The 15th Annual Jonathan Daniels Pilgrimage
Saturday, August 10, in Hayneville, Alabama
In This Issue

The Rev. Francis X. Walter, a retired priest of our diocese, carried the icon of Jonathan Daniels during the Jonathan Daniels Pilgrimage in 2010. Francis worked with civil rights activists in Alabama during the 1960s, and he visited Jonathan while he was in the county jail in Hayneville in 1965. Dr. Gloria Larry House, who was a student leader in the civil rights struggle, also worked with Jonathan and spent a week with him and other voting rights demonstrators in the jail in Hayneville. Gloria is the featured speaker for this year’s annual pilgrimage, which will be held on Saturday, August 10. Please see the article on this page and the additional information about the youth lock-in on page 20.

From Church in the Park (page 5) to a Lake Baptism (page 17) and Casual Sunday Services on Lake Jordan (page 18), people around our diocese are worshiping God in more relaxed but very meaningful ways this summer. Our youth ministers took some relaxing, rejuvenating “time off” at their annual Sabbath Retreat before beginning their full schedule of leading summer camps and outreach work projects (page 6). Women across our diocese are enjoying wonderful fellowship while creating much-welcome “new” dresses from donated T-shirts (page 12), learning more about “face” and “filler” flowers and creating beautiful arrangements (page 13), and preparing for the 124th Annual ECW Fall Conference (page 12). Members and friends of parishes had lots of fun raising funds to help others at a benefit performance (page 13), a crawfish and shrimp boil (page 16), and a Gumbo Gala (page 15).

When you go to Wonderful, Wonderful Camp McDowell to participate in a summer camp or a Folk School workshop or just to relax, take time to walk the road into Bethany and see how the dream of expanding the mission and ministry of God's Backyard is becoming a reality (see “Diggin’ Bethany” on pages 10-11).

The 15th Annual Jonathan Daniels Pilgrimage

Saturday, August 10, in Hayneville, Alabama

By Diocesan Staff; Photo by William Monk

Human rights advocate Gloria Larry House, Ph.D., is the featured speaker for the 15th Annual Jonathan Daniels Pilgrimage to be held in Hayneville on August 10. Gloria was a student leader in the civil rights movement in Alabama and a field secretary on the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, and she worked with Jonathan in Selma and Lowndes County in 1965. She spent a week in the deplorable conditions at the old county jail in Hayneville with Jonathan, Ruby Sales, and other civil rights workers following their arrest for participating in a voter registration demonstration in Fort Deposit.

Gloria was walking toward Jonathan when he was killed while shielding 16-year-old Ruby Sales from a shotgun blast as she tried to enter Varner’s Cash Store to buy a soft drink. “Just as we turned toward the store, we heard gunfire,” Gloria recalls in an interview posted on YouTube. “We realized that Jonathan had been shot, and the rest of us simply fell to the ground because we didn’t know what else to do. We thought we were all going to be killed.”

After Jonathan's death, Gloria continued to work for civil rights in the South for two years. Today she is a professor of Humanities and African American Studies at the University of Michigan-Dearborn and associate professor emerita in the Interdisciplinary Studies Department of Wayne State University. Gloria, who is also a widely respected author and poet, has received many awards for her work as a civil and human rights advocate, including the Edward Said Scholar-Activist Award from the Michigan Peace Team, the Harriet Tubman Award from the Detroit [Michigan] Chapter of the National Organization for Women, and the Civil Rights Award from the Michigan Coalition for Human Rights.

This year’s pilgrimage, which honors Jonathan Myrick Daniels and others who lost their lives during the 1960s civil rights movement in Alabama, will begin at Courthouse Square in Hayneville at 11 a.m. on Saturday, August 10. The procession will stop first at the old county jail, where Jonathan, Gloria, Ruby, and others were detained for a week, and then move on to Varner’s Cash Store, where Jonathan was killed. The procession will return to Courthouse Square for a prayer at a memorial erected in Jonathan’s honor by his alma mater, the Virginia Military Institute. The pilgrimage will end at the courthouse with a service of Holy Communion in the courtroom where the man who killed Jonathan was tried and acquitted.

The old jail will be open to visitors throughout the morning, and a locally prepared lunch will be available for purchase at the courthouse following the service. After lunch participants can visit the National Park Service Lowndes County Interpretive Center on U.S. Highway 80, between Selma and Montgomery. The museum is situated near the midpoint along the route of the historic civil rights march from Selma to the Alabama State Capitol in Montgomery in March 1965.

This year’s commemoration will also include a youth lock-in at the Ascension in Montgomery on Friday evening for youth groups (entering 7th graders through 12th graders) attending the pilgrimage in Hayneville. The youth groups will be joined by young people from Lowndes County to enjoy fun, food, fellowship, and learning together. On Saturday morning the group will join the Lowndes County young people for a Young Pilgrims Breakfast, hosted by Lowndes County School Superintendent Dr. Daniel Boyd, before joining the other pilgrimage participants in Hayneville.

For additional information about the pilgrimage, which is sponsored by our diocese, please contact the Rev. Deacon Carolyn Foster at carolynfoster@bellsouth.net or the Rev. Deacon Tom Osborne at troborne@una.edu. For more about the youth lock-in, please see the information on page 20 or contact Holly Baner at hhbaner@coascension.org.
Hello, friends,

A few weeks ago I wrote a note to our clergy and parishes suggesting that we extend our Lord’s hospitality to the Boy Scouts. Another denomination had invited their congregations to distance themselves from the Boy Scouts after the organization took what they thought was a liberal position on the inclusion of homosexuals. I didn’t want to wade into the controversies of another denomination or of the Boy Scouts—we’ve got all the controversy we need for right now, thank you—I just think the Boy Scouts ought to have a place to meet, a place to belong.

My note was sent out as an e-mail and posted on our diocesan Web site, The Birmingham News picked it up and ran it in the paper, which also means that it was put on al.com, which is how it made it onto the Episcopal News Service Daily Scan. (And you wonder why I am so careful sometimes with what I say and write … I thought I was writing a note encouraging us to extend hospitality.) I started getting Facebook messages about it, so I looked online, and there was my note for all the world to see.

The comments online about my note were split—there was my note for all the world to see. I started getting Facebook messages about it, so I looked online, and there was my note for all the world to see.

The comments online about my note were split—there was my note for all the world to see. I started getting Facebook messages about it, so I looked online, and there was my note for all the world to see.

The comments online about my note were split—there was my note for all the world to see. I started getting Facebook messages about it, so I looked online, and there was my note for all the world to see.

The comments online about my note were split—there was my note for all the world to see. I started getting Facebook messages about it, so I looked online, and there was my note for all the world to see.

We should all believe what we believe with strength and confidence—enough confidence, in fact, to listen with open minds to people who have other ideas.

Well, here’s a news flash—I don’t want to be fanatical, and I don’t want to be quiet. I want to speak up, and here’s what I want to say: Our Lord Jesus Christ told us that we are to love one another as He loves us. We are called to love all of God’s children because their Father is Our Father too—and that’s the most important thing.

The issue of homosexuality is a complicated important question for our society and God’s Church, and we all need to settle down and take a breath so we can speak and listen about this rationally. We need to say what we believe to be true informed by our understanding of the Gospel, and we need to hear differing points of view without labeling people liberal, conservative, un-American, homophobic, unintelligent, unfaithful, mean-spirited, hard-headed, and so on and on. I don’t know enough about the legalities to make any sense, but even I know there will be challenges and proposed constitutional amendments on both state and federal levels.

I expect that somebody reading this will feel I’m being too liberal and somebody else that I’m being too conservative, and several of you will wonder if I really said anything at all. The truth is that I am more liberal than some of you and more conservative than others. And if I’m saying anything, it is that I want to invite you as followers of Jesus Christ to reject the assumption that only uncompromising extreme fanatics are allowed to have a voice in this conversation in our nation and in our Church, and instead to talk about this and to listen to others. I hope we can keep our minds and hearts open so we can hear and understand what this looks and feels like in someone with a different point of view.

Confidence To Listen With Open Minds

You might have heard me say this or read somewhere I’ve written it before, but I am greatly concerned about the way we (we in the Episcopal Church, we in the American culture) deal with one another when we disagree.

We seem to have given ourselves permission to demonize people who hold a different position, and we are eager to belittle, dismiss, or label someone who has the courage to disagree.

is that they be heard—and that being strident, harsh, uncompromising, and outrageous is their most effective method of communication.

You might have heard me say this or read somewhere I’ve written it before, but I am greatly concerned about the way we (we in the Episcopal Church, we in the American culture) deal with one another when we disagree. We seem to have given ourselves permission to demonize people who hold a different position, and we are eager to belittle, dismiss, or label someone who has the courage to disagree.

Please understand that I am not in any way saying that people should not hold their positions strongly, that we shouldn’t be firm in our faith. I’m not proposing that we should all be lukewarm mealy-mouthed fence-sitters. We should all believe what we believe with strength and confidence—enough confidence, in fact, to listen with open minds to people who have other ideas.

Recently the U.S. Supreme Court declared the Defense of Marriage Act unconstitutional and dismissed a proposition in California banning same-sex marriages. The evening news found people on both extremes willing to make unreasonable comments, wild accusations, and offer conclusions without any support or logic—apparently that’s what the viewing public wants to see. We were told by some that this is a great day for freedom and democracy; we were told by others that this is the end of democracy and the institution of marriage. Surely there are people who can be rational and honest, but they don’t make the news: It’s Be Fanatical or Be Quiet.

You might have heard me say this or read somewhere I’ve written it before, but I am greatly concerned about the way we (we in the Episcopal Church, we in the American culture) deal with one another when we disagree. We seem to have given ourselves permission to demonize people who hold a different position, and we are eager to belittle, dismiss, or label someone who has the courage to disagree.

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

In the United States

The Episcopal Church consists of 109 dioceses in the American and abroad established in 1789.

Presiding Bishop

The Most Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori

In the Diocese of Alabama

About 34,000 baptized members in 92 parishes and worshipping communities and 8 college campus minimums. Established in 1830.

Bishop

The Rt. Rev. John McKee Sloan

Assistant Bishop

The Rt. Rev. Samuel K. Murray

Carpenter House

521 North 20th Street

Birmingham, AL 35203

205/715-2660

The Alabama Episcopalian

Pastor of Holy Apostles

Norma E. McKearney, Editor

Miles G. Parkinson, Art Director

Circulation Secretary

Volume 96, Number 4

July/August 2013

ISSN 055-910

ISSN 1041-3316

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

From Bishop Sloan

The Alabama Episcopalian • July/August 2013


All editorial submissions should be sent to Editor Norma McKearney at apostle@dioala.org or 2915 Kent Way, Birmingham, AL 35226. The deadline for each issue is 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.

THE ALABAMA EPISCOPALIAN • J ULY/AUGUST 2013
Bishop Marray Attends Faith in Conflict Conference

By Diocesan Staff

Bishop Marray joined more than 200 participants from around the world and the United Kingdom at a three-day Faith in Conflict Conference in Coventry, England, earlier this year. A fitting host for the conference, Coventry Cathedral was bombed in 1940 by the Germans, and when the new cathedral was built next to the ruins, it was done with the vision of creating space and forum for a Reconciliation Ministry.

The participants examined issues that give rise to conflict within the Church and explored meaningful ways in which people of faith can engage conflict from biblical, pastoral, and relational perspectives. “Reconciliation is the heart of the Christian gospel (II Corinthians 5; Romans 5) and the whole mission of Jesus is about bringing humanity back to God,” Bishop Marray explains. “It is obvious that the history of the Church is one of an inordinate amount of conflict, but the overriding question is how we, as the people of faith, can learn to talk to each other in the spirit of reconciliation despite our acknowledged diversity and inherent differences. The conference focused on Old Testament and New Testament themes that call the faith community to reflect on the fact that conflict can stimulate growth as much as it produces divisions. When managed properly, conflict has the potential of bearing fruit for the body of Christ. This was the positive theme that I took away from the conference along with the emphasis on reconciliation, which as the mission of the Church couldn’t be stated more clearly.”

The agenda included both plenary sessions and working group sessions that highlighted areas of “conflict containment” and the importance of building “conflict resistant” communities.” These two areas are significantly important in a Church that keeps changing as it is challenged to minister in a world community, which is rapidly outpacing the Church’s capacity to connect with the demands and expectations of new generations of Christians,” Bishop Marray notes. “It is my hope that we can draw input and ideas from this conference in shaping conflict responses.”

During the plenary sessions, the participants heard presentations by the Rev. Dr. Sam Wells, who is the vicar of St. Martin-in-the-Fields, visiting professor of Christian Ethics at King’s College in London, and former dean of the Chapel at Duke University in North Carolina; the Rev. Dr. Jo Bailey Wells, who recently served as the director of the Anglican Episcopal House of Studies at Duke Divinity School and has been appointed chaplain to the Archbishop of Canterbury; the Most Rev. Justin Welby, the Archbishop of Canterbury; and the Rt. Rev. Christopher Cocksworth, the Bishop of Coventry. The working group sessions tackled areas and skills that could help in engaging conflict in healthy and productive ways.

Serving as a YASC Missionary

By Sara Lowery, a Member of Holy Spirit in Alabaster

The Young Adult Service Corps (YASC), a division of the Episcopal Church’s Office of Global Partnerships, gives young people the opportunity to serve throughout the Anglican Communion. Next year I will be representing our diocese as a missionary in Hong Kong. Today “mission” focuses on building transnational relationships and creating dialogue across borders, and YASC works to bring the Anglican Communion closer through service.

I consider myself quite blessed to have grown up in the Diocese of Alabama. Having attended countless Camp McDowell sessions, Youth Department events, Sawyerville Day Camps, Happenings, and EYC Conventions throughout high school and college, I found a group of people who fostered a deep sense of social justice and encouraged me to grow spiritually, mentally, and emotionally. These lessons served me well in college, and I graduated in May from the University of the South with a B.A. in International and Global Studies and a minor in Women’s Studies. These lessons have also led to my work for next year as I have been called to serve with the Mission for Migrant Workers in Hong Kong, which supports and advocates on behalf of Foreign Domestic Workers, mainly from the Philippines and Indonesia, who work as maids in Hong Kong to support their families back home. Unfortunately Foreign Domestic Workers often face various abuses within this system, including everything from working 18-hour days to sexual abuse and withholding wages illegally. The Mission for Migrant Workers works to represent these women. I’m looking forward to learning and serving in Hong Kong and sharing my experiences with the people of our diocese.

If you would like to learn more about my journey, please visit my blog, forjusticeandpeace.blogspot.com, which I will be updating regularly. You may also contact me at lowery.sara@gmail.com. Our diocese has been generous enough to collect donations to help support my work this year; for more information please visit my blog as well as our diocesan Web site, www.dioala.org.
Church in the Park

By Diocesan Staff

What is the “emergent church?” What does it mean to take church out into the world? What does evangelism look like for Episcopalians? Young clergy from Birmingham-area Episcopal churches are experimenting with a possible answer to those questions by taking church out of its traditional setting and into a public space. On Wednesday, May 1, they began conducting weekly worship services at Linn Park in downtown Birmingham, a place where businespeoples, the homeless, students, and Birmingham residents cross paths every day.

“Church in the Park is an attempt to evangelize through the sacraments and share the love of God and the beauty of our tradition with anyone who passes by,” explains the Rev. Katie Nakamura Rengers, associate rector of St. Luke’s in Birmingham. “We gather at noon on Wednesdays for a 25-minute worship service. We invite Birmingham Episcopalians to join us in prayer and help us invite others who might enjoy a fresh expression of church. We also invite you to bring a lunch to enjoy in the park after the service.” Church in the Park was inspired in part by the well-received Ashes-to-Go service conducted in Linn Park on Good Friday.

Province IV Altar Guild Conference Held at Kanuga

Clergy News

The Rev. Deacon Marla Assen has moved to Elko, Nevada.
The Rev. Monica Carlson will begin serving as priest in charge of St. Mathias’ in Tuscaloosa in August.
The Rev. Bradley Landry will begin serving as rector of St. Paul’s Church and Montessori School in San Antonio, Texas, on August 12. Brad previously served as associate rector of the Nativity in Huntsville.
The Very Rev. Frank Limehouse has announced his retirement as dean of the Cathedral Church of the Advent in Birmingham at a date to be announced later.
Working With Our Sisters and Brothers in Haiti

Since 2008, people from across our diocese have been volunteering for medical and building teams to work with the Rev. Fritz Valdema ("Pere Val") and Carmel Valdema in the Croix-des-Bouquets area north of Port-au-Prince as part of our diocesan companion relationship. Although all of the mission trips have been very special, our medical team's trip this April was an extra-special combination of one mission ending and new ones beginning.

Dr. Foster Eich was our first doctor to volunteer for our first medical mission, and this year's trip was his last visit to Haiti. Over the years, he has been gracious and generous with his time, but most of all he has made an extraordinary difference in the lives of the children of Haiti.

The Rev. Fritz Valdema helping a member of St. Simeon's choir with her new robe

Dr. Foster Eich was our first doctor to volunteer for our first medical mission, and this year's trip was his last visit to Haiti. Over the years, he has been gracious and generous with his time, but most of all he has made an extraordinary difference in the lives of the children of Haiti.

Our team's new beginnings began with presenting robes, provided by Holy Trinity in Auburn, to the members of the choir at St. Simeon's Church. We also delivered a wooden cross, provided by Trinity in Clanton, to be placed in the new St. Alban's Church.

Hanne Harbinson, a certified nurse practitioner who works with the Jefferson County Public Health Department and specializes in adult health, especially women's health, played a key role in another new beginning—our team's efforts to initiate a midwife training project. Hanne provided the first prenatal exams for all of the expectant mothers who came to our mobile clinics. Many of the women we saw had experienced numerous pregnancies and lost children at delivery or before the age of four to fever and diarrhea. Hanne's prenatal exams provided an opportunity for us to not only provide medical care but also teach the mothers about nutrition and signs of complications as well as family planning.

We held our first clinic this year in Croix-des-Bouquets in one room of the temporary location of Lespwa Timoun (Hope for Children) Clinic, where Dr. Eich, Dr. Lolo (our Haitian doctor), and Hanne managed to see 64 patients. Hopefully the new Lespwa Timoun Clinic building will be completed in the next five months and will provide much-needed space. Our Haitian staff has been manning the rented facility Monday through Friday since the 2010 earthquake, and for thousands of people in this area, they have been true heroes in providing medical and nutrition clinics. Malnutrition is still very evident throughout the population, with new babies being added daily. While we were there we saw 9-month-old twins who weighed only 7 pounds and could not lift their heads—we hope that after a few months of nutrition therapy, they will begin to thrive. We have seen Carmel and her staff work miracles on hundreds of malnourished children.

Tuesday found us at St. Michael's school and church in Thomazeau, where we saw one garden area being cleared and another garden with spinach growing, watered by an irrigation system provided by the Nativity in Huntsville. Without this watering system and cistern, these crops could not be planted now due to the extended dry season. During our clinic time, Anne Mancer, the lay member of our team, fit reading glasses for patients bothered by blurry vision, helped distribute powdered milk to undernourished nursing mothers, and in general did whatever was needed to support the medical team. By the end of the day we had seen 150 patients.

Wednesday we left for the mountain area known as Crochu, where we spent the night so that we could offer clinics on two days. Other than the mobile nutrition clinic that visits the area once a month, the adults and children here had not had access to medical treatment for two months.

Much of our ministry takes place in Crochu. The Krik! Krah! program initiated by the clergy spouses of our diocese feeds the area's schoolchildren, sponsors families to build latrines to improve sanitation, and is developing...
a model farm site to offer training in soil preservation, gardening, and raising animals. The construction of the new St. Alban’s church and school, which began three years ago, is almost finished. The church building served as both our clinic site and sleeping quarters. Many people were sitting on the steps or ground waiting for us when we arrived, and as always I was amazed at their patience as we set up our clinic.

One of the mothers we saw was brought to us on a makeshift stretcher (two poles and a woven mattress). She had given birth the week before but was having complications with bleeding and dehydration. We started an IV and tended to her—she was not concerned that she was lying on a floor still covered in thick gritty dust and small debris left by the recent construction. In a few hours she was more alert, and later we transported her in one of our supply trucks down the mountain to a hospital.

Most of the medical conditions we care for are related to the long-term effects of poor nutrition, high blood pressure, arthritis, parasites, and respiratory and ear infections. We also see many patients with special needs including a boy who won’t talk because he stutters and a 12-year-old girl who has sickle cell anemia and has been bedridden for the past several months because she can no longer walk. Her father brought her to us twice during the two days we were there—she appeared to be in the terminal stages of the disease. We did our best to explain the child’s condition to the father, and we offered to take her to a hospital, but he refused the care and took her home one last time—the family was accepting of leaving their child in God’s hands.

By the end of those two days we were tired, hot, and dirty. We had seen more than 300 patients, and we were hopeful that we had left them with enough medicine to last until another medical team arrived or they could find a way to get to the Lespwa Timoun Clinic for follow-up treatment.

Leaving Haiti is always bittersweet with tears of longing and wishing we could have done more mingled with tears of gratitude for the hospitality shown to us by strangers. Most importantly, we leave with a deeper understanding of how the Holy Spirit connects all of us to each other in ways we could never begin to imagine.

Representatives from dioceses and organizations across the United States and Canada as well as from the Episcopal Diocese of Haiti gathered in Port-au-Prince on April 10-12 to reflect on their many and varied relationships during the Haiti Connection Conference, which was organized by the Children’s Medical Mission of Haiti. The Rev. Deacon Gerri Aston, Emily Duke, Laura Grill, Maggie Johnston, Anne Kimrey, Andrew Shea, the Rev. Deacon CJ Van Slyke, and I represented our diocese.

We saw the first sign of new hope in Haiti when we arrived at the airport, which was destroyed by the 2010 earthquake. New facilities have been built to handle the influx of mission teams and nongovernmental organizations.

The conference was held at the site of the Hotel Montana, which the earthquake also had leveled. The hotel has reemerged as the Horizon Suites featuring new facilities that include glimpses of its past loveliness. Three other smaller hotels provided lodging for some of the participants.

On the morning of April 10, we visited sites around Port-au-Prince: The Cathedral of the Holy Trinity (Cathédrale de Sainte Trinité) is still in ruins as the “Rebuild Our Church” Campaign continues, but we experienced a lovely worship service full of song and joy in the temporary Cathedral space. At the Holy Trinity School (École Sainte Trinité), we saw that classes were vibrant, even though the classrooms did not have walls. The earthquake crushed St. Vincent Centre for Handicapped Children (École St. Vincent), but this facility for the disabled was thriving with classes and workshops and new building construction for the production of prosthetic devices. At the University of Haiti, we saw new computers in the space where they were holding a competition for entrepreneurs.

We learned so much at the meetings. Just look at the cadre of esteemed presenters—the Rt. Rev. Stacy Sauls (Chief Operating Officer of the Episcopal Church), the Rt. Rev. Jean Zaché Duracin (Bishop of the Diocese of Haiti), the Rt. Rev. Ogé Beauvoir (Bishop Suffragan of the Diocese of Haiti), Pierre Richard Kazimir (Minister of Foreign Affairs of Haiti), Sikhumbuzo Vundla (Chief Executive Officer of the Diocese of Haiti), and Elizabeth Boe (Global Relations Officer of the Episcopal Church). Each speaker challenged us to look at Haiti with new eyes, to see Haiti’s renewal, strength, resilience, and determination for self-sufficiency and that partnerships mean shared responsibility in God’s mission, enduring relationships, and sustainable programs with accountability and transparency. The break-out sessions offered deeper insights into the various healthcare, education, and community/development partnerships.

Most importantly, the profound worship services (in Creole, French, and English!) and the fabulous entertainment presented by the Holy Trinity Orchestra, the St. Vincent’s Bell Choir and Dance Ensemble, and the Holy Trinity Choir lifted our spirits and helped deepen our connections with our brothers and sisters in Haiti.

Yes, Lespwa fo viv! L’espoir fait la vie! Hope brings life! The indomitable Haitian spirit was alive and well in everyone we met, and they are looking toward a new future for their diocese and their country. Our diocese is blessed by our companion relationship with the Episcopal Diocese of Haiti.

One of the classrooms at Holy Trinity (Sainte Trinité) School
Youth Ministers Enjoy Sabbath Retreat

By Susan Oakes, Our Diocesan Youth Ministries Coordinator

At the end of the program year, youth ministers from around our diocese gathered at Camp McDowell for our annual Sabbath Retreat to enjoy some relaxation and refreshment and rejuvenate for our continued ministry during the summer. Our time together began with a long hike and guided meditations offered by our chaplain, the Rev. Geoff Evans of St. Mary’s-on-the-Highlands in Birmingham. Geoff also provided individual spiritual direction.

Along with plenty of rest, we enjoyed lots of food, drink, conversation, and laughter throughout the weekend! We have an amazing group of youth ministers who are guiding our youth in knowing Christ, and it was a wonderful to celebrate this with them.

Camp McDowell Helps Boy Scouts Earn Badges

Camp McDowell is offering Boy Scout and Webelos programs for the upcoming fall. Come experience the wonder and magic of camp while completing requirements for merit and activity badges, belt loops, and academics pins!

Boy Scouts have the following spectacular options:

Nature and Bird Study Merit Badge—September 14–15
Gives you the chance to learn more about the plants, birds, and animals of our world.

Geology and Soil and Water Conservation Merit Badge—October 5–6
Includes an incredible hike through our beautiful canyons.

Energy Merit Badge—November 9
Leads you on an educational journey through the needs of our modern society.

Astronomy and Chemistry Merit Badge—December 7–8
Lets you observe stars in the late-night sky and make your own Cartesian diver.

Webelos can have a great Camp McDowell experiences too:

Forestry and Geologist Activity Badges—September 28
Gives you a chance to explore our forests and rock shelters.

Wildlife Conservation Belt Loop and Academics Pin—November 23
Lets you delve into our mysteriously diverse natural environment.

Map and Compass Belt Loop and Academics Pin—December 14
Offers you a chance to explore hidden terrains in our area.

All of these programs can also be scheduled specifically for your troop or pack. The cost per day is $15 per scout with overnight camping available for an additional $15. For more information or to register, please contact Tesha Omeis at 205/300-8508.
McDowell Environmental Center Changes Lives

By Bobbi Murphy, Middle-School Teacher

Taking middle-school students to Camp McDowell is always a unique experience—especially for the students from a Title 1 inner-city school. Students who are familiar with the sounds of gunshots and sirens had positive experiences with the awesome wonder of the outdoors. Some said, “I didn’t know it could be this quiet,” and “Why can’t we see all of these stars in Huntsville?” The instructors at Camp McDowell’s Environmental Center exposed my students to opportunities their parents could not provide.

When I took a group of mostly Hispanic students to camp several years ago, it ended up being a mix of camp and school with a heavy dose of “familia.” Throughout the three days there were content lessons, hikes, team-building activities, structured mealtimes, and even interpersonal-skills development. My students were transformed.

I recall students who arrived very disruptive and disobedient but left with tears about finally feeling included. This is beyond clichéd notions of a “kumbaya” experience of simply singing songs in the forest. It was a nonstop schedule for the students and a lot of sweat and tears. These were students who took their first step into nature and the beauty of camp. The joy that comes from seeing them touch an owl, hold a snake, or spot a lizard sunning itself on a rock is highly rewarding.

Fast-forward to 2013—about 65 percent of those students dropped out of school after 8th grade for a variety of reasons, mainly to work and help support their families.

The instructors at Camp McDowell’s Environmental Center exposed my students to opportunities their parents could not provide. . . . My students were transformed.

Whenever I run into them in town, though, one of the first things they say is, “Do you still take kids to Camp McDowell, Mrs. Murphy? I had such a good time there and wish I could go back.”

These students grew and learned. I hope that their time at the Environmental Center created a love for the outdoors that they will always remember.

For more information about McDowell Environmental Center please contact Director Maggie Johnston at maggie@campmcdowell.com or 205/387-1806, or visit www.cmeco.edu.

Enjoy a Top-Notch Workshop!

The Camp McDowell Folk School is growing, and it’s WONDERFUL! Our April Bluegrass and Gee’s Bend workshop was our biggest yet, with 65 participants and 9 instructors from across the country. As our growth continues, we are eagerly awaiting the Bethany Village expansion and the new facilities and space it will provide.

Come join us for our top-notch fall line-up! For more information please visit www.afolschool.com or contact Director Sarah Mills Nee at folkschool@campmcdowell.com or 205/387-1806.

Acoustic Guitar and Crafts Weekend
September 20-22

Our 2nd annual Acoustic Guitar and Crafts Weekend is being offered as a weekend workshop. It’s a great time to be at camp with cooler weather and the beautiful changing leaves! The classes include:

- Introduction to Acoustic Guitar taught by Herb Trotman
- Acoustic Finger Style Guitar taught by Jim Ohlenschmidt
- Advanced Acoustic Guitar taught by Jan Hurst
- Blacksmithing taught by Lee McKee

Watercolor Workshop
October 20-25

Participants will have a choice of three instructors selected for their excellent use of watercolor media and teaching experience. Each group of students, from beginners to “master” artists, will have one teacher for the duration of the workshop and will share equally in the expertise of the “professors.”

Leslie Frontz, who is an award-winning watercolorist and has had paintings in numerous art magazines, is a member of the faculty of art at Rowan-Cabarrus Community College in North Carolina. She teaches watercolor workshops nationwide.

Lana Grow returns to Camp McDowell at the request of devoted students. Touching on the thought process of finishing abstracts, Lana will share and demonstrate her thoughts and the processes she uses from starting a painting to finishing it. Her emphasis will be helping you find your own language and vision in your art journey, therefore strengthening your work. Each day will include several demos and time for students to work; students will be working on several pieces at the same time. Lana will work with each individually as time permits. This class is all about YOU.

Wayne Spradley, an internationally acclaimed landscape artist, has exhibited recently in the Waterfowl Festival in Easton, Maryland, and the Southeastern Wildlife Exposition in Charleston, South Carolina. His paintings hang in several university and government buildings, museums, and presidential collections in the United States and abroad. Wayne’s class will focus on creating transparent, realistic paintings. Using a limited palette, students will learn about color, value, design, balance, perspective, and composition while maintaining transparency. Wayne has an abundance of patience and enjoys working with beginning students as well as the more advanced.

To register for the Watercolor Workshop, please contact Tora Johnson at toradave@earthlink.net.

Old Time Music and Crafts Week
October 31-November 3

November brings outstanding musical and artistic instruction during this 4-day workshop! Classes include:

- Fiddle I taught by Suzy Thompson
- Fiddle II taught by Jimmy Triplett
- Banjo I taught by Bill Mansfield
- Banjo II taught by Adam Hurt
- Mandolin I taught by Tim Avalon
- Mandolin II taught by Eric Thompson
- Guitar I taught by Susie Coleman
- Guitar II taught by Jim Holland

Mini-classes will be offered on Thursday and Friday: Old-Time Singing taught by Ann Whitley Ukulele taught by Charlie Hartness Harmonica taught by Jamie Finley
Diggin’ Bethany
Submitted by Camp McDowell Development Director Danielle Dunbar

Bethany is the place where Jesus’ friends Mary, Martha, and Lazarus lived. At Camp McDowell, we hope more of Jesus’ friends will stay at the place we are calling Bethany to grow in service and Christian community. The expansion of our mission and ministry at camp will include more special sessions, an expanded environmental ministry focused on farming and food production, an expanded art and music ministry with dedicated space for the Alabama Folk School, and more lodging for parishes to come and have spiritual retreats.

Introducing the Bethany Campaign Cabinet
It is an exceptional journey we have embarked upon to build more facilities for our collective dreams. We are grateful to have an outstanding campaign cabinet of 18 people to lead us on our way. The Rev. Rich Webster and Ricky Bromberg are serving as the Bethany campaign co-chairs; Bishop Sloan, the Rev. Mark Johnston, and Camp McDowell Development Director Danielle Dunbar are staff members working on the campaign; and Dr. Pam Parker of Christ Church in Tuscaloosa is serving as the campaign consultant.

You may know that the Rev. Rich Webster, who is the rector of St. Luke's in Birmingham, has served for many years in our diocese, including at St. John's in Decatur and St. John’s in Montgomery. Rich is a gifted preacher and has published God’s Gifts: Stories from Saint Luke’s and Snapshots of Hope. He and his wife, Ellen, live in Mountain Brook with their beloved lab, Buster. Rich is excited to play a leading role in the Bethany campaign because he sees it as a big family project that is connecting us from all parts of our diocese and encouraging us to work together.

Ricky Bromberg, who is a lifetime member of the Cathedral Church of the Advent in Birmingham, is a past vestry member of the parish and a graduate of the University of Alabama. Ricky is president of Bromberg and Company Inc., a Birmingham-based retailer of fine jewelry and gifts. He is married to the former Nancy Beaird of Birmingham, and they have one son, Wil. Both Ricky and Nancy are active in the Cursillo community, and Nancy currently serves on the Secretariat. When asked why Camp McDowell is important to him, Ricky emphasizes that “it is a place all Episcopalians in our diocese can claim as their own. It serves as ‘God’s Backyard,’ where all ages can come together in a beautiful setting to enjoy worship and fellowship.”

Cochair Ricky Bromberg emphasizes that Camp McDowell “is a place all Episcopalians in our diocese can claim as their own. It serves as ‘God’s Backyard,’ where all ages can come together in a beautiful setting to enjoy worship and fellowship.”

These fine leaders from around our diocese make up the remainder of the Bethany Campaign Cabinet:

Phyllis Hall of St. Luke’s in Birmingham—Major Gifts
The Rev. David Meginniss, rector of Christ Church in Tuscaloosa—Parish Gifts
The Rev. Doug Carpenter of St. Stephen’s in Birmingham—Retired Clergy Gifts
The Rev. Ray Prudat of Christ Church in Tuscaloosa—Retired Clergy Gifts
Bunny Edwards of St. John’s in Decatur—Special Events
Roger Holliday of St. James’ in Alexander City—Marketing
Melinda Sellers of All Saints’ in Birmingham—Young Adults
Lee Handley of Camp McDowell—Young Adults
Tommy Jones of St. Paul’s in Selma—Department Representative
Felix Drennen of St. Luke’s in Birmingham—ACTS2 Representative
Tony Davis of the Cathedral Church of the Advent in Birmingham—At-Large
Dr. John Lane of Trinity in Florence—At-Large
Emily Rodgers of the Nativity in Huntsville—At-Large
Carla Simmons of St. Mary’s in Jasper—At-Large
Polly Williamson of the Ascension in Montgomery—At-Large
Expanding our Mission and Ministry

We continue to prepare for the expansion of Camp McDowell at Bethany. As our workers have cleared the roads and facility sites, they have done a minimal amount of grading, and the cleared trees are being taken off-site to chip and mulch. Not only are we being careful stewards of the land, but we are also saving ourselves money for future projects like mulching playgrounds.

We are on schedule to host Special Session in Bethany Village next summer. During the 2013-2014 school year, the McDowell Farm School will transition to its permanent site within Bethany Village. Visiting school groups will become part of the farm school history by helping build the new site one planting bed at a time.

Please take a look at the map of Bethany (at left) and note that the Chapel of St. Francis remains the center of Camp McDowell. Many thanks to all who helped build the chapel and all who are part of the ambitious project to build Bethany.

Come walk the road into Bethany next time you are at camp, and see our progress for yourself!

For more information, please contact Development Director Danielle Dunbar at danielle@campmcdowell.com or the Rev. Mark Johnston at mark@campmcdowell.com.

Many Thanks to Clyde’s Crew!

The Rev. Deacon Clyde Pearce and his “crew” have roughed in the main road and installed a new water line that will serve all of camp, including the new facilities. Camp McDowell will be using “city” water for the first time, which will allow us to have fire hydrants and use water during power outages. In addition, having fire hydrants will help reduce our insurance costs.

Thank you, Clyde Pearce and crew, for all your hard work!
showing God’s love One T-Shirt Dress at a Time

Submitted by Anne Roy, a Member of Trinity Church in Florence

Ladies, I have to say that this is my favorite time of the year. No, not summer—I really dislike the heat, but Episcopal Church Women (ECW) convocation meeting time. This is when I get out and about in our diocese and have the opportunity to meet so many of you wonderful women.

Between March and June, six of our seven convocations met, and I was able to make it to four of the meetings. I have been served delicious food, enjoyed worship, and listened to some very interesting and inspiring speakers. The best part of every visit, however, has to be the time spent chatting with you and getting to know you better. At each meeting there were several women who came from parishes that do not have a formal ECW. That doesn’t matter—you don’t have to form an ECW to be a member of ECW. Just being a member of an Episcopal church makes you an Episcopal Church Woman. It was really exciting for me to meet ladies from these parishes.

During the sharing time, I learned that we are all doing the same work. We are all serving God, we have so many wonderful ministries, and we do so much with our time and talents—there just isn’t enough room to write it all down.

In October we will have our 124th Annual Fall Conference in Demopolis. It is for all women! I hope you will be able to join us for this exciting event! We will also have convocation meetings again in the fall, and I hope to make it to all seven, if I can. These will be the last meetings of my presidency, and I would just love to see all of you!

Remember—ECW means Every Church Woman!

Inviting Every Church Woman to the 124th Annual ECW Fall Conference!

Pray—Believe—Love—Serve

The Episcopal Church Women of our diocese’s Black Belt Convocation are hosting our 124th Annual ECW Fall Conference at Trinity Church in historic Demopolis on October 10 and 11—and we want ALL OF YOU to be there! Remember, being a member of any Episcopal church or worshipping community within our diocese gives you an invitation to attend our Fall Conference.

You don’t want to miss this year’s conference! Pearl Slag and her committee have been working hard to ensure that we will be spiritually fed and thoroughly entertained. The event will include a tour of the churches in the Black Belt area, and as a special treat our keynote speaker is Dolores Hydock, Birmingham’s own award-winning storyteller.

Pearl urges everyone to make a reservation as soon as you can at the Comfort Inn (334/289-9595) or Best Western (334/289-2611) because there is a limited number of rooms and this conference promises to be sold out! Be sure to mention that you are with the ECW group when you make your reservation at these two “official conference” hotels. Please check our Web site, www.alabamaecw.org, for up-to-date details.

See you in the Bend! Webb’s Bend, that is, at the confluence of the Black Warrior and Tombigbee Rivers in Demopolis!!

From Fiona Watts, ECW Diocesan President

ECW Means Every Church Woman!

Ladies, I have to say that this is my favorite time of the year. No, not summer—I really dislike the heat, but Episcopal Church Women (ECW) convocation meeting time. This is when I get out and about in our diocese and have the opportunity to meet so many of you wonderful women.

This comment inspired Alyce Pride and me to repurpose a garbage bag full of T-shirts—some of them slightly stained, some of them with holes, and some of them new—into dresses. Before long, Alyce and I had made 50 dresses, with trim strategically placed to cover flaws in the fabric.

We shared 11 of the dresses with other churches in Florence to inspire more women to make T-shirt dresses. A group from Trinity Baptist wanted to send dresses to the missionaries they support in Nigeria. Alyce and I held a Saturday work session for these women at their church with a follow-up work day, and they are now meeting once a month to make dresses. Everyone brings leftover trim, jars of buttons, iron-on fusible web (for creating appliqués), and fabric glue and paint. Everyone has a great time sewing, designing trim, and painting designs to turn T-shirts into attractive, practical, much-welcome “new” dresses.

Saving the Earth and showing God’s love while meeting the needs of others—what a great project!

Please visit www.teeshirtconversions.com for instructions on making T-shirt dresses. If you would like Alyce and me to lead a work session for your group, please contact us through trinity@trinityflorence.org, or contact me at annehr@comcast.net or 256/349-5353.

Showing God’s Love One T-Shirt Dress at a Time

Submitted by Anne Roy, a Member of Trinity Church in Florence

In Stepping Up: A Journey Through the Psalms of Ascent, author and teacher Beth Moore talks about how many billions of dollars we spend on storage units. “Why don’t we just give the stuff away?” she challenges readers.

This comment inspired Alyce Pride and me to repurpose a garbage bag full of T-shirts—some of them slightly stained, some of them with holes, and some of them new—into dresses. Before long, Alyce and I had made 50 dresses, with trim strategically placed to cover flaws in the fabric.

We shared 11 of the dresses with other churches in Florence to inspire more women to make T-shirt dresses. A group from First United Methodist Church was going to Honduras and told Alyce that they would love to have dresses to take with them. Since time was short, we gave them 39 of the dresses we had made.

A group from Trinity Baptist wanted to send dresses to the missionaries they support in Nigeria. Alyce and I held a Saturday work session for these women at their church with a follow-up work day, and they are now meeting once a month to make dresses. Everyone brings leftover trim, jars of buttons, iron-on fusible web (for creating appliqués), and fabric glue and paint. Everyone has a great time sewing, designing trim, and painting designs to turn T-shirts into attractive, practical, much-welcome “new” dresses.

Saving the Earth and showing God’s love while meeting the needs of others—what a great project!

Please visit www.teeshirtconversions.com for instructions on making T-shirt dresses. If you would like Alyce and me to lead a work session for your group, please contact us through trinity@trinityflorence.org, or contact me at annehr@comcast.net or 256/349-5353.
Performance at St. Simon Peter’s Benefits YWCA

The following story and photo are reprinted with the permission of the YWCA Central Alabama

On June 2, actress and award-winning story performer Dolores Hydock brought her special style of storytelling to St. Simon Peter’s Episcopal Church in Pell City to benefit the YWCA’s Our Place domestic violence shelter—the only confidentially located shelter serving victims in St. Clair and Blount Counties that is certified by the Alabama Coalition Against Domestic Violence. Dolores Hydock entertained the audience with her funny, affectionate stories about mothers and fathers, family fireworks, and the power of a parent’s love.

“The vestry wanted to offer this program to the community in the knowledge that the arts speak from and to the human soul,” says Lucie Magnus, vestry member. “We also wanted to give back to the community, so when Jo King and Lisa Baggett suggested Our Place, we jumped on the idea!”

“We are so grateful that the members of the vestry decided to host this performance to benefit the women and children who are served by our shelter,” says Carrie Leland, Rural DVS Coordinator. “It’s great that Dolores, who travels all over the world performing, would take the time to help raise money for the special women and children we serve.”

Our Place is an important resource for rural domestic violence victims because they are often in isolated locations. Women in the St. Clair County area are often hesitant to travel to Birmingham to seek shelter from an abuser. This could be due to lack of transportation, distance, or fear of an unknown city. In addition to emergency shelter, Our Place provides additional services for women and children who are escaping abusive situations such as court advocacy, assistance with protection from abuse orders, and community outreach. Our Place also provides case management and financial assistance for re-housing victims displaced by domestic violence through the Special Assessment Intervention

A Day of Flowers, Fun, and Fellowship

By Maggi Steele Odell of Grace Church in Mount Meigs

Gardening enthusiasts and flower arrangers from Greenville, Selma, Montgomery, Pike Road, and even Americus, Georgia, gathered at Grace Church in Mount Meigs (Pike Road) on April 20 for a day of garden tours and hands-on flower arranging during “A Cutting Garden and Flower Arranging Workshop.” The day began with a welcome from the Rev. David Peeples, rector of the parish. Due to the enthusiastic response to the workshop, the day was expanded to include two sessions with lunch served by the women of parish, with Elizabeth Littleton at the helm.

Karen Weber, Grace’s gardener-in-chief, led educational tours through the parish’s gardens. Karen, who earned her degree in ornamental horticulture at Ohio State University, is also a master gardener. Her professional experiences include working for golfer Jack Nicklaus at his home in West Palm Beach, Florida, and at the private estate of the late builder and philanthropist Wynton “Red” Blount of Montgomery. She became the head gardener of the Shakespeare Garden in 1999 when it was created at the Alabama Shakespeare Festival in Montgomery.

As Karen guided the participants through the parish’s gardens, she encouraged questions and made recommendations about plants that are most desirable for flower arranging. She also described how the gardens were designed and constructed by Jim Scott and his late wife Vivian and “built to the glory of God and in memory of Ellie and John Scott,” Jim’s parents.

Sarah Spratling, who grew up in Roebuck, Alabama, led the workshops. Both her mother and grandmother grew roses, and Sarah’s love of flowers began early in life. As a teenager she delighted in helping her art teacher and other friends arrange flowers for parties and community events. Sarah attended Mary Baldwin College, Washington and Lee University, and Vanderbilt University, and she is well known throughout central Alabama and beyond for the fabulous floral displays she has created for parties, balls, and weddings. Her work has been featured in several publications, including *Veranda* Magazine. Sarah especially enjoys arranging flowers for Montgomery’s houses of worship. She has been a member of St. John’s in Montgomery for 20 years, and her flower ministry and devotion to her church can be seen throughout the year, particularly at Christmas and Easter.

Sarah used Grace’s sunlit parish hall as her flower-arranging playground. Her hands-on workshops included tips for arranging flowers for both the altar and home use. She began with the selection of flowers and continued with the use of flower foam, setting lines for the arrangements, and categorizing “face” and “filler” flowers. In “Sarahese,” she cautioned the participants to avoid “windshield wiper,” “basketball,” and “Hallelujah” arrangements. She encouraged them to think about graceful things when arranging flowers, to visualize movement like a ballet dancer. She also encouraged them to look to nature itself for inspiration.

Karen, Sarah, and all of the participants declared the day a wonderful success on an incredibly beautiful spring day... a day of flowers, fun, and fellowship.
Crawfish, Shrimp, and Music—
WHAT GREAT FUN!

Submitted by Bill Davis, a Member of Holy Apostles’ in Birmingham

If you didn’t come to the 16th annual Crawfish & Shrimp Boil at Holy Apostles’ in Birmingham (Hoover) on April 27, you missed out on great food and a fun-filled family reunion and neighborhood block party all “served up” in one memorable event!

With the threat of another spring thunderstorm looming, the cooking and setup crews gathered for a prayer of thanksgiving at 7:30 a.m. before about 20 “Holy Apostles” went to work. Boilmaster Paul Gilbert and his assistants started washing and chopping ingredients, cleaning crawfish, and boiling more than 600 pounds of South Louisiana crawfish and Gulf Coast shrimp along with fresh corn and potatoes. The rest of us transformed our parish parking lot into an outdoor party site complete with pop-up tents and tables covered in newspapers, the traditional boiled seafood “tablecloths.”

Kenn Gaddis and Justin Aldridge, two of our “Apostles with Fire” (see Episcopal Place Gumbo Gala story at right), cooked the award-winning Chicken-and-Sausage Gumbo and served it with homemade potato salad supplied by Larry Scott. Richard and Kristy Riley painted faces and applied washable tattoos for any child who would sit still for a minute or two in between bouncing in the Moonwalk and visiting the live crawfish (aka the Cajun Petting Zoo).

Joyful music started pulsing by midmorning. Dave Gadbois, our parish’s resident DJ, provided recorded music before The Holy Apostles’ Music Makers (aka The HAMMs) took the stage for two sets of songs featuring vocalist David McElroy with Sam Morris on keyboards, Dave Moon on trumpet, Jerry Roberson on electric bass, Kevin Massey on drums, and Justin Massey and Charles McCormack on guitars. By 11:30 a.m. families and friends had gathered in a time-honored South Louisiana ritual—eating fresh boiled crawfish, shrimp, corn, potatoes, and homemade gumbo while laughing, talking, and passing babies around to whoever had the cleanliest hands at the moment. Bishop and Nalini Marray joined the fun early in the afternoon. The rain held off until after we had finished cleaning up, and a thunderstorm moved through later—by that time we were all home and thinking about the great day we had.

Be sure to join us next year at our 17th Annual Crawfish & Shrimp Boil on May 3, 2014!
Five Episcopal Cook Teams Win Awards

By Kris Mueller, Director of Development at Episcopal Place

The Birmingham parish that won the inaugural Episcopal Place Gumbo Gala trophy for Most Divine Gumbo three years ago recaptured the prestigious award in the 2013 competition. The cook team from the Ascension took top honors among the Episcopalian teams at the 8th annual fundraiser held April 20 at Sloss Furnaces. The Ascension team also captured 3rd place in the People’s Choice awards category.

Other parish teams also fared well at the event. St. Francis of Assisi’s cooks won the Chef’s Choice award for seafood gumbo, Holy Apostles’ “Apostles with Fire” cooks won the Chef’s Choice award for chicken/sausage gumbo, Trinity Commons/Pelham Financial’s cooks won 2nd place in the Backyard Division, and St. Luke’s “2 Priests and a Pot” cooks won 2nd place in the Spirit Competition.

The team of Starnes Davis Florie, led by Jay Ezelle and Will Axon of the Cathedral Church of the Advent, won the Best Alabama Gulf Seafood Gumbo Award, while the Garage Café team, led by All Saints’ member Hube Dodd, won the Professional Division. The Boylan Family of St. Luke’s placed 3rd in the Backyard Chefs Division.

Bishop Marray joined other celebrity presenter Lucy Buffett of Lulu’s restaurant in Gulf Shores in handing out the awards. Alabama Gulf Seafood was the Official Seafood Sponsor for the event, which was emceed by Rob Conrad and Jeannine Jersey of Magic 96.5-FM’s morning show. Merrimon Epps of St. Mary’s-on-the-Highlands chaired the planning committee, which included Anne Bailey, Robert Heithaus, Todd and Kathryn Dorlon, and Melissa Daniels of St. Stephen’s; Brad Cain of St. Mary’s-on-the-Highlands; Bill Davis of Holy Apostles’; Dan Price and Kelley Norwood of the Cathedral Church of the Advent; Bob Boylan and Lee Pearce of St. Luke’s; Bruce Gleissner of All Saints’; and Judy Lee of St. Francis of Assisi’s.

More than 2,000 people attended the event, which raised funds to provide supportive services to the 148 residents at Episcopal Place. Proceeds will help provide van transportation to medical appointments, grocery stores, banks, and shopping centers; resident activities; subsidized noon meals and housekeeping; health screenings; and worship services and pastoral care. All of these services help residents live independently and for as long as possible in Episcopal Place’s affordable housing community.

Start making plans to participate in next year’s Gumbo Gala, scheduled for April 26, 2014, at Sloss Furnaces in Birmingham! For more information please visit www.episcopalplace.org.
Episcopal Relief and Development at Work

By the Rev. Deacon Judy Quick, Diocesan Coordinator

Do you know Oh, the Places You‘ll Go! by Dr. Seuss? In April and May, I had the privilege of going many places and discovering even more about the amazing work of Episcopal Relief and Development.

Port-au-Prince, Haiti

At the Haiti Connection meeting, Bishop Zaché Duracin and the Rev. Kesner Ajax, Director of the Partnership Program, continued to sing the praises of Episcopal Relief and Development. They noted rebuilding homes after the 2010 earthquake; the Cash for Work Program to provide jobs after the earthquake; continued support of the Bishop Tharp Institute, a community college that prepares students for the working world; and microenterprise programs that provide seed money for small businesses.

Sikhumbuzo Vundla, the diocese’s chief executive officer, spoke to a group of 200 participants about the dream to change lives, one at a time, through self-determination and responsible help from others. Partnerships and parishes are to follow prototypes. Bishop Allen of Honduras, who spoke at our diocesan convention in Montgomery this year, reminded participants that the dioceses of developing nations need a “hand up” not a “hand out” and that the book When Helping Hurts by Steve Corbett and Brian Fikkert serves as a solid guideline for partnership relationships.

Episcopal Relief and Development also serves as a partner to help strengthen self-sufficiency. Using the model of Asset Based Community Development, Episcopal Relief and Development works with the local diocese and its partners to assess the real needs and offer workable solutions.

At the Haiti Connection meeting, Bishop Zaché Duracin and the Rev. Kesner Ajax, Director of the Partnership Program, continued to sing the praises of Episcopal Relief and Development. They noted rebuilding homes after the 2010 earthquake; the Cash for Work Program to provide jobs after the earthquake; continued support of the Bishop Tharp Institute, a community college that prepares students for the working world; and microenterprise programs that provide seed money for small businesses.

The work of Episcopal Relief and Development goes on, often quietly behind the scenes. Know that 90 percent of your donor dollar goes directly to programs. Thank you for your contributions. Let us continue to PRAY, GIVE, and SERVE!

The work of Episcopal Relief and Development goes on, often quietly behind the scenes. Know that 90 percent of your donor dollar goes directly to programs. Thank you for your contributions. Let us continue to PRAY, GIVE, and SERVE!

Newark, New Jersey, and New York City, New York

At the annual meeting of the Episcopal Relief and Development Network of Diocesan Coordinators in Newark, we learned the latest about our international programs, many of which I had seen firsthand.

Why did we meet in Newark? We visited sites on the New Jersey shore and Staten Island that were ravaged by Super Storm Sandy last October 30. Episcopal Relief and Development offered emergency relief and has partnered with the local dioceses and parishes to respond to local needs, just as we experienced with our tornadoes in Alabama and as Episcopal Relief and Development is doing with the Diocese of Oklahoma. The US Disaster Response Program supports the emergency response and long-term recovery efforts designed by the local church and its partners.

The Rev. Steve Harding, Diocesan Disaster Coordinator, coordinates recovery efforts for all of the affected boroughs of New York City. On Staten Island, we visited St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, which is housing Episcopal Service Corps youth to help with the house-rebuilding efforts; FEMA estimates that 21,000 homes were either destroyed or severely damaged on Staten Island. The parish also has a Soup in the Hood feeding program, which serves more than 100 meals per day. We visited a teacher who has a severe anti-immune disease; her flooded home is being rebuilt, and she was so grateful for the support of the Diocese of New York and St. Paul’s.

The immediacy of the tornadoes in Oklahoma causes an eagerness to volunteer there, but it is a bit too soon—prayers and donations are most needed right now. The Super Storm Sandy Recovery in New York, however, is welcoming volunteers. The minimum age for home construction is 16, but 14 and 15-year-olds are needed to work in the Soup in the Hood program. For more information please contact Elizabeth Heenan at regvolcon@episcopalny.org; also please e-mail the Rev. Deacon David Whetstone, our diocesan disaster coordinator, at whetstone@cableone.net about your plans to volunteer.

It is estimated that Episcopal Relief and Development has contributed about $500,000 for the Super Storm Sandy Relief and Recovery efforts in New York and New Jersey. You can be sure that your donations to the Episcopal Relief and Development US Disaster Fund are being used judiciously to help families rebuild their lives.

The work of Episcopal Relief and Development goes on, often quietly behind the scenes. Know that 90 percent of your donor dollar goes directly to programs. Thank you for your contributions. Let us continue to PRAY, GIVE, and SERVE!

For more information or to schedule a parish visit, please contact me at jgquick@bellsouth.net or 205/669-6862, or visit www.episcopalerelief.org (note the organization’s new Web site address).
Lake Baptism Highlights Annual Picnic

By the Staff of St. Michael’s in Fayette

Each year, St. Michael’s in Fayette celebrates the end of the Sunday school year, ECW meetings, and other parish activities and the beginning of the summer hiatus with a picnic at the home of Bill and Toni Robertson. More than 70 parishioners, family members, and friends attended this year’s picnic, which was highlighted by a special baptism in the Robertsons’ manmade lake. The Rev. Katie Nakamura Rengers, former rector of the parish, and the Rev. Deacon Kelly Hudlow, of St. Matthias’ in Tuscaloosa, baptized Presley Ellis, the 13-year-old daughter of Candace Ledbetter and stepdaughter of Kevin Ledbetter.

Holy Comforter Celebrates 125th Anniversary

By Bob Pine, Member of Holy Comforter in Gadsden

The first meeting to organize an Episcopal Church in Gadsden was held in the parlor of the Printup Hotel in 1888. The first building for the new parish, which was named Holy Comforter, was constructed in 1889 three blocks west of the present building. The second building, constructed about 1900 at Sixth Street and Chestnut, burned in a fire on Christmas 1919, and the present church and a rectory were constructed in 1921.


The Rev. William Spencer Holcomb served as rector from 1978 to 1986 and played a key role in the establishment of Episcopal Kyle Home, which currently houses 18 cognitively and emotionally handicapped adults. Working with Bishop Stough, he helped bring Cursillo to our diocese.

During the time the Rev. John W. Cruse served as rector (1987-1995), the old rectory was sold and moved, and the parish’s library and great hall were constructed in its place. In addition, the parish erected a large outdoor pavilion at the Hugh Wilmer Agricola Day Camp.

The Rev. James E. Elliott Jr. served as rector from 1996 to 2008. Under his leadership, the parish commissioned and installed new stained-glass windows in the great hall and church, had restoration work done to preserve the buildings, and renovated the memorial garden. In addition, the columbarium was expanded and original artwork, by Lila Graves, representing the Stations of the Cross was added, creating an inviting meditative space for reflection. The Rev. Joan Miller Henrick, who served as rector from 2009 to 2012, made it a priority to grow the youth and young adult ministries of the parish. The members of Holy Comforter recently welcomed the parish’s new rector, the Rev. Dennis Witt Nichols, and his wife, Linda.

The members of Holy Comforter began the parish’s 125th anniversary celebration on May 4 with a recital featuring Dr. Frederick Teardo, the director of music and organist at the Cathedral Church of the Advent in Birmingham; Leslie C. S. Teardo, CAGO, the associate organist at St. Luke’s in Birmingham; and Julia Ferrére Jackson, a vocal artist in Birmingham and the daughter of the Rev. Deacon David and Gemma Barfield. The celebration continued on May 17 with Evening Prayer conducted by Bishop Sloan followed by a festive supper sponsored by the ECW honoring the Rev. Dennis and Linda Nichols.

On Sunday, May 19, an Anniversary Luncheon followed the 10 a.m. worship service. The slide show that ran continuously during the event included photos of the evolution of the church buildings, the history of the church, and the parish’s rectors, assistant rectors, curates, interim rectors, and supply priests. Postulants for holy orders who came from Holy Comforter were also featured, including the first postulant, Hugh Wilmer Agricola Jr., who served as a rector of the Advent in Birmingham.

The Rev. Dennis Witt Nichols, the Rev. David Barfield, the Rev. James E. Elliott Jr., the Rev. John W. Cruse (seated), the Rev. Grady Richardson, and the Rev. Van Foreman

Bishop Sloan with Linda Nichols

The Rev. Katie Nakamura Rengers, Presley Ellis, and the Rev. Deacon Kelly Hudlow
Brag a Little—Or a LOT!

By Kathy Graham, Our Diocesan Coordinator of Lifelong Christian Formation

Parish representatives shared a lot of information about their ministries during this year’s diocesan convention, and we want to include this information on our diocesan Web site to inspire others as we strive to be disciples of Christ. So please brag a little—or a lot—about what you do in your parish that can help all of us be Christ-like and share God’s love with others.

The Department of Christian Formation wants to hear from you! What are some of the classes, events, and other activities your parish offers for adults in your church or elsewhere that you really like and why? What topics or ideas would you like to have offered in adult formation workshops or classes?

The Department of Liturgy and Music also wants your help in updating its Web page. If your parish provides any special services for rites of passage, commissioning teachers or leaders, pet burials, blessings of backpacks and other school supplies, etc., or has guidelines for your acolytes or altar guild, please share this information with us. Also please tell us what musical offerings, services, and events you are fond of or would like to see offered.

Please send your comments and ideas with contact information to me at kgraham@dioala.org by September 1.

In addition to posting these ideas and information on our diocesan Web site, www dioala org, we will share them at “ONE—One Event, One Body, One Church, One Mission, One God!” to be held at Camp McDowell on March 7-9 (for more information please see the description below).

Upcoming Events, Workshops, and Retreats

2013 COMMISSION ON SPIRITUALITY CONFERENCE
October 12 from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at St. Andrew’s and the University of Montevallo

Creation invites the people of God to be faithful stewards as we are active beneficiaries of the bounty of God’s providential love. We are to respect its beauty, honor its divine origin and practical purposes, protect its future, preserve its heritage, and ensure its sustainability for the next generations. Our diocesan Commission on Spirituality is exploring why God has called Christians in the discipline of our faith formation to be his co-creators. One of our roles as mission-shaped Christians is to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the Earth.

The commission invites you to explore more closely and intimately this aspect of our missionary life in its annual spirituality conference. Bishop Marray will help us deepen our understanding of the Spirituality of Creation (Genesis 1:31). For more information, please contact Kathy Graham, Coordinator of Lifelong Christian Formation, at kgraham@dioala.org or 205/715-2060 ext. 9229.

ONE—ONE EVENT, ONE BODY, ONE CHURCH, ONE MISSION, ONE GOD!
March 7-9 at Camp McDowell
PLTE (Parish Leadership Training Event) and our diocesan Commission on Spirituality and Departments of Liturgy and Music, Christian Formation, and Youth and Young Adults are sponsoring this special gathering. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend! For more information please contact Kathy Graham, Coordinator of Lifelong Christian Formation, at kgraham@dioala.org or 205/715-2060.

“IN SEARCH OF ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI THEN AND NOW”
June 2014
The Rev. Susan Sloan, the Rev. Deacon Mark LaGory, and Dr. Daniel Lesnick cordially invite everyone to join them next June on “A Pilgrimage to Italy—In Search of St. Francis of Assisi Then and Now.” Susan, who is the rector of St. Stephen’s in Huntsville, is a veteran Italy pilgrim with years of experience in conference coordination and chaplaincy that translate well in a group that travels and transitions together. Mark, who serves as the deacon and director of outreach at St. Luke’s in Birmingham, is Professor Emeritus and former Chair of Sociology and Social Work at UAB and has had a special interest in Franciscan spirituality and the life of Francis for many years. Daniel, who is Associate Professor Emeritus of Medieval and Renaissance History at UAB and also the author of Preaching in Medieval Florence: the Social World of Franciscan and Dominican Spirituality, has organized and led approximately 45 small-group tours in Italy, including 5 previous pilgrimages.

The pilgrimage includes three preparatory seminars before traveling to Italy. The pilgrimage group will spend five days in the Umbria region exploring the world into which St. Francis was born and his personal conversion from wealthy merchant’s son to a life of self-deprivation and service to others. And, along with both the 13th-century St. Francis and the 21st-century Pope Francis, they’ll explore the power of personal recommitment and the saint’s advice to “Preach the Gospel at all times, and when necessary use words.”

After Umbria, the group will spend four days in Rome, “the Eternal City.” Rome might also be called “the City of Earthly Power”—before and during the earliest centuries of Christianity, Rome was the capital city of a vast empire, and from the Middle Ages to the present it was (with rare exception) the capital city of the Roman Catholic Church. Rome and St. Francis are at opposite ends of the worldly power/humility spectrum, and Rome—through its two and a half millennia of history, monuments, and art—provides another useful way by which we can contemplate power/powerlessness in our lives.

For more information and to sign up for the pilgrimage, please contact Dr. Daniel Lesnick at dlesnick@italyadagio.com or 205/423-9982.

Casual Sunday Services on Lake Jordan

Casual Sunday Services on Lake Jordan are cosponsoring Sunday services on Lake Jordan from Memorial Day through Labor Day weekends. Various clergy from Elmore County churches will conduct a brief, ecumenical service for those living or boating on the lake. All are welcome to come by land or water and worship. Dress is very, very casual—including swim-suits. Offerings are designated for the Elmore County Food Bank and People That Care. For more information please call Trinity Church at 334/567-7534 or e-mail bob@trinitywetumpka.org.
WHAT’S NEW/NOTEWORTHY AT THE EPISCOPAL BOOK STORE

By Cindy Funderburk, Manager

The Mockingbird Devotional: Good News for Today (and Every Day) by Ethan Richardson and Sean Norris

For centuries people have turned to the Bible to address the problems and anxieties of everyday life. We look to it for comfort in the midst of suffering, clarity in times of confusion, or simply to learn about God. Thankfully, what we find in its pages is not a collection of rules or demands, but rather a message of unbounding honesty and unspeakable compassion: the gospel of Jesus Christ. After five years and more than 60 contributors in the making, a helpful companion to the Bible, The Mockingbird Devotional: Good News for Today (and Every Day), is now in print. With humor and heart (and a surprising number of disco and B-movie references) the devotions carry the good news of God’s mercy and forgiveness to the inner-rooms of human reality.

Seven Men: And the Secret of Their Greatness by Eric Metaxas

Written in a beautiful and engaging style, Seven Men: And the Secret of Their Greatness addresses what it means (or should mean) to be a man today; at a time when media and popular culture present images of masculinity that are not the picture presented in Scripture and historic civil life. What does it take to be a true exemplar as a father, brother, husband, leader, coach, counselor, change agent, and wise man? What does it mean to stand for honesty, courage, and charity, especially at times when the culture and the world run counter to those values? In this book, Eric Metaxas explores the lives, accomplishments, and sacrifices of seven historical figures: George Washington, William Wilberforce, Eric Liddell, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Jackie Robinson, Pope John Paul II, and Charles W. Colson.

I Love You Greater Than Space by Lucy Dunn Blount, illustrated by Mary Barwick

By chance? No, by God’s grace, two worlds converge. Synchronicity. An English Oxford don and a Southern Christian writer meet at Monteach George Sunday School Assembly. Both are wounded. Both are healing. Duncan is a widower, Lucy is a divorcee. From the moment his daughter introduced them, there is a strong, but timid attraction. It takes two months before their first date, and then two months before they marry. Family and friends rejoice for everyone senses their effervescent love. Duncan unfortunately dies of a massive heart attack; Lucy and Duncan were married 623 days.

The book contains three parts. The first deals with Lucy and Duncan’s courtship and marriage, and the last deals with Lucy’s mourning—Lucy wrote both in Haiku poetry to express her thoughts more succinctly. The middle section is a story for children to help them deal with death.

Heaven, God’s Promise for Me by Anne Graham Lotz

This is a gentle book about Heaven. Heaven is a real place. It’s where Jesus lives and waits for those he loves to come to him. It’s a place of joy and love and hope—a place where all of God’s children, young and old, will be happy forever.

Camp Day 2013 October 25-27 at Camp McDowell

Diocesan Convention February 21-22 in Birmingham

General Convention June 25-July 3, 2015, in Salt Lake City

Cursillo Weekends #189 September 12-15 and #190 October 10-13

Happening #63 November 1-3 at the Resurrection in Gadsden

August 18-23 2013 Liturgical Arts Conference: FACE—Faith, Art, and Creative Expression at Kanuga Conference Center in Hendersonville, North Carolina. For more information please visit www.kanuga.org or call (828) 692-9136, or contact Lark Howell at jjhowell@bellsouth.net.

September 15 Evensong sung by the Cathedral Choir directed by Dr. Frederick Teardo at 3 p.m. at the Advent in Birmingham. For more information please contact Dr. Charles Kennedy at kennedy@cathedradvent.com or 205/226-3505.

September 20 Organ recital featuring Stephen Tharp, recipient of the 2011 International Performer of the Year Award by the New York City chapter of the American Guild of Organists, at 7:30 p.m. at the Advent in Birmingham. For more information please contact Dr. Charles Kennedy at kennedy@cathedraladvent.com or 205/226-3505.

September 27 Midday Musical Menu featuring violinist Jesse Watson

Engaging questions and scripture references in the book will help parents reinforce the message that Heaven is a place of love that we can all look forward to seeing one day.

I Love You This Much by Sue Buchanan and Lynn Hodges

Parents and children alike will treasure the precious moments shared together with this wonderful story, which is available in both paperback and board book versions. The authors share God’s love for his children through a moving story about the love between a parent and child. Beautiful illustrations reflect the loving words.

Psalm 23 illustrated by Richard Jesse Watson

Jesse Watson brings to life the beloved King James Version of Psalm 23 with vibrant color and detailed imagery that beautifully capture the essence of the comforting words. Watson won the Golden Kite Award for his picture book Tom Thumb, and his illustrations have also been selected for the Society of Illustrator’s Annual Exhibits.

That’s When I Talk to God by Dan Morrow and Ali Morrow

As a little girl says her bedtime prayers, her mother asks a simple question that sparks a powerful discovery: “You know we can pray to him any time we want to, right?” With that, the little girl suddenly finds things to talk to God about everywhere—in her garden, in a friend’s backyard, and on the soccer field. Once she discovers that prayer is more than a bedtime ritual and that she can talk to God anytime, in any place, and about anything, the little girl’s prayer life will never be the same. That’s When I Talk to God is a sweet story that will deepen the prayer lives of children ages four to eight. This charmingly illustrated tale steps beyond explaining prayer and models constant communication with God.

The Mockingbird Devotional: Good News for Today (and Every Day) by Ethan Richardson and Sean Norris is now in print.

Around Our Diocese

Around Our Diocese

Around Our Diocese

Around Our Diocese
Jonathan Daniels Pilgrimage & Youth Lock-in
August 9-10 at the Ascension in Montgomery

Open to both junior and senior-high youth and their advisors, this event offers a powerful experience that will encourage youth to connect with the life and martyrdom of Jonathan Daniels, a civil rights activist and Episcopal seminarian. Friday evening’s activities include a cookout and a viewing of the Jonathan Daniels documentary followed by some fun, fellowship, a program, and worship. Saturday morning starts with a Young Pilgrims breakfast in Hayneville followed by a service project for the community and the pilgrimage activities.

Please register online at http://bit.ly/14GzQ7p. Registration deadline is August 4. The cost is $20 per person (to cover food and supplies for the service project).

For more information, please contact Holly Bauer, Youth Director of the Ascension in Montgomery, at hbauer@coascension.org.

Save the Dates!
CAMP DAY 2013
October 25th, 26th & 27th

Come for the weekend: 2 wonderful nights at beautiful Camp McDowell
FRIDAY
Welcome Reception
Dinner
Evening Prayer
Evening Get Together

SATURDAY
3 Delicious Meals
Games Galore
TV Football Room
Live Entertainment
Evening Concert

SUNDAY
Brunch
Closing Eucharist
More Games
More Football
Just Hanging Out

Come for the day

SATURDAY
3 Delicious Meals
Games Galore
TV Football Room
Live Entertainment
Evening Concert

Hurry!
Space is limited.
Make your reservation today!

Sign up online:
www.Camp-Day.org