and stained glass. The church is situated in Gallion, which was formerly the community of Prairieville.

Bishop Sloan baptized and confirmed Anna Michael Harris, Malcomn Taylor, Mandy Herron-Shepherd, and Brennen Herron during the service. The members of Trinity and guests enjoyed a barbecue dinner on the grounds after the service.

“Everyone Knows They Are Really Needed”

By the Rev. Kaitie Nakamura Rengers, Rector of St. Michael’s in Fayette

St. Michael’s in Fayette is a small, loving community where church members of all ages know they are needed and eagerly come together to collaborate on projects.

On Super Bowl Sunday, the women, men, and youth worked together to make sandwiches for the ECW’s 18th annual hoagie sale, an event that raises money to support the Fayette Christian Center of Concern, provide Camp McDowell scholarships, and fund other outreach ministries. That Sunday, the nave was filled with the mouth-wathering smells of bread, cheese, salami, and hot peppers. Prep work and sales had begun weeks before, and with 500 sandwiches to make that morning, the parish hall was transformed into a massive assembly line.

When it came time for Communion, we used a hoagie roll (a “holy roll,” as it became) to symbolize the time and talent St. Michael’s was offering to God. But perhaps the holiest aspect of the hoagie sale is the sense of Christian community it inspires among the people of our parish. Of the 55 Episcopalians we recorded in the register that morning, at least 35 worked on the hoagie assembly line. “How do ya’ll get all these people to come help?” an awed Baptist asked, when she came to pick up her sandwiches. “The answer,” said Toni Robertson, a founding member of St. Michael’s, “is in our church’s small, loving community. Everyone knows they are really needed.”

That same eager collaboration of church members of all ages also recently produced a vibrant 5-foot-tall, 3-foot-wide mosaic cross. Rhys Greene spearheaded the project by creating more than 50 small crosses out of colorful fused glass. During an intergenerational Sunday school class, the children and adults glued the small crosses and background glass onto pieces of backer board, which later were attached to a wooden base built by Jim Logan of St. Stephen’s in Eutaw. The cross, which stands just to the left of the front doors of the church, was shrouded until the lighting of the new fire at the Easter Vigil. It was blessed on Easter Sunday and dedicated to Bill and Toni Robertson for all their years of ministry at St. Michael’s.

The mosaic cross joins Rhys Green’s other beautiful mosaics that adorn the grounds of the church. These depict the Trinity, the Creation, the Birth of Jesus, the Baptism of Jesus, the Miracles of Jesus, the Eucharist, the Crucifixion, and the Resurrection. Ever since the church was built in 1982, the people of St. Michael’s have used their own gifts and talents to make it a special place to worship.

The Alabama Episcopalian • May/June 2012
Fostering Independent Farmers

By the Rev. Dean Judy Quick, Our Diocese Representative

Episcopal Relief & Development
Healing a hurting world

The more I learn about Episcopal Relief and Development, the more I believe in its work and mission. Since Alabama is such a vital agricultural state, I thought I would share how Episcopal Relief and Development supports individual farmers in developing nations. The following story of Filipino rice farmers comes from Episcopal Relief and Development communication materials.

In the lowland areas of the Philippines, subsistence rice farmers have long struggled to meet their families’ needs. Their plots are small and many do not have an effective way to dry their rice after it is harvested, nor do they have adequate storage for seed and grain. Making matters worse, typhoons hit almost every year in eastern Luzon Island, causing major crop losses due to wind damage, heavy rains, and flooding.

For these reasons, the farmers must sell their rice immediately after harvest, receiving low prices due to the glut of supply. In addition, they must purchase seeds for the next planting, often borrowing at high rates to do so, and they must buy rice at high prices for their families’ consumption later in the year when demand is high and supply is low. This puts them at risk of hunger and leaves them mired in a cycle of low income, high costs, and poverty.

Episcopal Relief and Development and our partner the Community-Based Development Program (CBDP) of the Episcopal Church in the Philippines are helping farmers develop creative solutions to the problems they face. Through past projects, we have enabled farmers to form cooperatives to increase their access to markets, develop transportation improvements, build seed banks, and increase their harvests. But farmers in the lowlands needed much more.

Taking an asset-based development approach, it is clear that the greatest strengths in these communities include their unity, work ethic, and ideas about how to solve their problems. So Episcopal Relief and Development and CBDP are teaming up to develop an innovative, sustainable community rice, seed, and grain storage model to reduce post-harvest losses by at least 75 percent. Groups of 50 farming households in each of 10 communities will take the lead in constructing dedicated drying pavement and seed and grain storage warehouses. They will set operating policies and user fees, and then manage operations. Each family will store and withdraw their own seed and grain bags as they see fit. And the farmers’ organizations will develop market linkages through a value chain approach that will assure a larger and more reliable stream of income. Throughout this process, Episcopal Relief and Development and CBDP will provide the training and resources to make these grassroots-based projects a reality.

Once in place, the farmers will be able to generate a reliable income stream throughout the year, eliminating the costs of purchasing seeds and grain for their own consumption, and more nutritious food, and strengthen their communities.

Working with the local diocese and its partners, Episcopal Relief and Development is able to assess the real needs and offer workable solutions to help alleviate poverty and strengthen communities. This model addresses not only farming needs, but also the need for clean water, sanitation systems, literacy, microenterprise, and medical clinics.

For more information on the work of Episcopal Relief and Development or to schedule a parish visit, please contact me at jgquick@bellsouth.net or 205/669-6882, or visit www. er-d.org.

2nd Annual Children’s Art Camp
July 23-27 from 1 to 3:30 p.m. at St. Alban’s in Birmingham

St. Alban’s in Birmingham (Hoover) invites children who have finished first, second, or third grade to come to the parish’s 2nd Annual Art Camp. Mary Susan Lewis, a well-known local artist and specialist in children’s art, will lead the camp. Mary Susan has an enormous amount of experience working with children and art, including creating art activities for patients at Children’s Hospital, and she has also taught art classes for senior citizens. In addition to art-related activities, the camp will include music and playtime. We are asking for a contribution of $25 per child (financial aid and discounts for multiple children from the same family are available). The camp will be limited to 25 children. Please register by July 13; you can download a registration form from St. Alban’s Web site, www.stalbansbham.org (click on the Events link on the left-hand side of the home page). For more information please contact the parish at 205/822-2330 or stalbansbham@gmail.com.

St. Catherine’s in Chelsea is seeking to purchase a newer, used digital organ for regular Sunday worship to replace the current outdated one, which is in poor condition. For more information please contact organist Matthew West at mwest@uab.edu or leave a message with the parish office staff at 205/618-8367.

St. Stephen’s in Birmingham is accepting applications for a director for senior-high youth ministries; if you are interested, please e-mail your resume and references to Parish Administrator Summer Stough at summer@stsechurch.org. For more information please visit the parish’s Web site, www.stsechurch.org, or call the parish office at 205/967-8786.

The Rev. Andy Anderson, rector of the Church of the Nativity in Huntsville, and Academy Travel will lead a pilgrimage to the Holy Land on October 12-27. For more information please call 256/553-2455.

The Rev. Bob Henderson, who had been serving as priest-in-charge of Trinity in Wetumpka, has been called to serve as the rector of the parish. We welcome Bob and his wife, Charlotte, permanently to our diocesan family.

The Rev. Blake Hutson will begin serving as rector of Holy Apostles’ in Hoover (Birmingham) in June. He previously served as assistant to the rector at St. Phillip’s-in-the-Hills in Tucson, Arizona. Blake and his wife, Christina, were born and raised in Nashville.

The Rev. Joan Henrick has accepted a call to serve as rector of St. Columba in the Cove in Huntsville beginning in July. Joan is currently serving as rector of Holy Comforter in Gadsden.
What's New/Noteworthy at the Episcopal Book Store

Special Books for the Milestones in Life (In Order of Appropriate Age)

- Jesus Calling: 365 Devotions for Kids by Sarah Young and adapted by Tama Fortner - Based on Sarah Young's original Jesus Calling, this version of the devotional has been adapted in a language and fashion that kids and tweens can relate to their everyday lives. After many years of writing in her prayer journal, missionary Sarah Young decided to listen to God with pen in hand, writing down what she believed He was saying to her through Scripture. The devotions are written from Jesus' point of view, thus the title Jesus Calling. It is Sarah's fervent prayer that our Savior may bless readers - and now young readers—with His presence and His peace in ever deeper measure.

- Feast: A Quiet Time Book by Liz Edrington - Cameron Cole says, "I am often asked for a recommendation of a good devotional for teens, and it is extremely difficult to find one. Feast: A Quiet Time Book is perhaps the best I have seen. This devotional connects students to God's Word and the love of Christ. It is not simply a moralist 'go be good for God' pep talk—it really helps students deepen in relationship and love of Christ, while being accessible to teens."

- Dateable: Are You? Are They? by Justin Lookadoo and Hayley DiMarco - Passion. It's the fuel for success, for dreams, for life. But too many teens focus their energy and passion on the wrong thing—the wrong person. Dateable pulls no punches in telling teens the truth about dating while also directing their passion toward a greater purpose in life. Teen relationships seldom last, the authors point out, so why should teens invest so much of themselves emotionally, physically, and spiritually? The answer? They shouldn't. Instead, they can protect their hearts, live with excitement, and enjoy relationships in a way that enhances rather than detracts from those they'll have in the future. With Justin and Hayley "telling it like it is," teens will learn how to be dateable and how to evaluate the dateability of their latest crush. And they'll get some much-needed perspective on sex, his/her communication, clothes, God, even "chick flicks." Dateable also includes sidebars, quizzes, callouts, and more.

- Time for The Talk: Leading Your Son into Manhood by Steve Zollo - Time for The Talk will help fathers (or mothers) walk their sons through one of the most important conversations of their lives. "The Talk" is much broader than just a talk about sexuality; it's a conversation about manhood, about right decisions, about Christ—about the rich relationships Christ wants them to have with Him, with women, and with the world at large. Time for The Talk will assist you in giving your son what he needs to steer through the moral and spiritual confusion of this world and make wise, godly, character-forming decisions.

- Girl Talk: Mother-Daughter Conversations on Biblical Womanhood by Carolyn Mahaney and Nicole Mahaney Whitacre - Mothers and daughters have a lot to talk about. That's how God designed it. A mother is her daughter's first role model, teacher, and friend, and she carries the responsibility of passing on to her daughter a legacy of biblical womanhood. The Carolyn and Nicole join to give us insights and suggestions on how to talk (really talk) to each other about what it means to become a godly woman. Tips and study questions make it easy for moms and their preteen and teenage daughters to read, share, discuss, and grow.

- Seeds of Happiness - Seeds of Happiness started out as left-over lumps of clay that photographer Mark Borella made into little smiles to give out to friends who were going through hard times and needed a little smile. That was in 2006—and since then, thousands of smiles have been given out to people who in turn have shared them with friends. Not only are these little "seeds of happiness" great to lift the spirits of those in need but also just as little a "happy gift."

- A Guide for Students: The Outrageous Idea of Academic Faithfulness by Donald Opitz and Derek Melleby - Most Christian college students separate their academic life from church attendance, Bible study, and prayer, and too often discipleship of the mind is overlooked if not ignored altogether. Authors Donald Opitz and Derek Melleby issue a call to students to integrate their faith and learning in The Outrageous Idea of Academic Faithfulness. This guide extracts illustrations from the Book of Daniel, The Lord of the Rings, the experiences of real students, and more. It makes an excellent gift for college-bound seniors in high school or for first-year college students.

- When Helping Hurts: How to Alleviate Poverty Without Hurting the Poor and Yourself by Steve Corbett and Brian Fikkert - Have you ever wondered if what we’re doing is really helping? When Helping Hurts reveals the painful truth about poverty, but it does more than tell you what not to do. The book moves from foundational concepts about poverty (Who are the poor?) to principles (Should we do relief, rehabilitation, or development?) to strategies (How can we help the poor domestically? Internationally?).

The bookstore is 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 the staff research and special order a particular book, please contact the Episcopal Book Store, 2015 Sixth Avenue North, Birmingham, AL 35203; 205/323-2959; ebsinfo@episcobooks.com; or visit the bookstore online at www.episcobooks.com.
Carolyn Maull McKinstry, author of *While the World Watched: A Birmingham Bombing Survivor Comes of Age During the Civil Rights Movement*, will give the homily at this year’s annual Jonathan Daniels Pilgrimage. A native of Birmingham and a lifelong member of Sixteenth Street Baptist Church, Carolyn participated in the “children’s crusade” and other nonviolent demonstrations organized by the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and his supporters in early 1963 to raise awareness about segregation in the Birmingham area and garner national support for civil rights initiatives. She bravely faced Commissioner of Public Safety Eugene “Bull” Connor’s German shepherds and stinging fire hoses during the civil rights struggle. She also witnessed the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church bombing on September 15, 1963, when Addie Mae Collins, Denise McNair, Carole Robertson, and Cynthia Wesley died in the church basement while they were getting ready for Sunday school.

Now, one year before the 50th anniversary of the history-changing church bombing, Carolyn will share her experiences and insights on racial reconciliation during the pilgrimage in Hayneville. This annual observance and pilgrimage, which is sponsored by our diocesan Commission on Race Relations and the Diocese of Alabama, remembers and honors the lives of Jonathan Daniels and the 12 civil rights martyrs of Alabama. Jonathan, who was an Episcopal seminarian, answered Dr. King’s call to help register African American voters in Alabama. He was shot and killed on August 20, 1965, while shielding then-16-year-old Ruby Sales from a shotgun blast as she attempted to enter a store to buy something to drink. Jonathan was added to the Episcopal Church Calendar of Saints and Martyrs in 1994 to be remembered each August 14.

The pilgrimage begins at 11 a.m. on Saturday, August 11, at the Courthouse Square in Hayneville. The procession will go to the old county jail where Jonathan and Ruby were among those detained for a week and then move to the old Cash Grocery Store where Jonathan died. The pilgrimage will end at the Courthouse, where a service of Holy Eucharist will take place in the courtroom where the deputy who killed Jonathan was acquitted by an all-white jury. Carolyn will speak during the service.

The Ascension in Montgomery is hosting a lock-in on Friday, August 10, for youth entering 7th through 12th grades as well as youth leaders and other interested chaperones who plan to participate in this year’s annual Jonathan Daniels Pilgrimage on Saturday, August 11. For more information about the lock-in, please contact Youth Director Holly Bauer at hbauer@coxscension.org or the parish office at 334/263-5529. For more information about this year’s pilgrimage, please contact the Rev. Deacon Carolyn J. Foster at carolynjfoster@bellsouth.net or 205/434-1442.

**Save the Date!**

A new opportunity for Community in the Diocese of Alabama

**CAMP DAY 2012**

*When:* October 27 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

*Where:* Wonderful, Wonderful Camp McDowell

*What:* A diocesan-wide family gathering

*Who:* You and you and you and . . .

*Why:* Bishop Sloan wants us all to get together and spend the day in love and fellowship.

There will be food, fun, frivolity, and fellowship with a variety of games, live entertainment, and college football on a giant screen (10 x 10-foot) TV in the “football room” as well as a picnic with BBQ chicken, boiled shrimp, and all the fixin’s. We will end the day’s festivities with a closing Eucharist from 5 to 6 p.m.

*Stay tuned . . . more to come!*