African Americans to vote. Jonathan Myrick Daniels, and other martyrs of the 1960's civil rights movement in Alabama, will be remembered and honored for their sacrifice during the annual pilgrimage weekend Aug. 14 and 15.

The weekend activities will begin Friday evening in Montgomery with a Young Pilgrims Lock-in for junior and senior high school age young people. The lock-in begins at 6:00 p.m. Friday at the Church of the Ascension in Montgomery. The evening will include supper, social time, and a program. The Young Pilgrims will join local Hayneville young people for breakfast in Hayneville, prior to participating in the pilgrimage. Lowndes County School Superintendent Daniel Boyd will host the breakfast. For information about the lock-in contact Murray Stuart by email at murrayc.stuart@gmail.com or call the church at 334-263-5529. Online registration for the lock-in is available at http://bit.ly/1H5Lgo6.

The principal weekend event will be the Jonathan Daniels Pilgrimage Saturday Aug. 15 beginning at 11:00 a.m. in the Lowndes County Courthouse Square in Hayneville, AL, while working to help register African Americans to vote. Jonathan Myrick Daniels, and other martyrs of the 1960's civil rights movement in Alabama, will be remembered and honored for their sacrifice during the annual pilgrimage weekend Aug. 14 and 15.

In a disappointing turn of events last late year, the current owner of the store-turned insurance agency demolished the building and disposed of the apron, which had become a holy and sacred touchstone for pilgrims. During this year’s pilgrimage a historical marker will be dedicated at the site.

The pilgrimage will conclude with a special service in the Lowndes county courtroom where Daniels killer was tried and acquitted by an all-white jury of men. In a solemn ceremony during the service, the role of the civil rights martyrs of Alabama will be called.

The Rt. Rev. Michael Curry, Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina will deliver the sermon. Holy Eucharist will be celebrated from the judges bench-turneted altar.

Following the service a catered lunch will be available for purchase at the courthouse. A large tent will with fans, tables and chairs will be set up next to the courthouse for pilgrims to enjoy lunch. The Jail will remain open to visitors following the pilgrimage.

This year’s pilgrimage will include bishops from around the church, and numerous groups from around the country.

Among those planning to join the pilgrimage this year are delegations from Daniels’ home town of Keene, NH; Virginia Military Institute, Daniel’s alma mater; Episcopal Divinity School in Cambridge, the School of Theology Sewanee, and the Dioceses of New York, Atlanta, Georgia, and the Central Gulf Coast.

Several special guests who worked, assisted, or were incarcerated with, Daniels have been invited to take part in this year’s pilgrimage. They include: Morroe, Sales, Gloria House, and James Rogers, both Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) workers who were jailed with Daniels; the Rev. Judith Upham, a fellow seminary student who worked with Daniels in Selma, and the West family, with whom Daniels lived during his time in Selma.

For pilgrims planning an extended weekend the Selma and Montgomery area is rich in civil rights history. A list of historic sites and civil rights-related museums is available at: http://dioala.org/pilgrimage/places.html.

The clergy and parishioners of St. Paul’s Episcopal Church in Selma, the parish that Daniels and Upham helped integrate 50 years ago, invite all who plan to remain in the area following the pilgrimage, to join them for Holy Eucharist at 10:00 a.m. Sunday.

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH


All editorial submissions should be sent to Dave Drachlis at communications@dioala.org. The deadline for each issue is the first day of the month of publication

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

CORRECTION
During this year’s Diocesan Convocation, Chris Hartley and Mollie Roberts were introduced as new clergy members. Liz Taylor and Carrie Dennis, Altar party members Liz Taylor and Carrie Dennis, St. Paul’s Episcopal Church in Birmingham; prepare to lead worshipers into St. Paul’s Church for a service marking the 50th anniversary of the integration of the parish. The 50th anniversary of the integration of the parish. The service, the role of the civil rights martyrs of Alabama will be called.

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Hello, friends

We have a couple of things coming up to which I want to call your attention: the blessing and dedication of Bethany Village and Camp McDowell, and the 78th General Convention of the Episcopal Church.

The blessing will take place on June 20, beginning at 10 a.m. in Doug Carpenter Hall. This will be the last full day of both the Elementary II Session and the Special Session, so all of those campers and staff members will be there, along with people from across the diocese who have helped in the planning and building of Bethany Village. Katharine Jefferts Schori, our Presiding Bishop, will be joining us, as well as Henry and Becky Parsley, to make it even more a festive and joyful day.

The plan is simpler than it’s about to look when you see it written down: We’ll gather at Doug Carpenter Hall for the first part of the service. Then we’ll be invited to go to one of several different spots, to be part of the blessing of Parsley Commons, or blessing of the cabins, or the blessing of the farm area. Then you’ll be invited to go to the specific building or place that you have the most interest in, to be a part of the blessing of the cabin that your parish or family helped to build, or the lodge that is given in memory of a loved one, or a barn or the chicken house or the lake or the blacksmith shop – there are about 35 different places to bless, all at the same time! Happily we’ll have no shortage of priests and bishops to ask God’s blessings on the different parts and places; happily God has no shortage of blessings to bestow!

Then everyone will be invited to come back to Doug Carpenter Hall for a blessing of that magnificent building, and of Bethany Village and Camp McDowell. We’ll conclude with the Eucharist and a lunch following. And you’re invited to come and be a part of this – all of you!

As I write this, we’re not finished with all of the buildings, but by the time we have the blessing we’ll be pretty close. We are also not through raising money – there’s still time if you haven’t had the opportunity to make a gift, and I hope you really don’t want to be left out. But we’re already using the new facilities, and it’s time for us to celebrate this diocesan family project, this expansion of our common ground. I wanted it to be that day so that the Special Session campers could be a part of the celebration, and I really hope that you will come to be part of it, too.

It’s almost time for the General Convention of the Episcopal Church: June 23 – July 3 in Salt Lake City. We will be well represented by our outstanding delegation: deputies John Mark Ford, Candice Frazer, Evan Garner, Virginia Hillhouse, Jimmy McLemore, Sarah Miller, Lee Shafer, and Mark Smith, and alternates Randall Byrd, Wayles Carpenter, Matt Grunfeld, Anne Kimzey, Barbara Sloan, Susan Sloan, Lou Thibodaux, and Mark Waldo, as well as our bishops. We’ll be posting videos on the Diocesan website from time to time to let you all know how things are going.

The normal pattern for Episcopalians is for us to either a.) ignore General Convention altogether or b.) get all agitated and distressed by looming hullabaloo and imagined, and start getting anxious and worried about what decisions about the controversies du jour, and what the press will make of it, and what our friends and neighbors will think or say. As far as I can tell, this year, in a break from recent tradition, we won’t be completely derailed by any all-consuming issues. I’m hopeful that without hubbubs and hullabaloo to frighten and divide us, we can expand our pattern and c.) celebrate the gifts and graces in our part of God’s Church, and devote ourselves to God’s mission to share the Good News of love in Jesus Christ our Lord. Wow – what a concept!

The Convention will consider marriage, and same-sex relationships; we’ll discuss and vote on ideas to streamline the structures of the Episcopal Church.

There will be hundreds of resolutions, with varying degrees of significance to our delegation or the folks back home, and we will likely deliberate, haggle and amend quite a few of them, whether they’re important or not. We’ll pass a budget, and hear a great many reports, some of which I trust (and hope) will be interesting. The Alabama Deputation, coordinated by Mark Smith of Birmingham, will gather each evening to catch up, to help each other know what to pay attention to, and to tell the stories of the day. There will be times for the whole Convention to come together in worship, which will surely be the highlight of the whole thing.

And we’ll elect a new Presiding Bishop. The nominees have not been announced as I write this, but we’ll know who they are by the time you read it. Just in case you don’t know and might be wondering: I am not nominated, and that’s just the way I want it, thank you very much. I am deeply grateful to be serving as the bishop of the best diocese in the Church, and that’s more than enough for me. I trust that nominees will be qualified and faithful, and that God’s Spirit will guide us to choose our next Presiding Bishop.

So it’s a good time to be an Episcopalian, and especially a good time to be an Episcopalian in the Diocese of Alabama. We have something special to share with our friends and neighbors, something more important than controversy and bickering: we have a real connection to the love of God in Jesus Christ in the beauty of liturgy, in the authenticity of Scripture, Tradition and Reason, and in the power of our communities of faith. Thanks be to God!

Final Thoughts

General Convention

The 78th General Convention of the Episcopal Church will take place in Salt Lake City June 23 through July 3. Periodic reports from the Diocese of Alabama’s delegation will be available on the diocesan website at http://dioala.org.

“Without Hubbubs and Hullabalooos”

Bethany Village Dedication & Blessing

Everyone is invited to the dedication and blessing of Bethany Village at Camp McDowell, June 20 at 10:00 a.m. in Doug Carpenter Hall. The Most Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori, presiding bishop, and the Rt. Rev. Henry and Becky Parsley will be joining the celebration. Please see first page of the Bethany at Camp McDowell insert in this issue for details.
The soul is our monastery within, and God’s indwelling within the human person. There is no greater unity than of the love and presence between God and creation and person. The Holy Spirit seeks to purify that unity and to restore it back to a place of intimacy and truth. I do not know of any greater gift than of awareness and intimate presence of God within the inmost being of one’s soul. That is characteristic of the empowerment and transformation of God. The experience of the unconditional love of God completely affirms the goodness of the individual. Love transforms and invites meaning through the experience of the personal relationship. The transformation within the self that occurs as the result of the presence and love of God is a lifelong process. It takes place within relationship, the relationship of self to God, to others and to all life. Yet, there are recognizable changes along the way. Those changes involve becoming more like Jesus. It is “filling up with Christ,” or “putting on the mind of Christ” experience that is described in St. Paul’s letters. It is an experience of integration of self into love. The integration involves the early process of the internalization of a beloved sense of “self,” the later process of internalization of the beloved or of one’s personal experience of being loved by God, an alignment with or an inversion of values that Jesus exemplified (gospel values), and changes in one’s thinking, behavior, feelings and physiology.

From my days at General Theological Seminary on Christian Spirituality, I learned that internal changes that occur within a person’s soul because of God’s transforming love are described in terms of progressive stages: the illuminative, the purifying, and the unitive. What this simply means is that, if one experienced the transforming effects of God’s love within his or her life, one is likely to think, do, feel and experience confidence and courage to profess their faith more readily. The fundamental suggestion is that we are likely to develop a deep sense of spiritual empowered and unfettered grace to do so. Jesus’ life was full of empowerment by the Father’s love and will. Much can be learned about the empowerment of God from the interactions of Jesus with others. A few dynamic stories immediately come to mind. One was Jesus’ responses to others. While he offered healing, teaching and counseling to many, the particular instances in which Jesus rejoiced greatly were whenever he encountered a faith response in a person. Jesus was noticeably affected, and this is confirmed by how often he stopped whatever he was doing to remark on that person’s faith. There was something of great importance in faith. It seems that faith was the beginning of some experience of empowerment.

The beginning of the empowerment of God, as exemplified by Jesus, is one that leads to love. To have faith is the beginning of a relationship. One is able to believe in a person and begin to live in some degree of “relationship with” that person. There is a breakthrough in one’s association and of one’s identity. To have faith in Jesus is the beginning of one’s personal relationship with him. That is just the beginning, for empowerment leads to transformation.

By the gift of the Holy Spirit we have been transformed. We have the invitation to become empowered by God’s love and to become “Christ-like” in all our loving relationships. God offers us this invitation in complete freedom. We also are called to invite others to learn more and to experience this transforming love of God through by engaging ministries within our church community.

“The gift of the Holy Spirit transformed the reality of the experience of personhood with the love of God.”

“Love transforms and invites meaning through the experience of the personal relationship.”

“We have the invitation to become empowered by God’s love and to become “Christ-like” in all our loving relationships.”
**“Dreaming is Believing”**

Sawyerville Day Camp is about to begin

By Claire Cotten, Sawyerville Day Camp Staff

We look forward to welcoming almost 800 campers (all of whom attend for free because of your generosity), 300 staff volunteers and 25 literacy participants. We also have 10 young adult summer interns and 13 Yellowhammer Literacy Project staff. The numbers speak for themselves, this is going to be another amazing summer of ministry together in the Black Belt!

Follow along as we do daily and weekly updates to our website and Blog [www.sawyervilledaycamp.org](http://www.sawyervilledaycamp.org)

**2015 Sawyerville Day Camp Dates**

Session 1: June 6-12
Session 2: June 13-19
Session 3: June 27-July 3

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**Making dreams come true -**

Gifts for Grads Campaign launches new scholarship fund for former Sawyerville campers

By Leslie Manning Sawyerville Day Camp Director

The Sawyerville Day Camp ministry has established a scholarship fund to help former campers offset the cost of attending college or vocational school.

The fund is off to a great start thanks to the Gifts for Grads Campaign, which raised more than $31,000 in just three days. Two generous donors matched the first $15,000 donated to enable us to reach the impressive three-day total of $31,826. Thank you to all who contributed.

The funds will be invested through the diocese and only the gains will be used to provide scholarships. So please consider contributing to the fund at [http://www.sawyervilledaycamp.org](http://www.sawyervilledaycamp.org).

No gift is too small, and every gift counts. You are welcome to give in honor of a recent graduate, soon-to-be-graduate, a camper, a loved one, or your favorite teacher. We will be sure to let them know about your gift and the life-changing work of Sawyerville Day Camp.

It has been amazing to watch the growth and depth that this ministry has experienced over the last decade. It’s incredible to watch our campers grow up and turn into some of our most valuable staff volunteers. More and more staff volunteers and their parents come to me and ask what sort of support the camp can provide for college or vocational training programs. The scholarship fund is an example of what our ministry can do. “Camp” as it is known in the community has become a safe space, a consistent and life-giving source that is representative of our sustained presence in the community and the children’s lives.

As we continue to dream and plan out our next ten years and beyond, our aim is to continue to foster these relationships, have the deepest impact possible and support our campers from childhood into adulthood.

Recently, one of our key volunteers summarized exactly why we continue to expand and move into the academic components of our campers’ lives. It isn’t because research told us to or because anyone feels guilt or pity or a sense of obligation. He put it simply: “Because we love them.”

Thank you for your continued support of this important ministry.
Episcopal Place celebrated its 10th Anniversary Gumbo Gala April 18, at Regions Field in downtown Birmingham. Despite wet weather, an estimated 2,500 people attended to sample gumbo from a record 54 teams. The crowd enjoyed dozens of delicious gumbo varieties, arts and crafts vendors, and the new venue. One vendor raved, “We thought this year’s Gumbo Gala was the BEST, despite the rain!...Regions Field turned out to be a great site and we hope...you raised a lot of money for Episcopal Place. Please invite us back next year!”

Episcopal Place residents were present in full force selling cookbooks, presenting a drawing for a television, and providing two cook teams, the Cutie Patoostes (women’s team) and the Stud Muffins (men’s team). Other teams represented churches, local businesses and corporations, avid home cooks, and excellent local restaurants.

Thanks to generous sponsors, record team participation, and high ticket sales, Gumbo Gala 2015 was a huge success, providing much needed funds for Episcopal Place. As one participant commented, “Great event for a great cause...Can’t wait for next year!”

Episcopal Place is an independent living facility for seniors and disabled adults with limited income. Proceeds from Gumbo Gala help provide services such as transportation, subsidized hot lunches, enrichment activities, pastoral care, and an emergency relief fund.

The winning teams:

Most Spirit Third Place – Three Hots and a Cot
Most Spirit Second Place – Yoda’s Bayou
Most Spirit First Place – Apostles with Fire
Chef’s Choice Chicken/Sausage Category – Arthur Gallager & Co.
Chef’s Choice Seafood Category – St. Martin’s RouxStirs
Chef’s Choice Specialty Category – Boateng’s Cajun Creations
People’s Choice Third Place – St. Mary’s Roux Crew
People’s Choice Second Place – Arthur Gallagher & Co.
People’s Choice First Place – Work Play
Birmingham’s Best Gumbo Backyard Division Third Place – Kirkwood Craw Fish
Birmingham’s Best Gumbo Backyard Division Second Place – St. Luke’s Episcopal NOLA Gumbo
Birmingham’s Best Gumbo Backyard Division First Place – Royal Cup Coffee
Birmingham’s Best Gumbo Professional Division – Spoon & Ladle Soup Co.
Gumbo Devine – Pelham Financial/Trinity Commons

View winning team photos at: http://bit.ly/1culEXr
One week after Bloody Sunday in 1965, a group of peaceful protestors who had heeded Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s call to come to Selma tried to enter St. Paul’s Episcopal Church for Sunday morning worship.

“These demonstrators didn’t carry signs. They didn’t chant catchy phrases. Instead, they came armed with the Episcopal Church’s Book of Common Prayer,” said St. Paul rector Jack Alvey. A group of ushers denied them entry, prompting about 25 St. Paul’s members to walk out of the church. They joined the group of 19 on the church’s steps and said together a prayer called the General Confession.

“Almighty and most merciful Father; We have erred and strayed from thy ways like lost sheep,” the prayer begins.

The group parted ways after the brief confession but the tidal wave of social change was sweeping through Selma. The aftermath of several highly charged meetings was the decision to abide by church canon to welcome all Episcopalians, which resulted in a March 28 integrated service.

The 50th anniversary of that event was honored on Palm Sunday with a service of reconciliation. Members from St. Mark’s Birmingham, a mostly black Episcopal parish, as well as Brown Chapel AME and other churches joined St. Paul’s for the special service.

Clergy and members from both parishes served as ushers, Eucharistic ministers and participated in the annual Palm Sunday reading of the Passion story.

“But every time I hesitated, every time I tried to justify why today didn’t need to happen, God kept on reminding me — you are not defined by what you have done or left undone; you are defined by Jesus Christ — the one who has already done it all for us.”

The Rev. Carolyn Foster, a deacon at St. Mark’s, is also on the Episcopal Diocese of Alabama’s Commission on Race Relations. She said it’s healthy for the church to have these types of conversations on race today.

“Obviously, the Holy Spirit was present, and I am so excited about this whole process. Especially with everything happening in the world today, to have God’s children come together like this is a really powerful moment for me,” Foster said. “Working toward truth and reconciliation in a public way and open way is healing for all of us, and I’m very moved by it.”

Selma attorney Bill Gamble’s parents, Harry and Kate Gamble, were two of the St. Paul’s parishioners to walk out when fellow Episcopalians were denied worship. He said his parents would be proud of the spirit of Sunday’s service.

“It was uplifting for everyone. This was a service of reconciliation and also of joy, and I couldn’t have been more thrilled,” Gamble said. “They would be so happy. They would just be joyous. This was what they hoped for. It really was.”

Editor’s note: This article and photos, which appeared in the Selma Times Journal, are reprinted with permission. Watch a video of the service at: http://bit.ly/1CpjTU8
“To all who are weary and need rest; to all who are lonely and want friendship; to all who mourn and need comfort; to all who pray and to all who do not, but ought to; to all who sin and need a Savior; and to whosoever will — this Church opens wide the door, and says in the name of the Lord Jesus, WELCOME.”

With these words Miller Childers, a member of the St. Paul’s vestry in 1965 who spoke out in support of integration, and Lou, Willie, III, who at nine-years-old was among the group from St. Mark’s that was turned away in 1965, gave the call to worship for the Palm Sunday service of reconciliation.
Such passion! Such service!

The diocesan and seminarian coordinators and congregational representatives for Episcopal Relief & Development gathered in Seattle for their annual meeting April 16 - 18. The three-day meeting included daily worship and updates on the many programs of Episcopal Relief & Development.

Wow! We continue to be in awe of how effectively we alleviate hunger and improve the food supply. International Program Officer Sara Delaney showed us how ABCD (Asset Based Community Development) really does help farmers increase yields and feed their communities, simply by using what they already have, their human, natural, physical, social, economic, temporal, and spiritual assets.

This is but one of many examples of how Episcopal Relief & Development transforms lives around the world.

U.S. Disaster Program Manager Katie Mears presented the Asset Mapping Project, a collaboration of Episcopal Relief & Development with the Church Center, to capture assets in each diocese — ministries, programs, talents, and gifts — to catalog resource availability in times of disaster and to connect others with similar ministries throughout the Church. For example, the Diocese of Alabama is known for its beans and rice ministries. A map showing all these ministries would offer a source of inspiration and unity.

We learned of a new partnership with Equal Exchange where purchases of fair trade items such as coffee, tea, and chocolate yield donations to Episcopal Relief & Development (15% of each purchase).

Marilyn Lands, parish representative at the Church of the Nativity in Huntsville, also attended, the national meeting. Marilyn reflects on the meeting:

“Throughout my three days there, I witnessed incredible sharing, amazing stories and I made wonderful new friends who inspired me with their commitment, enthusiasm and passion for this wonderful organization. The goals of alleviating hunger, creating economic opportunities, providing disaster relief and improving health were evident in every presentation and in everyone I met. I was moved by the stories from Guatemala about helping people to believe in themselves and the emphasis on creating the catalyst for change from within rather than from outside influences as well as the importance of connecting with communities. A reoccurring theme I kept hearing was the life-changing nature of the work of Episcopal Relief & Development and I was amazed at the joy-filled lives of the wonderful people who are devoting their lives to this work. My hope is to convey that joy with those in my parish and our diocese and to inspire others to more fully engage in the work of Episcopal Relief & Development.”

Marilyn will join me as we serve as diocesan co-coordinators to spread the good news of the work of Episcopal Relief & Development. The work continues, most recently, in the response to the Nepal earthquake. Learn more at https://www.episcopalrelief.org/press-and-resources/press-releases/2015-press-releases/earthquake-in-nepal

Gratitude continues for the generosity of parishes and individuals in the diocese to honor the 75th Anniversary of Episcopal Relief & Development.

Editor’s note: For more information, contact the Rev. Deacon Judy Quick, at jgquick@bellsouth.net, 205-669-6862 (home), 770-366-4034 (cell) or Marilyn Lands at marilynlands@gmail.com For information about the Equal Exchange Program - equalexchange.coop/episcopalrelief

St. John’s Deaf Church member confirmed at age 92

A longtime, faithful member of St. John’s Deaf Church in Birmingham was confirmed at age 92 in a special service at the Legacy Rehabilitation Center in Pleasant Grove March 22. Charles Walter Burney, who goes by “Curly,” was confirmed by the Rt. Rev. Santosh Murray, assistant bishop of the Diocese of Alabama.

Scheduled to be confirmed during the bishop’s scheduled visitation to St. John's, his hopes were disappointed when he was admitted to the rehabilitation center prior to Murray’s visit. When the bishop heard about it, he arranged for the confirmation to take place at the rehab center immediately following his visit to the parish.

The bishop, his wife Lynn, and nine of Burney’s friends were present for the confirmation service. The Rev. Marianne Stuart, St. John’s rector interpreted the service.

“Curley was overjoyed with this now completed milestone in his life and looks forward to getting back to St. John’s Deaf Church and his friends,” said Stuart. “He often serves as a lay reader, and shows a clear love for God and his church.”

Editor’s note: A video of the service is available at: http://bit.ly/1zHdIZ.
Dedication of Bethany Village at Camp McDowell

By Danielle Dunbar

Loving God, you have taught us to welcome one another as Christ welcomed us: Bless those who from time to time share the hospitality of this place. May your fatherly care shield them, the love of your dear Son preserve them from all evil, and the guidance of your Holy Spirit keep them in the way that leads to eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The Dedication of Bethany Village will be June 20, 2015 in Doug Carpenter Hall at 10:00 a.m. We have so much to celebrate! With your generous gifts we have raised over $7.7 million and we need only $1.5 million more to complete our funding needs. This ambitious, glorious expansion of Camp McDowell is being completed on schedule and on budget. Hooray! Because of your help from across the Diocese we will be doing more of what we believe God is calling us to do. We are currently putting the finishing touches on all of the new accommodations! We are scheduling and planning our new ministries! Join us on Saturday the 20th as we bless our “wonderful, wonderful” new facilities and to experience them for yourself.

Read the following to learn what will happen at the dedication. Please use your smartphone or digital camera to take pictures and share them on social media with #bethanyd from the event! ddechitls@diocese.org

SCHEDULE
9:00 Arrive at Camp McDowell
10:00 Dedication of Bethany at Doug Carpenter Hall
- We will begin the service together which will be similar to a House Blessing.
- At the sermon time we will be sent forth to dedicate the individual buildings and facilities.
- All will return to Doug Carpenter Hall where we will conclude with the Eucharist.
12:00 Lunch

After the dedication we hope you will stay for lunch and be part of Diocesan Homecoming weekend. Homecoming activities include guided hikes, Tillers Beach, ropes course, McDowell Environmental and Farm School programs, fellowship, swimming, canoeing, fishing in the new pond, family friendly games, worship, pasture party and hayride, Alabama Folk School concert, and MUCH, MUCH MORE!

We need everyone to register so we have an accurate head count for meals and parking. Are you coming only for the dedication and staying for lunch? Then register for “Bethany Dedication Day.” Are you coming for the dedication and staying the afternoon or longer? Then register for “Diocesan Homecoming.” Both registration links can be found at www.campmc.dowell.com. For questions about registration contact danielle@campmc.dowell.com or guestservices@campmc.dowell.com.

During the weekend of June 19-21, there will be many camps and groups sharing McDowell. We will be hosting:
- Special Session
- Elementary I Summer Camp Session
- Alabama Folk School “C.A.M.P. Camp”
- Diocesan Homecoming
- Bethany Dedication

It will be a wonderful, wonderful time together sharing and growing as we learn to use all of our new facilities at one time. Please bring your open hearts and minds, extra store of patience, and enthusiasm for this spirit-filled, celebratory weekend.
MEETING OUR GOALS

What were our original goals for Bethany? See how we’re doing...

- Build an expanded, fully accessible summer-camp style complex to serve more youth and adults with disabilities in additional special sessions.
- We have completed 10 accessible camp cabins with Doug Carpenter Hall in which to serve meals and hold meetings. The universally designed cabins include storm safe bathrooms and there is a paved walkway linking the cabins and dining hall. There is a Health Hut, Arts & Crafts pavilion, canteen, and pool. These facilities will be utilized this summer by Special Session and we will also host Jeni & Friends, Camp C.O.O.L., and Bethany’s Kids. At Jeni’s and Friends special-needs families receive encouragement and care in the comfort of a safe, faith based, family-camp environment. You enjoy fun and fully-accessible, age-appropriate activities, along with meaningful conversations with families who understand the challenges of life with a disability. We are the host site for Camp C.O.O.L., a camp for those with cerebral palsy or spina bifida, ages 6-19. Finally Bethany’s Kids is an inclusion camp for young people with physical and mental disabilities AND typical kids.
- Create job opportunities at Camp McDowell for individuals with mental and physical challenges.
  
  Rebecca Alexander has worked with us for several years and is a delight to have in the kitchen of Stough Dining Hall. Meg Kellenberger will serve as an intern this summer at Bethany. She is a junior at Samford, has CF, and uses a wheelchair. We hope to have more individuals with mental and physical challenges join the camp family in the near future.
- Construct a group of lodges similar to Miller Commons for additional parish retreats, conferences, and spiritual programs with a new lake as a peaceful, serene backdrop.
- Host Diocesan Convention in similar to our accessible and accessible facilities. We will add an additional 332 beds with the expansion and the new camp dining hall and meeting hall can be opened fully to accommodate groups up to 600.

  There are six lodges in Parsley Commons that will be utilized for additional parish retreats beginning in June 2015. We will also host Diocesan Convention February 5-7, 2016. Camp staff are working to secure additional conferences and spiritual programs to fill these spaces including the International Association of Conference Center Administrators and the House of Bishops. There is one additional lodge among the Bethany Cabins. Beautiful Sloan Lake provides just the right setting for our new lodges and as a place for relaxation and recreation.
- Add a residential, hands-on Farm Education Program during the school year to be a companion program of the highly successful McDowell Environmental Center. Students attending our Teaching Farm program will utilize the additional camp style cabins.

  We’ve had 36 school groups come through the McDowell Farm School since we began our pilot program in 2012. Maggie Johnston, Director of McDowell Education Programs is helping Jen Nee, Farm School Director, grow this program. We have many years of experience with environmental education and a loyal following of schools. We expect this program to grow substantially over the next few years.
- Grow fresh fruits and vegetables at our Production Farm and in our orchard and raise poultry and livestock. We will use them in our education programs and serve our bounty directly from farm to Camp table.

  This spring we are growing potatoes, radishes, lettuce, anguka, garlic, peas, mushrooms, flowers, kale, cilantro, mint and bee hives. In our greenhouse we have melons, tomatoes, and much more started for the summer. Our fruit orchard, which includes apple, pear, and persimmon trees, has many blossoms. McDowell Farm lettuce and eggs are becoming staple in the dining hall. The students have been making salads, anguka pesto, green garlic aioli, and mint tea. Hungry yet?!?
- Develop spiritual programs cooperatively with the Diocese to meet the needs of our diocesan family and the Kingdom.

  At the recent Clergy Conference, Mark Johnston had a conversation with those present about what retreats and programming they would like to have at Camp McDowell. Some of the ideas included programs to support veterans, a weekend that combined several small parish vespers retreats for collaboration, and many other ideas. Kathy Graham, Lifelong Christian Formation Minister, will connect the efforts of the Commission on Spirituality with those at camp. A survey is being crafted by camp staff for priests and lay people to make suggestions about more spirituality programming as well.
- Employ more local residents during and after construction to boost the hurting local economy.

  Many people in Winston and Walker Counties live in poverty. During the past 18 months over $10 million in construction money has gone into the local economy, and almost all construction workers have been from our area. Also numerous local residents have joined the Camp McDowell staff. They are so grateful to have Camp McDowell as a generous and competent employer.
- Celebrate the arts by providing a permanent platform for teaching, learning, and performing in new studios, multi-purpose workrooms, and a music/dance hall befitting the Alabama Folk School.

  The Alabama Folk School has been able to double its offerings in 2015 thanks to the new facilities provided at Bethany. Hall Hall is the new performance/dance hall; the Gail & Ronnie Rogers Teaching Kitchen will be open for workshops soon; a pottery and fiber arts studio is well under construction; and Pops’ Blacksmith Shop will be ready for its first workshop in July. Go to www.alfolkschool.com for more information.
- Gain educational and financial benefits from using alternative energy sources, aggressive recycling and composting with a goal of zero-waste.

  Many of you saw the black, coiled tubing in Sloan Lake as it was filling. This is part of our geothermal heating and cooling system. We will use the constant temperature of the lake to help make the heating and cooling of Doug Carpenter Hall and other buildings more efficient. Windmills have been ordered and some solar is now in use at the farm. We are working on a project that will produce energy from our dam on Clear Creek and the waste at our construction sites has been minimal. Camp McDowell is truly a place to see waste reduced, reused, and recycled!

Please use this pledge card today to prayerfully make a financial gift which you can pay over the next 3-5 years. Every gift helps!

In support of Bethany Village at Camp McDowell, I/we intend to contribute a total of $___________. Payment of this gift is to extend over _________ (three to five) years, beginning in 20______. An initial payment of $___________ is enclosed and I/we prefer to remit the balance _____________________________ quarterly, or ____________ monthly. I understand that this statement represents neither a binding obligation on my part nor the part of my estate, and that contributions are tax deductible to the fullest extent provided by law.

Full Name ____________________________
Address _______________________________
Phone __________________ Email address ______________
Signature _______________________________

I prefer to receive statement information via □ email or □ traditional mail.

Please make checks payable to Camp McDowell with Bethany Village in the memo line. Mail contributions to Danielle Dunbar:
Carpenter House, 521 N. 20th St., Birmingham, AL 35203

Please add this to (my parish’s)_________ pledge total.
The Rev. Doug Carpenter has done it again. He has written another enjoyable book. This one chronicles the history of our beloved Camp McDowell as it grew from a summer camp to a conference center and place of learning. With chapters like, “The First Camp Sessions in Winston County, 1948,” “Scott Eppes and Dynamite,” “Glen and Talma DeLong,” “Cursillo,” and “Mark Wylie Johnston,” you will have a hard time putting it down.

This 144-page book is $20 and all proceeds go to finish building Bethany at Camp McDowell. There are several ways you can purchase The Way the World Could Be. Contact Doug Carpenter, carpenter.doug7436@att.net, or Danielle Dunbar, danielle@campmcdowell.com, with questions.

To purchase a copy:
1. Send a note to Doug Carpenter and for $23 (checks made payable to Camp McDowell) he will mail you a copy of the book. 3037 Overton Rd., Birmingham, AL 35223 or carpenter.doug7436@att.net
2. Go to Camp McDowell and find the book at the new Camp Store. Julia Emrich is the store manager and can fill your orders. julia@campmcdowell.com
3. Visit Danielle Dunbar at Carpenter House in Birmingham. 521 North 20th St., Birmingham, AL 35203, danielle@campmcdowell.com

An Excerpt from The Way the World Could Be, by the Rev. Doug Carpenter

A few years ago I found a lengthy message in my mailbox written by a young lady reflecting on the power of stories in her life. It concluded with, “There will always be a wonderful Camp McDowell memory of the year we did the ‘Pearl Parable’ with mirrors hidden all over Camp. That summer we searched for treasure, the most valuable in the world. We were told it was God’s favorite thing, what he held closest to his heart. The first night that week at Compline I can remember Doug bending all the way over just to hear me whisper that we were the pearls. God’s treasures. I don’t think I have ever felt as precious as I did that evening. In the presence of God’s love.”

I remember that, too. In that quiet moment her voice was mingled with the sounds of the water in Clear Creek, the bull frogs, the tree frogs and the cicadas that formed “God’s Choir” every evening.

During much of the 1990s, my wife, Ann, and I enjoyed directing the camp sessions for third, fourth, and fifth graders…
Come Envision, Include, and Inspire with us at Camp McDowell this summer! We have built Bethany and now it is time to fill it with loving ministries and workshops. Please share the information below with youth who are grieving (Our Time), have special needs (Joni & Friends, Camp COOL, and Bethany’s Kids), or typical kids looking for more fun and community at Wonderful, Wonderful Camp McDowell (Fiddle workshop, Blacksmithing workshop, Bethany’s kids, and Guitar workshop). Contact susanna@campmcdowell.com with more questions.

Do you know a young person who is grieving? OUR TIME, a camp for kids healing from loss, is now being offered AT NO COST, May 29-June 1. OUR TIME is for rising 6-8th grades (or similar age). We encourage you to learn more about this special experience that combines summer camp, Christian community, and grief support. We hope you will spread the word about OUR TIME and join us for the best summer ever as we seek to serve God, all people, and creation through worship, learning, rest, and play!

OUR TIME/May 29-June 1 A camp for kids healing from loss. For rising 6-8th graders (and similar ages) who have experienced loss through death of a loved one. NO FEE.

Alabama Folk School: Youth Fiddler Workshop/June 4-6 A unique combination of blacksmithing instruction and summer camp for rising 5th-12th graders. Some experience is helpful!

Special Session/June 14-21 A wonderful session for adults with disabilities and high school students who are their counselors.

Joni & Friends Family Retreat/June 29-July 3 A retreat for families that have a member with a disability. Joni & Friends offers Christ-centered encouragement and practical help to families. “Short Term Missionaries” may serve as staff members for this event.

Camp COOL: Children Overcoming Obstacles with Love/July 9-12 A camp for people with CP or Spina Bifida, ages 6-19 years.

Alabama Folk School: Youth Blacksmith Workshop/July 9-11 A unique combination of blacksmithing instruction and summer camp for rising 9th-12th graders. Beginners welcome!

Bethany’s Kids July 26-29 An inclusion summer camp for ALL rising 5th-7th graders. Bethany’s Kids is for young people with physical and mental disabilities AND typical kids. Our “CAMPER AID” program (for rising 9th-12th) offers young people the opportunity to serve as a staff member for this camp.

Alabama Folk School: Youth Guitar Workshop/July 30-August 1 A unique combination of music instruction and summer camp for rising 9th-12th graders. Some experience is helpful!

For more information, please contact Development Director Danielle Dunbar at danielle@campmcdowell.com, 205/358-9234, the Rev. Mark Johnston at mark@campmcdowell.com, or the camp office at 205/387-1806. [www.BethanyAtCamp.com, instagram account, CampMcDowell, or Facebook page, Camp McDowell (official)]
The Diocese of Alabama has submitted a 2015 United Thank Offering (UTO) Grant Application from Christ Church, Fairfield for its “Christ Church Café.”

The purpose of the project is to begin a feeding ministry to the Fairfield community on the fourth Sunday of each month. In order to accomplish this they are seeking a UTO grant to refurbish and expand their small, outdated kitchen.

The 2015 United Thank Offering grants session is focusing on the Episcopal Church’s Fourth Mark of Mission, “to seek to transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and to pursue peace and reconciliation.” In celebration of the 125th anniversary of the United Thank Offering, the annual grants focus is working towards God’s vision for his people and is seeking to change lives in a new way by a variety of actions.

The United Thank Offering is able to fund grant requests domestically and abroad with the money received from UTO Ingatherings and the UTO Blue Boxes. The people of the Diocese of Alabama are leaders in contributing to this important ministry that brings hope, peace and reconciliation to those who desperately need it. The UTO requests that all parishes continue to offer awareness of this need. The winners of the 2015 UTO Grant applications will be announced at Triennial in June.
A mission team from the Episcopal Church of the Nativity in Huntsville recently spent a week in Haiti working with their Haitian counterparts to share Christ’s love and provide medical care for more than 450 people.

Arriving at the Birmingham airport Saturday Feb. 28, at 4:30 a.m. in freezing weather with 600 pounds of checked baggage and supplies, the six-member Nativity team, which included a member from St. Thomas Church in Huntsville, was ready to serve.

Their supplies included antibiotics, vitamins, blood-pressure medication, powdered milk, condoms, birthing packs, crayons, and scarves donated by the Reflections Bible Study Group. Deplaning in Port au Prince, the customs agents thought the team’s supplies were not in line with current customs policy, according to Bob Serio, a physician and the team’s leader. With skilled negotiations by the clergy and a “customs payment,” the team cleared customs and were on their way.

The team’s home for the week was the new Lespwa Timoun Clinic (translated Hope for the Children) in Croix de Bouquets, a Port-au-Prince suburb. The clinic has been a long-term dream of the team’s hosts, Father Fritz (Pere Val) Valdema, an Episcopal priest, and his wife, Carmel, a registered nurse. “We watched the (construction) progress of the clinic over past mission trips and were impressed by the shining new facility,” said Serio. “That evening we had the first of many delicious Haitian meals prepared by Carmel and the friendly staff.

Sunday morning, the team attended an inspiring, three-hour Eucharist at Pere Val’s St. Simeon Church. Services were held in the St. Simeon School because the termite-damaged roof of the 50-year old church had collapsed during construction work to expand the nave. Spiritually energized, the team prepared supplies and counted medication and vitamins for the next four days of clinics.

At Lespwa Timoun Clinic on Monday, the team joined the clinic staff singing and praying in Creole before seeing patients. “We saw 65 patients with the help of Dr. Johnnie, the clinic’s regular physician,” said Serio.

That afternoon, Carmel, who works tirelessly to improve the health of Haiti’s children by teaching proper nutrition, gave the team a tour of the clinic grounds, including the vegetable gardens. Among traditional crops, Carmel is teaching the people in the community to grow Moringa trees (“trees for life”). Almost all parts of the moringa tree are used for food, oil, fiber, and medicine. She has a program to show the people how to prepare protein-rich meals and use the pods for livestock.

Haiti’s growing season is year-round. But the lack of sufficient rain between November and May is a problem for the clinic gardens. City-supplied electrical power to drive the pump for the clinic’s well is unpredictable, and the cost of gasoline for the generator is prohibitive. As part of its companion relationship with the Diocese of Haiti, the Diocese of Alabama is working with Pere Val and others to build a water tower to allow effective year-round cultivation.

Over the next three days, the Haitian-American team of medical and support personnel conducted mobile clinics in the villages of Gormon, Crochu — a 90 minute trip up the side of a mountain — and Guedon — a new clinic about 20 minutes from Croix des Boquets. They saw more than 400 patients. About one-third of the patients were under age five and many others were pregnant women without adequate prenatal care. Other ailments included hypertension, arthritis, urinary tract infections, colds, and ear infections. For some patients, the mobile clinics may be the only time they see a physician or nurse.

The team saw significant progress with Diocese of Alabama-supported projects. The school at Crochu has been completed and the new church is scheduled for dedication this June. The Krik Krak program is supplying 250...
The Diocese of Alabama shines Christ’s light in a variety of global mission endeavors, through its companion relationship with Haiti, through parish relationships with ministries in a number of foreign countries, and through individual missionary experiences.

On my recent mission to El Hogar de Amor y Esperanza, in Honduras, with veteran mission team leader, Christine Mercer, I took this photo of Carol Smedley with one of the children. A member of Holy Spirit Alabaster and a parish representative for Episcopal Relief & Development, Carol was on her second mission to El Hogar. Look at her hand, the tender touch of love, Christ’s love.

That is indeed what we experienced each day, with hugs and love, a simple ministry of presence, touching the people of God and yes, letting them touch us. I simply offer this image which only begins to capture the depth of emotion, the joy, the fun, the play, with these children who have been rescued from the streets of Tegucigalpa or whose impoverished parents offered them to El Hogar so the children could have three meals a day, receive traditional and biblical education, and be on the road to a transformed life, perhaps to become the new middle class.

For the team, the most important part of the trip was just being there. As one of their translators said, “just letting the people know that someone cares” is reason to keep coming back.

“It’s all about the ‘touch’”

By the Rev. Deacon Judy Quick, Global Mission Roundtable Chair

“Touch is the heart and soul of outreach mission work – touching people of God and letting them touch us.” (The Right Rev. Kee Sloan)

The Diocese of Alabama shines Christ’s light in a variety of global mission endeavors, through its companion relationship with Haiti, through parish relationships with ministries in a number of foreign countries, and through individual missionary experiences.

Editor’s note: The team included Nativity parishioners: Bob Serio, physician (team leader), Lisa Hardy, nurse practitioner, Debbie Collette, pharmacist, Margaret Devenish, pharmaceutical representative, and Nativity’s rector, the Rev. Andy Anderson; and from St. Thomas Huntsville, Libby Potter, teacher and photographer. The team wishes to thank Nativity’s Outreach Committee for their continuing generous support, and Nativity, St. Michael’s and All Angels’ Anniston, and Epiphany Cullman parishioners, and St. Thomas’ outreach committee, for their donations. Additional thanks to Blessings International who supplied the medications, and to the Diocese of Alabama’s Companion Diocese Commission and its chair, the Rev. Deacon CJ Van Slyke for her continued support and counsel.
Departing Youth Department members reflect on their experience

Mary Margaret Murdock, Christ Church, Tuscaloosa: My two terms serving on the Youth Department have been full of great challenge, but also great joy. Being on YD takes up so much time and energy, but it has been the most rewarding experience of my high school career. The friendships I’ve made through this community and the friendships with fellow YD representatives will follow me to college and beyond. Being thrown in with ten other people and spending so much time together allows you to learn a lot about yourself, good team work, and harmony. It’s going to be extremely difficult to leave and I think that says a lot about how much it means to me.

Sam Jones, Epiphany, Guntersville: Youth Department means more to me than any other group I have ever been a part of. The role demands commitment, but the investment is infinitely rewarding. In my time as a member I have grown as a person, developed countless awesome lasting relationships, and had a blast. I have been through so much with my fellow YD members, and they have become my best friends in the entire world. The demands of being a member of this group have taught me firsthand how to work as a team member and be an effective leader. If it weren’t for YD, I wouldn’t be the person I am so grateful to have become. My time on Youth Department has been a rollercoaster, and I wish I could ride it again. It’s not for everyone, but those who serve the community as members of the Youth Department stand to gain an amazing experience.

Paley Smith, St. Luke’s, Birmingham: Quick story time…I have always wanted to run for YD ever since 10th grade, but I never did because I always thought no one knew me, why would people vote for me? This year I decided if I didn’t run, I wouldn’t regret it for one second. Do you think about yourself, God, and love than I ever expected to. I can honestly say this group of people has changed my life and I have not regretted it for one second. So don’t be scared to take a chance and run for YD!

Jackson Massey, Ascension, Montgomery: I have loved meeting so many wonderful people and just being part of something real and genuine.

Sally Fargason, Holy Trinity, Auburn: I used to be shy, not outgoing girl, never wanting to be the center of attention. But through YD and the love I have received these past two years, I have grown outside of my shell. I love these people with all of my heart…the love I have for this diocese and group of humans is breathtaking…YD has changed my life and I suggest that you run even if it seems way out of your comfort zone, because God works in mysterious ways and you never know where you will find your niche.

Jon Aumann, Epiphany, Guntersville: I have truly

never had an experience quite like Youth Department. The individuals I’ve spent time with these last two years are my best friends and I love them with all my being. Eleven people make up YD, but it is so much more than that. YD pushes each of its members into new and more creative ideologies so we may better serve and grow the community that elected us. As Youth Department members, we act as models of servant leadership by representing and speaking on behalf of every youth in the diocese. I am extremely grateful for the opportunity to be an active member in the growth of our youth and privileged to be in a diocese that places such a high value in the youth.

Ben Williams, St. Thomas, Huntsville: YD has been an incredible experience for me. I’ve grown so close to everybody that on this year that I would honestly consider them my best friends. I genuinely look forward to seeing these people every month for our planning meetings.

LB Passey, St. Stephen’s, Birmingham: Two years on the Youth Department have taught me these things: Peanut butter does not come off car doors. Always make a rain plan. Silence is not awkward. Ask for help. Sam Jones holds the record for making noises in meetings. Always check my e-mail. Family is not defined by blood. The best activities lie within an arms reach of crayons. Spiritual formation is necessary. Kids hold the power in this world. Doodle enough and it becomes a t-shirt. Never take advisors for granted. Yoga isn’t so bad. More people like to knit than play a sport. I’m terrible at knitting. God is real and alive in cookies, poems, storms, flexible schedules, venting, death, and a bucket of candy. Open mic is a sacrament. I am a better person for serving with my favorite people in the entire world; I will never be alone. When in doubt, Anis Mojgani. We, as youth, are unstoppable; Crying is not for the weak, it is for the beautiful.

Alabama Episcopalians gather for a night of fun, fellowship & baseball

Despite the threat of rain more than 170 fans from a dozen-plus Episcopal parishes filled the outfield picnic area of Regions Field Friday, April 24, to enjoy each other’s company and watch the Birmingham Barons play the Pensacola Blue Wahoos.

As the evening began, the Rt. Rev. Santosh Murray, the Diocese of Alabama’s assistant bishop, cleared the plate with the traditional opening pitch. He then joined an 18-voice children’s choir as they sang the national anthem. The choir, made up of choristers from among the parishes represented at the game were St. Mary’s on the Highlands, Birmingham; St. Andrew’s, Southside; All Saints, Homewood; Holy Apostles, Hoover; Ascension, Montgomery; and St. Luke’s, Mountain Brook.

Events like these “get us out of our familiar places and bring us together,” said Diocesan Bishop, the Rt. Rev. Kee Sloan. “Anytime we can come together and have fun and enjoy the community of the church and the community of Birmingham is a good thing.” He paused before adding, “I love baseball, that’s a plus.”

The game was a nail-biter, in which the Barons edged out the Wahoos 2–1 with a ninth inning run. The evening ended with a noisy and vibrant Region’s Field’s Friday Night Fireworks display.

This was the second year the diocese has hosted an Episcopal Day with the Barons. The event was a great success at bringing together Episcopalians with the wider community for a fun evening. “It’s so easy for church people to hunker down in their own church and think of it as the church. It’s nice to connect with the larger church,” Sloan concluded. See more photos at: http://bit.ly/1KljIPj.

May/June 2015
Rites of Spring is the last Youth Department event for the program year and it serves as a time of transition, with EYC Convention and the elections for the coming year’s new Youth Department members taking place as part of the event.

This year’s event was a fantastic celebration of the work of this ministry and specifically this year’s members. We hosted the largest number of participants to date for this event, with 75 campers and a whole bunch of adults too, at Camp McDowell March 20–22. The Rev. Jonathan Chesney from Holy Trinity in Auburn served as our program director and he led us through the event theme of “Whenever you go…” “Our very own Youth Department member, LB Passey, was our music director and she was supported by our friend in music and camp, Avery Arthur.”

“We had lots of rain, but that didn’t keep us from shining all weekend. It’s always great to gather with old and new friends from all around the diocese to worship, play, and sing together. And this event is always bittersweet and especially.”

The out-going chair of the department, Mary Margaret Murdock, offered an eloquent and touching sermon during this service, honoring the work of the outgoing department members and encouraging the new members to carry on, and also inviting all of the youth to make the most of the special diocesan EYC we have and the opportunities for formation and community. While this year’s group definitely set the bar high, the new group is fired up and ready to begin bonding and working together. They will gather for a planning retreat in late July where roles will be assigned, dates scheduled, decisions made, themes explored, and time spent for leadership development and team building.

Elected as at large members (all from Birmingham) are Isabel Boy, St. Luke’s, Ella O’Neill, St. Stephen’s, Kennedy Schwefler, St. Mary’s-on-the-Highlands, Hailey Smith, St. Stephen’s and Ann Mosely Whitsett, All Saints’.

Elected to represent the Northern District are Robert McCown and Allie Starnes, both from Nativity, Huntsville. Elected to represent the Central District are Hayden Dunbar and Mary Patton Sims, both from St. Stephen’s in Birmingham. Elected to represent the Southern District are Taylor McLemore from Holy Comforter in Montgomery, and Brucie Porter from Holy Trinity, Auburn.

While there were only eleven members elected to the Youth Department, the Episcopal Diocese of Alabama is full of youth who offer strong leadership skills and we have been identifying new ways to expand the roles available to our youth so more of them can grow their talents into greater strengths to carry with them beyond their youth. I would like to take this moment to give thanks for the whole diocesan Episcopal youth community for it’s vibrant spirit, joy-filled events, and love for growing in Christ with each other. It’s an exciting time to be working in youth ministry in this great diocese!

Dozens walk special Holy Week Stations of the Cross through downtown Birmingham

Some 40 people gathered at Linn Park in downtown Birmingham on Good Friday this year to walk a special Stations of the Cross: “Seeking the Suffering Jesus on the Streets of Birmingham.”

Participants walked approximately 16 blocks pausing for reflection and prayer at locations including Boutwell Auditorium, the County Jail, Domestic Relations Court, the VA medical Center, the Financial District, Sixteenth Street Baptist Church, and Kelly Ingram Park.

At each station prayers were offered to recall the suffering of Jesus on his way to the cross, and to recall the suffering that is still occurring today. The prayers focused on issues of incarceration, homelessness, addiction, domestic abuse, lack of transportation, healthcare, debt, education, and unemployment. The final stations were in Kelly Ingram Park, and recalled Jesus’ crucifixion, death, and burial. At these stations prayers were offered for victims of all forms of prejudice and discrimination, and for the people that speak out and advocate for the powerless.

The Rt. Rev. Santosh Marray, Alabama’s assistant bishop, led the prayers at the final station – the park’s Four Spirits Monument erected in memory of the four girls martyred in the 16th Street Baptist Church bombing in 1963. He offered a reflection reminding those gathered, “This is not the end of the story. We are people of the story. We don’t live our faith without remembering that we are people of the story. The story never changes, even though it may be done in different contexts. But the reality remains the same and it is the reality that death does not conquer life, and that good triumphs over evil.”

Marray thanked the organizers, and invited the participants to return next year and to invite a friend to come “to share in this experience of where we have taken an ancient witness and we have translated it into a modern witness of what occupies the concerns of our city and every day lives.”

“That’s powerful theology my beloved,” Marray told the crowd. “That’s how God’s people live their faith.

[While recalling the things of yesteryear, yet putting into relevance those things for today. So that the Gospel of Jesus Christ continues to mean something for every generation.]”

St. Luke’s Episcopal Church in Birmingham, Greater Birmingham Ministries, and Church in the Park, sponsored the service. The Rev. Deacon Mark LaGory, St. Luke’s, and the Rev. Deacon Carolyn Foster, St. Mark’s Episcopal Church in Birmingham, organized the service. The service was an adaptation of “Walking the Way of the Cross” written by the Venerable Louise Thibodaux, St. Thomas Episcopal Church in Birmingham. This was the second year of the service was held in downtown Birmingham. View additional photos at: http://bit.ly/1AmvwgT.
**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**SUMMER SERVICES ON LAKE MARTIN**

**June – August at Church in the Pines, Lake Martin**

Once again this year, St. James Episcopal Church in Alexander City, will hold summer services at Church in the Pines on Lake Martin. Services will be held at noon on June 14 and 28, July 12 and 26, and August 9 and 23 – the second and fourth Sundays in each of the summer months. All services will be Rite II celebrations, with music led by the St. James praise band, the “St. James Gang.” Dress is lake casual – shorts, shirts or sundresses.

This year, the Rt. Rev. Santosh Marray, assistant bishop for the Episcopal Diocese of Alabama, will preside at the summer season kick off service on June 14. Church in the Pines is situated on beautiful Lake Martin, located on U.S. Hwy. 63, 16 miles south of Alexander City, just across the road from the Children’s Harbor Lake Martin campus. Everyone is invited!

For information contact St. James Episcopal Church
256-234-4752

**PURPLE HOURS AT THE ABBEY**

**June 4 & the first Thursday of every month, at The Abbey, Birmingham**

The Bishops will be holding “Purple Hours” at The Abbey every first Thursday of the month from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. There will be no agenda. So come share deep thoughts play “stump the bishop” or just shoot the breeze with the guys in purple.

**CREATE – A WORKWEEK AT BETHANY**

**June 23 – 27 at Bethany Village**

Rising 9th-10th graders are invited to participate in building the Kingdom of God through working, worshiping, playing, learning, resting, singing, and being together in Christian community. With the intention of developing a service opportunity for this age group, we will spend a significant amount of time working at a variety of jobs to CREATE at Bethany and the McDowell Farm School. Some of the jobs may include building wooden benches and other furniture for camp, harvesting vegetables, splitting and gathering firewood for the winter, preparing permanent art projects, and more. Come and work with us in the newly developed space of Bethany at Camp McDowell.

Register on line through June 12 at: http://bit.ly/1HSLgo6

**THEOLOGIAN DR. STANLEY HAUERWAS TO SPEAK IN BIRMINGHAM**

**July 19 at St. Mary’s-on-the-Highlands in Birmingham**

Theologian Dr. Stanley Hauerwas, Gilbert T. Rowe Professor Emeritus of Divinity and Law at Duke Divinity School, will lecture and preach at St. Mary’s-on-the-Highlands July 19. He will lecture on “America’s God” at 9:00 a.m. and preach at the 10:00 a.m. service. Following Evening Prayer at 5:00 p.m., he will present a lecture entitled “How to be Theologically Funny” at 5:45 p.m. For details see: http://bit.ly/1FWpwfR

**DIOCESAN HOMECOMING AT CAMP**

**June 19 – 21 at Camp McDowell**

Mark your calendars for the best summer mini-vacation ever. Everyone is invited to come home to Camp McDowell for a family-friendly weekend camp-style. Bring your children, your parents, your neighbors and friends to God's Backyard. If you have been to Camp all your life - come join us and share your stories. If you have never been to Camp - come join us and see what all the fuss is about! We will have a weekend full of wonderful activities that showcase our Diocesan Camp, great food, fellowship and music, as well as times to rest, relax, and renew. Two special features of the weekend include the dedication of Bethany Village and a concert by Alabama Folkschool participants. Register at: http://conta.cc/1GVUr86

**C.A.M.P CAMP (AKA JAM CAMP)**

**June 19 – 21 at Camp McDowell**

Camp stands for Canoe, Art, Music and Play. This is a workshop for folk school goers who would like to experience all that Camp McDowell has to offer without having to take a class. Join us for some summer time fun. Bring your instrument or whatever project you are working on and your swim suit. There’ll be plenty of time to jam with fellow musicians or work on your art project, along with fun camp activities like swimming, canoeing and hiking. This is a great opportunity to just relax - no required classes or events. Just have fun! Folk school advisory board members will be performing a concert Saturday night, open to all guests. Children of all ages are welcome and children under the age of 10 stay free. Details at: http://bit.ly/1FcuGpc

**ITALIAN DINNER/SILENT AUCTION TO BENEFIT “THE WELLHOUSE”**

**June 27 at St. Simon Peter, Pell City**

St. Simon Peter Church will host an Italian dinner and silent auction to raise money for “The Wellhouse” a local faith-based and Christ centered organization devoted to the rescue and recovery of women who are being sexually exploited. Based in Birmingham, Alabama, they reach out to victims of sex trafficking across the southeastern United States. Tickets are $25 and can be purchased by calling Brian Burton at 205-863-5793. Visit: http://bit.ly/1IsCVy2 for more information.

**YOUTH FOLK SCHOOL EVENT - BLACKSMITHING CAMP**

**July 9 – 11 at Camp McDowell**

This workshop, open to students entering grades 9 through 12, will explore the many ways to manipulate metal while spending three days and two nights in Bethany Village. There will be opportunities to carve forms to create cast metal designs as well as time spent in the more traditional work of blacksmithing, heating and hammering metal. Details at: http://bit.ly/1FWpwfR

**CLERGY NEWS**

The Rev. Joe Knight resigned as priest in charge at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, Lowndesboro. Easter Sunday was his last service.

The Rev. Sherod Mallow has been called to serve St.Paul’s in Carlowville as part time priest in charge. His ministry there began April 1.

The Rev. Danielle Thompson joined the staff of St. Mary’s on the Highlands in mid-April. She will serve in general parish ministry and will oversee ministry teams that support outreach and pastoral care. She comes to the diocese of Alabama from General Seminary.

The Rev. Rosa Lindhall has been called to serve St. Luke’s in Scottsboro as the interim rector. She began her ministry there began April 1.

The Rev. Fletcher Comer, priest in charge at Calvary Episcopal Church in Oneonta has announced his retirement effective June 14th.

The Rev. Judith Comer, rector of St. Philip’s Episcopal Church in Fort Payne has announced her retirement effective June 30.

The Rev. Lynette Lanphere has been called to serve St. Luke’s in Scottsboro as the interim rector effective March 1.

The Rev. Rusty Goldsmith has been called to serve St. Stephen’s in Birmingham as the interim rector effective July 1.
UPCOMING EVENTS

YOUNG PEOPLE PAINT BIRMINGHAM
July 6 – 10 in Birmingham
This is a one-of-kind local mission experience for rising 7th-9th grade youth. From July 6th-10th our youth and adult staff will work scraping and painting homes in Birmingham’s West End neighborhood. Youth will also participate in programming to educate them about poverty, homelessness, and our call as Christians to be better stewards of our resources. Registration is open through June 8 at: http://bit.ly/1H5Lgo6

BETHANY VILLAGE DEDICATION
June 20 at Camp McDowell
Everyone is invited to attend a special service of blessing and celebrate the dedication of Bethany Village. We are honored to welcome special guest Katharine Jefferts Schori, Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church of the United States. See the Bethany at Camp McDowell insert for details. Register at: http://conta.cc/1cBE3SM

CELTIC WEEK AT CAMP
July 21 – 24 at Camp McDowell
Join us for our first ever Celtic Week! This is a great event for all the Celtophiles and Anglophiles out there. There will be four music classes in fiddle and guitar, a class on Irish, Scottish and English songs, an Irish dance class and an Entrelac knitting class. For four days and three nights, students will be immersed in the culture and traditions of Ireland, England and Scotland. Learn from highly skilled and passionate instructors and feel like you’ve travelled abroad without leaving God’s backyard. Register at: http://conta.cc/1cBE3SM

YOUTH FOLK SCHOOL EVENT – GUITAR CAMP
July 30 – August 1 at Camp McDowell
At this first ever summer camp folk school workshop, students entering grades 9 through 12 will learn guitar instruction from Jimmy Gauld and Lane Poole while spending three days and two nights in Bethany Village at Camp McDowell. Highly skilled and talented instructors will teach the basics as well as how to jam with other musicians. Students will learn a few jams, alternate tunings, practical tips that most guitar players use, how to perform solo or with others, ways for communicating on stage, and how to become better guitar players. Details at: http://bit.ly/1KvQFoU

RECOVERY MINISTRIES ANNUAL RETREAT
September 25 – 27 at Camp McDowell

SUMMER CAMP - “BE A FRIEND BY BRINGING A FRIEND TO CAMP!”
New through August 2 at Camp McDowell
We still have plenty of room in most sessions (Senior Camp is full) so make sure you bring a friend with you. Camp McDowell is the home of life-long friendships—start being a friend by bringing a friend to Camp this year. Get your registrations in soon to hold your spots. The summer 2015 is sure to be a great one—the best ever -- some might say. Details can be found at www.campmcdowell.com or by contacting Summer Camp Coordinator Stratt Byars at stratt@campmcdowell.com or 205-387-1806.

Applications being accepted for camper aids for Bethany Kids Inclusion Camp
Do you love camp? Do you have a heart for service? Is inclusion important to you? Register to be a camper aid at Bethany’s Kids Inclusion Camp July 26 – 29. Camper aids will serve as personal assistants and friends to campers with special needs during this summer’s Bethany’s Kids Inclusion Camp. Rising 9th graders through college seniors may apply to serve. Come learn more of who God is calling you to be in the world.

Be a Camper Aid and make a difference while having the time of your life in God’s backyard. For registration or more information, visit http://www.campmcdowell.com or contact Susanna Whitsett susanna@campmcdowell.com or 205-281-1903.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST: All staff members receive a portion of their salary as a contribution toward the cost of attending camp. Any financial contributions coming from individuals who are not family members of the campers are utilized for the mission experience of children in rising 5-7 at Camp McDowell. Children with physical challenges and/ or intellectual differences and typical kids that fall within the camp’s scope of care are invited to be among the first to stay at Bethany Village, to enjoy the messy and magical experience of Christian camp community, to grow in joy and acceptance of all God’s people, and to have a bunch of fun together. Details at: http://bit.ly/1FWpODt.
This past fall, I heard Kathy Graham speak to all the new clergy in the diocese about all the wonderful teaching opportunities that were available to our parishes. What jumped out to me was the gift of the commission on spirituality. This is a group of people that have spent time learning a specific type of prayer or how to deepen their faith in Jesus Christ by using different types of spiritual practices. As I was listening to Kathy talk about these people and their gifts, I immediately thought, how can I get them to come to St. Michael’s Fayette to share their gifts! I began discussing this idea with Kathy and we decided to plan an Easter Series at St. Michael’s.

The series began with the lovely Anne Bailey. Anne is an expert on labyrinths. We happen to have a beautiful labyrinth at St. Michael’s, but it sure was nice to have someone explain the purposes of the labyrinth more fully to us as a parish. Anne gave us history on the labyrinth and taught us several methods of using the labyrinth. Finally as a parish, we walked our beloved labyrinth. It was a holy time at St. Michael’s!

The series continued with the very talented Kathy Graham. Kathy gave us many thoughtful, visual, and creative ways to pray. She explained to us that prayer can occur in many different ways including meditation, prayer candles, coloring medallions, and expressing our prayer life in unique ways! It was a joyful experience to learn that praying to God can be done in many ways other than just words!

The series concluded with the kind Louise Meredith. Louise spoke to us about centering prayer, its history and how to pray in this way. As a group we took 10 minutes to experience centering prayer. During this time the children of St. Michael’s were practicing their bells, it made the experience even stronger. We had a chance to discuss how this type of prayer felt. Everyone that was a part of the class enjoyed learning something that was new and different.

I encourage you to utilize the gifts of the talented people that are a part of the commission on spirituality. There are many other members of the commission that have other gifts and talents and we plan to invite them to St. Michael’s in the future. This group of amazing people wants to share their knowledge with the Diocese of Alabama! Their visits come at no cost to you as a parish so please utilize their gifts. If you have any questions about the experience, please be in touch.

Email me at: marybalfourvz@gmail.com

St. Andrew’s Montevallo observes Earth Day with labyrinth walk

St. Andrew’s, Montevallo, observed Earth Day by offering a Community Labyrinth Prayer Walk.

The event drew members of St. Andrew’s, community residents and students from the University of Montevallo. Sandie Wesley, a Veriditas trained labyrinth facilitator, organized the walk.

Observed since 1970, Earth Day (April 22) is a worldwide event celebrated in a variety of ways.
Law & Gospel by William McDavid, Ethan Richardson, and David Zahl (Mockingbird Ministries, paperback)

As written in the introduction -- Martin Luther understood that God has spoken and continues to speak in two words -- Law and Gospel. Law is God's moral measure, the command for good and right living, and Gospel means "good news." While the Christian faith argues that the problem within us is worse than we'd ever admit, it also proclaims that God has moved into that problem with love and sacrifice. The "good news" is Jesus Christ, who died and rose from death, taking the whole of God's wrath upon himself and setting us free.

The Holy Spirit in THE BOOK of Common Prayer by John Wesley (WestBow Press, paperback)

Finding that many churches relied too heavily on manpower rather than the power of God, Wesley wanted to show the church the power of the Holy Spirit. His new book categorizes references to the Holy Spirit in The Book of Common Prayer by topic, allowing readers to reflect on the nature and power of God.

Accompanying each mention of the Holy Spirit in The Book of Common Prayer is the meaning behind its usage. He includes questions to spark readers' thoughts and encourages journaling or small group discussion to help elaborate on the topics he touches on. His central theme is that the Holy Spirit is 'God at work today' and that it would make us more effective Christians if we knew more about the work of the Holy Spirit.

Lucado Treasury of Bedtime Prayers: Prayers for Bedtime and Every Time of Day by Max Lucado and Denalyn Lucado (Thomas Nelson, hardback)

Prayer is the foundation of a believer's life, and this collection of classic prayers (as well as brand-new prayers) will help parents who want to make prayer a daily part of their children's lives.

The book opens with instruction on teaching your children how to pray. A helpful prayer builder teaches kids that there are four different kinds of prayer: worship, trust, compassion, and gratitude. The prayers are divided into sections. Children will find it easier to learn to pray with examples showing that prayer is a dialogue with God for all times. Beautiful art by Lisa Alderson complements this keepsake book. It's never too early to lay a strong foundation for a child's faith.

The Amazing Journey: Jesus, Creation, Death & Life by Susie Poole (B&H Publishing, hardback)

God's plan can be a mystery, but in this journey from creation to Christ's death on the cross, children learn that our Father loves us enough to give us a fresh start. Like the flowers and trees that burst into life in the spring, we can rejoice in our new life because Jesus' sacrifice provided us all with a fresh start. An accurate retelling of Christ's death created to help ages 4 to 8 understand the all-encompassing meaning of the resurrection. Includes a two page glossary of key words such as Holy Spirit, Crucify, Miracle, Forgiveness and more. A whole-family resource for reading aloud or reading along with young readers.

Sex at First Sight: Understanding the Modern Hookup Culture by Richard E. Simmons, III (Union Hill Publishing, paperback)

Is sexual intercourse just a biological act? Is it just another form of recreation and pleasure without boundaries? We are living in a time where a sexual experience between two people is often disconnected from having a personal relationship. It seems that in our highly advanced technological culture, people are reducing sex to nothing more than an act of pleasure. This is particularly true among young modern singles.

Richard Simmons has written a short but insightful book exploring questions such as: What is the true purpose of sex? What did God have in mind when he gave us our sexuality?

The Book Store is open Monday through Thursday from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and Sunday from 8:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. For information about these and other books, or to have the staff research and special order a particular book, please contact the Episcopal Book Store, 2015 Sixth Avenue North, Birmingham, AL 35203; 205-323-2959; ebsinfo@episcobooks.com; or visit the bookstore online at www.episcobooks.com.

BISHOPS’ VISITATION SCHEDULE

**Sunday, June 7**
- 10:00 a.m. Bishop Marray at St. James, Alex City
- 11:00 a.m. Bishop Sloan at St. Andrew’s, Tuskegee

**Sunday, June 14**
- 9:00 a.m. Bishop Marray at Holy Cross, Uniontown & St. Michael’s, Faunsdale
- 10:30 a.m. Bishop Sloan at St. John’s, Decatur

**Sunday, June 21**
- 11:00 a.m. Bishop Marray at St. James, Livingston
- 11:00 a.m. Bishop Sloan at Calvary, Oneonta
Birmingham clergy take Maundy Thursday foot washing into the park

By Michael Rich
Photos by Malcolm Marler

In churches everywhere, clergy and lay people wash one another’s feet on Maundy Thursday. On Wednesday, April 1, Church in the Park took that service outside the church’s walls.

Remembering Jesus’ instructions to serve one another by washing, the Diocese of Alabama’s assistant bishop, the Rt. Rev. Santosh Marray and other clergy washed the feet of those who came to the weekly Eucharist and lunch in Birmingham’s Linn Park.

Marray explained the service to those gathered at the park’s gazebo under a warm, blue April sky, and admitted to them that washing feet may seem unusual.

“Jesus was a cool guy. He did some wonky, out of the usual character things,” Marray told the gathering. “Our Lord’s practice and pattern is ours as well. This is a sign of our love for one another.”

A car alarm rang out as he spoke, an argument broke out across the park, and a jet flew low overhead – all sounds of the city for a service that serves the city.

The services are attended by an array of people, some living on the streets and some working in nearby office towers. Several of those came forward to have their feet washed by Marray and other clergy.

“Last year, we did what we called Palm Wednesday,” said the Rev. Katie Nakamura-Rengers, coordinator of Church in the Park. “This year, Bishop Marray suggested we try Maundy Wednesday.”

Rengers said that on reflection, washing feet at the outdoor service was a natural choice. “It would be strange to do it at church and not do it in the park,” she said.

“Communion from the small cups resonates with many of the people here from other backgrounds,” she said, referring to the communion practice that’s rare in Episcopal churches. “The foot washing resonates with many of them, too. It’s not distinctive to our tradition.”

Church in the Park, which celebrates its second anniversary next month, offers Holy Eucharist every Wednesday at noon in Linn Park, barring rain. Hot lunches are provided through Community Kitchens of Birmingham. A volunteer brings home-baked cookies and another the communion bread, and guitar players and singers round out the group. The volunteers come from a number of Birmingham parishes, as do the clergy.

One of the assisting clergy at the outdoor service and a regular Church in the Park celebrant was the Rev. Malcolm Marler, director of pastoral care for UAB Hospitals.

“There is something about having church out among the people,” he said. “There’s no pretentiousness.”

During the foot-washing, Marler knelt alongside onlookers for quiet conversation. “I like to talk to people, hear their story, encourage them a little bit,” he said. “I feel right at home here.”

Rengers, who coordinated the service, also is assistant rector of St. Luke’s and vicar of The Abbey. “It was special to have Church in the Park clergy from different churches here who have developed relationships here over the last couple of years,” she said.

Also assisting at Wednesday’s service were the Rev. Charles Youngson, associate rector at All Saints in Birmingham; the Rev. Michael Rich, priest in charge of St. Andrew’s in Birmingham; and the Rev. Rich Webster, rector of St. Luke’s in Mountain Brook. View additional photos at: http://bit.ly/19PmhcA.