Lots of Smiles and High Fives—
Sawyerville Day Camp Staff
Welcoming This Summer’s Campers
The Alabama Episcopalian
September/October 2013

On the Cover

Please see “Sawyerville Day Camp 2013—Thank You!!!” Photo by the communications team; please see pages 8-10

Youth and adults from across our diocese have generously volunteered their time and energy this summer to share God’s love and joy with others, and they have found that in so willingly giving, they have abundantly received.

The 356 young people and adults that staffed three sessions of Sawyerville Day Camp in Hale County served 724 children. As Mary Emma Kingsley put it, “Being a part of something that brings out the best in everyone involved is the most incredible way to experience real Christian community. It’s not easy—it’s hot, and it’s very tiring. But it makes you laugh all the time, until you start crying that it is.” (Please see pages 8-10.)

High-school and college students along with adult volunteers brought smiles, laughter, and unconditional love to more than 90 people with physical and mental challenges at a very wet but very spirited Wild, Wild West Special Session at Camp McDowell. “This was one of our best Special Sessions because our counselors, these amazing young people, gave so much of themselves to provide care, attention, and genuine affection to the campers,” notes the Rev. David Megginson. (Please see pages 14-15.)

An equally amazing group of young people and adult volunteers made this the BEST SUMMER EVER for the summer campers at Wonderful, Wonderful Camp McDowell (please see pages 16-18). And another equally amazing and diverse group of more than 40 youth and adult volunteers helped children from a wide variety of racial and cultural backgrounds have a lot of fun together swimming, fishing, canoeing, singing, and doing craft projects in a “Peaceable Kingdom” created at Foothills Day Camp held at Camp Lee in Calhoun County (please see page 19).

“God has a mission and formed a Church to carry it out. The mission is to bring all of God’s children into the love of God through Jesus Christ. There are hundreds and thousands of ways we try to do that, big and small, organized and accidental, in our Sunday best and in shorts and T-shirts,” Bishop Sloan reminds us in “Playing To Win” on page 3.

“You and I do not have the power, the courage, or the compassion to do that by ourselves, but by the grace of the Holy Spirit we are a beautiful, talented, generous part of God’s Church.” Thanks be to God!

The Rev. Deacon Tom Osborne Honored by Diaconal Association

By Diocesan Staff

The Association of Episcopal Deacons honored the Rev. Deacon Tom Osborne with the Recognition of Diaconal Ministry in the Tradition of St. Stephen award during the national organization’s triennial assembly in Williamsburg, Virginia, in mid-June. This award has been given to outstanding deacons since 1995. Tom is the second deacon from Alabama to receive this high recognition and the first since the Deacon School for Ministry began in our diocese in 2000. The late Rev. Deacon William Ealy, who served both St. Matthew’s in Madison and the Nativity in Huntsville, was the first recipient from our diocese.

Tom serves as the cochair of our diocesan Committee on Race Relations. In this capacity, he facilitates antiracism training around our diocese, and he also helps plan and lead the annual Jonathan Daniels Pilgrimage, which attracted 300 participants this August (please see pages 5-7).

Thibodaux wrote that he “is one of those quiet and faithful people who will never point to his own success. He has a marvelous ability to network with people and form coalitions that promote harmony and build community. He truly has a servant’s heart. It is fitting that Tom is the first of the deacons recently trained in our diocese to be recommended for this award.”

Mission and Outreach Grants Awarded

By the Rev. Deacon Judy Quick, Department Chair

Our diocesan Department of Mission and Outreach awarded Parish Outreach Grants to nine parishes for 2013. The purpose of the grants is to encourage parishes to start new or expand existing outreach ministries that will become self-sustainable within three years. These grants are only for parish-based outreach and cannot be used for pass-through monies to other agencies or groups that do not directly involve parishes or parishioners. The annual parish grant deadline is May 1.

This year’s grants address many needs including a variety of food ministries from beans and rice ministries to community gardens, a work program for economically-challenged youth, technology for an after-school program for disadvantaged children, a potter’s guild whose creations are used for outreach, and support for Foothills Day Camp in Anniston. The grant recipients are the Ascension in Montgomery, the Resurrection in Rainbow City, Christ Church in Albertville, Grace Church in Anniston, Grace Church in Woodlawn, Holy Comforter in Gadsden, St. James’ in Alexander City, St. Luke’s in Scottsboro, and St. Timothy’s in Athens.

The department also funded one Individual Mission Grant to date in 2013. The recipient is Sara Lowery, YASC (Young Adult Service Corps) Missioner to Hong Kong. Requests for Individual Mission Grants may be submitted anytime and used for individual domestic or global mission.

For more information, please contact me at jgquick@bellsouth.net or 205/669-6862, or visit www.dioala.org/ourministries/missionandoutreach.

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 McKitrick at apostledit@aol.com or 2186 Kent Way, Birmingham, AL 35226. The submission deadline for each issue is the 1st of the month prior to publication.
Playing To Win

Hello, friends:

A year and a half ago when the presiding bishop came to visit, she asked me to tell her a little about Alabama—the state, not the diocese. I talked about Southern charm and hospitality. I talked about race relations—"We’ve come a long way; we have a long way to go." I told her that there are three dividing factors among the people of Alabama race, politics, and college football. She thought I was joking about that last one, but I assured her I was not.

It’s hard to explain to somebody who doesn’t already know. It’s part of how we figure out who somebody is. It’s right there with “Where are you from?” and “Who are your mama’s people?” It’s “Do you pull for Auburn or Alabama?” (She asked if it would help if she told the people she’d be talking to that her husband had been a professor at Louisiana State University, and I told that I couldn’t imagine how that could be helpful at all.)

Whether you are a football fan or not, it is pervasive in Alabama—unless you tell people that you Do Not Want To Talk About College Football Ever Again Period, you’re going to wind up talking, or at least hearing, about college football. It’s just in the air, part of our current part of the prevailing currents of conversation. The successful teams will most likely succeed, the struggling teams will probably struggle, but every once in a while a team will be better than the experts thought they would be. Being a Mississippi State Bulldog fan, I know that this is the great hope for the perennial struggler—this could be the year, this could be the season . . .

But what makes a struggler become a surprise? What turns a successful team’s season sour? The expert analysts will talk about coaching and talent and facilities and alumni support, and I’m sure all of that is important, but I want to suggest that there is another factor to be considered—what the coaches call momentum, and what I think of as imagination—maybe we could call it faith.

If you watch a football game or two this season (and you’ll have plenty of chances), you can see it: the ball will bounce in favor of one team, they’ll get a break, and all of a sudden they begin to believe that they have a chance.

If you watch a football game or two this season (and you’ll have plenty of chances), you can see it: the ball will bounce in favor of one team, they’ll get a break, and all of a sudden they begin to believe that they have a chance. Rather than playing not to lose, they’re playing to win; the momentum has shifted.

Rather than playing not to lose, they’re playing to win; the momentum has shifted. I admit that there is a similar phenomenon in parishes, and I suppose in dioceses as well. You can see it: There’s an excitement among the people, programs are going well, attendance and stewardship numbers look good, and the folks believe that their parish or diocese is doing what we’re supposed to be doing. Rather than looking at what’s wrong as we so often do, we give ourselves permission to admit that there are also things that are going right.

I admit that this could be wishful thinking, but I do believe that the Diocese of Alabama is in such a moment right now. . . . The mission is to bring all of God’s children into the love of God through Jesus Christ. . . . by the grace of the Holy Spirit we are a beautiful, talented, generous part of God’s Church, and by God’s grace we will not fail to do our part in God’s mission.

Now, if we were a football team and things were going well for us, the coach’s job would likely be to knock us down a peg or two and tell us what’s wrong with us, what we need to work on. The coach’s concern would probably be that we can’t afford to rest on our accomplishments or become complacent. That’s a valid concern for parishes and dioceses as well: things are going great right now, but don’t stop trying, don’t stop making things better. Complacency is dangerous for the Church.

It’s not that the Church has a mission—God has a mission and formed a Church to carry it out. The mission is to bring all of God’s children into the love of God through Jesus Christ. There are hundreds and thousands of ways we try to do that: big and small, organized and accidental, in our Sunday best and in shorts and T-shirts. You and I do not have the power, the courage, or the compassion to do that by ourselves, but by the grace of the Holy Spirit we are a beautiful, talented, generous part of God’s Church, and by God’s grace we will not fail to do our part in God’s mission. We cannot afford to allow ourselves to be so preoccupied with what we think is wrong that we can’t support what we can see is right.

We are playing to win the hearts and imaginations of God’s people, to invite them into God’s love, and we can’t play not to lose.
The Friend We Have in Jesus: Part 1

Beloved in Christ,

Today more so than any other period, Christians are called to rely heavily on their faith to navigate the many challenges, ambiguities, uncertainties, and opportunities of life. One burning question lies in the depth of faith insofar as how far I can trust God in Christ to be my friend, confidant, and source of strength and inspiration. Beyond our understanding of him as Lord and Savior, “How intimately close and relational can I expect him to be?” Again, “Is it worth investing my time and energy in an abstract relationship?” Or more appropriately, “Is there more to my relationship with Jesus than meets the eye and touches the soul?”

We can deepen our awareness of God’s closeness with images that reflect it. The Bible uses many images to speak of God being like so many hues of light reflected in a diamond. The Old Testament speaks of God as shepherd and rock, light and king, cup and eagle. All of these images are fulfilled in Christ: the image of the invisible God. Yet Christ too is known through images. We call him the Lamb of God, the Bread of life, and the true Vine. The trouble is that many of these images come from a world foreign to us, from a time, place, and culture far removed from our own. Images of God like a lamb or king, vine or shepherd don’t work because we have been abused or neglected by our parents. Such images can even block a person’s spiritual reception; they can’t really receive them in ways others could. And this could be equally troubling and understandably offensive.

Now I’m not seeking to stir up a debate about our language for God. But I will say this: calling God “Abba” is not so much a male image for God as it is a “term of endearment,” showing how close and how intimate God wishes to be with us. So it’s completely consistent for Christians to use other images for God whose keynote is closeness, rather than gender, such as the ones I’m suggesting in the two-part contribution God as “Friend” and God as “Spouse/Beloved.”

Let’s look first at God as “Friend.” The Gospel of John includes this image in the description of the Last Supper when Jesus says, “I no longer call you slaves, because a slave does not know what the master is doing. I have called you friends, because I have told you everything I have heard from my Father” (John: 15:15). Now I’m sure we’ve all had experiences of friendship. Call to mind your closest friends—friends from the past, present friends, or friends in the making. Imagine them in a circle around your heart, each friend in a place of honor. Hold them as you read, keeping their faces and memory before you.

As Lazarus’ friend, we see God moved to the depths for us, even to the point of weeping for us to be free from what binds us, calling us to more abundant life.

Then there’s Mary Magdalene (John 8). When Jesus rose from the dead, it’s Mary we find weeping at the tomb. She was the first to whom Jesus appeared. But when he asked her, “Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?” (John 20:15), she did not know him. Not ‘til he said, “Mary!” did she recognize him. The formal title “Woman” was foreign to her. She had to be called by name. Only then could she embrace him. As Mary’s friend, we see God breaking through walls that keep us apart, that keep us from hearing God call us by name and clinging to God alone.

But Jesus’ friend par excellence was the beloved disciple tradition calls “John: the one whom Jesus loved.” It was John who reclined on Jesus’ breast during the Last Supper. It was John who stood near the cross. It was John to whom the Lord entrusted his mother. It was John who excelled in the new commandment “Love one another as I have loved you.” As John’s friend, we see God inviting us to be intimate, sharing heart to heart the deep things of God.

Now Jesus had many other friends, but these are enough to see what God as Friend is like, what a saint by the name of Aelred, Abbot of Rievaulx, who left the court of King David I of Scotland to become an abbot in 1142, described in his writings De spirituali amicitia (On Spiritual Friendship). “In friendship are joined honor and charm, truth and joy, sweetness and good-will, affection and action. And all these take their beginning from Christ, advance through Christ, and are perfected in Christ. Therefore, it is natural to see Christ as the one who inspires the love by which we love our friend. Nor is the climb steep by which we ascend from our friend’s love to Christ giving himself to us as our Friend for us to love” (On Spiritual Friendship 2.20-21).

Friendship, Aelred taught, was both a gift from God and a creation of human effort. While love is universal, freely given to all, friendship is a particular love between individuals, of which the example is Jesus and John the Beloved Disciple. In his writings Aelred allowed his monks to hold hands and give each other expressions of friendship. In the spirit of Anselm of Canterbury and Bernard of Clairvaux, Aelred writes, “There are four qualities which characterize a friend: Loyalty, right intention, discretion, and patience. Right intention seeks for nothing other than God and natural good. Discretion brings understanding of what is done on a friend’s behalf, and ability to know when to correct faults. Patience enables one to be justly rebuked, or to bear adversity on another’s behalf. Loyalty guards and protects friendship, in good or bitter times” (Holy Women, Holy Men).

This is the friend we have in Jesus. He who invites us to journey with him daily in the abundant assurance that his presence never fails and his comfort surpasses human capacity to understand and/or appreciate why he stays the course with us. In his enduring presence and constant reality lavishing upon each in his/her peculiarities and unique particularities of life unmerited grace and unrequited mercy.

As Jesus said, friends tell each other their thoughts and plans; they know what the other is thinking and doing. Friends are transparent to each other, with little need to hide behind masks. Friends are comfortable with each other, they accept each other as they are, yet challenge each other to grow. Friends are there in time of need, proving their love in moments of trial. Friends are life’s companions, sharing joys and sorrows, triumphs and tragedies.

And your friends can help you imagine God as “Friend.” Moreover, the people to whom Jesus himself was friend can make this image still more real. I’m going to describe some of Jesus’ friends, and as I do, put yourself in their place, think of him as your Friend too, adding the Lord to your circle of friends.

One of Jesus’ closest friends was Lazarus, whom the Lord raised from the dead (John 11). When Jesus arrived in Bethany after Lazarus died, he saw the Jews mourning and weeping, and he became perturbed and deeply troubled. Asking where they buried his friend, Jesus wept, causing people to say, “See how much he loved him.” As Lazarus’ friend, we see God moved to the depths for us, even to the point of weeping for us to be free from what binds us, calling us to more abundant life.
Jonathan Daniels Young Pilgrims Lock-in and Pilgrimage

Inspiration, Understanding, Hopes, and Prayers

By Holly Bauer, Youth Director of the Ascension in Montgomery

We had a variety of understandings on that topic, but all of us generally agreed that we still have a ways to go. To close out the evening, we wrote down our hopes and prayers for the future of race relations in our country and world. Those hopes and prayers were then read aloud during Compline and put into a time capsule that we will reopen in five years.

The following morning we made our way to the Board of Education offices in Hayneville, where the superintendent and his crew had prepared breakfast for us and a group of students from Lowndes County. Dr. Gloria House, the speaker for the day and close friend of Jonathan Daniels, joined us for breakfast and offered a few inspirational words to the young people. Between breakfast and the pilgrimage, we were fortunate to meet Barbara Evans, who owns Annie Mae’s Place, which functions both as an art gallery and museum of many different civil rights documents, including some from Jonathan Daniels. We helped Barbara with a few projects she needed done around the place, but the most fun part was listening to her speak about her life as a biracial single mother in the guts of Alabama. She had some beautiful understandings I was glad to hear.

Finally we joined the large crowd of people on the front lawn of the courthouse where we started the pilgrimage. Several of the youth held the signs of photos of the Alabama Civil Rights martyrs and were asked to participate in the closing Eucharist. We were blessed to hear from both Gloria House and Ruby Sales during the service.

Each year I learn something new from hearing about Jonathan Daniels and other civil rights martyrs and listening to activists who experienced the events firsthand. I am so happy to be able to offer the Young Pilgrims Lock-in to the youth of Alabama, as well as youth from all over the country and world. I look forward to hosting it again next year!

The Jonathan Daniels Young Pilgrims Lock-in came out of a small idea given to me by a fellow youth minister nearly two years ago. The youth minister at Grace Church in Anniston was planning to bring a small group of youth to the Jonathan Daniels Pilgrimage in Hayneville in 2011. Because of the two-and-half-hour drive, the youth minister wanted to bring the young people down the Friday night before the pilgrimage and have some time to watch the Jonathan Daniels documentary. It was my second week as youth director at the Ascension, and I had never heard of the Jonathan Daniels Pilgrimage so I was excited to host the group and learn more about him. I was so inspired that I decided that I wanted to offer this kind of opportunity to youth from all over our diocese.

This August was our second year to host the event, and the turnout was incredible—youth from Montgomery, Wetumpka, Birmingham, Arab, Huntsville, New York, Pennsylvania, China, and Spain participated! We watched the documentary together, talked about Jonathan Daniels, and explored our thoughts about race relations in 1965. After watching the highly controversial biracial Cheerios commercial, we split into small groups to discuss the status of race relations in our world today.

The 15th Annual Jonathan Daniels Pilgrimage

If It Weren’t for Jonathan Daniels . . .

By Julie DiFranco, from the Nativity in Huntsville

This was my second time going to the Young Pilgrims Lock-in at the Ascension in Montgomery and the Jonathan Daniels Pilgrimage in Hayneville. I enjoyed catching up with some friends and also meeting people I’ve never met before from our diocese. I even met a group of youth from New York who joined us this year.

After a yummy dinner at the Ascension on Friday night, we did some icebreakers, watched a documentary film on Jonathan Daniels, and discussed racial issues. The documentary film really helped us understand what we were going to experience the next day. It is amazing how racial problems in the world have changed in the last 50 years. If it weren’t for Jonathan Daniels and all the martyrs who did what they did back then, there is no way that I would have attended a lock-in this weekend with people of all nationalities, I would not have eaten breakfast with someone of a different skin color, and more than likely we would not have had the reason to celebrate our progress with race relations through the pilgrimage.

After doing a project last year for history class on the civil rights movement, which included Jonathan Daniels, I really enjoyed being able to come back to the lock-in and attend the pilgrimage again this year. Being able to see where everything happened and connecting it to my project was a real eye-opener. We saw the jail where Jonathan and others were held captive in horrible conditions, as well as the store and slab of concrete where Jonathan was shot to death. It also was amazing to see Ruby Sales and others who were imprisoned with Jonathan, as well as two members of the West family, who let Jonathan live with them.

It is definitely something I will want to attend in the future again—and if you have not attended this event, I really do encourage you to go!
I’ll go, I’ll go
If the Lord need somebody
Here am I
Send me
I’ll, I’ll go . . .

These haunting lyrics, soulfully sung a cappella, punctuated the roll call of the martyrs of Alabama’s civil rights struggle during a moving worship service in the Lowndes County Courthouse on Saturday, August 10. The service marked the culmination of the 15th Annual Jonathan Daniels Pilgrimage in Hayneville honoring the Episcopal seminarian and others who went—and in going made the ultimate sacrifice in the 1960s struggle for civil rights.

Jonathan had answered the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King’s call for Northern clergy to come to Alabama and join the voter rights march from Selma to Montgomery in March 1965. He stayed and worked with the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference to register black voters, help integrate St. Paul’s Episcopal Church in Selma, and improve the quality of life for poor African Americans. Jonathan Daniels is honored as a saint in the Episcopal Church, and his feast day is August 14. The pilgrimage in Hayneville is held each year on the second Saturday of August.

Before he began the liturgy of the Eucharist at the judge’s bench-turned altar, Bishop Wright encouraged the pilgrims not to “miss the truth of this moment, that from the very table where injustice was dispensed, now the justice of grace. All are welcome at God’s table.”

This year more than 300 people gathered for the pilgrimage, including a busload of pilgrims the Rt. Rev. Robert Wright brought with him from the Diocese of Atlanta. As in years past, the pilgrimage began with prayer at the courthouse square and moved to the old jail, where Jonathan and a group of other civil rights workers were held following their arrest in nearby Fort Deposit for participating in a civil rights demonstration. The pilgrims then processed to the store where, on a sweltering August day in 1965, Jonathan was shot dead by a white segregationist as he and three others tried to enter to buy soft drinks. The pilgrims returned to the courthouse square and paused at a memorial erected by Jonathan’s alma mater, Virginia Military Institute (VMI). The pilgrimage concluded with the worship service in the courtroom where Jonathan’s killer was tried and acquitted.

Human rights activist Dr. Gloria Larry House delivered the sermon. As a secretary for the SNCC in 1965, she worked with Jonathan in Selma and was arrested with him in Fort Deposit. During the worship service she recalled how they were herded onto a garbage truck for the trip to the jail in Hayneville. She still vividly remembers the jail’s filthy water, lice-ridden mattresses, and “a stench that just seemed to envelop everything.”

Gloria also shared her memory of the day the group was unexpectedly released and forced off the jail property at gunpoint. Jonathan, Catholic priest Father Richard Morrisroe, Ruby Sales, and Joyce Bailey went on ahead to a local store, where Tom Coleman confronted them with a shotgun as they approached. Jonathan pulled Ruby out of the line of fire just as Tom pulled the trigger. Jonathan took the full force of the shotgun blast and died instantly. As Richard and Joyce turned to run to safety, Tom fired again, wounding Richard.

Gloria and the others heard the gunfire and witnessed the shootings just as they turned the corner toward the store less than a block away. “We were horrified to think we were being fired upon,” she recalled. “The youngsters who knew the area scattered quickly seeking shelter. We older activists hit the pavement where we had been standing, not knowing what else to do. We were terrified thinking we were all going to be killed.”
Bishop Marray told the gathering, “Evil has a shelf life, and righteousness has eternal presence and posterity. I thank God that you and I stand on the right side of history. I am proud to be an Episcopalian this afternoon because Jonathan Daniels is for me the human manifestation of what Jesus speaks to us in the gospel: If you wish to be my disciple take up your cross and follow after me.”

Other participants in this year’s pilgrimage included the Rev. Francis X. Walter, a retired priest of our diocese who worked for civil rights in Selma and Lowndes County and visited Jonathan while he was in jail; SNCC workers Dr. Gwendolyn M. Patton and Claire Milligan; members of the West family, who housed Jonathan, Ruby, and other civil rights workers when they were in Selma; seminarians from the University of the South in Sewanee; pilgrims from the Diocese of New York; and alumni from VMI. Bob Henley, president of the VMI Alumni Association, noted that Jonathan “was a citizen soldier . . . but he was a citizen soldier for Christ, for human rights, and civil rights, and we are very proud of him.”

After the service, many pilgrims stayed for lunch served by local families. Some pilgrims joined a caravan to the National Park Service Lowndes County Interpretive Center on US Highway 80 between Selma and Montgomery. The museum stands near the midpoint along the route of the historic March 1965 civil rights march to the Alabama State Capitol.

This year’s pilgrimage also included a Young Pilgrims Lock-in on Friday evening at the Ascension in Montgomery (please see page 5). Some 35 young people from our diocese and the Diocese of New York participated. Young people from Lowndes County joined them on Saturday morning in Hayneville for the breakfast hosted by Lowndes County School Superintendent Dr. Daniel Boyd. After breakfast they visited Annie Mae’s Art Place, the site of Lowndes County’s Annual Okra Festival, before they participated in the pilgrimage. Please visit http://bit.ly/180qRhK to see more photos.
Sawyerville Day Camp 2013—Thank You!!!

Compiled by Leslie Manning, Camp Director and Sawyerville Coordinator, and Jessica Harris, Communications Coordinator

You Made It Possible!

By Leslie Manning, Camp Director and Sawyerville Coordinator

Thank you, everyone, for making Sawyerville Day Camp 2013 possible! By providing supplies and meals and so generously giving your time, love, prayers, and presence, you made it possible for 356 staff (54 of them returning for one or more sessions) help share God’s love with 724 campers in Hale County. We look forward to hosting three sessions again in 2014.
Being a part of something that brings out the best in everyone involved is the most incredible way to experience real Christian community. It’s not easy—it’s hot, and it’s very tiring. But it makes you laugh all the time, until you start crying that it’s almost over, and then crying because it is. —Mary Emma Kingsley
I’ve been so blessed to spend the summer as an intern with the Lilly Summer Discernment Institute, a program at the University of the South in Sewanee that provides a way for young people to listen for and hopefully hear their call. This summer, the Lilly Institute allowed me to explore service as a way of life by working side by side with Leslie Manning at Sawyerville Day Camp. I came in expecting cute kids, camp fun, and some hard stuff. I left with a twinge of heartache and a fulfillment of parts of myself I didn’t know I was missing. It was serious.

I miss the kids. I miss what they saw in me and what they brought out of me. I miss the bus drivers and the wonderful men and women who cooked for me and took care of me, even when it was I who was supposed to be doing the caretaking. Hale County is a place of a lot of need, as any place here or there may be, but it also has a lot of heart. The people there are really amazing—kind, strong, loving, family-oriented, and hilarious. The community is one that still knows how to rely on one another, and this is what I learned.

I got to see all sides of Sawyerville Day Camp this summer—from sitting in our diocesan office and making phone calls to parents and assembling staff handbooks to boxing and organizing supplies and co-coordinating a camp session—I dipped my finger into all of it. I got to meet so many wonderful people who contribute so much to this incredible ministry and watch what happens when communities come together to create something new and special . . . it’s sacred. Those elementary school hallways—they are sacred space, as are the school buses and the pool—because of what happens there at camp.

What I was continuously being reminded of day to day was not only how much we were serving the children of Hale County and them in turn serving us, but that the youth and staff there were tapping into parts of themselves they might not otherwise have had access to. Being a part of something that brings out the best in everyone involved is the most incredible way to experience real Christian community. It’s not easy. It’s hot, and it’s very tiring. But it makes you laugh all the time, until you start crying that it’s almost over, and then crying because it is.

Being at Sawyerville Day Camp is living on the edge—experiencing what it is like to have nothing but each other. We leave our homes, our beds, our comfort behind to go be there and be present together for the kids. Even local staff, who have grown up in camp and live only blocks from the school, leave their homes to stay with other youth from around our diocese in keeping with this community spirit. These teenagers and staff become instruments of God’s love, which as I have learned, is not missing but abundant there—especially in the summertime when an entire community comes together to celebrate it.

A mentor once told me that my calling in life would be at the intersection of my greatest joy and the world’s greatest need. Those are some pretty big fish to fry, and for a long time I’ve been overwhelmed by the thought. But this summer has exposed some of this truth for me: My life’s greatest joys are all encompassed in the context of a summer camp setting. Hale County and Sawyerville Day Camp, don’t need me. But the world needs loving community, and we Christians sometimes really do get it right. At least we have at Sawyerville Day Camp, and for now it is here where I am called. And I can guess that, in one way or another, you probably will be too.
Young People Paint Birmingham
By Caitlin Gilliam, Youth Director of St. John's in Montgomery and Event Co-ordinator

This June, 70 junior-high youth and 10 adult staff gathered in Birmingham to spend four days scraping and painting homes for economically disadvantaged families during Young People Paint Birmingham, a local mission experience for rising 7th through 9th-graders made possible by our diocese in partnership with Urban Ministry’s Joe Rush Center. The expansion of the Joe Rush facilities last summer allowed us to take more youth this year than ever before, which made it possible to work on five different homes in the community.

The work of Young People Paint Birmingham is also growing. This year we added a closing Eucharist hosted by Christ Church in Fairfield, participated as prayer partners for Sawyerville Day Camp, and witnessed that the work of 80 pairs of hands is even better than the work of 60.

We’re looking forward to more growth in the ministry of Young People Paint Birmingham next summer. As the work grows, our faith does too. We’re meeting Jesus along the way.

YD Planning retreat
By Julia Thiemonge

On August 1-3, the members of the 2013-14 Youth Department (YD) gathered at Camp McDowell for a planning retreat. All of us arrived with different levels of emotion and no shortage of excitement and enthusiasm.

On the first day, we reacquainted ourselves with each other and then jumped into some icebreakers and team-building exercises. Later we spoke about more serious topics such as the expectations we have for one another, different personality attributes we bring to the table, and our year as a Youth Department.

The second day was jam-packed with business meetings, and we started off by talking about ways to make discussions more fluid and effective and tools to use for decision making, which led us in choosing what makes a program great, effective and tools to use for decision making, and relationships and helps them discover how to use their talents to love and serve the young people toward an awakening to God’s power and presence working in their lives.

We spent our days hard at work and our evenings enjoying programs, fellowship, and rest. The programs, led by the Rev. Geoff Evans of St. Mary’s-on-the-Highlands, centered on knowing and loving our neighbors. After an exhausting first day at the work sites, we sat together to process what we had seen and done. Geoff offered these words that wisely sum up the mission of Young People Paint Birmingham: “The truth is, when we serve each other, when we are good neighbors like you were to the people you met today, we meet Jesus in those actions. Our faith grows.”

The YD Planning retreat

On our final day together, we finished up the last bit of an exquisite pound cake, a retreat led by the Rev. Josiah Rengers from St. Luke’s in Birmingham as our chaplain, and Fran McKendree as our music director (again!).

Upcoming Events

DISTRICT DAYS!

WHERE: Tennessee Valley Area—Good Shepherd in Decatur
Birmingham District—Overton Park in Vestavia Hills/Cahaba Heights
Montgomery District—Shakespeare Park in Montgomery

Why: Because you do not want to miss out on this awesome event!

AWAKENINGS

Junior-High Spirituality Retreat
October 11-13 at Camp McDowell

Questions about identity and purpose are the big questions we begin asking ourselves during junior-high school. Each of us is discovering who we are as our own person within the context of community with others. Awakenings is a retreat led by high-school counselors that is designed to allow 7th and 8th-graders to explore these questions with Jesus as our primary Teacher. The retreat offers an experience that guides young people toward an awakening to God’s power and presence working in their lives and relationships and helps them discover how to use their talents to love and serve the world.

Online registration is now open at www.dioala.org; the registration deadline is September 30. The cost is $115; scholarship assistance is available. For more information, please contact event registrar Caitlin Gilliam, Youth Director of St. John’s in Montgomery, at caitlin@stjohnsmontgomery.org.

CHRISTMAS CONFERENCE

December 28-30 at Camp McDowell

The Youth Department has already begun making plans and getting excited about hosting Christmas Conference, which is open to all 9th through 12th-graders! We have an all-star lineup of directors working with us including the Rev. Seth Olsen from St. John’s in Decatur as our program director, the Rev. Josiah Rengers from St. Luke’s in Birmingham as our chaplain, and Fran McKendree as our music director (again!). During our retreat, we’ll be exploring “Immanuel” and discovering the different ways in which “God is with us.”

Online registration will open October 1 at www.dioala.org; the registration deadline is December 6. The cost is $130. Space fills quickly so register early!
Diggin’ Bethany
Gift from Family Foundation Funds Phifer Hall

Karen Brooks, Susan Cork, and Beverly Phifer are devoted Episcopalians and have been connected to Camp McDowell for many years and in many ways including Summer Camp, Cursillo, and parish retreats. As members of Christ Church in Tuscaloosa and trustees of the family’s foundation, the Reese Phifer Jr. Memorial Foundation, they continually find ways to support their community. After meeting with Bishop Sloan and the Rev. Mark Johnston, the trustees discussed a gift for our diocese. They decided to make a generous donation for the expansion of the mission and ministries at Camp McDowell, and in recognition of their gift, the new meeting hall in Bethany Village will be named Phifer Hall.

Picture Miller Commons and recall that Pradat Hall is the meeting and gathering place for its guests, providing space for worship services, arts and crafts projects, meals, classes, and lectures. Phifer Hall will provide space for these activities in Bethany. It will overlook the lake and have a large deck to take advantage of the view. Wedding parties may use it for rehearsal dinners or receptions.

Phifer Hall will be a beautiful addition to Bethany, and we are grateful to Karen, Susan, and Beverly for their generous support.

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

For more information, please contact Development Director Danielle Dunbar at danielle@campmcdowell.com, the Rev. Mark Johnston at mark@campmcdowell.com, or call the office at 205/387-1806.

Many Thanks to Our Village of “Saints”

By the Rev. Mark Johnston, Vicar and Director of Camp McDowell

My cell phone rang a few minutes ago. Ken Traweek, one of the architects helping design Bethany, called to tell me that he had decided to fundamentally change one of the buildings that he had almost completed. “You are making yourself more work!” I quipped. “I like to work!” he responded, and he was telling the truth.

Ken is a bit over 80 years of age and a wonderful architect. A member of the Cathedral Church of the Advent, he is one of many skilled architects, engineers, and planners who have donated their time and talent to enable the Bethany dream to become reality. Frazier Christie, another member of the Advent and a civil engineer, helped us get the permit for our lake, and he has designed the dam and boat dock. Frazier and Tom Brown are designing a hydroelectric generating system for the dam on Clear Creek, which could produce as much electricity as we are already using. Joel Blackstock, a member of All Saints’ in Birmingham and the architect of our beautiful Chapel of St. Francis, is designing our dance/performance hall pro bono. Members of the Speaks family from Holy Comforter in Montgomery have been doing civil engineering for Camp McDowell for decades, and Stephen Speaks is helping us with our master plan, water system, and wastewater system. Many other wonderful members of our Camp McDowell family have done legal work for us or generously shared their expertise in other areas.

We are blessed with saints who have donated almost a million dollars in design work, saints like you who are making the Bethany dream a reality.
Come to an Old-Fashioned Barn Raising!

Everyone is invited to be part of the first-ever barn raising at Camp McDowell. The barn, which is the first structure to be erected in Bethany Village, will go up during Camp Day weekend, October 25-27.

The barn raising will begin at 10 a.m. on Saturday, October 26. The Rev. Deacon Clyde Pearce will assemble a crew of four to six experienced builders to lead the undertaking. Clyde has worked on many Habitat for Humanity projects, and this one will be similar. Volunteers can come with any level of experience. When Clyde was asked why he wanted to help with this project, he said, “I’m excited about anything we do that helps camp!”

Historically a barn raising was a community venture finished in short time frame. Habitat for Humanity building projects are the most similar modern-day endeavors. These projects strengthen the sense of community for the volunteers, and the group takes significant ownership in what is built.

Bishop Sloan experienced something similar when, as a high-school student, he and other volunteers refurbished the cabins at the Diocese of Mississippi camp by sanding and repainting them. He says thinking about the project still gives him a sense of ownership in that place and of connectedness with the people who were helping alongside him.

For more information about the barn raising, please contact the Rev. Mark Johnston at mark@campmcdowell.com or 205/387-1806.

Former Campers Plan Fundraiser

A group of former campers has worked together to create a unique fundraising event for Bethany at Camp McDowell. They will host The Camp Out from 6 to 9 p.m. October 12 at Good People Brewing Company in downtown Birmingham. Tickets are available for a $25 general admission or $75 VIP donation. The Rev. Michael Goldsmith, a former Summer Camp counselor, will kick off the evening followed by Drive-by Truckers guitarist and singer Mike Cooley.

As cochair Melinda Sellers explains, “We are expanding God’s Backyard to those with special needs while at the same time exposing more of our diocesan youth to the life-changing experience of serving as a staff member for this session. This fundraising event is a way for us to allow our friends to come together and learn more about why this project is so important to so many people and to give them an opportunity to show their support for that effort.”

The goal of The Camp Out is to raise enough money to sponsor a naming opportunity at Bethany at Camp McDowell in memory of Roy V. Johnson (“Mr. Rick”), who guided an entire generation of workboys until his passing in 2009. The specific naming opportunity will depend on the total amount raised. All proceeds from The Camp Out as well as all pledges received during the event will go toward meeting this goal.

The Rev. Mark Johnston notes that the focus of Bethany is to “create new lodges for our diocesan family to have more parish retreats and experience more spirituality programs, to build universally accessible cabins to expand our camps for adults and children with special needs, to grow an orchard and farm that will educate schoolchildren across the region, and to make a home for the Alabama Folk School, where residents will learn folk arts and basic life skills.” When Bethany is complete, it will enhance the Camp McDowell experience and open God’s Backyard to new generations of children.

Please join us on October 12 as we help make Bethany at Camp McDowell a reality!
Heavy Rains Didn’t Dampen the Wild, Wild West Special Session Spirits


The rains came down, but that didn’t stop campers and staff from having a great time at the 16th annual Special Session at Camp McDowell. The week began with some of the nicest early July weather ever seen at camp, but the downpour came on the Fourth of July—more than 8 inches as measured in nearby Addison.

That didn’t slow things down a bit. Campers gathered in the Rec Hall, popped some popcorn, and danced the afternoon away in a “happy hour” that set records for length and amount of fun. “The best moment of the session was when we were caught in a torrential rain and decided as a community that we were just happy to be together and had a dance party,” says Bishop Sloan. “It could have been a disaster, but it was the moment when it all came together.”

That rainy-day dance party was just one of many memories for the more than 90 campers with physical and mental challenges who gathered at Camp McDowell. They canoed, swam, slid down a soapy slide, played softball, rode horses, and ate barbecue—all the things you’d expect to do at summer camp and more.

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Staff member Lauren Maggart produced a short video using campers as actors. Shot in a 1920’s silent film style, the campers portrayed an Old West wedding broken up by a band of outlaws. In true Hollywood style, the handsome sheriff saved the day. Campers enjoyed watching the video on the last day of camp. (For more about Special Session 2013, please visit http://www.dioala.org/dfc/newsdetail_2/3160500.)

Special Session began in 1998 as a project of St.
Thomas’ in Huntsville, but it has grown into a diocesan-wide ministry with participation of people from across our diocese. Youth and adults from St. Stephen’s in Birmingham spent a day with the campers as they organized and staffed a pasture party. The afternoon of outdoor games on the first day of camp gave the young people a chance to see what fun they might have as counselors in coming years.

The campers had the opportunity to ride horses, courtesy of David and Paula Poynor of Cullman. Their two therapy horses, Shalako and Mirados, lent an air of authenticity to the Wild, Wild West theme.

Charlie Irwin led a crew from St. Thomas’ in Huntsville in preparing the annual Fourth of July barbecue. The Huntsville cooks raise money for the pulled pork feast with a sale of Boston butts earlier in each year.

The camp’s codirectors agreed that the staff made this year’s session perhaps the best one yet—despite the rain. “I think I’ve been a part of about 35 Special Sessions in Mississippi and Alabama, and I don’t remember any of them being any better, except in 1986 when I met Miss Tina,” says Bishop Sloan, referring to his wife, Tina Sloan. David Meginniss agrees: “This was one of our best Special Sessions because our counselors, these amazing young people, gave so much of themselves to provide care, attention, and genuine affection to the campers.”

High schoolers and college-age young adults serve as counselors caring for the campers 24 hours a day during the session. Adult staffers handle behind-the-scenes activities, and clergy from our diocese provide pastoral care and conduct prayer services throughout the week.

Gail Perna, one of the four nurses on Special Session staff, oversees camper applications. She reports that even before this year’s bags were unpacked, campers began submitting their applications for next year!
Wonderful, Wonderful Camp McDowell
The BEST SUMMER EVER!

By Susanna Whitsett, Summer Camp Coordinator

Wow! What a truly wonderful summer season it has been at Camp McDowell’s Summer Camp. Almost 1,400 campers worshiped and worked, played and prayed, sang and swam, listened and learned, laughed and loved their way through sunny days and starlit nights.

Our enthusiastic and capable staff (see photos above) and session directors acted as friends, teachers, and ministers during early-morning canoe rides and late-night discussions and as caregivers throughout the day and night to the most precious guests imaginable—the campers who come to stay in “God’s Backyard.” We say a special thank-you to our 2013 session directors—the Rev. Tim Murphy of St. Mary’s in Jasper, the Rev. Canon Joe Gibbs of the Cathedral Church of the Advent in Birmingham, the Rev. Russell Kendrick of St. Stephen’s in Birmingham, the Rev. Derrick Hill of St. Mary’s-on-the-Highlands in Birmingham, the Rev. Jayne Pool of St. Mark’s in Birmingham, the Rev. Thomas Joyner of Holy Trinity in Auburn, the Rev. Andy Keyse of Trinity in Florence, the Rev. Katie Nakamura-Rengers and the Rev. Josiah Rengers of St. Luke’s in Birmingham, and Bishop Marray.

We are grateful for the fun we have had, the lessons we have learned, and for God’s presence in this messy and magical ministry, which was (of course) the BEST SUMMER EVER!

“I had to let you know that [my daughter] had a fantastic time at camp! She is not the most expressive child, however she told us she had a great time and that McDowell is by far her favorite camp. . . . I also want to thank you and all of the camp staff for making camp a wonderful experience for [my daughter]. We appreciate all of the hard work, care, and concern you all devote.” Excerpt from an e-mail from a parent
Ten years ago, my mom drove my best friend and me up DeLong Road in Nauvoo, Alabama, for our very first session of summer camp at Camp McDowell. Soon after we arrived, we gathered in the dining hall of camp. We were introduced to the staff, and they jumped around, beating on their guitars and dancing with fervor. I was skeptical, scared, and afraid—skeptical because I'd never been to this camp before, scared because I didn't know many people, and afraid because I didn't know what everyone was so excited about.

Fast forward six days. I was heading the opposite way down DeLong Road singing the camp songs I'd learned that week. I had quickly figured out what everyone was so excited about and determined the reasoning behind the nickname “Wonderful, Wonderful Camp McDowell.”

Fast forward ten years. I was on the other end of the spectrum, serving as a counselor and dancing with fervor with my coworkers—the same campers I didn’t know years before. Now I call them my best friends.

Camp McDowell introduced me to some of my closest friends in the entire world. Camp McDowell showed me the splendor of the natural world. Camp McDowell showed me the beauty of ministry. Camp McDowell brought me to the Episcopal faith. Camp McDowell gave me role models I model my life after today. Each year as I reach mile marker 13 and see the Episcopal Diocese of Alabama sign, I get the feeling that I’m coming home.

The Magic That Is Summer Camp

By Summer Camp Manager Caroline Glass, a Member of Canterbury Chapel in Tuscaloosa

hundreds of campers that will come through the McDowell summer camp program each summer. Each week new campers arrive at camp; some are old friends, some are new. Some traditions continue, and some new ones are formed. No matter the year though, the connections that summer camp creates are infinite.
Wonderful, Wonderful Fall Lineup!

By Sarah Mills Nee, Director

The Alabama Folk School’s fall line-up is full of wonderful, wonderful opportunities to craft and make music. Please join us for some guaranteed-to-be fun classes and beautiful fall weather!

**Acoustic Guitar & Crafts Weekend**
**September 20-22**
You have a choice of three acoustic guitar classes at varying levels taught by Herb Trotman, Jim Ohlschmidt, and Jim Hurst. You can also enjoy trying your hand at blacksmithing and homesteading!

**Watercolor Workshop Week**
**October 20-25**
Don’t miss this opportunity to learn from one of three highly talented watercolor artists! Leslie Frontz, Lana Grow, and Wayne Spradley will share their skills and knowledge with you throughout the week.

**Old Time Music & Crafts Week**
**October 31-November 3**
One of our most popular workshops, this year’s schedule includes eight classes in banjo, fiddle, guitar, and mandolin plus a rare opportunity to learn decorative book arts or take a class in recycled art making.

For more information please visit [www.alfolkschool.com](http://www.alfolkschool.com) or contact me at folkschool@campmcdowell.com or 205/387-1806.

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**Junior High Campers** Maggie Kamowski, Riley Abney, and Evie Whitsett

**Primary Campers**

**Sophomore Campers** at Tillers

**Senior Campers** Margaret Blackerby

**‘Big’ and ‘Little’ Primary Campers**
Foothills Day Camp—
Great Fun in a “Peaceable Kingdom”!


They had great fun diving into the pool and catching fish and cruising in canoes and learning about the “Peaceable Kingdom” using an anti-bullying program drawn from the writings of Dr. Seuss—just a typical day at Foothills Day Camp, the newest summer camp in our diocese. “We are so thankful to our diocese for supporting this new ministry,” says the Rev. Lee Shafer (affectionately known as “Mama Lee”), rector of Grace Church in Anniston and the camp’s director.

Campers came from the Anniston area, and staff came from all over our diocese for the weeklong camp that concluded July 19 at Camp Lee in Calhoun County. Though only in its second year, Foothills Day Camp, which was inspired by the success of Sawyerville Day Camp, has seen significant growth and settled into a successful formula. “I can’t imagine how it could have gone any better,” Lee notes. Even the heavy July rains skirted the camp, leaving campers dry and warm. Activities included zip-lining into the lake, canoeing, swimming, and an array of crafts and music. One of the highlights was fishing in a nearby pond, where the campers caught lots of sunfish—Kay Donaldson, representing the Alabama Bass Trail, provided 54 rods and reels for the campers.

Perhaps the most important activity, however, was simply being around new friends. “One purpose of Foothills Day Camp is to bring diverse people together to get to know each other when they wouldn’t otherwise have the opportunity or make that opportunity,” Lee explains. “In doing so, we’re building bridges in our world.” That bridge-building involves campers as well as staff. Lee describes Foothills as two camps in one—the camp for campers in the daytime and the unofficial “second session” for the youth staff who stay overnight. “We bring people together from a variety of racial backgrounds and denominations, and they learn to live together in a common situation,” Lee adds. “The staff members have conversations in the cabins, and that’s part of it.” While organized by Lee and members of Grace Church, most of the Foothills Day Camp participants and many of the staff come from other traditions. “Youth staff are from all over our diocese and not just Episcopalians—they come from Church of Christ, Holiness, Methodist, and Baptist, both Cooperative and Southern, churches. I don’t know how they all found us, but they did,” Lee notes.

The Episcopalians among this year’s 40-plus staff included people from parishes in Arab, Decatur, Birmingham, Homewood, Pell City, and Huntsville. “We tripled the youth staff this year, and it worked very well,” Lee says. “They took their roles seriously and came together as a team to make it happen.”

Adult staff for the camp came from Grace and the surrounding community, including overnight chaperones from St. Luke’s in Jacksonville. Dinners and prayer partners came from St. Luke’s in Jacksonville, St. Michael and all Angels’ in Anniston, and St. Simon Peter’s in Pell City, as well as Grace in Anniston.

Red Mass Hosted by St. Luke’s in Scottsboro

By Circuit Judge John H. Graham

The “Episcopal Lawyers,” all members of St. Luke’s in Scottsboro, organized and hosted a Red Mass on August 1. Celebrating the rule of law and inaugurating the new term of court, the event was attended by most of the local Bench and Bar. Retired Alabama Supreme Court Justice Hugh Maddox gave the homily, and everyone enjoyed lunch after the service in Bradford Hall. Leaders in both the church and the Bench and Bar hope and plan for it to become an annual event for both organizations.

A Red Mass is celebrated annually for judges, attorneys, law school professors, students, and government officials. The Mass requests guidance from the Holy Spirit for all who seek justice and offers the opportunity to reflect on what Christians believe is the God-given power and responsibility of all in the legal profession.

The Red Mass, which was first celebrated in Paris during the High Middle Ages, takes its name from the priest’s red vestments, symbolizing the tongues of fire (the Holy Spirit) that descended on the Apostles at Pentecost. The Red Mass spread through Europe and crossed the Atlantic in 1877, where the event was first held at the Church of St. Peter and St. Paul in Detroit, Michigan.

In Alabama, the Red Mass is held annually at St. Peter’s Roman Catholic Church in Montgomery and is attended by judges of the appellate courts, attorneys, and others.
Band of Angels To Be Performed October 13

By Marilee Manske, Youth Choir Director of St. Thomas’ in Birmingham

**Band of Angels**, a Service of Remembrance for the **Children Who Died in Racial Violence, September 15, 1963**, a compelling major choral work by Birmingham composer and music director of St. Thomas’ K. Lee Scott, will be presented at 5 p.m. on October 13 at UAB’s Alys Stephens Center in a free event that is open to the public.

**Band of Angels** is in a memorial service format with choral pieces and hymns for the congregation interlaced with scripture passages. Traditional spirituals, hymns from the Civil Rights era, and moving new material blend together to form this tribute to the four young girls and two boys who lost their lives on September 15, 1963. The Magic City Choral Society will present this work along with choirs from Ramsay High School, UAB, and Alabama State A&M University.

Over the past two decades Lee has become increasingly drawn as a composer to the subject of the 16th Street Baptist Church bombing and with writing a larger choral work commemorating the event, a subject both difficult and challenging. **Band of Angels** is presently complete for chorus and piano, with plans to orchestrate the piece. Lee believes this to be one of his most significant works and views it as one of the main reasons God has kept him in Birmingham all these years.

The Birmingham City Council graciously awarded funds to the Magic City Choral Society to present this important project, and St. Thomas’ has established a fund for contributions to cover additional expenses of production. Contributors of any amount will be listed on the event program as sponsors.

Lee, who publishes under the name K. Lee Scott, is a graduate of the University of Alabama with degrees in choral conducting and literature. He has made Birmingham his home, serving on the music faculty of the University of Alabama School of Music, UAB Department of Music, Samford University School of Music, and Birmingham-Southern Department of Music. Lee is recognized internationally “from Helsinki to Singapore” with more than 350 published works, which have been performed by well-known ensembles including the Los Angeles Master Chorale, the Chicago A Cappella Choir, the Mormon Tabernacle Choir, the College Chorus of Princeton and Harvard, the choir of Trinity Church on Wall Street in New York City, and the choir of the National Cathedral in Washington, DC. His most recently published works include his “Requiem,” recorded by the Lee Scott Singers with members of the Alabama Symphony Orchestra, and “Gloria,” written for choir, brass quintet, tympani, and organ and recorded by the UAB Concert Choir.

For more information about the free performance at 5 p.m. on October 13, please contact the Alys Stephens Center, 1200 10th Avenue South, at 205/975-2787. For more information about **Band of Angels**, please contact Lee Scott at 205/979-4260. For more information about Lee, please visit www.kleescott.com; you can listen to many of Lee’s works on YouTube performed by groups across the world.

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**ECW Announces Scholarship Recipients**

By Adelaide Cherry, Committee Chair

The ECW Scholarship Committee is pleased to award scholarships to 15 very deserving students from across our diocese. The scholarships will be administered by the various colleges or universities on behalf of the recipients.

**Katherine Jeanne McCown of the Nativity in Huntsville**

ECW Scholarship

**Emily Ann McDuff of St. Mary’s-on-the-Highlands in Birmingham**

ECW Scholarship

**Margaret Lynn Paul of Holy Comforter in Montgomery**

ECW Scholarship

**Katharine Rachel Quillen of the Nativity in Huntsville**

ECW Scholarship

The ECW Scholarship Committee includes Adelaide Cherry, Black Belt Convocation; committee chair; Bethe Ensey, Birmingham Convocation; Cindy Whetstone, Cheaha Convocation; Phyllis McNally, East Alabama Convocation; Becky Broadfoot, Montgomery Convocation; Betty Green, Mountain Convocation; and Catie Hewitt, Tennessee Valley Convocation. Fiona Watts, president of our diocesan ECW board, serves as an ex-officio member.

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**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! The event will include a tour of the churches in the Black Belt area and keynote speaker Dolores Hydock, Birmingham’s own award-winning storyteller. See you in the Bend! Webb’s Bend, that is, at the confluence of the Black Warrior and Tombigbee Rivers in Demopolis!!

Please make a reservation as soon as you can at the Comfort Inn (334/289-9595) or Best Western (334/289-2611); be sure to mention that you are with the ECW group when you make your reservation at these two “official conference” hotels.

To qualify for an ECW-administered scholarship, the recipient must be a member in good standing of our diocese and demonstrate individual academic achievement, financial need, and community and church involvement. In addition to the ECW general college scholarships, the ECW Scholarship Committee administers a number of named scholarships established in memory or honor of specific individuals. Recipients of named scholarships must meet the general criteria plus any additional criteria specified by the benefactor. For information about the scholarship application process, please visit www.alabamaecw.org.

ECW scholarships are made possible by the generous donations of people who have taken to heart the education of our members, and your generosity is the only way to continue this very important program. Please send your contribution to ECW/Diocese of Alabama, 521 North 20th Street, Birmingham, AL 35203-2611; please note “ECW Scholarship Fund” on your check.
A Pilgrim’s Reflection

By the Rev. Deacon Judy Quick

The following is an excerpt from the Rev. Deacon Quick’s reflection; you can read her entire reflection online at http://bit.ly/1epwH3x.

A pilgrimage is a journey to a sacred place. From July 20 to 27, 19 of us pilgrims from dioceses throughout the Episcopal Church journeyed to Ghana to deepen our appreciation of the transformative power of the work of Episcopal Relief & Development and our partner there, ADDRO (Anglican Diocese Development and Relief Organization). I daresay that the experience transformed the pilgrims.

On our first evening in the capital, Accra, drummers, dancers, a feast of local cuisine, and the Anglican Bishop of Accra, the Rt. Rev. Dr. Daniel Torto, greeted us weary travelers at the new offices of Episcopal Relief & Development, home of the Ghana and other African programs.

This warm welcome (Akwaaba) set the stage for our visit, where we experienced Ghanaian hospitality and found rest for our souls.

The following morning we departed for northern Ghana to meet the Bishop of Tamale, the Rt. Rev. Dr. Jacob Ayebo. What a visionary! Bishop Jacob exudes enthusiasm and passion to provide a holistic realization of the Gospel, to serve the souls, minds, and bodies of the people of his country. He insists that the Gospel message is incomplete if we do not address human needs, just as Christ did. We are to heal as Jesus healed the poor, the marginalized, and the forgotten.

We saw so much! ADDRO implements and monitors programs in 6 of the 10 dioceses in Ghana. A drive into the country revealed villages of huts made with dung for cement and straw for the roof. Chickens wandered among the huts, and millet and shea nuts covered the floors.

Mrs. Otonga welcomed us into her hut compound and showed us her insecticide-treated net (from the Nets for Life® Program), which she has had for three years and washes once a month. She and two children sleep under this net. Five other family members sleep under two additional nets. Before the nets arrived, children were dying of malaria each week, but there have been no malaria deaths since her village received the nets and the proper training.

At the Disabilities School, John A. Awinko, bounced about, hugging us, welcoming us. John is deaf, from spinal meningitis, but he can speak—and he spoke his powerful story about ADDRO sending him to carpentry school to learn a skill so he could support himself. His parents died when he was very young. John returned to his village, opened a carpentry shop, and invited other disabled young boys to join him. More importantly, John advocates with persistence and passion for the rights of the disabled, winning for the boys the percent government benefit.

At the market, we met three ladies who had received microenterprise support from ADDRO. Fati takes bulk items like grains and dried beans and repackages them for smaller buyers; to sustain her table of staple items, Fati gets a loan of $800 at 12 percent for six months, pays it back, and receives another loan. Another entrepreneur prepares meals to sell; she paid back her $1,200 loan, and with the income from her business, she has bought cattle. A shopkeeper with a large inventory of items similar to a convenience store paid back her $2,000 loan; she receives sufficient cash flow from her kiosk shop to sustain her business.

We traveled to millet and corn farms, where ADDRO teaches sustainable farming techniques and supplies drought-resistant seeds. We met farmers who had received goats and sheep (conceivably ones you have ordered from the Gifts for Life catalog!). We saw the ADDRO Organic Mango Plantation, where soybeans and cowpeas grow underneath the trees. Rain greeted us on our way to Yewoko, where we sloshed through the mud to the mill where women can mill their rice, corn, and millet. Rita, the director of the Anglican Women’s Development Group, gave us an overview of the many programs such as the seamstress school and shea nut processing. Rita thanked us for the support of Episcopal Relief & Development in making the programs viable.

A pilgrimage is a journey to a sacred place. From July 20 to 27, 19 of us pilgrims from dioceses throughout the Episcopal Church journeyed to Ghana to deepen our appreciation of the transformative power of the work of Episcopal Relief & Development and our partner there, ADDRO (Anglican Diocese Development and Relief Organization), I daresay that the experience transformed the pilgrims.

Each visit to me was a visit to holy ground. Christ’s redeeming love shone in the mud huts where nets protected and in the workshops and marketplaces where the disabled and disadvantaged found meaningful work and dignity. Christ’s reconciling love flowed as we visited the darker side of Ghana’s history, the Pikworo Slave Camp in the north, where Africans captured fellow Africans, and Elmina and Cape Coast Castles in the South, where the slaves awaited in horrific conditions their transport to the New World. For us Southerners with roots in the coastal Atlantic states, this experience was beyond words. All of us prayed together as we remembered the souls lost and those who suffered. We laid wreaths in remembrance and vowed “Never More.”

Our pilgrimage to Ghana was a journey to a sacred place where Episcopal Relief & Development and its partner ADDRO shine Christ’s light in every initiative. Lives are changed. The pilgrimage to Ghana was also for me a journey to an inner sacred place, where my life was changed as well. May God continue to bless the devoted staff of Episcopal Relief & Development and ADDRO, and may we continue to support these programs as we live into our Gospel call to serve the least of these.

For more information on how you and your parish can become more engaged with Episcopal Relief & Development, please contact me at jgquick@bellsouth.net or 205/669-6862, or visit the Web site at its new address, www.episcopalrelief.org.
**Upcoming Events, Workshops, and Retreats**

**“LIKE A CHILD, I’M ALWAYS LEARNING” RETREAT**

September 27-29 at Camp McDowell

Our diocesan Department of Recovery Ministries is offering this spiritual musical journey in recovery led by renowned singer/songwriter and pianist John McAndrew. Based on his experiences in recovery, John will help guide the participants from darkness to light through healing, recovery, transformation, and love.

For more information please contact Coordinator of Lifelong Christian Formation Kathy Graham at kgraham@dioala.org or 205/358-9229.

**THE SPIRITUALITY OF GOD’S CREATION CONFERENCE**

October 12 at Comer Hall at 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 tend 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, led this year by Bishop Mark. For more information, please contact Kathy Graham, Coordinator of Lifelong Christian Formation, at kgraham@dioala.org or 205/358-9229.

**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 205/358-9229.

**ANGLICAN HERITAGE TRIP TO ENGLAND AND SCOTLAND**

March 2014

The Rev. Scott Arnold, rector of St. Mark’s in Prattville, will lead a pilgrimage to Celtic and Anglican sites in England and Scotland from March 23 through April 1. The pilgrims will leave from Montgomery and fly to London, where they will visit Canterbury Cathedral, Durham Cathedral, Henry VIII’s Hampton Court, the ancient walled city of York, the city of Edinburgh and St. Giles Cathedral, the Abbey of Iona founded by St. Columba, and the holy island of Lindisfarne. All this and much, much more awaits any interested pilgrim who would like to trace our Church’s ancient history. If you’ve ever wanted to see the great cathedrals, walk the ancient cobbled stone steps of Durham, see Lambeth Palace and Westminster Abbey then this is the trip for you!

For more information, please contact the Rev. Arnold at fscott@stmarksal.org or 334/423-9982.

**PILGRIMAGE TO WALES, DUBLIN, AND NORTHERN IRELAND**

June 2014

The Rev. Bill Winters, interim rector of the Ascension in Montgomery, will lead a pilgrimage to Wales and Dublin with a sequel to Northern Ireland with visits to sites of religious importance and cathedrals as well as scenic areas of the countries. The Wales and Dublin pilgrimage is from June 14 through 25 with the sequel to Northern Ireland through June 28. For more information, please contact the Rev. Winters at 334/263-5529.

**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.” 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,” which might also be called “the City of Earthly Power.” Through its two and a half millennia of history, monuments, and art, Rome provides another useful way by which we can contemplate power/powerlessness in our lives. For more information and to sign up, please contact Dr. Daniel Lesnick at dlesnick@italyadagio.com or 205/423-9982.

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**Bishops’ Visitation Schedule**

**September 29, Sunday**

10 a.m. Bishop Marray St. Michael’s, Fayette

**October 5, Saturday**

4 p.m. Bishop Mark St. Andrew’s, Prairieville

**October 6, Sunday**

11 a.m. Bishop Mark St. Matthew’s, Madison

4 p.m. Bishop Mark Calvary, Oneonta

**October 9, Wednesday**

6 p.m. Bishop Mark St. Francis’, Indian Springs

**October 13, Sunday**

10:30 a.m. Bishop Mark St. Catherine’s, Chelsea

**October 16, Wednesday**

6 p.m. Bishop Mark St. Luke’s, Jacksonville

**October 20, Sunday**

10:30 a.m. Bishop Mark Holy Apostles’, Birmingham

**October 23, Wednesday**

6 p.m. Bishop Mark Christ Church, Fairfield

**October 27, Sunday**

3:30 p.m. Bishop Mark Trinity, Bessemer

**November 3, Sunday**

9:30 a.m. Bishop Sloan St. Simon Peter’s, Pell City

9:30 a.m. Bishop Mark St. Bartholomew’s, Florence

**November 10, Sunday**

10:30 a.m. Bishop Sloan Grace, Cullman

10:30 a.m. Bishop Mark St. Thomas’, Birmingham

**November 13, Wednesday**

6 p.m. Bishop Mark Good Shepherd, Montgomery

**November 17, Sunday**

11 a.m. Bishop Sloan St. Andrew’s, Tuskegee

11:15 a.m. Bishop Sloan St. Stephen’s, Birmingham

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**Clergy News**

The Rev. Fletcher Comer began serving as priest in charge of Calvary in Oneonta in September.

The Rev. Jim Elliott began serving as interim rector of St. Simon Peter’s in Pell City on September 15. Jim previously served as priest in charge of Calvary in Oneonta.

The Rev. Liston A. Garfield will retire as rector of St. Andrew’s and Episcopal chaplain of Tuskegee University in Tuskegee on September 1. Liston has served St. Andrew’s and Tuskegee University for 20 years.

The Rev. Samuel Keyes began serving as part-time priest in charge in discernment of St. Paul’s in Greensboro on September 15.

The Rev. Rick Putman began serving as part-time associate priest of St. Matthew’s in Madison on September 1. Rick previously served as part-time associate priest of St. Thomas’ in Birmingham.

The Rev. Dr. Wells Warren began serving as part-time priest in charge of Epiphany in Talladega on September 8. Wells also serves as chaplain of St. Dunstan’s Worshiping Community and College Center in Auburn.
**What’s New/Noteworthy at the Episcopal Book Store**

*By Cindy Funderburk, Manager*

**Theology of the English Reformers by Philip Edgecumbe Hughes**

Recently Dean Limehouse led a class titled “The Sacraments of the Church: Baptism and Holy Communion Through the Lens of the English Reformers,” and he frequently referenced Philip Hughes’s book *Theology of the English Reformers*. This classic work is a must for anyone who desires a clear and historically accurate understanding of what the English reformers believed. Infused with their particular truths in their own words, this is a great study of theology and early reformed Church history. The book includes Philip Hughes’s “The Thirty-nine Articles: A Restatement in Today’s English.”

**Christ in the Chaos: How the Gospel Changes Motherhood by Kimm Crandall**

*Moms: Stop comparing yourself to others. Stop striving to meet false expectations. Stop thinking your performance dictates your worth. For too long, mothers have been beaten down by the law of “do better” and “try harder.” The burden of “getting it right” threatens to crush weary souls who desire to serve their families faithfully. Christ in the Chaos brings comfort to conflicted hearts that are starved of grace and longing for the freedom in Christ the Bible promises. In this book, Kimm Crandall emphasizes the importance of the gospel and how Christ’s life, death, and resurrection change every aspect of motherhood—from finding our identity in Christ and understanding God’s grace to taking off the mask of acceptability and dealing with the comparison crus.*

**This Is the Day! by Nancy White Carlstrom with illustrations by Richard Cowdrey**

*In this picture book for the young at heart, all the creatures of the world delight in God’s Word. Looking at the connection between God and nature, day by day through the week, each spread offers a brief bit of advice in bold text about praising God or celebrating the wonders of nature, followed by a short, graceful description of the animals and natural wonders shown in the illustrations.*

**An Illustrated Story of the Nativity with a 3D Pop-up Advent Calendar by Susanna Geoghegan with illustrations by Linda Birkinshaw**

*This beautifully illustrated book reveals the biblical story of the Nativity and also gives readers the opportunity to open a window for every day of Advent in the 3D stable scene that pops up at the back of the book.*

**Mark Your Calendar**

**Awakenings** (junior-high youth) October 11-13 at Camp McDowell

**Camp Day 2013** October 25-27 at Camp McDowell

**Christmas Conference** (senior-high youth) December 28-30 at Camp McDowell

**Cursillo Weekend #190** October 10-13

**Diocesan Convention** February 21-22 in Birmingham

**Diocesan Ultrea** January 24-26

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

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

**September 12-May 15** Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Adult Formation Course at St. Mary’s-on-the-Highlands in Birmingham. For more information please contact Stephanie@stmarysooth.org.

**September 27-29** “Like a Child, I’m Always Learning” retreat sponsored by our Department of Recovery Ministries at Camp McDowell. For more information please see the description on page 22.

**October 6** 4th Annual Hot Strings family concert benefitting the Foundry Rescue Mission and Recovery Center, including the Foundry Re-entry Program, from noon to 6 p.m. at Colonial Brookwood Mall in Birmingham. For more information please contact Bobbi Jo Grady at bgrady@thefoundryonline.org or www.hotstrings.org.

**October 6** New York Polyphony performance at 3 p.m. at the Advent in Birmingham. For more information please contact Charles Kennedy at kennedy@cathedraladvent.com or 205/226-3505.

**October 12** 2013 Commission on Spirituality Conference at St. Andrew’s and the University of Montevallo. For more information, please see page 22.

**October 12** Sawyerville Day Camp 5K Run/Walk in Greensboro. For more information please see page 10 or log onto www.sawyervilleworkproject.org.

**October 12** The Camp Out fundraiser for Bethany at Camp McDowell featuring music by Mike Cooley and Michael Goldsmith at Good People Brewing Company in Birmingham. For more information please see page 13.

**October 13** Band of Angels, A Service of Reconciliation for the Children Who Died in Racial Violence, September 15, 1963, featuring a choral work by K. Lee Scott presented by the Magic City Choral Society and choirs from Ramsey High School, UAB, and Alabama State A&M University in an event that is free and open to the public at 5 p.m. at UAB’s Alys Stephen’s Center. For more information please see page 20 or call 205/975-2787.

**October 18** Organ recital featuring Director of Music Frederick Teardo at 7:30 p.m. at the Advent in Birmingham. For more information please contact Charles Kennedy at kennedy@cathedraladvent.com or 205/226-3505.

**October 19** 16th Annual Angel Fest from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at St. Michael and All Angels’ Millbrook featuring a bake sale, silent auction, entertainment, great concessions, wonderful children’s carnival, and vendors galore plus the parish’s famous slow-cooked Boston butts for sale; proceeds benefit the parish’s outreach ministries to Millbrook and western Elmore County. For more information please contact the parish at 334/285-3905 or Veta Wall at vetalwil@gmail.com.

**October 25** Midday Musical Menu featuring the Birmingham Boys Choir directed by Ken and Susan Berg at 12:30 p.m. at the Advent in Birmingham. For more information please contact Charles Kennedy at kennedy@cathedraladvent.com or 205/226-3505.

**November 1-3** Happening #63 at the Resurrection in Gadsden. For more information, please contact Crystal Jones, Happening Coordinator, at cjones@dialpdl.org.
Enjoy Music Under the Stars!

Bring your lawn chairs or blanket to St. Mark's in Birmingham at 6 p.m. on Friday, September 20, and enjoy “Music Under the Stars,” a very special festival featuring Birmingham jazz greats Top Secret with Shaun Pezant, Cleve Eaton and the Alabama All-Stars featuring Ray Reach, Jason Bailey and Company, and the Birmingham Heritage Band.

Well-known performer, composer, and producer Shaun Pezant currently serves as the choir director and pianist at Holy Apostles’ in Hoover. In addition to providing special music for worship services, Shaun and his group of talented musicians delight audiences at a variety of other venues.

Consume bassist, composer, publisher, arranger, producer, and head of his own Birmingham-based record company, Cleve Eaton has performed in concert tours with the Ike Cole Trio and top-notch jazz bands led by Larry Novak, Ramsey Lewis, and Count Basie. His numerous awards include being inducted into the Alabama Jazz Hall of Fame and the Alabama Music Hall of Fame.

Renowned pianist, guitarist, and vocalist Ray Reach has performed with and arranged for many notable musicians including Dizzie Gillespie, Natalie Cole, Ellis Marsalis, and Cleve Eaton. Well known as a composer, conductor, producer, and educator, he currently serves as the director of student jazz programs for the Alabama Jazz Hall of Fame and director of the Alabama Jazz Hall of Fame All-Stars.

Well-known mandolinist, composer, and educator Jason Bailey has performed with a wide variety of Birmingham favorites including Tonal Vision, Three Man Stone, The Bluegrass Cartel, and Shillelagh Law.

The Birmingham Heritage Band, a changing group of local band directors and music teachers, has been celebrating Birmingham’s music heritage in special performances since 1976.

Proceeds from “Music Under the Stars” will help with the expansion of St. Mark’s monthly food assistance ministry, which currently serves about 40 families, and with recent repairs and updates to the church’s nave. You can reserve VIP table seating and a dinner from Taziki’s, purchase soft drinks and desserts during the event, or bring your own refreshments.

For more information please contact St. Mark’s Episcopal Church (228 Dennison Avenue Southwest, Birmingham, AL 35211) at 205/322-8449 or StMarks.Bham@gmail.com, or visit stmarks.dioala.org or www.dioala.org.