Continuing To Help Victims Recover from Hurricane/Superstorm Sandy

By Diocesan Staff and Christine Turner, a Member of Trinity in Wetumpka

Our diocese is continuing to reach out to help victims of Hurricane/Superstorm Sandy, which caused significant damage and loss of life as it swept through the Caribbean, headed north along the East Coast, and made landfall in New Jersey on October 29. The Rev. Deacon David Whetstone, our diocesan disaster coordinator, and his daughter, Jordan, delivered Alabama’s Disaster Response shower trailer to Manchester Township in New Jersey the week before Thanksgiving. The portable shower facility was set up at the Building on the Rock Church, which is being used to house survivors of Hurricane Sandy while their homes are being refurbished. Building on the Rock is partnered with the Episcopal Diocese of New Jersey and other community agencies to provide post-storm relief and recovery assistance in the hard-hit Toms River area.

Christine Turner and Jonathan Simmons, parishioners from Trinity in Wetumpka, worked with other Alabama organizations to collect and deliver supplies to Staten Island. “We collected a pickup truck full of cleaning supplies and blankets from Trinity Church and also donations collected by Jonathan Simmons at his business in Montgomery,” Christine reports. “We had dozens of blankets plus a wealth of cleaning supplies and some coats. I drove to Birmingham to connect with the volunteers from Tuscaloosa, and we loaded the trucks with approximately $200,000 worth of cleaning supplies, blankets, and canned food, as well as some medical supplies, cooking equipment, and a generator that were collected by volunteers from all over Alabama as well as Atlanta and some cities in Tennessee.”

“On Saturday, November 10, our group of four volunteers drove the trucks from Birmingham to Pennsylvania, where we stayed overnight. We drove into Staten Island on Sunday and went directly to the Staten Island VFW, where we off-loaded the cleaning supplies and some blankets. This area was very close to the shore and served as a relief center for locals to get needed supplies and hot food.

“We also took some blankets and jackets into the city to Coney Island to a shelter that still did not have power. After we unloaded the supplies, we used our rental van to help those at the relief center who were having a hard time taking their supplies back to their temporary or permanent homes. One man pushed his fiance to the center in a shopping cart because her back was hurting.

“The resilience and strength of those we met on Staten Island was amazing. Everyone was so grateful for the supplies that were donated. They all seemed to still be in shock at what had happened to their area. This is the first such storm any of them had to deal with, but they are working very hard to get things back to normal, and they are making progress. I was a bit surprised at how gracious they were. Even in their time of trial, they went out of their way to make us feel welcome.

“I want to thank everyone who made donations and prayed for us on our journey. A special thanks to Trinity parishioners Gloria Johnston, Susan Powers, and Kate and Kathy Saylor for helping man the donation site and helping me load my truck.”

Individuals and parishes who want to contribute to the ongoing recovery efforts are invited to make donations directly to Episcopal Relief and Development’s Hurricane Sandy Response Fund or our diocesan Disaster Relief Fund. Checks for Episcopal Relief and Development should be made payable to the organization and mailed to Episcopal Relief and Development, P.O. Box 7058, Merrifield, VA 22116-7058; checks for our diocesan fund should be made payable to the Diocese of Alabama with Hurricane Relief in the memo line, and mailed to Carpenter House, 321 20th Street North, Birmingham, AL 35203.

Christine Turner with Michelle, one of the other disaster response volunteers.

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) for The Alabama Episcopalian to Editor Norma McKitterick 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.
Hello, friends:

Many of you know that my sweet mother, Mary Bayer Sloan, died the week before Christmas. Thanks for all of your calls and cards and e-mails—I really appreciate all of your love and support.

Several have said that losing a loved one just before Christmas makes the holidays less sweet, less joyful, or more difficult. There was some of that for me, but there was more. Christmas this year seemed a little less silly, a little more oriented toward Santa, Frosty, and Rudolph, and a little more heartfelt, a little more oriented toward not just Baby Jesus but Jesus the Incarnation of God. Our friend Henry Parsley wrote that he was thinking Christmas this year would be “more soulful” for me, and I think he’s got it about right. This year’s Christmas for me was more about the heart of it rather than the trimmings and trappings.

I know I’m somewhat idealistic about these things: I still believe that Christmas in its essence is a religious holiday. All the relentlessly shopping frenzy is admittedly an odd way for us to go about it, but at the very heart of the Christmas Spirit, even beyond the reach of the advertising saturation, is the pure and wonderful celebration that Jesus was born for us to go about it, but at the very heart of the Christmas All the relentless shopping frenzy is admittedly an odd way “more soulful” for me, and I think he’s got it about right. This year’s Christmas for me was more about the heart of it rather than the trimmings and trappings.

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Our Times Are In Our Hands

As we enter into the New Year, now is a good time to take stock of: What threads need to be severed? What loose ends need to be bound up? What broken relationships need to be mended? This we need to do urgently if we are to move forward into the challenges of the year 2013.

I come from a culture that “dreads” the thought of the number “13.” Let me confess that I’m not in any way qualified to comment on the intricacies of numerology. However, by way of observation, it is amazing how this particular superstition has taken root in the universal psyche. The Australians generally view the number “87” as the “boogie” number because it’s 13 short of 100. I suspect that this particular superstition has made its way into the cultural milieu of Alabama and other parts in the national landscape. We know how debilitating this can feel.

Church people aren’t exempt from this either. Numerous times in the various places I have served this question came up. Countless times I have had to console the “fear” of my fellow Christians by reminding them that contrary to popular culture there is nothing dreadful or superstitious about the number 13.

For starters, it finds formidable resonance with the Christian faith referring us to the time when Jesus walked the Earth with his beloved disciples. There were 12 disciples (replicating the 12 tribes of Israel) plus Jesus, and, if my math serves well, that means the “Master” of the “Great Commission” was very calculated in his choice insofar as the image the corpus (body) of brave, courageous, self-sacrificial, holy itinerant preachers was portrayed to consider the communities, towns, villages, and cities.

The bottom line for Christians is that there is nothing dreadful or superstitious about the number 13. So, beloved, cheer up! If the Lord didn’t see anything wrong with it, neither should we who are his beloved brothers and sisters.

Instead, what I would strongly encourage is for us to prepare ourselves this year to enter more fully into the call of the Great Commission commanded by Jesus and promulgated by the disciples through apostolic ministry. By virtue of our baptism we are commissioned as disciples to expand and extend the mission of God (mission Dei) in all areas of life. The time we have is invariably in God’s hand, and every moment is designed and controlled by his time and will. We need to sever this thread of fear that debilitates and in many ways hinders us from enjoying the freedom of God’s promised protection and eternal blessing.

St. Augustine, the renowned African Christian Church Father of the 4th century, sums up the urgency of the times in these words: “The times are troubled! The times are bad! This is what we humans say. But we are our times. If only we would live properly, our times would be good. Such as we are, such are our times.” One of the scholars who have done significant work on the writings of St. Augustine interprets this particular statement to mean that “the constant challenge of human life is to survive the times of our lives. We are immortal. We shall live forever according to the fundamental core of Christian teaching on the resurrection. We shall live forever according to whether we want to or not; but to truly survive our times now means to value our present times. It also means we must endure our bad times with as much hope and joy as we can. We develop such endurance through the message of our faith that God still walks through this world, as mixed up and troublesome as it may sometimes be.” No matter how good or bad our times may be now, the most important fact is that we, as a Church, as a society, and as a nation are on the move with God.

One of the paradoxes of time is that as soon as we think we have finally found a stable life or have reached a “comfort zone” in life, everything changes. We do everything we can to stay well, only to get sick. We do everything we can to hold onto our loved ones, only to have them leave us in death. We do everything we can to hold onto that great job or great career through which we support the family and have made our mark on society, only to be told one day that we are redundant or our services are no longer needed. Such change is part of life, but it would be pleasant to find something on which we could “anchor” our hopes. The burden and blessing of being human is that we are born with a longing to be more than we are, to fly far above this Earth and reach the stars. Deep down, all of us desire to escape the narrow confines of our life and soar to something better. Although some may feel that their wings are either weak or have been clipped and hinder their flight, we still need to realize that we must go beyond ourselves to find such happiness. One of the messages I wish to leave with you is that, although our dream of reaching the stars in this life may never be fulfilled in its fullness, yet we do have the capacity, endurance, and reserve within us to draw from to make it happen in any meaningful ways.

Your times are in your hands, and only you can will the good you desire and maintain your integrity in the process. You can do it by being rooted and grounded in God’s love, God’s trust, God’s humility, and God’s promise of a new beginning that calls out to us from “an old rugged cross on a hill far away.” As the angel Gabriel reminded Mary at the Annunciation, “nothing is impossible with God.”

Just think, you’re not here by chance, but by God’s choosing. His hand formed you and made you into the person you are. He compares you to no one else—you are one of a kind. You lack nothing that his grace can’t give you. He has allowed you to be here at this time in history to fulfill his special purpose for this generation. —Roy Lessin

“To everything there is a season; and a time to every purpose under heaven” (Ecclesiastes 3:1).

A blessed, happy, peaceable, harmonious, prosperous, and God-centered 2013!

The Rt. Rev. Santosh K. Murray
Assistant Bishop of Alabama
## Around Our Diocese

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>February 10, Sunday</td>
<td>10 a.m.</td>
<td>Bishop Sloan</td>
<td>St. Stephen’s, Huntsville</td>
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<td>February 12, Tuesday</td>
<td>6:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Bishop Sloan</td>
<td>Epiphany, Leeds</td>
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<td>St. Paul’s, Carlowville</td>
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<td>Grace, Sheffield</td>
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<td>St. Philip’s, Ft. Payne</td>
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<td>St. Andrew’s, Birmingham</td>
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<td>St. Peter’s, Talladega</td>
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<td>St. Dunstan’s, Auburn</td>
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<td>Messiah, Heflin</td>
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<td>6 p.m.</td>
<td>Bishop Marray</td>
<td>Birmingham Campus Ministries</td>
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### Bishops’ Visitation Schedule

**February 10, Sunday**

- 10 a.m. Bishop Sloan: St. Stephen’s, Huntsville
- 6:30 p.m. Bishop Sloan: Epiphany, Leeds

**February 12, Tuesday**

- 10:30 a.m. Bishop Sloan: Holy Comforter, Gadsden
- 11 a.m. Bishop Marray: St. Paul’s, Greensboro

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- 10 a.m. Bishop Marray: St. Mark’s, Birmingham
- 10:30 a.m. Bishop Sloan: St. Joseph’s, Mentone

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- 10 a.m. Bishop Sloan: St. Michael’s, Millbrook
- 10:30 a.m. Bishop Marray: Christ Church, Fairfield

**March 17, Sunday**

- 10 a.m. Bishop Sloan: Holy Comforter, Montgomery
- 11 a.m. Bishop Marray: St. Paul’s, Carlowville

**March 24, Sunday**

- 9:30 a.m. Bishop Sloan: Grace, Sheffield
- 10 a.m. Bishop Marray: St. Philip’s, Ft. Payne

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- 7 p.m. Bishop Marray: St. Andrew’s, Birmingham
- 7:15 p.m. Bishop Sloan: Grace, Birmingham

**March 31, Easter**

- 10:30 a.m. Bishop Sloan: St. Peter’s, Talladega
- 10:30 a.m. Bishop Marray: St. Paul’s, Selma

**April 7, Sunday**

- 10 a.m. Bishop Marray: Holy Trinity, Auburn
- 6 p.m. Bishop Marray: St. Dunstan’s, Auburn

**April 14, Sunday**

- 10 a.m. Bishop Marray: Ascension, Birmingham
- 10:30 a.m. Bishop Sloan: St. Michael and All Angels’, Anniston
- 5 p.m. Bishop Sloan: Messiah, Heflin
- 6 p.m. Bishop Marray: Birmingham Campus Ministries

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# Bishop Sloan Receives Honorary Degree

**By Diocesan Staff**

The University of the South School of Theology in Sewanee, Tennessee, honored Bishop Sloan with a Doctor of Divinity degree on Friday, January 18, during the Opening Convocation in All Saints’ Chapel for the university’s Easter semester. The Rt. Rev. J. Neil Alexander, dean of the School of Theology, read the citation expressing “gratitude for [John McKee Sloan’s] faithful service to the Episcopal Church, his devotion to his alma mater, and his generous and undefended heart.”

A native of Vicksburg, Mississippi, Bishop Sloan received his bachelor of science degree in sociology from Mississippi State University in 1976 and his master of divinity degree from the School of Theology at the University of the South in 1981. His previous service to the Church includes calls to parishes in Mississippi and Alabama as curate, chaplain, and rector. He is an active participant in programs that support people with mental and physical disabilities. In the national Church, he is a member of the standing commission for liturgy and music.

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# Archdeacon Louise Thibodaux Elected To National Board

**By Diocesan Staff**

The Venerable Louise Thibodaux, our diocesan archdeacon, has been elected to serve on the Board of Directors of the Fund for the Diaconate of the Episcopal Church. The fund exists to assist working, retired, or disabled deacons who have insufficient funds to pay for their needs.

“It is quite an honor to join this nine-member board,” Lou notes. “I am looking forward to serving.”

Lou was ordained to the diaconate in November 2002. As archdeacon she oversees the work of the 39 deacons serving throughout our diocese, providing continuing education and support. She also serves as deacon at St. Thomas’ in Birmingham.

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# Clergy News

**The Rev. Jeff Garner** resigned as rector of St. Simon Peter in Pell City effective December 31, 2012.

**Michael Goldsmith**, who is completing his master of divinity degree at the University of the South in Sewanee, has received a call to serve as Transitional Deacon at the Resurrection in Rainbow City beginning June 1. After Michael is ordained to the priesthood in December, he will begin serving as Priest in Charge in Discernment.


**The Rev. Lee Lowery** has accepted a call to serve at St. Paul’s in Albany, Georgia. His last Sunday as rector of Holy Spirit in Alabaster will be February 24.

**The Rev. Jayne Pool** began serving as Priest in Charge of St. Mark’s in Birmingham on February 3.

**The Rev. Frank Roth** has announced his retirement. His last Sunday as rector of St. Mathias’ in Tuscaloosa will be Easter Sunday, March 31.

**The Rev. Barry Vaughn** has accepted a call to serve a parish in Las Vegas, Nevada. He previously served as rector of St. Alban’s in Birmingham.
Youth Ministry in Alabama

From Our Diocesan Youth Department

The Episcopal Diocese of Alabama is known for its strong youth ministry. We have a long-standing history of youth ministry with diocesan staff leadership going back as far as Peggy Rupp, who was our very first youth coordinator in the 1950s. She and Susan Oakes, our current diocesan youth ministries coordinator, met each other recently at Camp McDowell and shared in their enthusiasm for working with teenagers.

Currently a huge number of adults, too many to count, are active in our parishes and serve as leaders at our Youth Department events. Youth ministry is not possible without these loving, committed folks who give so generously of their time, talents, and hearts. These adults join families in the important role of cultivating young people who will contribute to our community. Not only do these adults nurture the spirituality of our youth, but they also connect with them in other important ways. They have fun with them, travel together, and share many meals. They serve as a pastoral presence in times of need, they also connect with them in other important ways. They have fun with them, travel together, and share many meals. They serve as a pastoral presence in times of need, they also connect with them in other important ways. They have fun with them, travel together, and share many meals. They serve as a pastoral presence in times of need, they also connect with them in other important ways.

Calling All 9th-12th Graders!

Sarah Reeves, Youth Department Southern District Representative

Diocesan Convention Youth Lock-in
Friday, February 22 (check-in at 7 p.m.)—Saturday, February 23
At the Ascension in Montgomery

Register online: http://dioala.org/ministries/youth_upcoming_events.html
Registration ends: February 14
Cost: $25

For more information: contact Holly Bauer at hbauer@coascension.org or Susan Oakes at soakes@dioala.org

The Youth Department is excited to announce its first-ever Diocesan Convention Youth Lock-in! For many years members of the Youth Department have represented the youth of our diocese at convention, but this year we want to involve the youth even more by hosting a lock-in the same weekend. What's so awesome about this lock-in is that it is a diocesan-wide event, and all youth in grades 9 through 12 are invited to participate!

Our diocesan convention will be held at St. John's in Montgomery, and our youth lock-in will be close by at Ascension. The youth will have some time to participate in the convention with the adults because this is such an incredible opportunity to show them how involved the Episcopal youth of Alabama are! Not to mention that this is also our chance to show our peers exactly what it means to be a part of this group of young people!

The members of our Youth Department have been working hard to make this new event a possibility, and we would love for you to join us. As always, there will be plenty of games to be played, songs to be sung, and friends to be made. We hope to see you there!
Reflecting on the Province IV Network Meeting

By Holly Bauer, Director of Youth Ministries at the Ascension in Montgomery

Throughout my life I have been given amazing opportunities to meet Episcopalians from all different geographical and theological locations. These Episcopalians, along with many others, have challenged me, encouraged me, and taught me a breadth of lessons, ultimately leading me to my positions as Director of Youth Ministries at the Ascension in Montgomery and an Adult Advisor to our diocesan Youth Department.

All of the parish, district, diocesan, convocational, provincial, national, and international events that I have taken part in have allowed me to grow as a Christian and a leader in some way or another. So it should be no surprise that I now encourage the young people of our diocese to participate in these events as well.

While I have continued my activity on parish, district, diocesan, national, and international levels, I have not been to a provincial event since 2006. Growing up in the Diocese of Georgia, I attended the Province IV Network meeting three years in a row starting my sophomore year in high school. I got to travel to a couple of really fun places, Miami and Camp Weed, as well as the opportunity to host the event at my very own diocesan camp, Honey Creek. Having the chance to return for a fourth year and in a new adult role came as a huge surprise! I was so excited to see both familiar and new faces. Plus, I got to share this special event with two of our very own youth, Ward Taliaferro and Spencer Anglin!

When the three of us arrived at the Gray Center at Camp Bratton Green in Clanton, Mississippi, we were immediately greeted by the woman who previously served as diocesan youth coordinator in Georgia when I was in high school. It was such a wonderful reunion to not only see the woman who introduced me to the Episcopal Church on the provincial and national level, but also show her the impact she made on my life, which led me to that moment. I recognized a large number of the diocesan coordinators, and I was excited to get to know all the others as well as the youth participants.

While I expected to have a lot of fun and even learn a lot, I was not expecting this trip to have such an impact on my ministry. Sure, I knew that I would learn tons of fun new games that I could use in my youth group and at diocesan events, but I didn't expect to be moved to tears by the questions and responses the youth shared with the group. Some topics we covered like “the most effective way to get the attention of a large group of teenagers” probably seemed menial when we were also discussing topics such as “what is going on in South Carolina and what is our role as the Church now?” and “how do we handle bullying?”

Truthfully, though, all of the topics were equally as important to the group and meeting as a whole. I do not believe a single person left without learning something valuable that will positively impact his or her diocese and therefore our province.

I could not be more proud to serve our diocese and Province IV. Christ is truly in the midst of all of us!

Spencer Anglin, Youth Department Northern District Representative, adds, “Going in to the Province IV Youth Network Meeting, I didn’t really know what to expect. It ended up being one of my favorite events that I have been to! Youth from all over the Southeast came to represent 20 different dioceses. We each gave reports on what was going on in our diocese for youth, learned new games and energizers, shared ideas for on future provincial events, and made many new friends from all over Province IV,” she notes. “My favorite part of the weekend was the number of people who were interested in Sawyerville after Ward and I gave our report because it is something that is so close to my heart. I loved how many of the people there wanted to come to Sawyerville this summer to serve on staff. This meeting was a great experience, and I took many things away from it. I am so thankful to have been a part of it.”

“I spent most of the five-hour drive to Mississippi contemplating what I truly expected out of this weekend,” recalls Ward Taliaferro, Youth Department Middle District Representative. “I came in ready to stand up and give a speech about the Diocese of Alabama, but I had no idea what would happen after I sat back down—I came there knowing almost nothing, not even what to expect. When we arrived at the camp, we were greeted by the most wonderful people from all around the Southeast, all my age, and all just full of love. Everyone was so different, but then we found those things that tie us all together—Happening, serving, mission work, etc. Some insane dances and games got everyone involved in the activities—and even when the business meetings started, the fun never stopped! Each diocese brought something new to the table—an idea, game, blessing, ghost story, you name it. A community was built there, one that will stand strong. I’m just more than blessed to have been there to bring something new on behalf of the Diocese of Alabama,” Ward emphasizes.

Rites of Spring Retreat—March 15-17 at Camp McDowell

By A. G. Pusey, Youth Department Member-at-Large

Rites of Spring, a spiritual retreat for 9th-12th graders, will be taking place at Wonderful, Wonderful Camp McDowell on March 15-17. This year’s theme, “Life to the Fullest,” will focus on optimism in our faith—seeing the cup of life as half-full! We’ll explore how we live our lives to the fullest by knowing who we are and what gifts we have, as well as how God fits into living our life to the fullest. With help from members of the Youth Department, your friends, the Rev. Thomas Joyner (associate rector of Holy Trinity in Auburn), and Corey Jones (youth director at All Saints’ in Birmingham), we’ll begin to figure out “Who am I? Where do I want to go? How do I get there?”

Rites of Spring also includes EYC Convention. The youth are given the opportunity to elect their leaders for next year’s Youth Department. This new group will plan youth events and be responsible for representing the youth of our diocese. We hope eligible youth will prayerfully consider running!

The balance of worship, leadership, and crazy-fun activities makes this Youth Department-sponsored event such an enjoyable way to spend your Spring Break. We hope you’ll join us for this year’s Rites of Spring!

For more information about this event and scholarship assistance, please contact our diocesan Youth Ministries Coordinator Susan Oakes at soakes@dioala.org. The cost is $115 per person. Register online at http://dioala.org/ministries/youth_upcoming_events.html; registration deadline is March 7.

Happening #62—March 1-3 at Grace Church in Anniston

By Logan Oakes, Rector for Happening #62

Happening is a powerful and unique spiritual experience that is peer led for high-school students. Through the fun, welcoming, and accepting community, we can discover Christ in our own lives and explore where we stand in our spirituality. In my Happening experience, I went from just knowing about God to actually knowing Christ. This weekend retreat is a time for serious personal reflection, a chance to grow closer to God as a whole community, and a place to have unparalleled fun.

For more information about this event and scholarship assistance, please contact our diocesan Youth Ministries Coordinator Susan Oakes at soakes@dioala.org. The cost is $40 per person. Register online at http://dioala.org/ministries/youth_upcoming_events.html; registration deadline is February 15.
Sawyerville Day Camp, Celebrating 20 Years!

By Crystal Jones, Staff Registrar/Coordinator

Sawyerville Day Camp is celebrating its 20th year, and our diocesan Sawyerville Commission has given much thought and prayer to the direction and future of this important ministry. We have recognized the need to serve more children in the Black Belt area—a waiting list for each of the two sessions this past year gave us a pretty good clue. And campers arriving hungry in the morning was another obvious clue.

So . . . we have happy news. Sawyerville Day Camp is expanding to three—yes, you are reading it correctly—three sessions for the summer of 2013! AND we are adding breakfast!!

What does this mean?

— It means that 600-plus children from Hale County will be given a week of faith-based fun!
— It means that 200-plus youth and adults from our diocese will be given a week of faith-based fun too.

That really is happy news! But wait—

— It means that we will need thousands of granola bars, snacks, drinks, muffins, juice boxes . . .
— It means we will need 600-plus bathing suits, towels, water bottles, backpacks . . .
— It also means that we will need more support from churches and individuals in our diocese.

Please fill out the application form online (www.sawyervilleworkproject.org) or contact me (sawyervillestaff@gmail.com) or Leslie Manning (lmanning@dioala.org) directly to volunteer for these spots. For more info or to read more about what the camp is like, please visit www.sawyervilleworkproject.org.

I am looking forward to spending another great year in Hale County at the Sawyerville Day Camp with you!

Here We Go Again—Only More So!

By Memily Colvin

Sawyerville Day Camp is celebrating its 20th year, and our diocesan Sawyerville Commission has given much thought and prayer to the direction and future of this important ministry. We have recognized the need to serve more children in the Black Belt area—a waiting list for each of the two sessions this past year gave us a pretty good clue. And campers arriving hungry in the morning was another obvious clue.

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Each year so many of you have offered prayers, supplies, meals, and more for the staff and campers. We are sure you will come through again—thank you! To find out what in particular is needed and how you can help, please visit our Sawyerville Day Camp display booth at our diocesan convention in February, log on to www.sawyervilleworkproject.org (you can also see great pictures of camp here), or e-mail me at sawyervillesupplies@gmail.com (this is a new e-mail address).

Thank you in advance for your continued support. Here we go—only more so!

Music, Quilting, and Mosaics—What Fun!

By Sarah Mills Nee, Director of the Alabama Folk School

This April 15-18, the Alabama Folk School at Camp McDowell is offering an exciting array of classes during our Bluegrass & Gee’s Bend Workshop.

Mary Ann and China Pettway, two talented quilters from Gee’s Bend, Alabama, will return to the folk school to offer skilled instruction in their unique style of quilting. There are still a few spots available in this class, but they will fill quickly—sign up before they’re all gone!

Linda Munoz will be teaching a glass mosaics class in the style of Gee’s Bend quilling, as well.

All of the music classes will focus on learning/honing your bluegrass skills. Sign up for banjo, guitar, or mandolin.

To learn more about this guaranteed-to-be-fun workshop or to register, please visit our Web site, www.afolkschool.com, or contact me at folkschool@campmcdowell.com or 205/387-1806.
Think Summer!

By Susanna Whitsett, Summer Camp Coordinator

Many Summer Camp sessions at Wonderful, Wonderful Camp McDowell fill up quickly! So if you haven’t already registered, be sure to register soon!! We encourage registering online to save both paper and time; just log on to www.campmcdowell.dioala.org. If you don’t have access to the Internet, please call me at 205/387-1806 for more information.

May 24-26
Primary 1 (1st, 2nd, and 3rd graders with an adult)
Director: The Rev. Tim Murphy of St. Mary’s in Jasper

May 29-June 1
Elementary 1 (3rd and 4th graders)
Director: The Rev. Joe Gibbes of the Cathedral Church of the Advent in Birmingham

June 4-13
Senior Camp (10th through 12th graders)
Director: The Rev. Russell Kendrick of St. Stephen’s in Birmingham

June 17-22
Junior High 1 (6th and 7th graders)
Director: The Rev. Aaron Raulerson of Holy Cross in Trussville

June 25-29
Elementary 2 (4th and 5th graders)
Director: The Rev. Jayne Pool of St. Mark’s in Birmingham

July 1-6
Special Session (adults with special needs)
Directors: Bishop Sloan and the Rev. David Megginson of Christ Church in Tuscaloosa

July 8-15
Sophomore Camp (8th and 9th graders)
Director: The Rev. Thomas Joyner of Holy Trinity in Auburn

July 18-23
Middler Camp (5th and 6th graders)
Director: The Rev. Andy Keyse of Trinity in Florence

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

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

For information about Special Session for campers, please contact Gail Perna at pernah@ gmail.com or 256/426-3067; for staff members, please contact Jenn Manning at jenniferkmanning@gmail.com or 205/967-8786.

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

Behold, I Make All Things New: The Transforming Spirit of the Enneagram

March 21-23
Dr. Joseph “Joe” Howell

“Behold, I Make All Things New, the Transforming Spirit of the Enneagram” retreat conference, coproduced by Camp McDowell and the Institute for Conscious Living, is a must-attend event for those searching for something spiritually powerful and life transforming. According to the Rev. Susan Sloan the conference’s title embraces the Christ-centered nature of the Enneagram’s spirituality.

Dr. Joseph Howell, a clinical psychologist and well-known teacher of the spirituality of the Enneagram and author of Becoming Conscious: The Enneagram’s Forgotten Passage, will be the major presenter. “This event will be far reaching and more comprehensive than any presentation on the Enneagram we’ve yet offered,” notes Dr. Howell, who has more than 25 years of experience teaching this amazing subject. “I am very excited that now there are many people who are familiar with and use the Enneagram and who are truly interested in deep spiritual consciousness and growth,” he adds. “This means that the presentation of this system’s more advanced concepts now has a large and eager audience.”

The Rev. Susan Sloan, rector of St. Stephen’s in Huntsville, is the event’s coordinator. Other presenters and leaders, who are also members of our diocese, include Nikki Chenault, Livy Abele, Susan Murphy, Lark Howell, Katherine Smith, and Jeff Akamatsu. Melanie Rodgers of the Five O’clock Band will provide music. A special optional feature is a separate training track for people who want to become Enneagram teachers; this retreat conference will be one of four training sessions leading to certification.

“If you think the Enneagram is just another personality typing system or a fun way to label yourself or others, you have another think coming. This is an ancient but totally relevant method to become conscious of and to actually live out the teachings of Christ. It takes spiritual growth to another new level by spelling out just how the individual can find his or her specific purpose in the world. It goes further in helping illuminate each person’s way through the challenges of relationships, parenting, transition, career, alienation, loss, reaching one’s fullness of life, and so much more!” explains conference staff person Susan Murphy.

“The Enneagram in the unique way it is taught by our staff is a much-needed shot in the arm for our Church community. By helping people concentrate on their own journey of faith, the Enneagram diminishes fragmentation and promotes wholeness.”

In this time when factions have divided our Church, a turning inward by individuals toward their own journey with the Divine enables them to grow in their own specific paths. An inevitable result of such spiritual grounding can bring a collective wholeness and healing to our Church.

For more information please visit www.campmcdowell.dioala.org, or contact Camp McDowell Guest Services Director Cathy Robertson at guestservices@campmcdowell.com or 205/387-1806.
Working Alongside Our Sisters and Brothers in Haiti

Continuing Our Companion Relationship with the Diocese of Haiti

By Diocesan Staff

A seven-member team from our diocese spent five days in Haiti during November laying the groundwork for the next phase of Alabama’s companion relationship with the Episcopal Diocese of Haiti. The relationship, which began informally in 2006, was formalized in 2009, and our diocese began another three-year companion relationship period this January.

The team included Maggie Johnston and Andrew Shea, representing our clergy spouses’ Krik! Krak! projects; the Rev. Brad Landry and Mark Fortner from the Nativity in Huntsville; Harris Cornett from Canterbury Chapel in Tuscaloosa; the Rev. Deacon Jerry Jacobs from Grace Church in Cullman; and our diocesan Companion Relationship Commission chair, the Rev. Deacon C. J. Van Slyke, from Trinity Church in Clanton.

The Rev. Deacon Jerry Jacobs, Maggie Johnston, Harris Cornett, the Rev. Deacon C. J. Van Slyke, the Rev. Brad Landry, Andrew Shea, Pere Val, Carmel Valdema, Ricardo, and Mark Fortner

What we rediscovered in our praying, singing, and breaking bread together is how very much alive the body of Christ is in each of us—and that is the heart of our partnership.

What we rediscovered in our praying, singing, and breaking bread together is how very much alive the body of Christ is in each of us—and that is the heart of our partnership. C. J. Jacobs, former director of Good Samaritan Clinic in Cullman and a member of our diocesan commission, spent time with Carmel and the clinic director assessing future needs.

The team also toured St. Simeon Episcopal School and the expansion project, which will include construction of classrooms for two more grades, a computer room, administration offices, and a kitchen. “We also met with the vestry to review their long-term plans,” C. J. explains, “and we traveled to Crochu to see the new St. Alban’s Episcopal Church and School, which are still under construction.” St. Alban’s Church was destroyed during the 2008 hurricane season, and recent floods washed away the temporary school. Although work still remains to finish the project, the external structures have been completed and are now habitable, thanks to a United Thank Offering (UTO) grant and many other contributions.

Some of the team members checked on our clergy spouses’ Krik! Krak! program and its garden, feeding initiatives, and latrine projects in Crochu. Others met with a group of midwives from several mountain areas to assess a program to provide training and lower the rate of prenatal and infant deaths.

The group also visited St. Michél’s Episcopal Church and School in Thomazeau. “Our diocese built a well there for the children and families, and a new cistern has been installed to provide water for the community’s sustainable garden project. The team investigated potential improvements to the garden area. This project will not only help with nutrition, but it will also provide educational opportunities and income for the community,” C. J. emphasizes.

Throughout all our meetings we found time to worship with our brothers and sisters at St. Simeon, and we hosted their vestry for dinner,” she adds. “Some of us got to celebrate the feast day of St Martin with members of its namesake parish outside Port-au-Prince. What we rediscovered in our praying, singing, and breaking bread together is how very much alive the body of Christ is in each of us—and that is the heart of our partnership. We look forward to the next three years of changing lives, offering hope, and working with our brothers and sisters in Haiti.”

Medical/Construction Team Provides Much-Needed Help

By St. Thomas’ in Huntsville Staff

Two school librarians, one middle-school principal, a priest, an engineer, and a nurse from St. Thomas’ in Huntsville went to Haiti in October on a medical/construction mission trip. This unlikely grouping of professionals joined with two Haitian doctors, four nurses, and a translator to conduct three days of medical clinics as part of our diocese’s companion relationship with the Diocese of Haiti. The joint Haitian/American team saw 90 patients during a one-day clinic at the temporary home of the Lespwa Timoun (Hope for the Children) nutrition and medical clinic in Croix des Bouquets and approximately 260 patients during two days of clinic in the remote mountain region of Crochu.

While they were in Crochu, the team members checked on the construction of St. Alban’s Church and School, which were destroyed by the hurricanes of 2008. “We saw scaffolding erected and rafters being cut with a handsaw,” reports team co-leader Jeannie Randall. Workers were putting in place the structure to support the metal roof of the church. The reconstruction effort was funded in part by a United Thank Offering (UTO) Grant to the diocese.

Much has been done to improve life in that area of the mountains in a joint partnership between Alabama and
Celebrating Christmas in Crochu

By Andrew Shea, Krik? Krak! Staff

With funds provided by our clergy spouses' Krik? Krak! program and our diocesan Companion Relationship Commission, staff member Andrew Shea helped the children in Crochu celebrate Christmas, including a visit from “Ton-ton Noel.”

The first step off the plane is almost always the one that makes me smile the most; there is no doubt you are about to enter another world, far removed from your common experience. The scene at St. Simeon is welcoming as always, and I have come to know so many people there that it seems more of a homecoming than coming back to Huntsville at times. After the extended hellos and niceties, I step into my familiar room, arrange my things at my desk, prepare my bed, and lunch is served. I am ready to get to work, talk about the week, and get things started, but as is often the case, I forget I am on island time—there must be resting and accommodations for a host of other agendas.

To say that my week there in December was action-packed would be a slight exaggeration, but the intended goals were accomplished. As usual, there is a lot going on with the Valdema crew, and this was the week leading up to Christmas. Most of our time was spent preparing for the feast day in Crochu on Friday. There were presents to be bought, food to be prepared, trucks to be fixed—no small undertaking for the church/school community of more than 200. It took everyone’s help to make it happen.

The feast day was, at once, the most beautiful, touching, heartbreaking, and odd thing I have ever seen. The teachers and students had clearly prepared for it for quite some time with songs, performances and offerings. I was asked to play “Ton-ton Noel” (Santa).

A meal of rice, beans, root/beet salad, and chicken was laboriously prepared for more than 250 people, the exact number hard to count because of all the overflow. Timmy, one of Crochu’s own who now lives at St. Simeon, made the special cake. The simple logistics of acquiring, preparing, and transporting gifts and food for this remote mountain community was nothing short of a miracle.

In the wake of this all-day event, people filtered out like they do from many holiday events—happy, tired, fulfilled, exhausted, satisfied, disappointed. In the midst of popped balloons, broken toys, discarded plates, and drying tears sat a pants-less child in the dirt staring at something small. Contrasted in the half-light of the setting sun it was only he and I that knew—he held the ocean in a shell.

Surely every child, every person deserves to feel special. If that was our only goal in hosting this feast day for the community of Crochu, then we have succeeded. If, as I see it, our real goal is to provide a better, brighter future for the next generation and we are committed to doing that, it will take . . . dare I say, a miracle and also a clear and defined partnership of common vision. This, to me, is our next mission, if we choose to accept it. I thank all of you for your time and continuing support of Krik? Krak! and the Haitian people—they are truly thankful and pray for us every day.
The ECW Mountain Convocation met at St. Joseph’s on-the-Mountain in Mentone on October 19. Communications Officer Joan Byrum reports that “after enjoying coffee and pastries, the group met in the nave for a time of worship. The Rev. Rebecca DeBow, associate rector at St. Luke’s in Birmingham, was the preacher and celebrant for the day. The Rev. Rebecca DeBow, associate rector at St. Luke’s in Birmingham, was the preacher and celebrant for the day. The fall business meeting followed led by Pat Clanton, coordinator of the Mountain Convocation. The appointed Alms Committee reported the offering total of $208, which was designated for the Church Periodical Club. Marsha Merrill, president of St. Joseph’s ECW, invited the group to the parish hall for lunch. It was a successful event for our newly formed ECW. We may have had more fun than our guests!” Joan notes. “This was the first event hosted by the restructured ECW at St. Joseph’s. The new organization is framed with a plan that will include all the women of the parish, both part-time and full-time residents of Mentone. We designed a communication system using ‘e-mail broadcasts’ to keep everyone informed of activities and plans. Within two months after the start-up meeting at the home of Gethryn Giles, we had 20 women who had paid dues and made a commitment to the effort of building a strong and inclusive ECW. Next for us was a spiritual retreat on January 5, led by Marsha Hurt at Camp DeSoto here on Lookout Mountain. What a great way to begin 2013 and help prepare us to live our Purpose Statement: ‘women serving God together in community.’”

The women of St. Simon Peter in Pell City heard that the Christian Love Pantry had almost depleted its pantry this year and might not have funds to put together holiday meals for families in need, the wheels started turning and an idea was formed for a fundraiser named “Painting for the Pantry.” Deb Cearley recalls, “We found a great deal of the overhead would be in the easels, brushes, aprons, canvases, and paint. We contacted a local artist, Nettie Bean, and asked if she could help us. With the timing of the event she was unable to donate her time, but she would lend us the necessary equipment, everything except the canvases. We found a deal on canvases online, and we started selling tickets,” Deb explains. “Many ladies from the church brought snacks, and we had a wonderful time painting pictures of Christmas wreaths. We raised $540 to donate to the Christian Love Pantry—that would make 27 holiday meal baskets. And with the evening of fellowship we participated in, this was the icing on the cake. The thank-yous for this event are so numerous—I want to thank everyone who participated, those who painted as well as those who donated without painting. Nettie Bean for her donation of the easels, brushes, paints, and aprons. Karla Conway for serving as our leader and Jan Canoles for getting all those bows just right. And everyone who asked, ‘When do we do the next one?’ ”

The ECW of St. Stephen’s in Birmingham will host their 17th Annual Spring Tea and Fashion Show from 2 to 4 p.m. on Sunday, March 3. This is the only fundraising event for the parish’s ECW and the monies raised benefit in-reach and outreach projects. Everyone is cordially invited to participate and enjoy this amazing event! For more information please contact Kim Maddox at maddoxbuddy@hotmail.com or 205/790-4044 or Mindy Strickland at mindystrickland@gmail.com or 205/568-9323.

UTO Applications Accepted Until February 28

United Thank Offering (UTO) grant applications will be accepted only online and only until February 28. These grants are awarded for projects that address human needs and help alleviate poverty, both domestically and internationally within Anglican provinces, dioceses, and companion dioceses. Interested applicants may review the grant criteria and changes online at http://www.episcopalchurch.org/uto. Each grant should be reviewed by the ECW United Thank Offering Board and Bishop Sloan before it is submitted. For more information please contact Linda Kennedy at 205/324-7116 or lk9091@att.com.
The 2012 Episcopal Place Bishops’ Dinner

By Kris Mueller, Director of Development

More than 150 people attended the 2012 Episcopal Place Bishop’s Dinner on November 1 at The Club to celebrate our diocese’s mission of serving seniors and young disabled adults in Birmingham. The All Saints’ Day event raised $18,000, which will help provide the “ECares” Supportive Services Program to the 148 low-income residents at Episcopal Place.

The presenting sponsor for the event was North Coast Development Corporation, created two years ago by Ann Piper, President of Joe Piper Inc. and a member of St. Stephen’s in Birmingham. North Coast Development Corporation teaches Haitians to make products and crafts to sell in the United States so that they can improve their lives. The Haitians make tote bags, aprons, and other sewn pieces, plus beeswax candles and food products, which are sold at stores and markets in the Southeast.

Other sponsors for the event included Business Electronics, the Cathedral Church of the Advent, the Venerable Louise and Paul Thibodaux, SPM Property Management, St. Martin’s in the Pines, Dr. Rusty Bennett, Suzan and Neil Dosidge, Darlene Green, Margaret and Dr. John Paul Musleman, the Rev. Deacon Judy Quick and St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church in Montevallo, Tellis and J. Shoemaker, Drs. Lori and Perry Smith, the ECW of St. Luke’s in Birmingham, the ECW of St. Mary’s-on-the Highlands in Birmingham, St. Vincent’s Health System, Dorothy McDaniel’s Flower Market, Simmons Name Plate Design, and Bill Dixon Photography.

Bishop Sloan was the special speaker for the dinner. Dr. Lori Smith, a member of St. Luke’s and the Episcopal Place Board of Directors; Suzan Doidge, also a member of St. Luke’s; and Tellis Shoemaker, a member of St. Mary’s-on-the Highlands, served as chairs of the Event Planning Committee. Forty-five members of local parishes served on the Event Host Committee.

Proceeds from the Bishop’s Dinner will help provide residents with van transportation, subsidized noon meals and housekeeping, resident activities, pastoral care, and worship services. Episcopal Place, an independent living, affordable housing apartment community, opened in 1980 as a partnership between the Episcopal Diocese of Alabama and local parishes, the nonprofit sector, and the government (U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development), which provides rent subsidies for residents.

Ahab, the Shepherd, Leads Us to Baby Jesus

By Leslie Dunlap, Director of St. Stephen’s Preschool in Birmingham

Ahab, the Shepherd (aka Father Russell Kendrick), was waiting for the children and teachers in the nave the last day of school before Christmas, and he led us on a journey to find baby Jesus. We followed the star and finally found the baby lying in a manger! Each of the children put a handful of hay on baby Jesus to keep him warm, and we gathered around the manger to say a prayer and sing “Go Tell It on the Mountain.” Then we sang “Happy Birthday, Dear Jesus” and ate birthday cake!

New Shoes for Christmas

By Staff of St. John’s in Decatur

In celebration of the feast day of St. Nicholas, the members of St. John’s in Decatur collected 70-plus new pairs of shoes, which they wrapped and presented to representatives of the local Boys and Girls Club. Parishioners selected shoe ornaments, which gave children’s sizes, from the St. Nicholas Shoe Tree, and bought appropriate shoes. After a Wednesday night parish dinner, we stuffed the shoe boxes with extra gifts including chocolate coins and socks, and then we wrapped the boxes. This was the fourth year St. John’s has donated new shoes to this community organization.
Holy Apostles’ Helps Give Veterans
A Place To Call “Home”

By Three Hots and A Cot Executive Director JD Simpson with Photos by William Davis II

As a young man I was a member of Grace Church in Woodlawn (Birmingham). In fact, my mother, Deanna Simpson, founded the Grace Soup Kitchen more than 35 years ago. I remember helping her fix that first meal for about a dozen folks who showed up. In the early years Bishop Furman Stough would come help at Thanksgiving and Christmas. This was back in the Rev. Charlie Horn’s days—we lost him a few weeks ago, and I know he will be missed by many in our diocese.

When I returned to Birmingham in 2009, it was Sandra Lawler and Jack Alison from Grace Church who helped us get St. Benedict’s Veterans Center established in Woodlawn. We opened there in June 2010 and began housing homeless veterans. Grace Church continues to be a giant in the outreach efforts in their community, and Three Hots and A Cot is one result of this outreach.

In late 2009 my family and I began looking for a church home, and we found it at Holy Apostles’ in Hoover (Birmingham). There are many in our world who “talk” about making a difference and many who “talk” about ministry—and then there are the members of Holy Apostles’. They “live” each day making a difference with their ministry. Holy Apostles’ has been a huge supporter of Three Hots and A Cot for more than two years now.

The financial support from the men’s group, the parish outreach, and the members is only the tip of the iceberg of how they have helped this initiative to serve homeless veterans succeed.

The parish has been there for us with material donations, food donations, and monetary support. The biggest blessing for me as founder, president, and executive director of Three Hots and A Cot has been the moral support and prayer support the members of the parish give me. So many men reach out with words of encouragement when things get tough—they offer guidance and counsel to me at times when I need it most. Bill Davis has been a regular advisor to me since the day I first met him two years ago, before I became a member of Holy Apostles’. People like me who face the challenges of a full-time ministry each day often need a refuge to retreat to and be ministered to, and that is what Holy Apostles’ provides for me. The fellowship and prayer support I find with the people there is a major source of my strength to face each day in reaching out to others and serving Christ.

I was just getting to know Jim Wayland through the men’s group when we lost him. He was someone whose encouragement and support seemed to have no end. When Three Hots and A Cot began working on renovating a house in Eastlake, we asked Tracy Wayland if we could name the house in Jim’s honor. She graciously agreed, and the Jim Wayland House now provides a home for three veterans.

We at Three Hots and A Cot are able to do what we do because of so many people who support us in so many ways like the folks at Holy Apostles’, Grace Church, and many others in our diocese. I encourage each of you to visit our Web site, http://www.cotsforvets.org, to learn more about Three Hots and A Cot, and I beg everyone’s prayers as we continue to reach out to those men and women who have served our nation.
The Alabama Episcopalian • January/February 2013

St. Columba in the Cove Starts Beans and Rice Ministry
By the Rev. Joan Henrick

Last fall St. Columba in the Cove in Owens Cross Roads had its first-ever Free Beans and Rice Day, joining other parishes in this ministry started by the Rev. Bill King, priest in charge of Trinity in Clanton. We distributed dried beans and rice along with other nonperishable items to three families, which seems to be the going number for most first-timers. We pray that as the community begins to understand that these food items are truly free without strings attached, the numbers will grow. We will continue to give dried beans, rice, and other nonperishables without question the last Saturday of each month from noon to 3 p.m. or until our supply is depleted.

“Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food? We saw you thirsty and gave you something to drink? We saw you a stranger and welcomed you? We saw you sick and took care of you? We saw you in prison and visited you? ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me’ ” Matthew 25:37-40 (NRSV).

Montgomery-Area Churches Celebrate First River Region Jazz/Gumbo Picnic
By Philip Goodwyn, a Member of the Ascension in Montgomery

Three huge, black iron kettles—each simmering 60-80 gallons of delicious gumbo, vegetarian chili, or red beans and rice—greeted the guests arriving at Grove Park on Sunday afternoon, October 21. The First Annual River Region Episcopal Jazz/Gumbo Picnic took place on a picture-perfect fall afternoon by the lake. The ambience was as pleasant as the weather, with the aroma from the cooking gumbos, the laughter of children playing crocket, and the light jazz sounds of the Coleman Woodson Band.

Parishioners from the Ascension, St. John’s, Holy Comforter, St. Michael and All Angels’, Grace Church, and St. Mark’s prepared the gumbos from fresh ingredients and provided assorted homemade desserts to round out the meal. Each attendee enjoyed gumbo, rice, salad, and freshly baked loaves of French bread from Fresh Market. To cap off the afternoon, the Ascension’s Boy Scout Troop 1 put away

100 quarts of the delicacies to be shared as needed with the sick, and many additional gallons of gumbo and chili were frozen and delivered to local charities that provide food for our community’s hungry.

Mark your calendars—the next River Region Episcopal Jazz/Gumbo Picnic is scheduled for October 2013!

The Rev. Wilton Bunch Honored for His Work in Medicine
By Diocesan Staff

The Rev. Wilton Bunch, who served as priest affiliate at Holy Apostles’ in Hoover and interim rector at St. Andrew’s in Birmingham, has been honored by Loyola University in Chicago for his work in medicine. Loyola’s Stritch School of Medicine recently established the Annual Wilton Bunch Lecture in Medical Ethics in Orthopaedic Surgery, and the school invited Wilton to give the inaugural lecture.

According to an announcement released by Samford University in Birmingham, where Wilton currently teaches philosophy, he “chaired Loyola’s Department of Orthopaedic Surgery from 1975 to 1985, having already served as the endowed chair of a surgical department at the University of Virginia. He went on to serve as Dean of Medicine at the University of Chicago and Dean of the College of Medicine at the University of South Florida before a divinity degree led him to a second career and his Samford teaching position.”

St. Columba in the Cove Starts Beans and Rice Ministry

Montgomery-Area Churches Celebrate First River Region Jazz/Gumbo Picnic

The Rev. Wilton Bunch Honored for His Work in Medicine

The Alabama Episcopalian • January/February 2013
Our 182nd Annual Diocesan Convention

Resolution #1: The 2013 Proposed Program and Budget

RESOLUTION # 1
EPISCOPAL DIocese OF ALABAMA OPERATING BUDGET

RESOLVED that the 2013 Proposed Program and Budget, as developed by the Diocesan Council, be and hereby is adopted as the Program and Budget of the Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Alabama for the calendar year 2013.

SUMMARY

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<tr>
<th>OPERATING CASH RESERVES (Jan 1)</th>
<th>2012 BUDGET</th>
<th>2012 ACTUAL</th>
<th>2013 BUDGET</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>as amended 2012</td>
<td>$185,738</td>
<td>$186,010</td>
<td>$186,016</td>
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ANTICIPATED RECEIPTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prior Year Reserves</th>
<th>$248,603</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Current Year Increases</td>
<td>$2,922,955</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions to Pekana Fund for Mission</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Short-Term Investments</td>
<td>$4,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Designated &amp; Unearned Income</td>
<td>$93,928</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous Income</td>
<td>$3,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants from Trust and Invested Funds</td>
<td>$204,920</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Receipts | $2,967,412 | $2,951,918 | $2,761,446 |

DISBURSEMENTS

| Support of the Episcopal Year | $395,047 |
| Lay & Ordained Leadership Development | $191,224 |
| Department of Stewardship | $3,920 |
| The People Under Ministries | $21,619 |
| Mission and Outreach | $520,368 |
| Parish Development/Evangelism | $322,945 |
| Communications | $130,980 |
| Ministry in Higher Education | $333,954 |
| Camp and Conference Centers | $104,372 |
| Administration/Corporate House | $417,715 |

Total Disbursements | $2,867,210 | $2,555,627 | $2,761,446 |

Surplus (Deficit) | $102 | $8,003 | $0 |

End of Year Cash Reserve | $105,738 | $106,018 | $106,018 |

The proposed budget now goes to our 182nd Annual Diocesan Convention meeting on February 22-23 for final approval. If you have any comments, please contact me at rmorpeth@dioala.org.
Our 182nd Annual Diocesan Convention—“Invite, Inspire, Transform”

By Diocesan Staff

St. John’s in Montgomery is hosting our 182nd Annual Diocesan Convention on February 22 and 23. The theme for this year and the next two annual conventions is “Invite, Inspire, Transform.”

“We are borrowing the idea from the Standing Commission on Lifelong Formation, and each year we will take a good look at these three actions to which our faith calls us,” explains Bishop Sloan. “At our convention we come together to celebrate the life and work of our diocese, to strengthen and give thanks for work already done, and to hear the challenges and possibilities before us,” he adds. “A major focus of this year’s convention will be hearing about the work being planned at Bethany Village, a new development at Camp McDowell. This is very exciting, very challenging, and worth our best efforts.”

Most of the convention activities will be held at St. John’s and neighboring facilities. The convention begins Friday morning with continental breakfast, registration, and the opening Festival Eucharist, with Assistant Bishop Marray delivering the sermon.

During the afternoon session, the convention will hear reports from our Diocesan Council and treasurer, new clergy will be introduced, Bishop Sloan will address the convention, resolution committees will meet, and caucus elections will be held. Friday evening, delegates and visitors will gather at the Capital City Club atop Montgomery’s tallest building with views of the Alabama River and state capital for the convention gala.

Convention business will resume on Saturday morning following breakfast and Morning Prayer. Delegates and visitors will hear additional reports from diocesan departments and committees, ratify caucus elections, recognize parishes for their stewardship, and debate and vote on the work of the resolution committees. Clergy spouses will meet for a special brunch.

In the afternoon the convention will hear additional reports and conduct at-large elections. Newly elected diocesan leaders will be commissioned, and parish ministries will be celebrated in the context of closing worship.

Nominees for Office

**DIOCESAN COUNCIL**

**NORTHERN DISTRICT**

**Presbyter Nominee**

The Rev. Basye Holland-Shuey
Rector of Holy Cross-St. Christopher in Huntsville
* Active member of the Diocese of Alabama for 25 years
* Co-founder and chaplain of Canterbury in Huntsville
* Author and producer of Interfaith Dialogue as Spiritual Practice
* Leader of educational programs at the University of the South in Sewanee and the Nativity in Huntsville
* Congregational Development Conference participant

**STANDING COMMITTEE**

**Clergy Nominees**

The Rev. Evan Garner
Rector of St. John’s in Decatur
* Former Associate Rector of St. John’s in Montgomery
* Deputy to General Convention 2012
* Chair of Department of Stewardship
* Former member of Diocesan Council
* Former chaplain to Youth Department

The Rev. Canon Joe Gibbes
Canon at the Cathedral Church of the Advent in Birmingham
* Canon for Christian Education at the Advent
* Cathedral liaison for diocesan affairs
* Camp McDowell session chaplain 2012 and 2013

The Rev. Joan Miller Henrick
Rector of St. Columba in the Cove in Owens Cross Roads
* Active member of the Diocese of Alabama for 33 years
* Member of Commission on Spirituality
* Member of Diocesan Council
* Former Cursillo Spiritual Director
* Anti-Racism Commission at seminary

**Lay Nominees**

Bill Garrett Jr.
Member of the Ascension in Montgomery
* Vestry member 2008-2010
* Senior Warden 2010
* Verger, lector, and chalice bearer

**MIDDLE DISTRICT**

No nominees

**SOUTHERN DISTRICT**

**Presbyter Nominee**

The Rev. Brandt Montgomery
Priest Associate of Canterbury Chapel in Tuscaloosa
* Member of the University of Alabama Campus Ministry Association
* Chaplain for Special Session at Camp McDowell
* Member of Department of Ministry of Higher Education
* Canterbury Chapel Deacon’s Deli Chaplain

**Lay Nominees**

Roger Holliday
Member of the Epiphany in Guntersville
* Senior Warden
* Education for Ministry (EFM) mentor
* Participant in Happening and Cursillo
* Acolyte
* Adult Christian formation leader
* Camp McDowell summer staff

**DISCIPLINARY BOARD**

No nominees
**CAMP MCDOWELL**

**ALABAMA FOLK SCHOOL WORKSHOPS**

**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! For more information please contact Director Sarah Mills Nee at 205/387-1806 or folkschool@campmcdowell.com, or visit www.afolkschool.com.

**Bluegrass & Gee’s Bend Workshop**

April 15-18

If you want to learn or hone your bluegrass skills on the banjo, guitar, or mandolin—this workshop is for you! If you want to make one-of-a-kind quilts or glass mosaics—this is the workshop for you!! For more information please see “Music, Quilting, and Mosaics—What Fun!” on page 8 or contact Director Sarah Mills Nee at 205/387-1806 or folkschool@campmcdowell.com, or visit www.afolkschool.com.

**CATECHISTS RETREAT**

March 1 at St. Mary’s-on-the-Highlands and March 2 at All Saints’ in Birmingham

Stephanie Diethelm of All Saints’, Beverley Hoyt of St. Mary’s-on-the-Highlands, and Katie Robinson of Holy Apostles in Birmingham are hosting this special event. Mary Mirrione, director of the National Association of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, and Anna Hurdle, a Montessori teacher and Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Formation Leader, will lead the retreat. For more information please e-mail Stephanie Diethelm at sdiethelm@allsaintsbirmingham.org or call All Saints’ at 205/379-8651.

**“CENTERING IN THE MIDST OF COMMOTION: THOMAS MERTON, CONTEMPLATION, AND THE LIVING LIFE”**

March 9 at St. Stephen’s in Birmingham

Contemplative Outreach Birmingham announces the organization’s 20th Annual Conference, “Centering in the Midst of Commotion: Thomas Merton, Contemplation, and the Living Life.” Gray Matthews, Ph.D., who is a former board member of the Thomas Merton International Society, a lay Cistercian, and an assistant professor at the University of Memphis, will help lead a meditative conversation on lessons drawn from the life of Thomas Merton. He will share how Merton prayed and conceived the nature of prayer, as well as how Merton’s monastic opening to the world helps us better appreciate the paradox of living in the world while not being of it. For more information please contact Diana Tschache at 205/991-6964 or tschached@bellsouth.net.

**“BEHOLD, I MAKE ALL THINGS NEW”—THE TRANFORMATIONAL SPIRIT OF THE ENNEAGRAM**

March 21-23 at Camp McDowell

Everyone is cordially invited to this conference led by Dr. Joseph Benton Howell, who lives in Anniston and has practiced clinical psychology since 1981. A recognized expert and gifted teacher on spirituality, psychological change, and the Enneagram, Dr. Howell speaks and presents workshops around the country. His books include the recently released Becoming Conscious: The Enneagram’s Forgotten Passageway. For more information about this special conference, please see the description on page 9.

**THE ADVENT THEOLOGY LECTURE SERIES**

April 4, 11, 18, and 25 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at Cramer House in Birmingham

Dr. Mark Gignilliat, associate professor at Beeson Divinity School and lay canon theologian at Cathedral Church of the Advent, will present “The History of Biblical Interpretation: The Faithful Dead Still Speak” on Thursday evenings in April at Cramer House (2826 Calver Road). Part of the Advent Theology Lecture Series, the weekly topics include The Church Fathers on April 4, Martin Luther on April 11, John Calvin on April 18, and Karl Barth on April 25.

Christianity at its core is a book religion, and the Church from its inception struggled after the interpretation of Holy Scripture for the sake of developing a grammar and view of reality shaped by God’s self-revelation. The lectures in this series focus the participants’ attention on a few key examples from the history of biblical interpretation, with the goal of reviving theological reading practices for ecclesial and personal renewal. For more information please contact Gil Keache at gil@cathedraladvent.com or 205/226-3516.

**8TH ANNUAL EPISCOPAL PLACE GUMBO GALA**

April 20 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Sloss Furnaces in Birmingham

About 40 gumbo cook teams are expected to cook and serve gumbo as they compete for 9 trophies in the 2013 Gumbo Gal. For more information please visit the event Web site, www.gumbogala.com, or contact Kris Mueller, director of development of Episcopal Place, at kmueller@episcopalplace.org or 205/939-0085.

**16TH ANNUAL CRAWFISH & SHRIMP BOIL**

April 27 from 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Holy Apostles’ in Hoover (Birmingham)

Spend the day with friends while feasting on boiled crawfish and shrimp along with boiled corn and potatoes prepared by Boil Master Paul Gilbert. Char-grilled hotdogs with all the trimmings will also be served. Come play in a Moon Walk, dance to a live band, and pick up a live crawfish or two—just for the fun of it! For more information please e-mail Bill Davis at billdavis2ii@att.net, contact Holy Apostles’ (424 Emery Drive) at 205/988-8000, or visit http://holyapostles.dioala.org.

**Bishop Sloan Designates Episcopal Relief & Development Sunday**

By the Rev. Deacon Judy Quick, Diocesan Coordinator

This year Bishop Sloan has appointed the third Sunday in Lent, March 3, as Episcopal Relief & Development Sunday.

On that day especially, we are all asked to offer up prayers and almsgiving to people around the world struggling with poverty, hunger, and disease.

The 2013 Lenten Meditations booklet from Episcopal Relief & Development provides a particular focus on alleviating hunger and improving food supply while helping us prepare for spiritual healing during Lent. A group of Episcopal Church leaders from a variety of backgrounds and theological perspectives wrote this year’s meditations. As we consider Jesus’ life of healing and sacrifice during this Lenten season, Episcopal Relief & Development invites us to reflect on our faith and how we might take action to respond to a hurting world. Please order Lenten booklets from the Episcopal Media Center (EMC) by calling 866/937-2772, visiting http://episcopalmarketplace.org, or e-mailing sales@episcopalmedia.org.

If you would like more information or a presentation on the work of Episcopal Relief & Development, please contact me at jgquick@bellsouth.net or 205/669-6862, or visit www.er-d.org.
**What’s New/Noteworthy at the Episcopal Book Store**

By Cindy Funderburk, Manager

Not by Bread Alone: Daily Reflections for Lent by Robert F. Morneau

Prayerfully journey through Lent with these day-by-day reflections on the daily readings. In just minutes per day, Not by Bread Alone can deepen your experience of this solemn season of prayer and penance and prepare you to participate more fully in the joy of the great Easter mystery.

Reliable Truth: The Validity of the Bible in an Age of Skepticism by Richard E. Simmons III

What do science, history, and logic have to say about the reliability of the Bible? Richard Simmons wrote this book because it became increasingly important to him to uncover existing evidence that could prove the biblical story is in harmony with secular history. Reliable Truth presents how the Bible reflects the true nature of reality. It is about seeing the world as it is while debunking the myths, legends, and false beliefs of the Bible.

Jesus Calling Bible Storybook by Sarah Young, illustrated by Carolina Farias

This brand-new Bible storybook teaches children about God’s amazing plan through His Son, Jesus. These carefully selected stories are paired with Sarah Young’s new children’s devotions, and together they will help young hearts understand that Jesus loves them so much and that God has a grand plan to save His children and prepare a place for us in heaven.

Thoughts to Make Your Heart Sing by Sally Lloyd-Jones and Jago

This innovative devotional by bestselling author Sally Lloyd-Jones (The Jesus Storybook Bible), presents 101 insightful, biblical thoughts will build your personal day-by-day relationship with Jesus and create a deeper understanding of faith. The text and beautiful art by Jago will help you discover how God seeks to know us with an amazing and grace-filled love. Your whole family will enjoy this devotional treasure.

**Mark Your Calendar**

**Diocesan Convention** February 22-23 at St. John’s in Montgomery

Cursillo Weekends #186 March 7-10, #187 April 4-7, #188 June 6-9, #189 September 12-15, #190 October 10-13

Sawyerville Day Camp Session I—June 21-29, Session II—July 5-13, Session III – July 19-27

February 22-23 Diocesan Convention Lock-In for 9th through 12th-graders at the Ascension in Montgomery. For more information please see the description on page 6 or e-mail Youth Ministries Coordinator Susan Oakes at soakes@dioala.org.

February 24 Evensong for Lent sung by the Cathedral Choir under the direction of Frederick A. Teardo at 4 p.m. at the Cathedral Church of the Advent in Birmingham. For more information please contact Music Associate Charles M. Kennedy at kennedy@cathedraladvent.com or 205/226-3505.

March 1-2 Catechists Retreat led by Mary Mirrione and Anna Hurdle at St. Mary’s-on-the-Highlands (March 1) and All Saints’ in Birmingham (March 2). For more information please see the description on page 18, e-mail Stephanie Diethelm at stdiethelm@allsaintsbirmingham.org, or call All Saints’ at 205/879-8651.

March 3 Father/Son Weekend at Camp McDowell. For more information please see the description on page 9.

March 9 “Centering in the Midst of Commotion: Thomas Merton, Contemplation, and the Living Life” led by Dr. Gray Matthews and sponsored by Contemplative Outreach Birmingham at St. Stephen’s in Birmingham. For more information please see the description on page 18 or contact Diana Tschache at 205/991-6964 or tschached@bellsouth.net.

March 15-17 Rites of Spring, including annual EYC Convention, for high-school students at Camp McDowell. For more information please see “Rites of Spring Retreat” on page x or e-mail Youth Ministries Coordinator Susan Oakes at soakes@dioala.org or visit www.dioala.org.

March 17 Organ recital presented by Charles M. Kennedy, associate director of music and organist, at 4 p.m. at the Cathedral Church of the Advent in Birmingham. For more information please contact Music Associate Charles M. Kennedy at kennedy@cathedraladvent.com or 205/226-3505.

March 21-23 “Behold, I Make All Things New—The Transformational Spirit of the Enneagram” Lenten conference led by Dr. Joseph Howell at Camp McDowell. For more information please see the description on page 9.

April 4, 11, 18, and 25 The Advent Lecture Series—“The History of Biblical Interpretation: The Faithful Dead Still Speak” led by Dr. Mark Gignilliat and sponsored by the Cathedral Church of the Advent at Cranmer House in Birmingham. For more information please see the description on page 18 or contact Gil Knacke at gil@cathedraladvent.com or 205/226-3516.

April 5-7 Mother/Daughter Weekend at Camp McDowell. For more information please see the description on page 9.

April 20 8th Annual Episcopal Place Gumbo Gala from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Sloss Furnaces in Birmingham. For more information please see the description on page 18, visit www.gumbogala.com, or contact Kris Mueller, director of development of Episcopal Place, at kmueller@episcopalplace.org or 205/939-0085.

April 27 16th Annual Crawfish & Shrimp Boil from 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Holy Apostles’ in Hoover (Birmingham). For more information please see the description on page 18, e-mail Bill Davis at billydavis2ii@att.net, contact Holy Apostles’ (424 Emery Drive) at 205/988-8000, or visit http://holyapostles.dioala.org.

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.
Alabama’s Cotton Patch Players Have Shared the Gospel for More Than 23 Years

By the Rev. Deacon Dave Drachlis

Twenty-three years after a planned one-time, two-night performance in Huntsville, our diocesan Cotton Patch Gospel ministry continues to touch hearts throughout our diocese and beyond. The Cotton Patch Players gave their final 2012 performance of the “Greatest Story Ever Retold” on November 28 before a packed house at St. Thomas’ in Huntsville—the place where the ministry was born more than two decades ago.

Written by Tom Key and Russell Treyz with music and lyrics by Harry Chapin, this lively and entertaining off-Broadway musical is based on the book The Cotton Patch Version of Matthew and John by Clarence Jordan, in which the Gospel is presented in a setting of rural Georgia with country music songs. The musical was first presented in our diocese at St. Thomas’ in Huntsville in December 1989 to help raise funds for a hyperbaric chamber for Episcopal missionaries on the island of Roatan in Honduras. Word spread, and the group began receiving performance requests from throughout Alabama and elsewhere. Over the years, Alabama’s Cotton Patch Players have shared their musical ministry at other North Alabama churches as well as in Birmingham, Scottsboro, Selma, Tuscaloosa, Mobile, Cullman, and Anniston. They have performed at Camp McDowell, Kanuga Episcopal Conference Center in North Carolina, and a Baptist church on Signal Mountain in Tennessee.

“I have no idea how many times we have performed the musical over the years,” says the Rev. David Megniss, an original cast member who is a former St. Thomas’ parishioner and now is the rector of Christ Church in Tuscaloosa. “Jesus commissioned His disciples to spread the Good News. The Cotton Patch Gospel is surely one of the most fun means to carry out this mission,” he adds. “Tom Key and Harry Chapin were so clever with their presentation that people seem to get drawn into the ‘old, old story’ in a new way. A lot of people tell me that, after seeing the show, they hear things in Scripture they didn’t hear before. Hey, that’s got to be better than preaching!”

The group took a hiatus while David attended seminary and began his ministry as an Episcopal priest. The group took another break after cast member Eric Shaw, also of St. Thomas’, moved out of state. In addition to David Megniss, the current Cotton Patch Players include original cast members Andy Megniss, David’s brother; and a member of St. Stephen’s in Birmingham; and Jeannie Randall, a member of St. Thomas’ in Huntsville; along with Randolph Horn, a member of All Saints’ in Birmingham who joined the cast in 2011.

Their 2012 season included performances at St. Luke’s in Birmingham and Grace Church in Cullman. They started their 2013 season with a performance at our diocesan Cursillo Ultreya at Camp McDowell in January. Over the years, the Cotton Patch Players have occasionally performed the musical to raise funds for a particular ministry, but most of the time they perform without charge.

Clanton and Chelsea Parishes Reach Out to Golfers

Information and Photo from the Rev. Bill King, Priest in Charge of Trinity in Clanton

Over the next three years, an estimated 120,000 golfers playing the 14th hole at the Oak Mountain State Park Golf Course in Shelby County will receive a subtle invitation to worship at St. Catherine’s Episcopal Church in Chelsea and Trinity Episcopal Church in Clanton. The two parishes collaborated to sponsor the 14th hole for the next three years. A sponsorship sign was placed at the 14th hole on January 2, 2013, and will remain there until January 2016.

The idea came from the Rev. Deacon Clyde Pearce, the Rev. Bill King, the Rev. Jim Tuohy, and Ret. Gen. Conrad Ponder who have been playing this course every Thursday morning for the past three years. The group thought this might be a great way to invite golfers to consider attending a local Episcopal church for Sunday worship.