Alaska General Convention deputies meet Episcopal Relief & Development challenge

by The Rev. Deacon Judy Quick, Diocesan Coordinator, Episcopal Relief & Development

A huge thank you to our Alaska deputies to General Convention for their leadership in contributing to the 75th Anniversary of Episcopal Relief & Development.

The Rev. Gay Clark Jennings, House of Deputies president, challenged all delegations to stir awareness of Episcopal Relief & Development and to raise a total of $75,000 church-wide in honor of the 75th Anniversary of Episcopal Relief & Development.

I had the privilege of traveling on pilgrimage to Ghana with President Jennings, Rev. Evan Garner, rector of St. John’s in Decatur, and a number of other deputies from around the country. In her message at the 75th Anniversary Celebration at General Convention, President Jennings called the experience “transformative”, saying, “We met women who can now educate their children because they opened market stalls with micro-loans. We met farmers learning new cultivation practices developed for a changing climate. We met a tribal chief who told us about the importance of empowering women.”

Our Alaska deputies and their parishes contributed to this General Convention challenge, which exceeded the goal and raised $128,000 church-wide. The funding is vital to support the emergency relief and long-term community development efforts of Episcopal Relief & Development living into our Lord’s call in Matthew 25 to serve the least of these.

We express our gratitude to our clerical and lay deputies to General Convention:


We continue to be grateful too for the generosity of all parishes and individuals in the diocese to honor the 75th Anniversary of Episcopal Relief & Development.

Children Cheer Rally Day into a Kick-off Sunday
by Katherine Gould

We live football in Tuscaloosa, so at Christ Church, we decided to embrace the football season and turn our typical Rally Day into a “Kick-Off Sunday”.

As soon as our last 10:00 a.m. combined summer service ended, the congregation headed for the parish hall. Children cheered them on and the Alabama fight song put them in the game day spirit. Ushers handed out programs that featured our Sunday school classes and advertisements for many of our planned fall events. As the adults found their seats in the “stadium,” the children and music staff led them in cheers and chants.

Meanwhile the formation staff rolled out the banner for the head coaches — our clergy — and starting line-up — Sunday school teachers — to run through. The starting line-up was introduced to their fans, back packs were blessed, Bibles were given to rising 4th graders, and a homecoming court — our diocesan convention delegates — was elected and crowned. Following an enthusiastic halftime dance led by our new youth directors, our head coach, the Rev. Jennings called the experience “transformative”, saying, “We met a tribal chief who told us about the importance of empowering women.”

Our Alabama deputies and their parishes contributed to this General Convention challenge, which exceeded the goal and raised $128,000 church-wide. The funding is vital to support the emergency relief and long-term community development efforts of Episcopal Relief & Development living into our Lord’s call in Matthew 25 — to serve the least of these.

We express our gratitude to our clerical and lay deputies to General Convention:


We continue to be grateful too for the generosity of all parishes and individuals in the diocese to honor the 75th Anniversary of Episcopal Relief & Development.

Editor’s note: For additional information on planning a kick-off Sunday contact Katherine Gould, director of Christian formation at Christ Church, Tuscaloosa at: katheringould@yahoo.com.
Moved by Grace and the Power of Love to Sacrifice

This civil rights martyrs pilgrimage in Alabama celebrated the lives and commemorated the sacrifice of those killed in the 1960s struggle for civil rights. One of them was a white Episcopal seminarian from Keene, New Hampshire, named Jonathan Myrick Daniels. He came to Alabama in 1965, in response to a call from civil rights leader the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., to join a march from Selma to the state capital of Montgomery – part of the voting rights movement underway in the south. He was drawn by his deep faith and belief in the racial equality of all people. Living into this belief cost his life. Every year pilgrims from all over the United States come to Hayneville to commemorate this profoundly spiritual observance. This year marks the 50th anniversary of Daniels’ death.

In 1991, The Episcopal Church designated Jonathan Myrick Daniels as a martyr. He is one of only 15 martyrs recognized by the Church since the beginning of the 20th Century. Jonathan Daniels is commemorated in the Chapel of Saints and Martyrs of Our Time, Canterbury Cathedral, Kent, United Kingdom. Canterbury Cathedral is the home of global Anglicanism.

For the past eighteen years, the Episcopal Diocese of Alabama has organized through its Commission on Race Relations in the Church, an annual pilgrimage to observe the selfless sacrifice of Jonathan Daniels, and the other martyrs of the civil rights movement.

The diocese’s leadership in this solemn pilgrimage is commendable, and stands in witness to the larger narrative of a diocese that has moved considerably forward in seeking to forge the perfect description of the kingdom of God. The Letter to the Galatians resolves once and for all the equality of gender and races, “‘with Christ there is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ’” (Galatians 3:27).

Our purpose is to bear the ‘Good News’ of our Lord and Savior and Good News isn’t selective news; it’s unfettered news and profoundly life changing.

It was a joy and honor to be involved with the work of the Commission on Race Relations in organizing the pilgrimage. It is natural for me to do this work because just 50 short years ago, many black Americans were not only denied the right to vote, but were also prevented from eating in many restaurants, shopping in many stores, and even drinking from water fountains that were designated for ‘whites only.’ Anglican Service News operates from the Anglican Communion Office, London. These sentiments were followed all over the Anglican world by thousands of faithful Anglicans. On Saturday, August 15, I was so proud to be a part of our remembrance of events 50 years ago that have left an indelible mark on so many lives.

Someone wrote: ‘History is the lengthened shadow of a man’

As a devotee to racial justice and equality Jonathan towered above others of his time, because he dared to live what he believed…

To think or even to suggest that one race is comprehensively superior to another is to say that diversity, one of God’s greatest and most demonstrative expressions of his perfect nature, has no place in this world. As a devotee to racial justice and equality Jonathan towered above others of his time, because he dared to live what he believed, sacrificing his life in doing so, a rare quality to find in these times.

This year’s pilgrimage on Saturday, August 15, was attended by over 1,500 pilgrims including numerous bishops across the Episcopal/Anglican Church. In his sermon The Right Reverend Michael B. Curry, the new Presiding Bishop-elect of the Episcopal Church and Episcopal Bishop of North Carolina, the first African American to hold this high office – he reiterated the call of all Christians to discipleship:

We are here because we who have been baptized – we’re not simply baptized into church membership – we were consecrated to radical discipleship, into the Jesus Movement to change this world. The same movement that called Jonathan, and Mary, Queen Esther, Moses, Abraham and Sarah and Hagar, the same movement that moved the world into being. We must raise up a new generation and pass the torch to that generation so that the march will continue, so that the movement will go on, so that we will not stop, we will not cease, we will not desist until justice rolls down like a mighty stream and righteousness like an ever-flowing brook. That’s the movement we’re all a part of. It’s a movement that believes passionately that love can actually change the world.

The words of Jonathan Daniels the Martyr continue to resound for all nations and all peoples, “we are indelibly, unspeakably one”. Jonathan’s sacrifice remains for us to commemorate and draw strength and inspiration in an unending call of all Christians to discipleship:

‘History is the lengthened shadow of a man’

Blessing and God’s love!

Santosh
Nearly 50 years after Jonathan Daniels was killed by a special deputy from Lowndes County, Alabama, the pilgrims who came to Hayneville Aug. 15 to remember the seminarian’s martyrdom walked through the streets led by a county sheriff’s squad car.

Some 1,500 people from across The Episcopal Church and elsewhere walked the path that Daniels, 26, Richard Morrisroe, also 26, Thelma Bailey, 19, and Ruby Sales, 16, took on Aug. 20, 1965, the day Daniels died stepping in front of a shotgun aimed at Sales. Morrisroe, who was a newly ordained Roman Catholic priest and was seriously wounded that day, returned to Hayneville for the day. The pilgrims ranged from babies in strollers to elderly in wheelchairs.

The pilgrimage, which began at the Lowndes County Courthouse, formed an extended Liturgy of the Word that included stops at the jailhouse where Daniels and the others were held for six days, readings about Daniels’ life (including two from Outside Agitator: Jon Daniels and the Civil Rights Movement in Alabama by Charles Eagles and a letter Daniels wrote to his mother from jail), as well as prayers and the dedication of an Alabama Historical Marker at the site where Daniels was murdered.

The pilgrims then returned to the courtroom where Daniels’ killer, special deputy Thomas Coleman, was found innocent of a manslaughter charge. Pilgrims packed the courtroom, filling the jury box and other seats, sitting on the floor and finding places to stand along the walls. Two large tents pitched on the courthouse lawn sheltered others who watched the Eucharist via large television screens.

The judge’s bench in the courtroom served as the altar where Diocese of Alabama Bishop John McKee Sloan presided at the Eucharist. Many of the 28 Episcopal Church bishops who participated in the pilgrimage distributed communion inside the courtroom and outside on the courthouse lawn.

“We are not here because we think good thoughts, or simply because we are nice people, although we are. We are here because we who have been baptized – we’re not simply baptized into church membership – we were consecrated to radical discipleship, into the Jesus Movement to change this world,” said Presiding Bishop-elect Michael Curry during his sermon. “The same movement that called Jonathan, and Mary, Queen Esther, Moses, Abraham and Sarah and Hagar, the same movement that moved the world into being.”

Curry, who was a 12-year-old in Buffalo, New York, when Daniels was killed, met early that morning with many of the young people who later were part of the pilgrimage. During his sermon, Curry said he realized
During the meeting that “our task now is to pass the torch to a new generation.”

“They’re here, they don’t have to be here, but they’re here,” he said of the young people.

“The youthful energy that fueled the civil rights movement before and changed the face of this nation,” Curry said, now needs to be combined with “the wisdom of the elders.”

“We must raise up a new generation and pass the torch to that generation so that the march will continue, so that the movement will go on, so that we will not stop, we will not cease, we will not desist until justice rolls down like a mighty stream and righteousness like an ever-flowing brook.

“That’s the movement we’re all a part of. It’s a movement that believes passionately that love can actually change the world.”

“It can,” the congregation replied.

Curry concluded by reminding the pilgrims that Jesuit philosopher and scientist Pierre Teilhard de Chardin contended that the discovery of fire and humans’ capacity to harness that energy was the most important scientific discovery of all time because of the advances in civilization it enabled, up to and including the fuel combustion in rockets that launched satellites into the air, allowing the use of smartphones. De Chardin then went on to say, Curry recalled, that if human beings ever discovered how to harness the power of love, it would be the second time in history that humanity had discovered fire.

“We are here because Jonathan Daniels discovered fire,” Curry declared with a shout. “Martin Luther King discovered fire. So now we’re going to pass that torch to a new generation.”

After Curry’s sermon a number of notable pilgrims were introduced, beginning with Lowndes County Judge Adrian Johnson, who currently presides in the courtroom used for Liturgy of the Table. Johnson, who said he has participated in the annual pilgrimage for the last four or five years, told the congregation that it was “a humbling experience” to hold court in a room that invokes “a list of injustices” committed in the name of the legal system.

Johnson, who helped cook the young people breakfast that morning, said he told those participants that the fight for voting rights is not a fight lost in the dusts of history. “That struggle continues today. There are folks that want to erode the right to vote. There are folks who are trying to dismantle the Voting Rights Act,” he said. “We need to continue to be vigilant and guard against not only those who are trying to take that right, but, more importantly, apathy because apathy is perhaps more dangerous than those who would see to take the right away from us.”

Col. James Inman, chief of staff at the Virginia Military Institute where Daniels was valedictorian for the Class of 1961, told fellow pilgrims that it was love that prompted Daniels to act as he did that day in 1965 when he pulled Ruby Sales out of the way of Coleman, catching instead the point-blank blast of Coleman’s gun in his chest. Inman called Daniels’ split-second decision “an act of love that is informed by all that preceded it.”

When such an act saves the life of another, he said, “the act not only endures; it grows and expands in its influence over time.”

Daniels’ life and all the lives of all the martyrs of Alabama, whom the pilgrimage also commemorated, were not lost in vain, Inman said. “Now more than ever, their examples should lead us to act to ensure the triumph of good over evil; to encourage civility, collaboration and love over violence, discord and hatred.”

While Daniels was in Alabama in the summer of 1965, he lived with Alice and Lonzy West, an African-American family in Selma. Roderick West, one of their 11 children, told the pilgrims that Daniels was a stickler for education who also “was always talking about God.

“I remember that morning when Jonathan left our apartment – he was coming to Lowndes County to help people register to vote – Jonathan actually came back three times and told me and my brothers and sisters that he loved us … he said ‘I want you all to make sure that you study hard. Let me know what you need, pens, books,
whatever’ … to me, he was just like a big brother.”

Daniels, West said, was the reason he had just retired after spending 30 years as a schoolteacher.

The Eucharist included a roll call of the martyrs of Alabama.

Ruby Sales, the then-17-year-old student whom Daniels saved, was not at the pilgrimage, but she spoke the next day at St. Alban’s Episcopal Church in Washington, D.C., saying that her friendship with Daniels bridged the gap between his “white elite” world and her poor, black one.

“He walked away from the king’s table,” she said. “He could have had any benefit he wanted, because he was young, white, brilliant and male.”

On Aug. 14, Morris Dees Jr., co-founder and chief trial counsel for the Southern Poverty Law Center, told a gathering at St. John’s Episcopal Church in Montgomery, Alabama, that “our government has to be neutral in matters of faith, but people of faith do not have to be neutral with matters of government, and we rely on people not to be.

“Jonathan Daniels was not neutral when he spoke truth to power, when he sought the right to vote and when he saved the life of a dear person by putting his body in front,” he said.

Saying only “true reconciliation” can only move the country away from the racial tension that plagues it, Dees said Daniels’ killer later raised two multiracial grandchildren. “Something changed,” Dees said of Coleman, adding that Coleman’s son, a retired Alabama state trooper “is probably one of the most liberal guys I know; he spoke at my mother’s funeral.”
Watch high definition video, read national news coverage, and view additional photos of the pilgrimage at: http://dioala.org/pilgrimage/19th-daniels.html
Life on a mountain in Haiti

By Maggie Johnston

A wake early to start each day with a brisk walk down the mountain a mile or so to the spring. You are not the first one there, so you chat with neighbors who are beginning their day the same way you are. Everyone is collecting a few buckets of water to carry home. You trot back up the steep, rocky trail on bare feet balancing a 5 gallon bucket of water on your head. This is the only way you have access to water for cooking, drinking, cleaning, every need you might have for the wonderful liquid. Many children are hurrying back and forth along the trail to the spring, as they collect the family’s water as their chore. Upon arrival back at home, you start a small three rock charcoal fire. Three rock means that you place three large rocks strategically around a mound of locally made charcoal. Your cooking utensil, probably a large pot handed down through the family, will balance on these three rocks to be held off the fire. If you are among the lucky ones, you have some rice, beans or ground millet or corn to prepare over your fire and feed your children that day. Your children will stay hungry until later in the day when you have your one meal for the day.

Krik? Krak! project has been helping to bring food, water and better sanitation to the people in the mountain community known as Crochu, Haiti. The project began with a school lunch program which now provides lunches three times a week for the 265 students at St Alban’s school in Crochu, as well as the teachers and staff. This program also provides work for five to six mothers of the community who are hired to prepare the lunches. This is a huge benefit, as women have very few opportunities for earning income in this area. The Krik Krak school lunch program costs about $12,000 a year currently and we would like to expand it to 4 meals a week.

Over the past three years, thanks to the boots on the ground guidance of Andrew Shea, Krik? Krak! has built 15 latrines for families in the area who had no sanitary system for waste disposal. We have built several cisterns for individual households as well as larger ones for the school and church. We just sent funds to build a large cistern to capture rain runoff from the church roof and distribute it to the community.

These are huge improvements for this community! Each bucket of water captured in a cistern is one less trip down to the spring.

Krik Krak has more plans! Moringa is a miracle tree. It grows rapidly in Haiti’s tropical environment. It is edible. The leaves are high in protein, calcium, potassium, iron and Vitamin A. We are developing a Moringa nursery that will be distributed to families in Crochu. This model has been proven to be successful last year thanks to a grant from Haiti Serve.

Interested in helping Krik? Krak! to provide jobs, lunches and more to the wonderful people of Crochu, Haiti? Contact Maggie Johnston at Maggie@campmcdowell.com for more information… or send a check made out to Alabama Diocese with “Krik Krak lunches” in the memo line. Each dollar contributed feed one child a lunch!

Summer update on our partnership with Haiti

By The Rev. Deacon CJ Van Slyke

Our Haiti partners, the Rev. Pierre Henry Valdema and his wife Carmel, spent a restful week at Camp McDowell where they were visited by many of their Alabama friends. Although our official companion relationship with the Diocese of Haiti is ending in December, our commitment to our ongoing ministries with these partners will continue.

It has been a busy and productive summer. We sponsored a vacation Bible School at St. Simeon for the children of various parishes that Pere Val serves. The midwives continued their monthly meetings with a certified midwife in Crochu. The meetings support the midwives in their efforts to provide safer deliveries to the mothers in that remote area.

Lepswa Timoun our permanent health clinic is now producing and packaging a protein supplement from Moringa. The Moringa trees were planted on the land around the clinic and their leaves are pulverized by hand with a large pistil and mortar. The Valdemas have received a grant from the Haiti Serve Foundation to buy 4,000 more trees to plant in Crochu. The nutrition program continues to need support for the plumpynut and other supplements to meet the need of severely malnourished children. There is hope that in the near future the Moringa tree project will not only be a good nutrition source, but a job producing industry for the people of Haiti.

The two young women we are sponsoring in nursing school are entering their last year of and clinicals. A young man, Occeus, supported by the Krik Krak Murdock Fund, will be graduating from the University in December and returning home to Crochu to help the teachers there improve the curriculum, and to direct the government-mandated effort to expand the school to include 9th grade. Donations from people and parishes in the diocese have touched many lives and brought hope to many in Haiti.

Haiti is not a dead end country. It is a country made up of people like you and me, who want to have basic living opportunities: access to healthcare, education, jobs, housing, food and water. They suffer from generations of exploitation, and poverty. It is easy to get overwhelmed with the multiple issues that plague this beautiful country and say “Why bother? Nothing will ever change”.

The good people of Alabama diocese have made a difference in the lives of our brothers and sisters in Haiti over these past eight years. The individuals, families, school children, villages and parishes that many of you have never seen, have been touched by you through the work of the Holy Spirit. We have more work to do as individuals and parishes in the diocese continue to work with our friends in Haiti.

Our near future includes continued engagement with Lepswa Timoun Clinic, (Hope for the Children) and all its education and health programs. A Board of Directors made up of representatives from Alabama, South Carolina, North Carolina, Georgia and Missouri -- who have been part of our extended parish partner’s network -- is in place. There are plans to start a community cistern for Crochu at St Alans, a multi use building to house a prenatal clinic and agricultural training program. We can’t do this alone.

We invite you to continue to keep Haiti, our ministries and our partners in your prayers.

For further information about our Haiti ministry, please contact me at: cjenkinsro@aol.com
Bethany, the Final Phase

By The Rev. Mark Johnston

The last of our wonderful new facilities at Camp McDowell are being completed. Soon the landscaping will be done and the punch lists will be scratched off. It was a blessing to be able to complete the construction so quickly and on budget.

As I look back over the past few years, I remember a few milestone moments. One of those was a passionate discussion with the Department of Camp McDowell about how much funding we could raise and how much funding we needed to complete the full vision of Bethany. On the one hand, we needed to reach our fundraising goal as a diocese to feel successful about what we can build together. On the other, we needed to reach our project goal to build all the facilities we envisioned for a successful operation.

In a nutshell, we decided that our campaign goal would be $7.5 million and our project goal would be $10.5 million. Today, the facilities are almost completed and the dedication was accomplished with joy and enthusiasm. And while we have exceeded our first goal with combined gifts and pledges at $7.7 million, we haven’t reached our second goal. If you add our expected return from the New Market Tax Credit (NMTC) transaction, we have raised $9.3 million. The final phase of the Bethany campaign is to raise the remaining $1.3 million in unmet needs. With these funds we will repay the loans needed to participate in the NMTC agreement which leveraged a $1.6 M gift and allowed us to build our facilities so quickly.

The first phase is over and I am so proud of what we have accomplished! We did something very difficult, and we did it well. The final phase is upon us and I have high expectations that we will be successful again. You will continue to hear about how we are already putting your gifts to work. And we will keep asking for more gifts until we reach our final goal. If you haven’t given yet, have we got an opportunity for you! If you have already given, have we got a challenge!

Maggie and I have paid our pledge, but we have decided to increase it by a third by paying an extra year. Others are beginning to contact us and tell us they are doing the same. We challenge you to prayerfully consider your ability to pay another year on your pledge. As you continue to invest in the ministries of Camp McDowell you are allowing us to be even more wonderful, wonderful.

There are new lodges, meeting spaces, and Doug Carpenter Dining Hall for parish retreats and conferences. The new accessible camp hosted its first summer of faith based sessions in 2015, and it is the home of the McDowell Farm School. New facilities such as our teaching kitchen, pottery studio, art studio, and dance/performance hall, Hall Hall, enhance conferences and support the Alabama Folk School.

Fill out the pledge card on this page today or contact danielle@campmcdowell.com to extend your pledge or make a pledge to Bethany at wonderful Camp McDowell.
First Summer at Bethany

By Susanna Whitsett

Envision. Include. Inspire. These are the three words that I used to guide the development of Bethany Village’s first summer of youth programming. I am proud, humbled and – yes – relieved, to report that they are three words that saw fruition in each program that was launched. These words, which became symbols of the *Spirit of God at work* in the developing programs of Bethany Village, found expression in the service of staff, interns, and volunteers and the engagement of campers and families. All the people, serving God and one another, made our vision of ‘the way the world could be’ a reality in the summer of 2015.

Below is a synopsis of 3 of the new programs. The amazing stories, wonderful moments of learning, and deeply moving experiences of the God’s grace are too numerous and too precious to completely review in one article. Please know that through your financial support, prayers, and presence, we *ENVISIONED* and then lived the way the world could be, we *INCLUDED* all people who came, and we left *INSPIRED* by the power of the Holy Spirit in continuation of faith-based programming in Bethany Village @ Camp McDowell in the summer of 2015.

From the bottom of my heart, thank you for allowing me to serve as the Faith-Based Program Developer in Bethany Village at Camp McDowell.

Susanna Whitsett
susanna@campmcdowell.com

**OUR TIME**

Our Time was a camp for kids healing from loss for rising 6th-8th grades. Guided in wisdom and discussion by several leaders in our diocese, as well as health and healing professionals, this 3-night camp was a most precious expression of what the Church fundamentally seeks to do: care for it’s people, particularly in times of great need.

The Revs David Dill (Good Shepherd, Decatur) and Catherine Collier (Christ Church, Tuscaloosa) and Mary Alex Dill (Forensic Interviewer and LGSW for Morgan County Child Advocacy Center) served collectively as the Worship & Pastoral Care leaders. Other social workers, along with adults who experienced loss in their youth, served as group leaders. Our interns served as activity leaders and cabin counselors. The photo below shows our final closing service, which families were invited to attend. Please remember this special camp and refer young people you know who are grieving to us.

Bethany Village Summer Interns

An intern program brought together 14 young adults (former campers and new friends of Camp McDowell) who gave their time and talents in God’s (new!) Backyard and diligently served as the staff for new Bethany programs. The Rev. Rich Webster (St. Luke’s, Birmingham) and Rosebud Bogan (Holy Apostles, Hoover) aided in the Intern training and preparation for the summer. The young adult interns infused the new programs at Bethany Village with their energy, creativity, and sense of service to build a most beautiful foundation. I hope and trust, found out a lot about themselves along the way.

Below is a list of the 2015 Bethany Village Summer Interns:

Spencer Anglin (Nativity, Huntsville)
Molly Bogan (Holy Apostles, Hoover)
Patrick Brickson (Trinity Commons, UAB in Birmingham)
Anna Hayes (Trinity, Wetumpka)
Meg Kellenberger (Agape Baptist, Scottsboro)
Erin McAdams (St. Stephen’s, Birmingham)
Mary Clayton Miree (Trinity, Florence and St. Joseph Catholic Church)
Ashley Morris (St. Stephen’s, Birmingham)
Mary Margaret Murdock (Christ Church, Tuscaloosa)
Mary Alex Dill (Forensic Interviewer and LGSW for Morgan County Child Advocacy Center)
Zach Price (The Abbey, Tuscaloosa)
Savannah Watson (Nativity, Huntsville)
Katie Whatley (St. Stephen’s, Birmingham)
Laura Wagstaff (All Saints, Birmingham)
Ben Williams (St. Thomas, Huntsville)

THANK YOU 2015 BETHANY VILLAGE SUMMER INTERNS – THE FIRST EVER!!!

Bethany’s Kids

Bethany’s Kids Inclusion camp brought together typical kids and kids with disabilities in the traditional summer camp setting… but with something new. The ‘new’ was the intentional blending of these populations, the overt celebration of a diverse range of abilities, and the model of peer leadership introduced by our ‘Camper Buddies’ (other youngsters who served as friends and aids to our campers with disabilities).

Bethany’s Kids was so well received, we will expand to two sessions next summer!

One of our campers used a motorized wheelchair and a communication board (which he typed on with his toes). His reaction to the camp? See for yourself, in the photo above.

Bethany Camps for Summer 2016

**OUR TIME** ................................................. June 3-5
A camp for kids healing from loss & their adult caregivers.
Rising 6th-8th grade

**Diocesan Homecoming**.......................... June 10-12
Diocesan-wide weekend retreat

**Alabama Folk School Youth Workshop** ......... June 14-17
Fiddle, Pottery, Guitar & Fabric Dye.
Rising 5th – 12th grade

**Special Session** .................................. June 19-26
Summer Camp for adults with disabilities

**CREATE** .................................................. June 28-July 1
A “work hard/play hard” leadership development retreat where young people are co-collaborators in building the Kingdom of God

**Bethany’s Kids I** ..................................... July 12-15
Inclusion summer camp
Rising 4th-6th (campers)
Rising 9th – college seniors (camper buddies)

**Bethany’s Kids II** .................................... July 19-22
Inclusion summer camp
Rising 7th & 8th (campers)
Rising 9th – college seniors (camper buddies)
Best Summer Ever

By Stant Byars

What a wonderful, wonderful summer we had in 2015! We played, we sang, we came to know better who God is calling us to be! As always during summer camp at Camp McDowell, children and youth from all over our diocese and beyond gathered to have the unforgettable sessions they have come to expect at Camp McDowell.

We will be looking to build off of summer 2015 very soon with Fall Fling (October 16-18, for 5th and 6th graders), Winter Weekend (January 15-18, for 7th and 8th graders) and Summer 2016! Register soon for these events at www.campmcdowell.com. The summer calendar can be found below!

We look forward to having you in God’s Backyard very soon!

Summer Schedule 2016

Primary I—May 27-29 ........................................ (entering 1st-3rd with parent)
Junior High I—June 1-7 ................................. (entering 6th and 7th)
Sophomore—June 10-18 ................................ (entering 8th and 9th)
Special Session—June 19-26 ..................... Summer Camp for adults with disabilities
Middler—June 21-26 ................................ (entering 5th and 6th)
Elementary I—June 29-July 3 ....................... (entering 3rd and 4th)
Junior High 2—July 6-13 ............................... (entering 7th and 8th)
Senior Camp—July 17-26 ............................. (entering 10th-12th)
Elementary II—July 30-August 3 ................. (entering 4th and 5th)
Primary II—August 5-7 ............................... (entering 1st-3rd with parent)
A lot has been happening here at the folk school! In August, Jon and I welcomed a new addition to our family - a baby boy born August 2nd. Thank you to everyone for their patience and flexibility during my maternity leave. Bethany Village is now up and running and our first fall workshop began in September. We have three more workshops in 2015, all of which offer exciting and challenging opportunities guaranteed to be enjoyable and engaging.

Students will be using our new facilities, including Hall Hall, the Epiphany Art Studio, and Pops' Blacksmith Shop. Our dance/performance hall includes an impressive ‘sprung floor’ to keep dancers happy and ready for more! The art studio was designed for your personal creative epiphanies and has both a dry side—for fiber arts, basket weaving, drawing and more—and a wet side—for pottery, mosaics, soap-making and more. The blacksmith shop is a wonderful permanent addition for our metalworking artists. We hope to see you soon! For more information or to register visit our website at www.alfolkschool.com.

Old Time Music & Crafts, October 15-18, 2015 — clawhammer banjo, fiddle, guitar, mandolin, traditional white oak egg-basket weaving, storytelling, and mini classes


Traditional Arts & Crafts, November 5-8, 2015 -- a great opportunity to make hand made gifts for the holidays

SPirituality and Climate, A Conference in the Forest * November 13-15
Professor James McClintock and The Rev. Mark Johnston will provide insight into the hot topic of climate change. While the workshop will highlight impacts that our changing climate has made on Antarctica and waterways in the U.S., there will be hopeful information about the role of religion in the stewardship of creation and the importance of energy efficiency. We will leave with practical action items that we can each do at home and at work.

Registration now open on www.campmcdowell.com
Questions? Contact Jordan Smith jordan@campmcdowell.com

Family Farm to Table Camp * November 20-22
Where families reconnect to God’s creation and each other
Bethany Village @ Camp McDowell
Registration now open on www.campmcdowell.com
Questions? Contact Susanna Whitsett susanna@campmcdowell.com

Make Holiday Memories at Camp McDowell
Come celebrate Thanksgiving, Christmas, or New Year’s with your family during this quiet time in God’s Backyard.
Contact Jordan Smith with questions and to make a reservation: jordan@campmcdowell.com or (205) 387-1806 EXT 100
Trinity Clanton starts Laundry Love ministry

Trinity Episcopal Church in Clanton has partnered with a local laundromat to initiate a community ministry offering an evening of free laundry services. Laundry Love is a national ecumenical service ministry offering free laundry services with no questions asked. Working with Suds-Are-Us in Clanton, Trinity parishioners offer the service to the community at least quarterly. Trinity inaugurated the ministry Aug. 5 from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m., providing 129 loads of wash to 17 families, helping a total of 45 family members.

“Laundry Love is a natural extension of our 10-year-old Beans and Rice ministry,” said the Rev. Bill King, Trinity’s priest in charge. “We have been aware for some time of the condition of clothing being worn by some adults and children coming to our food ministry. Having clean clothes to wear helps to instill some hope in the lives of the people we serve.”

A diocesan outreach grant helped purchase signage and refreshments to get the ministry going. St. Mark’s in Prattville has supported the ministry by collecting quarters. And Trinity has committed outreach funding. The ministry is coordinated by Trinity’s Janet Pandzik.

Trinity has also initiated “children’s book sharing ministry” in conjunction with its Beans and Rice ministry. Every child who comes with an adult to the Beans and Rice ministry can choose several books to take home and read. “Some children come back every month just to choose another book or two to take home with them,” said King. “We at Trinity are honored and humbled to be able to maintain these core community ministries. They simply are part of who we are as the church.”

New companion diocese relationship partners visit Alabama

A team from the Virgin Islands ventured to Alabama, in conjunction with the Jonathan Daniels Pilgrimage, in August to begin discussions to develop our mutual covenant for our new companion relationship among the Dioceses of Alabama, Alaska, and the Virgin Islands. Representatives from Alaska were unable to attend this first meeting.

What a pleasure! What a joy! What fun we all had getting to know each other.


Lee Hoerner, hosted our visitors and offered her home for our retreat as we shared our expectations and hopes for our new relationship.

At the retreat, participants shared a number of ways we could share mission experiences, engage youth, develop both clergy and lay leadership, and deepen our relationship through shared worship and spiritual renewal. A visit to the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute set the stage for participation in the Jonathan Daniels Pilgrimage which this year marked the 50th anniversary of the Episcopal seminarian and civil rights martyr’s death. Companion diocese team members Kat Dailey and the Rev. Deacon Dave Drachlis and Alabama’s bishop the Rt. Rev. Kee Sloan met the Virgin Islands group in Montgomery during a special event on the eve of the pilgrimage.

Our partners were deeply moved as they joined the pilgrims in honoring the memory of Jonathan Daniels and all the martyrs of the 1960’s civil rights movement. Riise Richards thanked us “for a priceless spiritual experience,” and Alecia Wells commented that we shared “a wonderful, spirit-filled time.”

The Holy Spirit is guiding this relationship into being and we trust will continue to guide us as we discover the joys of walking together with Christ.

We will keep the Dioceses posted on how parishes and individuals will be able to join in this journey. The relationship officially begins in January 2016. In the meantime, please continue to pray for our new companion dioceses of Alaska and the Virgin Islands.
Young People Paint Birmingham and learn about unconditional love
by Susan Oakes, Diocesan Youth Ministries Coordinator

Junior high youth from around the diocese gathered at St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church July 6, to participate in Young People Paint Birmingham. These sixty teenagers spent the week painting homes in the economically disadvantaged West End neighborhood of Birmingham.

In addition to our adult staff, this year we welcomed six soon to be college freshman as counselors in training. Erin McAdams, Laura Beth Passey, Mary Margaret Murdock, Sally Fargason, Pailey Smith, and Ben Williams served an important peer ministry role during the week acting as mentors to our junior high participants. Our week wouldn’t have been the same without the enthusiastic leadership of these young adults.

Our program this year, designed and led by Sarah Seibels of Cathedral of the Advent in Birmingham and Thomas Lane of Trinity in Florence, focused on how and why we can be our truest self through God’s unconditional love. This freedom allows us to serve the world to our best ability. That theme followed us into our work each day.

By the end of the week our youth had worked on six different houses, four of which were completely painted. On our last night we celebrated dinner and closing Eucharist at Christ Church Fairfield. We’re so grateful for the continued love and support of the Rev. Bob Blackwell and the parishioners of Christ Church! Father Bob and Bishop Marray led us in a beautiful service. The Christ Church Band’s performance during worship was the perfect compliment to our wild and joyous week of ministry! We also enjoyed a performance by their Kid’s Club Day Camp choir. It was an amazing week of making new friends and learning new skills. We’re already looking forward to next summer.

Bishop Marray Completes Mediation Skills Training

The Rt. Rev. Santosh Marray, the Diocese of Alabama’s assistant bishop, recently completed a week long continuation education training with Lombard Mennonite Peace Center in Chicago, Illinois. The focus of the training was on developing mediation skills in conflict resolution within congregations. Marray describes himself as a ‘reconciled reconciler’ and this training enhances his work in reconciliation ministry.


“This training proved to be very beneficial and begins from the premise that conflict is an ancient phenomenon within the church,” said Marray. “It proceeds through theory, cohort group training and participants modelling to offer a process to live with it and transform it for the health and wellness of the community of faith.”
UPCOMING YOUTH EVENTS

AWAKENINGS
OCTOBER 9-11, 2015
What is it?
This event is designed to explore the Life and Light of Christ within us. High school counselors lead junior high participants by sharing their stories and facilitating small groups, games, music, and worship.

REGISTRATION OPEN for 7th-8th graders til Sept. 30
STAFF APPLICATIONS OPEN til Sept. 10
LOCATED AT CAMP MCDOWELL
$115 with scholarship available

FOR MORE INFO http://dlusa.org/ministries/youth_upcoming_events.html

HAPPENING
#67 IS COMING!
November 6-8, 2015
All Saints’, Birmingham
Registration open til October 23
http://www.dlusa.org/ministries/senior-high-events.html

Christmas Conference 2016
December 28-30
Camp McDowell
Senior High youth can attend this event with music led by Erin McKenzie and The Rev. Daniel Strnad as Program Director

$115 with scholarship available
Open to youth grades 9-12
Registration will be open in October
http://www.dlusa.org/ministries/senior-high-events.html
C

am McDowell. Bethany Village. Kids with disabilities. Hank has a number of things going on, but cerebral palsy seems to be his ‘label.’ He is smart, very, and his brain works just fine. But his body, my God, his failing body... he has an I-pad attached to his wheelchair that he uses to type messages with his toes. That’s right, Hank is able to type with his toes. His head swings from side to side. At times, seemingly without reason. But when he swings his head up to meet my eyes and say ‘thank you,’ I am brought to tears. His speech is entirely unclear and not only am I guessing about what he has said, I’m not sure what I have done for him to be grateful for.

The kids put on a talent show that is very ordinary. Just like kids everywhere. The kids with disabilities join in and although most of them claim to sing songs and things like that, we can’t really make sense of most of the skits. But seeing them up on stage performing just like the other children is breathtaking. When they finish in turn, the applause is deafening. They smile, bow, and exit the stage. And we thank God that they have been given this chance to experience what all of the other kids do. They are not a sideshow here.

But seeing them up on stage performing just like the other children is what all the other children love and enjoy. There is the talent show, Allison dances with disabled children and I have agreed that one day she will teach special needs children and easily communicate with them. After the talent show, Allison dances with disabled children and lights them up with smiles. It is truly a God-given gift.

More impressive still, Hank reads the epistle; Paul’s letter to the Roman’s, in his own voice at church. One sentence begins ‘Let love be genuine,’ but goes on to say, ‘rejoice in hope.’ When Hank says the word ‘hope,’ we all hold our breath in awe. We can’t understand his speech, but we are holding a pamphlet that gives us the words. Those of us with sharp ears are able to make out his pauses well enough to follow his reading. It may be the most moving thing I have ever seen. I sit two rows behind Hank’s mother and hear her gasp with amazement and delight. She tells me later that Hank said he loved camp McDowell because he “didn’t feel special.” For a young man in a wheelchair who types with his toes, this is an exceptional statement.

I imagine my experience at Bethany Village was much like the others. We were all astonished by what is happening there. And to make young kids like Hank not feel “special” is an accomplishment that is to be admired. Camp McDowell, especially Bethany, is giving us the opportunity to see how the world could be. And how it should be. And hopefully by taking this as an example, how it will be.

Episcopal Church Women award 11 Scholarships

The Diocese of Alabama’s Episcopal Church Women (ECW) has announced its 2015-2016 scholarship awards to 11 students representing nine parishes in the diocese.

Emily Nicole Baker, Trinity Episcopal Church in Wetumpka, received the Sarah Sterrett Porter Scholarship. Sharon Grace Mays, Cathedral Church of the Advent in Birmingham, was awarded the Elizabeth Blair Pannell Scholarship. Erin Elizabeth McAdams, St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Birmingham, received the Bishop Richard Hooker Wilmer Scholarship. The Edith Buell Wilson Scholarship was awarded to Molly Katherine Bogan, Canterbury Chapel in Tuscaloosa. The Bishop Onell and Nina Soto Scholarship was awarded to Samantha Diane Nelms, St. Mark’s Episcopal Church in Birmingham. Ronnie Dillon Green, Trinity Episcopal Church in Florence, was awarded the Isla Hall Hildabrand Scholarship.

ECW College Scholarships were awarded to Jonathan Dowling Auman, Church of the Epiphany in Guntersville; William Hartwell Doyle Chaney, Trinity, Florence; Katherine Ruth Mack, St. Matthew’s Episcopal Church in Madison; Brittain David Poehler, Church of the Ascension in Hoover; and Kristen Marie Alley, St. Matthew’s, Madison.

We commend these students for all they have already accomplished and we send our blessings with them as they continue their education and spiritual journeys.

The ECW gratefully acknowledges all the contributions and honorariums that have helped establish these scholarships and the continuation of the ECW tradition of giving back to the men and women of our church.

The ECW awards these scholarships on the criteria of need, church/community involvement and academic commitment. Each scholarship recipient is a communicant of the Diocese of Alabama and endorsed by their parish priest. Since the early 1900s when Bishop Richard Hooker Wilmer established the first scholarship fund to enable daughters of diocesan clergy to further their education, our diocesan ECW has granted more than $160,000 to aspiring students in our diocese. Thanks to the addition of other named funds and the growth of the ECW General Scholarship Fund, the ECW continues to assist students throughout our diocese achieve their educational goals. ECW scholarships are made possible by the very generous donations of persons who have taken to heart the education of our members.

If you or your parish would like to contribute to the education of a young person in our diocesan church family, please consider making a gift to the ECW College Scholarship Fund. Please send your contribution to ECW, Diocese of Alabama, 521 North 20th Street, Birmingham, AL 35203-2611; note ECW College Scholarship Fund in the memo line of your check.
Fourteen new members were installed in the Daughters of the King at Holy Apostles Episcopal Church in Hoover Sept 6. With Chaplain Marti Holms (top left) and President Pat Davis (bottom right), new members are (from top left) Leann Gonzalez, Marcia Barwick, Gail Garrett, Nancy Genneri and Helene Griffith, Rebecca Salas, Terri Coley, Rachael Schexnaildre, Mickey Farmer, Lynne Dover Gerdes, Carol Dashiff, and Jo Scherefroth. New members Lorraine Lentz and Marjee Friar are not shown. Holy Apostles now has 45 members of the Daughters of the King.

The Rev. Joan Henrick is serving as part time priest in charge at Calvary, Oneonta.

The Rev. Monica Carlson resigned as priest in charge at St. Mathias, Tuscaloosa Aug. 30.

The Rev. Bill Blackerby began serving as interim rector at St. Catherine’s, Chelsea Sept. 1.

The Rev. Mary Anne Akin, chaplain at St Martin’s in the Pines in Birmingham, has announced plans to retire Oct. 1. She plans to move to Nashville where she will plan and direct retreats for elders.

The home is being built in Adamsville for LaArchsha Covington and her two sons. Construction began Sept. 12, with dedication tentatively planned for Nov. 1.

The 2015 Episcopal Diocese of Alabama Habitat for Humanity Build Project in Birmingham is underway and is in need of volunteers.

“No Carpentry, Painter or Planter skills are required, just the willingness to help,” said Bill Spies, a Habitat Build Committee member, and member of the Church of the Epiphany in Leeds. “Instruction and tools will be provided for you at the work site.”

At press time, volunteers were needed for Saturdays Oct. 24 and 31, the following Thursdays and Fridays: Oct. 1, 2, 8, 9, 15,16, 22, 23, 29, and 30.

Visit http://bit.ly/1NTacnu to volunteer online. Then click on the Access Code button and enter “Episcopal”. For additional information contact Riley Beedingfield at Habitat for Humanity Greater Birmingham at 205-780-1234 or by email at rbeddingfield@habitatbirmingham.org.

Holy Apostles Hoover installs 14 new DOK members

Diocese of Alabama Habitat Build Project underway, volunteers needed
 ECW FALL CONFERENCE
October 2 & 3, St. Stephen’s, Birmingham
The 126th ECW Conference promises to offer worship, fellowship and fun. Featured speaker, Laura Lapins Willis, the author of Finding God in a Bag of Groceries, is a writer and community organizer, wife and mother in Sewanee, TN. The conference includes workshops on fundraising, altar guild, and spiritual journaling. A yoga session will be included. Attendees will also participate in an outreach project. For additional information visit: http://bit.ly/1Eic5sx or call Linda Kennedy at: 205-324-7116.

“ON WINGS OF SONG” – THIRD ANNUAL ST. FRANCIS ART FESTIVAL
October 2 – 4, St. Francis Episcopal Church, Indian Springs
Weekend events include a jazz concert, photography show, a St. Francis Music Academy open house, an inter-cultural, seated dinner and talent show, a service featuring classical music, a blessing of the animas service, and a movie. All Festival events are free, but donations benefiting the St. Francis Music Academy Scholarship Fund will be accepted. For more info, including a detailed agenda visit: http://bit.ly/1gXLU0d, or email Dr. Alma Vociu, Director of Music, at sfmusicacademy@gmail.com.

ST. FRANCIS MUSIC ACADEMY OPEN HOUSE
October 3, St. Francis Episcopal Church, Indian Springs
The new St. Francis Music Academy will hold an open house Oct. 3 10:00 a.m. to noon. All are invited to meet the faculty and students and hear some of them perform brief selections. Featuring a world-class faculty, including members of the Alabama Symphony Orchestra and other professional musicians who have distinguished themselves as performing artists around the globe, the Academy offers a rare level of music instruction in piano, voice, violin, viola, cello, flute, guitar and harp, as well as chamber music, choral instruction, music theory and musicianship to students of all ages. For additional information visit: http://bit.ly/1JwrQY

2015 EPISCOPAL FUNDRAISING SYMPOSIUM
October 8 & 9, Holy Innocents’ Episcopal Church, Atlanta
The Symposium is designed for directors of development of dioceses, congregations, and other Episcopal organizations, as well as clergy and lay people interested in parish and diocesan fundraising. For additional information visit: http://bit.ly/1XQIDj4.

DIoCESAN ULTREYA TO CELEBRATE FIRST 200 ALABAMA CURSILLO WEEKENDS
October 9 – 11, Camp McDowell
In celebration of the first 200 weekends, Alabama Cursillo is hosting a Diocesan Ultreya October 9-11. This is a great opportunity to reconnect with pilgrims from the last 35 years. Spiritual directors will be Rev. Rich Webster (St. Luke’s, Birmingham), Rev. Andrew Pearson (Advent, Birmingham) and Rev. Gates Shaw. Music will be lead by Dwight Williams & Company. Visit: http://bit.ly/1SNJOKH for details or call 205-910-6795.

UPCOMING EVENTS

ANGEL FEST
October 17, St. Michael and All Angels, Millbrook
Angel Fest, St. Michael’s and All Angels annual fundraiser is scheduled for 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. at the Church in Millbrook. It will feature a silent auction, children’s carnival, concessions, vendors offering unique arts and crafts, a Boston Butt sale, and lots of good entertainment. Proceeds support the Church’s outreach program to Millbrook and western Elmore County. For information contact the church at: (334) 285-3905 or Veta Wall at: vetawall@gmail.com.

FIFTH ANNUAL SAWYERVILLE 5K RUN/WALK
October 17, St. Paul’s, Greensboro
St. Paul’s Episcopal Church in Greensboro, AL will host the Fifth Annual Sawyerville Day Camp 5K Oct. 17. This is a fun, healthy way to support the camp. All proceeds from the $25.00 registration fee will go towards summer 2016 at Sawyerville Day Camp. All are welcome at this fun, family-friendly event! Participants can register to run, walk, volunteer, or even “sleep in for Sawyerville” meaning you will not be at the event, but want to support the camp by registering. For additional information and to register visit: http://bit.ly/1Kk88Ej.

GRACE LOBSTERFEST 2015 TO SUPPORT HABITAT
October 17, Grace Church, Amston
LOBSTERFEST is a festival type event and benefit for Habitat for Humanity that includes lobster, crafts, art vendors, children’s activities, hot dogs, snacks, and more. It is open from noon to 7:00 p.m. Oct. 17. Tickets must be purchased by Oct. 12. Cost is $18.00 Lobster only (cooked or live) and $24.00 for a full meal which includes lobster, slaw, potato, bread, and tea. For additional information visit: http://bit.ly/1Kkr8S5

INTENSIVE CENTERING PRAYER CONTemplATIVE RETREAT
October 29-November 1, Cullman
An Intensive Centering Prayer Retreat and Convelement will be held at the Benedictine Sisters Retreat Center in Cullman. Call 256/734-8302 or email retreats@shmon.org to register.

“DIVING BACK IN: RECLAIMING BAPTISMAL SPIRITUALITY”
October 30 – November 6, St. Mary’s, Senevan
Thomas Merton summed up our Christian baptismal spirituality when he urged, “You start where you are, and you deepen what you have, and you realize you are already there. Everything has been given to us in Christ. All we need is to experience what we already possess.” We are already in the deep end in God through our baptism, and in this contemplative retreat we can hear the call to take the plunge once more into the experience of God’s desire for us, his “wanting-to-be in our lives.” We can re-experience our given baptismal oneness with Christ. We can re-sense the Spirit’s indwelling, and active incentive to experimentation and creation.

The Rev. Martin L. Smith, well known throughout the Episcopal Church and beyond as a preacher, retreat leader and writer of a number of widely read books exploring contemporary spirituality, will offer this retreat.

For additional information visit: http://bit.ly/1MeBlhs or contact St. Mary’s at: (800) 728-1659

BEGINNING EXPERIENCE MINISTRY
Beginning in October, Homewood and Cullman
The next weekly series support group sessions will begin October 6th 2015 at 6:30 p.m. at Our Lady of Sorrows in Homewood. Each series lasts 10 weeks. A Beginning Experience Weekend is scheduled at The Sacred Heart Monastery in Cullman, Oct. 23 – 25.

The Beginning Experience Ministry is a peer ministry of grief recovery, for those who have lost a spouse through death, divorce or separation. It was started in 1974 by Sister Josephine Stewart a family counselor, and her friend Jo Lamia, who was divorced. It is an International ministry with groups in England, Ireland, Australia, Singapore and the United States. The Birmingham Team is affiliated with the Episcopal Church in Alabama. The ministry conducts two weekends a year, focusing on resolution of the grief process and a gentle transition into a new beginning, and weekly support groups that meet for 10 weeks, four times a year. Using copyrighted material and a process of writing and sharing, we journey alongside those experiencing this particular loss, through grief and on into a new phase of life. For additional information visit www.birminghambeginningexperience.org and www.beginningexperience.org, or call 205-969-8509.

A CHRISTIAN PERSPECTIVE: CIVIL RIGHTS IN THE SIXTIES
Wednesdays in October, Tuscaloosa
Tuscaloosa parishes are offering a lunch and learn series Wednesdays at noon during October. The series is entitled “A Christian Perspective: Civil Rights in the Sixties.” Come hear real stories about civil rights in Alabama during the sixties. Bring your lunch to eat as the story is shared. A brief question and answer time will follow. We will then explore where God can be found in the story, what that meant then and what this can mean for us now.

Oct. 7 – Early Pre-school Integration – by Elizabeth Kent – at Canterbury Chapel
Oct. 14 – Small Actions/Big Changes – by Wayne Caldwell, – at Christ Church
Oct. 21 – Jonathan Daniel Story – by Joe and Frances Fritz – at Christ Church
Oct. 28 – A Stingle of Authority – by Bill Hust – at St. Matthias Episcopal


ST. THOMAS’ LOBSTERFEST 22
November 14, St. Thomas, Huntsville
Join us for the 22nd Annual Lobsterfest at St. Thomas Church in Huntsville between 10:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. Nov 14. Proceeds from the annual fall community festival fund medical missions to Honduras and Haiti, as well as Habitat for Humanity, and First Stop here in Huntsville. The event includes something for everyone, good food including fresh lobster and smoked BBQ and ribs, a variety of craft booths, a silent auction, bake sale, children’s activities live music, and more. For details visit http://stthomashuntsville.org or call the church at 256-880-0248.

September/October 2015

Around Our Diocese
Peace in HIS Presence by Sarah Young, (Thomas Nelson, hardback)
This beautiful four-color gift book with inspiring and favorite quotes and scriptures from the bestselling Jesus Calling devotional will offer readers reminders of the peace that can be found only in His presence. Great as a companion piece to Jesus Calling or as an introduction for unfamiliar to the devotional.

Way of Grace by Glandion Carney with Marjean Brooks (Inter-Varsity Press, paperback)
With poignant vulnerability, The Way of Grace describes The Reverend Glandion Carney’s journey from the diagnosis of Parkinson’s disease into a new land of God’s amazing grace. We too can experience lives full of grace and truth, courageously searching out God’s wonders every day. This book is for anyone who desired to see beyond the pain to the goodness, complexity and the simplicity of the grace of God. Every chapter points to Jesus—full of grace and truth.

Jesus, Bread, and Chocolate by John J. Thompson (Zondervan, paperback)
Our culture is telling us something, says Thompson in Jesus, Bread, and Chocolate. The big, the industrial, the synthetic, the mass-produced are making way for the small, the artisanal, the organic, the small batch. It’s affecting everything from the food we eat, to the art we enjoy. And guess what: It’s also affecting the faith we live—and for the better…

The Biggest Story by Kevin DeYoung, illustrated by Don Clark (Crossway Books, hardback)
This illustrated children’s book imaginatively retells the biblical narrative in one continuous story, helping kids connect the dots from Genesis to Revelation. The Bible is full of exciting stories that connect to Scripture’s overarching message about God’s glorious plan to redeem his rebellious people. The artwork is powerful and imaginative.

Angels in Our Midst by Anne H. Neilson (AHN Designs, hardback)
In 2003, Anne Neilson painted her first angel. Then she began the Angel series of paintings. Anne’s desire to volunteer and serve her community intersected with her love of painting. Angels in Our Midst follows Anne’s journey through her Angel series, sharing inspirational and personal stories behind the paintings. We also have her second book, Strokes of Compassion; the Angel series “Note Cards”; and Angel series Journals.

St. Luke’s offers Life Is Gift:
Remembrances of John Rowan Claypool IV
Saint Luke’s Episcopal Church and Carolyn Sloss Ratliff have published a compilation of essays about John Rowan Claypool IV, well known and much loved minister, preacher, theologian, author, and teacher.
The book, entitled Life Is Gift: Remembrances of John Rowan Claypool IV, includes ninety-nine stories written by Baptist preachers and Episcopal priests from around the country, as well as church members, family, and friends. These authors tell their stories of Claypool’s journey as a rising star in the Baptist Church, the crushing loss of his 10-year-old daughter to leukemia, his decision to change denominations and join the Episcopal Church, and his return to the Baptist fold as Preaching Professor at McAfee School of Theology before he died of cancer in 2005. The many lives he touched and the comfort and love that he communicated to each person is evident in these stories.
Books will be sold at Saint Luke’s Episcopal Church for $35 and also be preordered online: www.saint-lukes.com and shipped for $40. Proceeds will benefit Saint Luke’s Ministries, including the Claypool Lecture Series.

BISHOPS’ VISITATION SCHEDULE

Sunday, September 27
11:00 a.m. Bishop Marray St. Matthew’s, Madison
Wednesday, September 30
6:00 p.m. Bishop Marray St. Michael & All Angels, Anniston
Sunday, October 4
9:00 a.m. Bishop Marray Good Shepherd, Montgomery
4:00 p.m. Bishop Marray St. Andrew’s, Prairieville
Sunday, October 11
10:30 a.m. Bishop Marray Holy Spirit, Alabaster
Sunday, October 18
10:30 a.m. Bishop Marray St. Luke’s, Jacksonville
Sunday, October 25
8:30 & 10:45 a.m. Bishop Marray St. Francis, Indian Springs
Wednesday, October 28
6:00 p.m. Bishop Marray Good Shepherd, Decatur
Sunday, November 7
4:00 p.m. Bishop Marray St. Simon Peter, Pell City
Sunday, November 8
9:00 a.m. Bishop Marray St. Catherine’s, Chelsea
6:00 p.m. Bishop Marray Trinity Commons, Birmingham
Wednesday, November 11
11:00 a.m. Bishop Marray St. Martin’s in the Pines, Birmingham
Sunday, November 15
10:30 a.m. Bishop Sloan Holy Apostles’, Hoover
10:30 a.m. Bishop Marray Holy Cross/ St. Christopher’s, Huntsville
Sunday, November 22
9:00 a.m. Bishop Sloan St. Stephen’s, Birmingham
9:30 a.m. Bishop Marray St. Bartholomew’s, Florence
Sunday, November 29
10:30 a.m. Bishop Sloan Grace, Cullman
11:00 a.m. Bishop Marray St. Andrew’s, Tuskegee
Grace Church, Woodlawn and its summer youth program, Grace Works, announce the opening of a seven-circuit, double-circle labyrinth.

Located on a church lot at 120 58th Street, North, the cement labyrinth’s path is 40 inches wide and will accommodate both pedestrians and wheelchairs. The brick path leading from the sidewalk to the labyrinth is also 40 inches wide offering accessibility for wheelchairs and walkers alike.

A cross at the end of the path was constructed from rocks donated to Grace Works during the 2015 Diocesan General Convention. The labyrinth is free to the public and rests under a canopy of trees, allowing for shady walks.

The staff and participants of Grace Works would like to thank the Episcopal Diocese of Alabama, Grace Church, Woodlawn, and St. Thomas, Cathedral Church of the Advent, St. Stephen’s, St. Andrew’s and the Abby Coffee Shop in Birmingham, for their donations of materials, financial support, volunteers and prayers. That which was so freely and abundantly given provided for another successful summer of sharing Christ’s love with the children and teens of Woodlawn and surrounding communities.

The labyrinth was one of many projects in this year’s seven-week Grace Works program for at-risk kids ages 12 to 15. Now in its third summer, the program offers its fifteen-plus participants a range of experiences: art, dance, worship, service-oriented building projects, outdoor adventures, and centering prayer.

Editor’s note: Read more about the program in the July/August Alabama Episcopalian online at: http://bit.ly/1LVojY6