You are invited

**CAMP DAY**

at CAMP McDOWELL
10 AM - 6 PM

Saturday, October 27th

- Live Entertainment
- Indoor & Outdoor Games
- Big Screen TV of the Day’s Games
- Dinner on the Grounds
- Closing Worship Service

See “Just for Fun” on Page 3
The Rt. Rev. Santosh K. Marray Will Serve As Our Assistant Bishop

By Diocesan Staff

The Rt. Rev. Santosh K. Marray, formerly assisting bishop in the Diocese of East Carolina, accepted a call from our diocese and began serving as assistant bishop at the end of September. He is supporting Bishop Sloan by sharing the annual parish visitation schedule. Along with Episcopal visitation in his former diocese, Bishop Marray was responsible for the Department of Mission and Congregational Development, especially in small congregations, and he will continue to assist in that area in our diocese.

“We are pleased and excited to welcome Santosh to the Carpenter House staff and our diocesan family,” emphasizes Bishop Sloan. “We look forward to the special gifts he will bring to the ministry of our diocese. He is a genuine and loving man, and I am confident that he and his wife, Nalini, will fit in well with us.”

Bishop Marray was ordained a deacon in January and a priest in November 1981 at St. George’s Cathedral in Georgetown, Guyana. He served in various ministries in Guyana until 1989, when he accepted a call to ministry in the Diocese of the Bahamas. He served there until 2003, when he accepted a call to serve as rector of St. Philip’s in Jacksonville, Florida. In 2005 he was elected to serve as diocesan bishop of the Diocese of Seychelles in the Province of the Indian Ocean.

Bishop Marray interprets his call to the Diocese of Seychelles in terms of a miracle. God was calling him to a very critical mission that he couldn’t decline. His election came at a time when the diocese was undergoing major challenges across the spectrum of diocesan life, and the standing committee gave him a mandate that included pioneering the renewal and revitalization of the diocese.

In a spirit of collaborative and collegial ministry, the diocese witnessed a major revival in all areas of diocesan life under Bishop Marray’s leadership. The highlights of his ministry included the ordination of the first woman priest in both the diocese and the province. Having fulfilled the mandate he had been given and with the diocese in a much healthier state, Bishop Marray invited the diocesan leaders to elect a local bishop. At the end of 2008, he returned home to his family and the Diocese of Florida.

In his pastoral ministry, he has served in several parochial settings and has extensive experience in working with small and rural multistation parishes as well as urban, inner-city, and suburban congregations. He has witnessed the revival and growth of many struggling congregations and restored and/or built several parish facilities, achieved through successful capital campaigns.

In his communion-wide ministry, Bishop Marray has ministered, nurtured, inspired, and counseled numerous people, including many non-Christians. He is a strong advocate of the gospel of reconciliation and God’s love for all persons. In addition, he is a Congregationalist in the mission of God that Jesus called the Church to live into, and his rally phrase is “a risen Savior is incompatible with a dying Church.”

Bishop Marray’s community service, social outreach, and justice work stretch across many countries and communities throughout the Anglican Communion. He served as a member of the Anglican Covenant Design Group, which drafted the Anglican Covenant, and he is currently a member of the Archbishop of Canterbury Dr. Rowan Williams’ Pastoral Visitors’ Team. The team consists of laypeople, clergy, and bishops invited by the archbishop to serve as his emissaries in conflict situations.

Bishop Marray and Nalini have been married for 34 years and have two adult children, Veronica Amanda and Ingram Jeremy, and a daughter-in-law, Tenille. Nalini is a career schoolteacher.

Bishop Sloan asks everyone in our diocese to please join him in welcoming Bishop and Nalini Marray.

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Anglican Communion
An 80-million-member worldwide community of 38 provinces.

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All editorial submissions should be sent to Editor Norma McKitrack at apostledit@aol.com or 2156 Kent Way, Birmingham, AL 35226. The deadlines for each issue are the 1st of the month prior to publication.

All address corrections or additions should be sent to Denise Servant at dservant@dioala.org or Carpenter House, 521 North 20th Street, Birmingham, AL 35203–2682.

POSTMASTER: Please send address corrections to Denise Servant, Graduation Secretary, The Alabama Episcopalian, 521 North 20th Street, Birmingham, AL 35203–2682.
Hello, friends:

One of the most formative moments of my call to ordination came in the summer of 1971 when I went to summer camp for the first time and saw an Episcopal priest playing hopscotch with a group of third and fourth graders. It had never occurred to me before that a priest might have fun. I’d never noticed any Church people being or having any sort of fun at all in my previous 15 years of life. “Church” and “Fun” had just never seemed to belong in the same sentence before. It had always seemed that you could have Church or you could have Fun—but you couldn’t have them both at the same time. The Church, after all, is doing important stuff.

So here’s what I want to say: Having fun is important too. Coming together as a family or a parish or a diocese just for the sake of being together, playing together, laughing together, eating together—these are also worth our best efforts. I’m really fairly serious about having fun.

Love is the great gift we’ve been given and are now called to share, not goody sentimentality that comes and goes with our emotional tides, but the eternal love of God that caused all things to be and sustains us still. The Gospel, the Good News proclaiming the love of God through Jesus Christ our Lord, is at the heart of everything we do. This is the Light we are given to shine into a world that seems to be growing darker. All of those budgets and agendas and buildings and grounds are important only to the extent that they invite us to come more deeply into the love of God. The importance of fun is it has great power to lead us to Joy, and Joy invites us to a fuller understanding of God.

So I want to invite you to a celebration of being an Episcopalian in the Diocese of Alabama, just for fun. We’re calling it Camp Day—for no serious reason other than it happens to be at Camp McDowell. The purpose of Camp Day is for us to come together as a diocesan family, to enjoy the day together. We’ll have no presentations on issues, no controversies will be addressed, no votes will be taken, and no sales pitches will be tossed at you—it’s just for fun. My hope is that you and the people you worship with will come and join with other people from other congregations from all over our diocese for the pure and simple pleasure of being together. The plan is for it to be a beautifully brisk fall day and that we’ll have good food, games for the children complete with prizes, a variety of indoor and outdoor activities for our older kids, and music. People who want to watch football will come watch it with your larger Church community (my team, the mighty Mississippi State Bulldogs, are scheduled to be sacrificed on the homecoming altar in Tuscaloosa that day—I’ll bring several cowbells, just in case you get the urge).

Let’s have a fun day, a day for our diocesan family to gather and enjoy each other, a day for us to focus on how we fit together and concentrate on sharing the love of God that keeps us together, rather than on things that threaten to tear us apart. It’s important. Surely we haven’t gotten so grown up and brittle that we are no longer able to do something just for the fun of it. You are invited to take part in the many activities for children and adults, or you can just visit with friends. We will close with a Eucharist together in the afternoon.

You’ll find the particulars on our diocesan Web site at http://dioala.org/campday.html, and also on the Camp Day Web site, http://www.camp–day.org. I do want to be sure that you understand that we will be serving a good barbecue and shrimp lunch for adults ($12) and a barbecue lunch for younger people ($6). We also are planning on offering a meal suitable for our vegetarian folks ($8); it would help a lot for you to let us know so we can make those arrangements. If you’d rather bring your own food, that’s fine, but we’d appreciate it if you would still let us know you’re coming by signing up on our Web site.

It’s Camp Day—it’s just for fun, and it’s important—I hope to see you all there!

The Rt. Rev. John McKee Sloan
The 11th Bishop of Alabama
Undaunted by the threat of thunderstorms, more than 200 people from across our state and beyond gathered in the Lowndes County Courthouse Square in Hayneville on August 11 for the 14th Annual Jonathan Daniels Pilgrimage. They walked, sang, and prayed together as they learned more about slain Episcopal seminarian Jonathan Daniels and other martyrs of the bloody 1960s struggle for civil rights in Alabama, as they remembered and honored the sacrifices these and other martyrs made for others, and as they celebrated the reconciliation available through the healing, transforming love of God.

Forty-seven years ago, Jonathan answered the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s call to help register African American voters in Alabama, and he died in Hayneville in August 1965 while shielding then-16-year-old Ruby Sales from a shotgun blast as she attempted to enter a store to buy a soft drink. From the courthouse square, the pilgrims walked to the now-abandoned Hayneville Jail, where Jonathan, Ruby, and the other civil rights workers were held for a week under deplorable conditions after they were arrested for participating in a demonstration in nearby Fort Deposit. From the jail, the group walked the short distance to the former Varner’s Cash Store, where Jonathan died when a part-time deputy sheriff shot him. Many of the pilgrims knelt at the front entrance of the store to touch the spot and pray where Jonathan died.

The pilgrimage procession returned to the town square and paused outside the courthouse for prayer at a memorial erected by Jonathan’s alma mater, Virginia Military Institute, before continuing inside to the courtroom where the man who shot Jonathan had been tried and acquitted by an all-white, all-male jury. Carolyn Maull McKinstry, a survivor of the 1964 bombing of Sixteenth Street Baptist Church in Birmingham that killed four of her friends, delivered the sermon.

Carolyn, who marched and faced public safety commissioner Bull Connor’s German shepherds and stinging fire hoses during the battle for equal rights, is the author of While the World Watched: A Birmingham Bombing Survivor Comes of Age During the Civil Rights Movement. Jonathan “clearly embraced the central tenants of all religion, which is love for all people,” Carolyn noted when she described his ministry. “He gave the greatest gift of all, the greatest gift possible, his life—not just for Ruby Sales, but for all of us, that we might live.

“The naysayers were correct about Jonathan,” Carolyn added. “He was not one of them. He truly was an outsider, an agitator, a person who came in and stirred things up. But Jonathan, by all appearances, stirred up those things that needed to be stirred up. . . . I believe it is the responsibility of all Christians to integrate the church community into the lives and the issues of the people around them.

“Jesus Christ shed his blood for us. His sacrifice for our sin assured believers of eternal life. The sacrifices made by believers like Jonathan, the four girls, and other martyrs reflect their faith and their commitment to him. It is this, the blood of the Lamb and the blood of the innocent, the martyrs, that hold everything in delicate balance until Christ returns,” Carolyn emphasized.

During the prayers that followed Carolyn’s sermon, the roll of the Alabama martyrs was read while local resident Fanny Davis softly sang the Negro spiritual “I’ll Go.” As each name was read, a photo of the martyr was lifted up and placed against the rail that separates the visitors’ gallery from the rest of the courtroom, a candle was lit, and a bell was rung.
The Rev. Brad Landry, associate rector of the Nativity in Huntsville, celebrated Holy Eucharist at the judge’s bench, which had been transformed into an altar. Following the service, Brad said that this courtroom “is a place where justice is sought to be administered on a daily basis. When we gather as God’s people we proclaim a different kind of justice—not a justice that is punitive or vindictive, but a justice where God takes our tragedies and our suffering and heals it and transforms it.”

Lowndes County District Court Judge Adrian Johnson, who now presides over this courtroom, participated in this year’s pilgrimage. “I have the privilege of sitting in this courtroom every day, day in-day out, and I am always struck by the importance and significance of what took place . . . and I am always reminded of the struggles of those who came before us,” he said.

The Rev. Francis X. Walter, a retired priest of our diocese, also participated in this year’s pilgrimage. In the aftermath of the March 1965 “Bloody Sunday” civil rights march from Selma to Montgomery, Francis served as head of the Selma Interreligious Project, a coalition of 10 nationwide religious denominations that provided a spiritual presence in Selma. He tries to attend the pilgrimage every year to relive his personal experiences as well as help introduce others to Jonathan, whom the Episcopal Church honors as a saint. “I think saints are important because they make it easy to understand the gospel,” Francis explains.

Francis describes his involvement in the civil rights movement as “scary,” noting that “for one thing, you didn’t know if somebody was going to shoot you.” He recalls the time he provided transportation for Lonzy West, whose house Jonathan stayed in while he was in Selma. “We went out of Selma, and here we are, a black man and a white man, and he was sitting in the front seat. That was dangerous.”

Francis also vividly remembers one of his first days in Selma. “I was over at the ‘movement church,’ and some of them said, ‘we are going to have a march down to the courthouse petitioning to register to vote.’ It was a very small group, and they invited me, and I fell in.” Francis, who was walking at the back of the group, was thinking, “I’m the last one—somebody can come up behind me and whack me,” when he felt a tap on his shoulder. “I spun around, and this guy said, ‘I’m Jewish. I work in one of the stores here. I don’t have the courage to join you, so thank you.’”

This year’s pilgrimage included an opportunity to visit the National Park Service Lowndes County Interpretive Center on U.S. Highway 80 between Selma and Montgomery. Escorted by the Lowndes County Sheriff’s Department, a caravan of vehicles left Hayneville after lunch and drove to the museum, which stands near the midpoint on the route of the historic March 1965 civil rights march to the Alabama capitol. “Visiting the Interpretive Center was a very moving experience,” notes the Rev. Deacon Carolyn Foster, who cochairs our diocesan Commission on Race Relations, which sponsors and coordinates the annual Jonathan Daniels Pilgrimage.

This year’s pilgrimage also featured a Young Pilgrims’ Lock-in hosted by the Ascension in Montgomery. More than 20 young people from around our diocese gathered at the Ascension on Friday evening for supper, games, a program, and worship. Members of our diocesan Commission on Race Relations led a mini-workshop designed to help the group understand and combat racism. “Later we watched a documentary on Jonathan Daniels,” recalls Jared Hunter, a member of Trinity in Wetumpka. “We got a good overview of his story, how he grew up, and what inspired him to come down and help out in the civil rights movement.”

On Saturday morning in Hayneville, Lowndes County School Superintendent Dr. Daniel Boyd prepared breakfast for the group of young people, and during the pilgrimage procession many of them carried large photos of the Alabama martyrs. “It was a really cool experience,” emphasizes lock-in participant Brett Young, who also is a member of Trinity in Wetumpka. “It helped you connect with what happened and really understand what was going on.”
Spending a Day Serving Others

By Diocesan Staff; Photos by Janet Griffin and the Rev. Patrick Wingo

On Saturday, July 21, about 150 Episcopalians from Birmingham, Montevallo, and Montgomery joined members of Mount Moriah Baptist Church in Pratt City and representatives of several Birmingham community organizations for a day of service for tornado recovery. Parishes from our diocese partnered with Mount Moriah Baptist Church, the Christian Service Mission, Habitat for Humanity, and Community Furniture Bank in sponsoring this special ministry.

“Together we walked side by side with those in our state who are seeking to rebuild homes, lives, and community in the wake of last year’s tornadoes,” explains the Rev. Jack Alvey, associate rector of All Saints’ in Birmingham. “The Day of Service was a blessing, and we thank God for the blessing of hope that is available to all people through Jesus Christ our Lord,” he adds. “Thank you to everyone who helped make this day happen.”

Many of the day’s projects focused on helping residents in the hard-hit community of Pratt City. The volunteers prepared food and food bags for members of the community and worked in the community garden, as well as cleaned up yards, roofed homes, and built and repaired others. One of the new homes the volunteers helped build is sponsored by our diocese using funds we received from Episcopal Relief and Development after the April 2011 tornadoes (please see “Groundbreaking” on page 16). Volunteers also worked with the Community Furniture Bank in collecting and transporting furniture and other household items for members of the community who are rebuilding.

The day began with breakfast and prayer at Mount Moriah Baptist Church and concluded with lunch grilled by volunteers. Mike Sparks, of the Ascension in Vestavia Hills (Birmingham), captured the spirit of the day when he said, “I hope we left a blessing—I know that I left blest!”
Day of Service for Tornado Recovery

“I hope we left a blessing—
I know that I left blest!”
Wonderful, Wonderful Camp McDowell

2012 Summer at Camp McDowell

I Have Found These Things To Be True . . .

By Susanna Whitsett, Summer Camp Coordinator

The 2012 summer season has come and gone, but the reverberating pulse of the “heart of our diocese” goes on and on. Many memories now mark this season, another summer in the continuum of summers that have shaped the lives of youth and adults for at least three generations.

In my second year as Summer Camp Coordinator, following in the footsteps of my good friend Michael Goldsmith, I have found these things to be true:

Ministry is messy.

Whether it’s “Pie the Priest” with a tin full of shaving cream at a carnival in the Rec Hall, mopping up the mess of some backed-up plumbing, or navigating the choppy waters of adolescence and young adulthood, ministry is messy. God the Creator is also God the Co-Cleaner-Upper. In all things God’s presence saw the summer camp staff, session leaders, and campers through the messy, the magical, and the magnificent this past summer.

Priests are people too.

Hundreds of children and teens saw some of our diocese’s finest clergy in roles they would likely never see them in outside the Camp McDowell setting, including playing soccer, splashing in Clear Creek, dancing (make that sailing!) through the Rec Hall, hamming it up in a skit about Moses, and many other not-so-usual ways. The campers and staff also saw our priests in ways that familiarized them with essential and particular roles, including praying one-on-one, laying-on of hands, teaching, and celebrating Eucharist. The sense of familiarity found in the camp setting opens a door to priests and the Church that some campers might not ever find open otherwise.

You can actually swallow a bee and be OK.

No explanation needed on this one.

Everyone is learning, and no one knows everything. This is true—and Camp McDowell is a place where people of all ages and stages have opportunities for lessons of faith, life, and living. Each memory that was made this summer, I believe, has an element of learning in it specific to the role of the memory-keeper—camper, parent, summer staff member, session staff member, volunteer, or counselors in training. Do you have a memory of camp? What learning is in it for you?

Teamwork makes the dream work.

The collective efforts of many talented and dedicated people made this summer a reality. I am SO grateful to everyone who played...
a part in the successful summer at our diocesan camp and conference center.

The photos on these pages offer a glimpse into the experiences and memories of this past summer, another chapter in the ongoing story of the vivid, abiding, and enduring ministry of Camp McDowell. Most of the summer staff team are pictured in the staff photo on page 8. I cannot put into words how proud I am of this group or how blessed I feel having been their coordinator. Not included in that photo are the excellent session directors, chaplains, and many wonderful program staff, volunteers and counselors in training. Though they are not pictured here, their efforts and impact are firmly printed on this summer’s success, and they are worthy of a big, fat THANK YOU!!!

As poet William Wordsworth (1770-1850) wrote, “The music in my heart I bore, long after it was heard no more.” Thanks be to God and to everyone who made possible the music of ministry in the camp setting in the 2012 summer season at Camp McDowell!
Wonderful, Wonderful Camp McDowell

By Simon Richardson

Simon, who is a member of All Saints’ in Homewood (Birmingham) and a sophomore at Auburn University, served as a workboy and cabin counselor at Summer Camp.

Up for breakfast at the bell,
To stake a seat best shake your tail
Ate some pancakes, ate some eggs,
Drank my tea right to the dregs.

To the carpet sang and danced
Allelu and all the rest.
Learned to face down all my fears,
Open up and shed my tears.

I never knew a place could be
So much more than a place to me
A love and joy I can’t explain,
A place where I can share my pain.

A place where it’s okay to be,
Nothing more or less than me.
Grab your neighbor, hold them tight,
Here the moment’s always right.

Share yourself and learn from others,
Here we all are truly brothers.
When I leave I’ll never grieve,
But I left my soul in Clear Creek.
Wonderful, Wonderful Camp McDowell

UPCOMING EVENTS AT CAMP

Fall Fling weekend retreat for all 5th and 6th graders
November 2-4

Come one—come all! Let’s have a fall ball at Fall Fling!

This special weekend retreat is exclusively for 5th and 6th graders. Come for fun, fellowship, playing, praying, and meeting new friends in God’s Backyard. You can enjoy many favorite camp including hiking, canoeing, arts and crafts, a hayride, bonfire, s’mores, and more!

Everyone is welcome, and bring a friend! Registration is first-come, first-served. Cost is $115 per person; for scholarship information, please contact Susanna Whitsett at susanna@campmcdowell.com.

Winter Weekend retreat for 7th and 8th graders
January 18-21

Mark your calendars now for the next Winter Weekend! All 7th and 8th graders are welcome, and bring a friend to this special three-night retreat over the Martin Luther King Jr. weekend.

Come experience Camp McDowell in the wintertime with prayers by the campfire, hot chocolate, games, group discussions, and, of course, the “Winter Wonderland” dance in Eppes Hall!

Registration is first-come, first-served. Cost is $145 per person; for scholarship information, please contact Susanna Whitsett at susanna@campmcdowell.com.

2013 SUMMER CAMP STAFF POSITIONS AVAILABLE

Are you or someone you know interested in working in youth ministry in the summer camp setting? It may be the toughest job you ever love!

* Applications for 2013 Summer Staff will be accepted online only.
* Applications will be accepted from October 20 through December 10, 2012.
* For more information, visit www.campmcdowell.com.

SAVE THE DATE!

Father/Son Weekend
March 1-3

This special weekend is for all combinations of fathers, stepfathers, sons, grandparents, godparents, and special friends who are like fathers.

Mother/Daughter Weekend
April 5-7

This special weekend is for all combinations of mothers, stepmothers, daughters, grandmothers, godmothers, and special friends who are like mothers.

MAKE PLANS NOW TO COME TO 2013 SUMMER CAMP!

Primary 1 (1st, 2nd, and 3rd graders with an adult)
May 24-26

Elementary 1 (3rd and 4th graders)
May 29-June 1

Senior Camp (10th through 12th graders)
June 4-13

Junior High 1 (6th and 7th graders)
June 17-22

Elementary 2 (4th and 5th graders)
June 25-29

Special Session (adults with special needs)
July 1-6

Sophomore Camp (8th and 9th graders)
July 8-15

Middler Camp (5th and 6th graders)
July 18-23

Junior High 2 (7th and 8th graders)
July 26-August 1

Primary 2 (1st, 2nd, and 3rd graders with an adult)
August 2-4

For more information, please contact Susanna Whitsett, Summer Camp Coordinator, at susanna@campmcdowell.com or 205/387-1806.

Summer Camp registration notes:

We are so blessed in our diocese to have a full-to-waiting-list summer camp—but this can bring disappointment to those who try to register after a session is full. To manage the complexities of registration for close to 1,500 campers, please note the following policies and procedures:

* Registration for 2013 Summer Camp will open online January 7 at noon.
* Camp McDowell welcomes people of all faith traditions with love and joy.
* Non-Episcopalians and out-of-diocese Episcopalians are welcome to apply to summer camp. These registrations will be held until April 1 and admitted on a first-come, first-served basis until the session is full.
* A waiting list will be maintained, if needed, based on the date/time of receipt. People on the waiting list will be contacted if a spot opens up by suppertime on the first night of the camp session.
* We encourage early registration for everyone because many of our sessions fill to capacity early.
* We encourage registering online to save paper and time.
* For those without access to the Internet, we offer limited “phone-in registration” on January 7, 8, and 9 from noon to 2 p.m. Please call 205/387-1806 during those times.
* For additional important information, please visit “Information & Policies” for Summer Camp & Events at www.campmcdowell.com.
Our diocesan ECW board met this month at Carpenter House in Birmingham to discuss business for the quarter. The board members also enjoyed camaraderie, fellowship, and heartwarming laughs while listening to Fiona Watts, Brenda Mayhall, and Jolai Jenkins tell stories about attending the 47th ECW Triennial Conference in Indianapolis in July. The “Sorority Girls,” as they dubbed themselves, shared some of their spiritually moving experiences as well as some of their hilarious adventures with us. They also shared more about what they learned at the national meeting:

**The Members of the ECW—**We are Episcopal Church Women of all ages, ethnic origins, and socioeconomic backgrounds who hold a variety of views. The common denominator of our members is our love of God and our wish to do His work.

**The Mission of the ECW—**Centered in congregations, the Episcopal Church Women (ECW) empowers women to do Christ’s ministry in the world.

**The Vision of the ECW—**Our vision for all women of the Episcopal Church is that we become a vibrant blend of all ages coming together as a peacemaking, healing part of the Church. We aspire to be a “Godspark” shining and sharing the love of Christ.

**The Role of the National ECW Board is to:**

1. Model and share the best practices in communication, programming, leadership, and governance.
2. Develop, support, and inspire leaders at all levels (local, diocesan, provincial, and national).
3. Represent and build support for ECW in the wider Church and the world.

(Adopted by the 2006-2009 National ECW Board during the March 11-17, 2007 meeting)

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Our new Webmaster Katherine Mook, of St. Stephen’s in Birmingham

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The 2012 Episcopal Place Bishops’ Dinner will begin at 6 p.m. on Thursday, November 1, at The Club in Birmingham. The Rt. Rev. John McKee Sloan, Bishop of Alabama, will be the special speaker for this year’s biennial celebration of the Episcopal community’s outreach to low-income seniors and disabled adults. The fundraising event will include cocktails, dinner, and a special presentation involving Episcopal Place residents.

“Our first Episcopal Place Bishops’ Dinner was held two years ago as we were celebrating the 30th anniversary of Episcopal Place’s founding by the Diocese of Alabama and nine local parishes,” recalls Tim Blanton, executive director of Episcopal Place. “The event was such a great success that we wanted to continue bringing this community together every other year to help us stay focused on this important mission.”

Dr. Lori Smith, a member of the Episcopal Place Board of Directors and St. Luke’s in Birmingham; Suzan Doidge, also a member of St. Luke’s; and Tellis Shoemaker, a member of St. Mary’s-on-the-Highlands are serving as Event Planning Committee Co-chairs. Proceeds from the Bishops’ Dinner will help fund Episcopal Place’s “ECares” Supportive Services Program, which provides residents with van transportation, subsidized noon meals and housekeeping, resident activities, pastoral care, and worship services.

For more information about tickets and sponsorship opportunities, please call Episcopal Place at 205/929-0083, e-mail Tim Blanton at tblanton@episcopalplace.org, or visit www.episcopalplace.org.

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Members of the Bishops’ Dinner Host Committee include (front row) Cathy Gilmore, Martha Oyston, Margaret Musleman, the Rev. Deacon Judy Quick, Tellis Shoemaker, Barbara Sloan, Suzan Doidge, (back row) Tim Blanton, Mark Haas, the Rev. Jack Alvey, John Paul Musleman, the Rev. Rob Johnson, Nancy Sharp, Sandra Lynn, Charlie Lynn, Olivia Wiegarten, Lori Smith, Katherine Kilpatrick, and Darlene Gore.
Sarah Sartain Named Diocesan Staff Officer for Ministry Development and Clergy Transitions

By Diocesan Staff

Bishop Sloan has named longtime diocesan staff member Sarah Sartain to the position of Staff Officer for Ministry Development and Clergy Transitions. Sarah replaces the Rev. Pat Wingo, who has accepted a call to be Canon to the Ordinary in the Diocese of Virginia.

In a letter announcing her appointment, Bishop Sloan noted that he is “very excited to announce that our very own Sarah Sartain” agreed to accept the position. “She has been serving the diocese in the role of Staff Officer for Lay Ministry for more than 20 years, working with Christian Formation for children, youth, and adults, with an emphasis on empowering the laity.” He added that during the past two decades, Sarah “has worked with a great many departments and commissions in a variety of roles and has a wealth of experience as a layperson on the diocesan and parish levels.”

Bishop Sloan thanked Pat for “his good and faithful service to the diocese. He and I came to Carpenter House at about the same time early in 2008, and I have certainly enjoyed working with him. Pat and Sarah Scott are opening a new chapter in the story of their family and their ministries as they move to Richmond, Virginia . . . and we are grateful to them and wish them all the best as we send them on with God’s blessings.”

Kathy Graham Named Diocesan Coordinator for Lifelong Christian Formation

By Diocesan Staff

Kathy Graham, Christian Education Director at St. Stephen’s in Birmingham, has joined our diocesan staff at Carpenter House as Coordinator for Lifelong Christian Formation. In her new position, Kathy will oversee several areas of ministry directly related to forming, supporting, and empowering Christians in their journey with Christ. Among her responsibilities, she will coordinate the Lay Ministry Certification Program for Children and Youth Ministries and support our diocesan Departments of Christian Formation, Recovery Ministries, and Liturgy and Music. She will also support the Commission on Spirituality and the Diocesan Altar Guild.

Kathy is a veteran of 15 years of experience as a parish Christian education director. Prior to joining the staff at St. Stephen’s, she served as a Christian education director for the Ascension in Birmingham. She is presently serving a three-year term on the board of directors of FORMA (formerly NAECED, the National Association of Episcopal Church Education Directors). She has a bachelor’s degree in Early Childhood Education from the University of Alabama and a master’s degree in Early Childhood Education from the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB). She has taught kindergarten, first grade, and preschool. She completed our diocesan Lay Ministry Certification Program in 2012.

“I am excited and looking forward to working with the formation team and serving the people and parishes of our diocese,” Kathy emphasizes. She and her husband, Russ, have three children. Kathy’s position incorporates several of the responsibilities previously held by Sarah Sartain, who has been named to replace the Rev. Pat Wingo as Staff Officer for Ministry Development and Clergy Transitions (please see the story above). Diocesan staff member Georganne Perrine will assume Sarah’s responsibilities for coordinating diocesan-wide events, including our annual diocesan convention, the Parish Leadership Training Event, Camp Day, and other special events.

St. Alban’s Adopts Gwin Elementary School

By the Rev. Dr. J. Barry Vaughn, Rector of St. Alban’s

The parishioners of St. Alban’s in Hoover (Birmingham) have adopted Gwin Elementary School for this school year. “We try to adopt a school every fall,” notes the Rev. Dr. J. Barry Vaughn. “This is the second one we have done.”

Barry and co-senior warden Susan McWilliams recently delivered baskets of supplies to school principal Dr. Kimberly White and counselor Wendy Gault.
In Alabama

Teach you the skills...weekend will

From Scratch...where to start it?

But don’t know...knit a baby blanket

To play it? Want to...can’t even begin

Christmas but...get a guitar for

About it? Did you...know anything

Want to learn the...only weekend

Annual beginners-

Weekend From Scratch...pottery, Bettye Kimbrell teaching quilting,

And Dori Mansfield, and Erynn Marshall, by music greats fiddle, guitar, and including banjo, old-time music of instruction on

This workshop offers 4 full days of instruction on old-time music including banjo, fiddle, guitar, and mandolin taught by music greats Eryan Marshall, Mick Kinney, Bill Mansfield, and Tim Avalon. Our top-notch crafts instructors include Tena Payne teaching pottery, Bettye Kimbrell teaching quilting, and Dori DeCamillis teaching pastel landscapes.

Old-Time Music and Crafts Week

November 1-5

This workshop offers 4 full days of instruction on old-time music including banjo, fiddle, guitar, and mandolin taught by music greats Eryan Marshall, Mick Kinney, Bill Mansfield, and Tim Avalon. Our top-notch crafts instructors include Tena Payne teaching pottery, Bettye Kimbrell teaching quilting, and Dori DeCamillis teaching pastel landscapes.

From Scratch Weekend

February 15-17

This is our first annual beginners-only weekend workshop! Ever want to learn the banjo but don’t know anything about it? Did you get a guitar for Christmas but can’t even begin to play it? Want to knit a baby blanket but don’t know where to start it? Our From Scratch Weekend will teach you the skills you need to get started on an instrument or craft from scratch—no experience necessary! Save the date—classes and instructors TBA.

For more information please contact Director Sarah Mills Neve at 205/387-1806 or folkschool@campmcdowell.com, or visit www.folkschool.dioala.org

OUTREACH GATHERING: REACH IN, REACH OUT!

February 9 at St. Stephen’s in Birmingham

“But the Son of Man came not to be served, but to serve.” (Mark 10:45)

Our diocesan Department of Mission and Outreach has announced that the 2013 Outreach Gathering: Reach In, Reach Out! will be held at St. Stephen’s in Birmingham from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, February 9, with registration at 9 a.m. These gatherings spark energy for outreach in our diocese, offer networking opportunities for all laypeople and clergy who have a passion for mission and outreach, and provide practical tips on implementing and sustaining outreach activities.

Based on feedback from previous events, the morning will focus on Domestic Diocesan Ministries including Sawyerville and Special Session, and the afternoon will focus on Global Mission including our Diocesan Companion Relationship with Haiti as well as the activities of parishes with mission partners around the world. The goal is for participants to receive very concrete and practical information on how to participate, either virtually (through prayer, reading blogs, etc) or physically (offering supplies, volunteering, etc). Lunch-and-learn sessions will allow time for building relationships with those who share your particular area of mission interest.

The $15 registration includes lunch. To register online, please visit our diocesan Web site, www.dioala.org. You may also send your registration payment (make checks payable to the Diocese of Alabama with “Outreach Gathering” in the memo line) to Sarah Sartain, Carpenter House, 521 North 20th Street, Birmingham, AL 35203. We look forward to seeing you there!

For more information please contact the Rev. Deacon Judy Quick, Chair, Department of Mission and Outreach, jgquick@bellsouth.net, 205/669-6862.

Clergy News

The Rev. Lesley Hay has accepted a call to serve as rector of Christ Church in Stratford, Connecticut. Lesley previously served as rector of St. Joseph’s on-the-Mountain in Mentone.

The Rev. Josiah Rengers has accepted a call to serve as associate rector for youth programs and young adults at St. Luke’s in Birmingham beginning in January. Josiah currently serves as rector of St. Stephen’s in Eutaw.

The Rev. Katherine Nakamura Rengers has accepted a call to serve as associate rector for outreach and young adults at St. Luke’s in Birmingham beginning in November. Katherine currently is serving as rector of St. Michael’s in Fayette.

Bishops’ Visitation Schedule

October 21, Sunday
9:30 a.m. Bishop Sloan St. Luke’s, Scottsboro
10:30 a.m. Bishop Sloan Holy Apostles’, Birmingham
4 p.m. Bishop Murray Calvary, Oneonta

October 24, Wednesday
6 p.m. Bishop Murray Good Shepherd, Decatur

October 28, Sunday
9 a.m. Bishop Sloan St. Simon Peter, Pell City
10:30 a.m. Bishop Murray Grace, Cullman

November 1, Thursday
6:30 p.m. Bishop Murray All Saints’, Montgomery

November 4, Sunday
9:30 a.m. Bishop Sloan St. Luke’s, Jacksonville
10:30 a.m. Bishop Murray St. Thomas’, Birmingham

November 11, Sunday
10:30 a.m. Bishop Sloan St. Luke’s, Sylacauga
10:30 a.m. Bishop Murray Trinity, Bessemer

November 18, Sunday
8 a.m. Bishop Sloan Trinity, Alpine
9:30 a.m. Bishop Sloan St. Mary’s, Childersburg
10:30 a.m. Bishop Murray Trinity, Clanton
5 p.m. Bishop Murray St. Catherine’s, Chelsea

November 25, Sunday
10 a.m. Bishop Sloan St. Alban’s, Birmingham
10:30 a.m. Bishop Murray Trinity, Wetumpka

December 2, Sunday
9 a.m. and Bishop Murray St. Stephen’s, Birmingham
11:15 a.m. Bishop Sloan Holy Spirit, Alabaster
10:30 a.m. Bishop Sloan Holy Spirit, Alabaster

December 8, Saturday
6 p.m. Bishop Murray La Gracia, Birmingham

December 9, Sunday
10:30 a.m. Bishop Murray St. Luke’s, Birmingham
11 a.m. Bishop Sloan St. Andrew’s, Tuskegee

December 16, Sunday
10 a.m. Bishop Murray St. Mary’s, Jasper
11:15 a.m. Bishop Sloan St. Andrew’s, Sylacauga

December 24, Christmas Eve
10:30 p.m. Bishop Sloan Advent, Birmingham
WHAT’S NEW/NOTEWORTHY AT THE EPISCOPAL BOOK STORE

Glorious Ruin by William Graham Tullian Tchividjian

In this world, one thing is certain: Everybody hurts. Suffering can take the form of tragedy, heartbreak, or addiction—or it could be something more mundane (but no less real) like resentment, loneliness, or disappointment. But unfortunately there is no such thing as a painless life. In Glorious Ruin, Tullian Tchividjian takes an honest and refreshing look at the reality of suffering, the ways we tie ourselves in knots trying to deal with it, and the comfort of the gospel for those who can’t seem to fix themselves—or others. This is not so much a book about “Why” God allows suffering or even “How” we should approach suffering—it is a book about the tremendously liberating and gloriously counterintuitive truth of a God who suffers “with” you and “for” you. It is a book, in other words, about the kind of hope that takes the shape of a cross.

Jesus + Nothing = Everything by William Graham Tullian Tchividjian

It’s so easy to forget what the Christian faith is all about. We struggle so much, work so hard, and fail so often that we frequently sense something in the equation of life must be missing. Tullian Tchividjian argues that what we are missing is the gospel—a fuller, more powerful understanding of Jesus and what his finished work means for everyday life. During a year of great turmoil, Tullian Tchividjian discovered the power of the gospel in his own life. Sharing his story of how Jesus became more real to him, he delves deeply into the fundamentals of the faith, explaining the implications of Christ’s sufficiency—a revelation that sets us free and keeps us anchored through life’s storms.

Mark Your Calendar

Diocesan Convention February 22-23 at St. John’s in Montgomery
CAMP DAY 2012 October 27 at Camp McDowell
Corsillo Weekend #186 March 7-10, #187 April 4-7
Diocesan Ultreya January 25-27 at Camp McDowell

October 26 Midday Musical Menu featuring the LeBaron Trio at 12:30 p.m. at the Cathedral Church of the Advent in Birmingham. For more information please contact Music Associate Charles M. Kennedy at cathedraladvent.com or 205/226-3505.

October 27 CAMP DAY 2012 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at Camp McDowell. For more information please see “Just for Fun” on page 3.


November 8 Arts and Crafts Fair featuring paintings, sculpture, calligraphy, nativity vignettes, Christmas ornaments, cards, and jewelry from 11:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. at St. Stephen’s in Birmingham; proceeds will benefit the parish’s outreach program. For more information please call 205/824-9820.

Stephen Schaeffer Plays the Advent Organ

Available at the Episcopal Book Store at the Cathedral Church of the Advent in Birmingham
Dr. Stephen G. Schaeffer, who recently retired as the Director of Music, Organist, and Chorister at the Cathedral Church of the Advent in Birmingham, recorded this CD in March. Stephen came to the Advent in 1987 after serving on the music faculty and as chair of the Department of Fine Arts of Presbyterian College in Clinton, South Carolina.

Stephen graduated from St. Thomas Choir School in New York City and Davidson College before completing his Master of Music and Doctor of Musical Arts degrees at the College-Conservatory of Music at the University of Cincinnati. He holds the First Prize in Organ from the Conservatoire National de Région in Lyon, France. He has given concerts in England and France as well as throughout the Southeast and St. Thomas’ Church in New York City.

Unfashionable by William Graham Tullian Tchividjian

Unfashionable explains what it means to be out of style in culture and aligned with God’s thoughts on community, lifestyle, work, money, worship, and church. Only by being properly unfashionable can we once again become a powerful renovating force for God in the world. After all, Jesus made a difference by being... different. So go ahead. Buck the system. Discover the power and the freedom of being unfashionable for God. If you are a Christian who longs to see the gospel shape every area of your life so that you make a difference in this world for the glory of God, you will find Unfashionable a remarkable guide.

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@episcoobooks.com; or visit the bookstore online at www.episcoobooks.com.
Two Permanent Deacons To Be Ordained on November 3

By Diocesan Staff

The Rt. Rev. John McKee Sloan, Bishop of Alabama, and the Rt. Rev. Santosh K. M. Murray, Assistant Bishop of Alabama, will ordain Catherine Munro Schiesz and Nancy “Kaki” Cochran O’Flinn to the Sacred Order of Deacons at 10 a.m. on Saturday, November 3, at the Cathedral Church of the Advent in Birmingham. Everyone is cordially invited to the service and the reception that will follow in Clingman Commons.

Catherine, who is a member of Trinity in Florence, will serve that parish following her ordination, while Kaki, who is a member of All Saints’ in Birmingham, will serve as a deacon at St. Martin’s in the Pines in Birmingham. They will bring the total number of permanent or vocational deacons actively serving in the diocese to 33.

Before ordination, permanent deacons in the Diocese of Alabama must complete a multiyear course of study. They serve without compensation and provide a leadership role in a variety of ministry areas, both within and outside their parish, including disaster relief, prison ministry, mission work in Honduras and Haiti, race relations, ministries to the homeless and the hungry, Jubilee Ministries, and other outreach ministries. They also play a role in both the liturgy of the Word and the liturgy of the table during Eucharist.

Groundbreaking Launches Rebuilding Partnership

By the Rev. Deacon Judy Quick with the Rev. Jack Alvey and Christian Service Mission Representative Anna Bates

“Unless the Lord builds the house, its builders labor in vain.”
(Psalms 127, v.1)

The Lord is indeed building the new Gary family home in Pratt City. The Lord has led a number of Episcopal parishes in the Birmingham area to partner with Christian Service Mission (CSM), Mount Moriah Baptist Church, and Twin Construction Company to build a new home where the Gary family can gather as they once did as children in their parent’s home, which was leveled by the April 27, 2011, tornadoes. For 100 years, 309 Mildred Avenue in Pratt City has served as the family homestead for the Gary family, which includes seven brothers and seven sisters.

Although the tornadoes took the physical home away from the Gary family, the cherished memories will never fade. The Gary family has committed to be a “lighthouse” for the Pratt City community and looks forward to the opportunity to move back into a home on the lot that holds so many of their dear family memories. As lifelong members of Mount Moriah Baptist Church, they are a vital connection to rebuilding Pratt City’s spirit. “If my old neighbors see me moving back into Pratt City, maybe that will inspire them to move back to our neighborhood as well,” notes Judy Gary. Judy and her sister Carmen will be living in the new residence on Mildred Avenue, and they are eager to be a lighthouse neighbor to those around them.

At the groundbreaking ceremony on September 16, 2012, nine family members joined with representatives from four Birmingham Episcopal parishes, pastors and members of Mount Moriah Baptist Church, the owners of Twin Construction Company; and the leadership of Christian Service Mission to launch their partnership to build a 1,250-square-foot home and also partner spiritually and emotionally as the family recovers and encourages other families to restart their lives. “We are so grateful for your love and caring for our family,” emphasizes Carmen. Other family members were moved to tears at the thought of so many “strangers” choosing to care about their needs.

At the ceremony, Rev. Jack Alvey, associate rector of All Saints’ in Birmingham, noted that “it is a privilege to share this journey with the Gary family” and encouraged all Episcopal parishes to include the Gary family in their Prayers of the People. In addition to our diocese, to date the following parishes have expressed an interest in helping build the new family home: All Saints’, Ascension, the Advent, Grace, St. Andrew’s, St. John’s Deaf, St. Luke’s, St. Mark’s, St. Mary’s-on-the-Highlands, St. Stephen’s, St. Thomas’, and Trinity Commons in Birmingham; St. Andrew’s in Montevallo; St. Catherine’s in Chelsea; and St. Francis of Assisi in Indian Springs.

Everyone is welcome and encouraged to help with this meaningful project by:
* Contributing to the interior design of the home, offering furniture/household items, and suggesting job opportunities in partnership with Judy and Carmen Gary and in coordination with Anna Bates (anna@csmission.org, 205/397-9999).
* Helping raise the $40,000 needed from the Episcopal partners for site work, grading, prep work, concrete, masonry, carpentry, insulation, doors, windows, appliances, window treatments, bath accessories, finishes, flooring, HVAC, plumbing, and electrical work. Members of a participating parish should contact their priest for information about financial contributions; members of parishes not officially participating in the building project should contact their priest about joining the effort.
* Providing articles to your parish newsletters, our diocesan online and print media, and CSM.
* Attending the House Blessing when the home is completed!

For additional information, please contact the Rev. Deacon Judy Quick (jgquick@hellsouth.net) or the Rev. Deacon Judy Lee (jlee11@bham.rc.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.

* Please send stories and photographs (color, if available) to Editor Norma McKittrick at apostledit@aol.com or 2156 Kent Way, Birmingham, AL 35226; the submission deadline for each issue is the 1st of the month prior to publication. Postmaster, parishes, and individuals, please send all address changes or additions to Circulation Secretary Denise Servant at dservant@dioala.org or Carpenter House, 521 North 20th Street, Birmingham, AL 35203–2682.

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.