Bishop Marray Nominated to Become Bishop of Easton

The Rt. Rev. Santosh Marray, the Diocese of Alabama’s Assistant bishop, has been nominated to become the 11th Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Easton. He is one of four candidates announced in April, by the standing committee of that diocese.

The election will take place on Saturday, June 11 at Trinity Cathedral in Easton. The other nominees are the Rev. Kathryn A. Andonian, Rector of the Church of the Holy Spirit in Harleysville, PA; the Very Rev. Brian Grantz, Dean and Rector of the Cathedral of Saint James in South Bend, IN; the Rev. John A. Mennell, Rector of St. Luke’s Episcopal Church Montclair, NJ.

Sharing the news with the Diocese of Alabama, the Rt. Rev. Kee Sloan, Bishop of Alabama said:

“I’m proud to announce that our friend Santosh Marray has been nominated to become the 11th Bishop of the Diocese is Easton. He was not looking for a new job; he loves our Diocese and is doing a great job. But his name was suggested there, and they have recognized that Santosh is a gifted, talented servant of our Lord with a great amount of experience and skill.

I hope you will join me in supporting Santosh and Lynn as they move toward this election on June 11th. If he is elected, I hope you’ll join me in rejoicing that our sister Diocese has elected a very fine Bishop; if he is not, I hope you’ll join me in rejoicing that this very fine Bishop will continue to serve our Lord here with us. Either way, we will trust the Spirit to lead and strengthen us all to be about God’s work of love and reconciliation in the Church and in the world.”

Amazon shoppers can now support diocesan ministry at no additional cost

Amazon shoppers now have an opportunity to support the ministry of the Episcopal Diocese of Alabama at no additional cost. The AmazonSmile program allows shoppers to designate 0.5 percent of the purchase price of tens of millions of products.

To support the diocese, visit AmazonSmile (smile.amazon.com) and log into your Amazon account. Before beginning to shop, select “Protestant Episcopal Church In Diocese of Alabama” to receive donations from eligible purchases. AmazonSmile will remember the selection, and then every eligible purchase at smile.amazon.com will result in a donation to the diocese.

For additional information about using AmazonSmile to donate to the work of the Diocese of Alabama visit: http://smile.amazon.com/gp/aw/ch/about

Correction

In our article “Elected to serve,” the March/April issue, we mistakenly listed the Rev. Donna Gafford’s parish as St. Martins in the Pines, Scal. Her parish is St. Matthew’s in the Pines, Scale.
“It’s All About Love”

Hello, friends

When Cleopas and his friend came back from Emmaus to tell the disciples they’d seen Jesus, they found eleven men who’d undergone an incredible transformation. They had gone from huddling in fear and defeat after the Crucifixion to proclaiming the great Good News of Resurrection: “The Lord has risen indeed!” Their lives would never be the same.

A few weeks later, as they were all together in one place, they were filled with the Spirit of God in such a powerful way that they proclaimed this Good News in the languages of all the people who heard them with such enthusiasm that some of their hearers thought they must be drunk. On that day, about three thousand people joined the disciples and their friends. Their lives would never be the same.

In the early years of Christianity it was against Roman law to be a Christian, and the Jewish authorities threatened by the new movement. Some of the leaders of The Way, as they called it, were arrested; others were killed. Saul of Tarsus wanted to find Christians and hand them over to be punished. He was on his way to Damascus “breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord” when he had a strong vision that brought him to his knees and blinded him. His life, and the newly forming Church, would never be the same.

For more than two centuries the followers of Jesus Christ met in secret, and the Church grew. The Good News spread across the known world, not just among the Jews but also to the Gentiles. Constantine had a dream that led him to fight an important battle under protection of the Cross. He won that battle and became the Roman Emperor, and it soon became legal to be a Christian. Before long it was required that a person be a Christian in order to be a good citizen of Rome. The Church came out of hiding and working against the prevailing culture and became the establishment. And the Church would never be the same.

It may be that an unintended consequence of Constantine’s conversion was that the Church became domesticated, or at least standardized. We all spoke the same language, all conducted the same liturgy, all wore the same uniform. At the Council of Nicaea, which Constantine called to settle a controversy about the divinity and humanity of Jesus, the Church was given a creed, and we were soon expected to abide by it: Nicene faith, Nicene Creed.

Heretics were identified and dealt with, Crusades were launched, inquisitions were tasked with protecting the orthodoxy of the Faith. The Church broke and split and divided again and again, and our definition of what was good and right and acceptable became narrower and narrower.

I believe that heresy is not the primary enemy of the Church. Nor is division and schism what will do us in.

It’s just my opinion, but I believe that heresy is not the primary enemy of the Church. Nor is division and schism what will do us in. One of our great perils is the insistence that we must be correct, that other people must agree and do things right, which is obviously the way we do them. The other great peril is simple complacency – what if we all get so comfortable that we just fall asleep and no longer see that the world desperately needs what we have to offer?

Now the Church is in the second decade of the second millennium – we are no longer what we used to be, and not yet what we will be. Some call for a bold and possibly ominous new day, while others long to return to an imaginatively embroidered nostalgic past. I think we need to hold fast to that which is good, and at the same time sing to the Lord a new song.

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But how do we know what to hold on to, and what to have done with? I believe we need to remember who we are and what we’re supposed to be doing. It’s all about the Good News of the love of God in Jesus Christ. It’s all about love.

But whom should we love? Whom do we have to love? What are the terms, the limits and conditions? If we are at all serious about following The Way of Jesus, we’re going to have to pay some attention to what he said we’re supposed to do: “Love one another as I have loved you.” There can be no limits, no conditions. Love them all, every single one of them. Even the ones you don’t like, maybe even especially the ones you don’t like.

But what about the people we disagree with (you know, the ones who are wrong)? Can we just condone their heresies and sinfulness? Or is all of that just unimportant?

You don’t have to agree with people you think are wrong. You don’t have to condone anything.

You don’t have to agree with people you think are wrong. You don’t have to condone anything. Our opinions are important, and so are our differences. They’re just not as important as the love of God in Jesus Christ, which is the great gift we have been given, and the great gift we have to offer to the world. Shine on, Christians; shine with the Light of Christ. It’s getting dark out there, and God’s people need to be loved and invited back onto The Way.

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A Holy Tension: Our Gift to the Anglican Communion

The Anglican Way is a particular expression of the Christian Way of being the One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church of Jesus Christ. It is formed by and rooted in Scripture, shaped by its worship of the living God, ordered for communion, and directed in faithfulness to God’s mission. It is formed by and rooted in Scripture, shaped by its worship of the living God, ordered for communion, and directed in faithfulness to God’s mission.

The Anglican Communion is for me one of the most gifted and grace filled communities in the world of Church organizations. I must confess this is my own personal description and prejudice, and in all likelihood differ significantly from other people’s opinions. Nevertheless, I am extremely proud to be an Anglican/Episcopal Christian, part of a community of faith that allows me the freedom to think and engage the world from a place of scripture, tradition and reason. One of the distinguishing marks of Anglicanism is in how we read and interpret scripture, which for the most part becomes an ongoing engagement of ‘God’s Word’. Tradition is the medium through which our interpretation is preserved and handed down over generations. This pilgrimage of holy reading continues the challenging and joyful task of drilling down through deliberate prayerful communal engagement. Our collective and/or individual biases and prejudices are shared as we each discover new revelations and insights to gift the church.

The ‘Word of God’ is a living breathing organic incarnational presence in my life. I am always mesmerized and inspired when I read the early church fathers to see how much of what they testified to in their generations find relevance, similarity and authority in our time. The work of the Spirit connects the past with the present and points to the future which by the Spirit to have a glimpse into.

‘One of the fundamental realities of our Communion is that it isn’t designed to operate as an exclusive club with rules that exclude and rules that include …’

One of the fundamental realities of our Communion is that it isn’t designed to operate as an exclusive club with rules that include or exclude, with violations resulting in unilateral expulsion. We are a body that respects the call of each church to mission and ministry, and are held together by what has been long described as ‘bonds of affection’, that is, our koinonia (fellowship of love and common worship and mission). At the same time, it does not give one member church arbitrary latitude to engage positions that don’t line up with belief and practice of the other member churches without some level of awareness given to the other members.

Although and quite frankly, member churches may not have to concur with the position of a member church that may discern a particular missional, doctrinal or canonical direction the Spirit is leading her at a particular time. We are designed for consultative collegial life and sharing as against seeking approval from the others. In all fairness, the Episcopal Church has been sharing its conviction of discerning a church of inclusion of all with other member churches in the communion. Enshrined in this conviction are some historical realities this church continues to address daily, and chooses never to again repeat. Unfortunately, many member churches refuse to listen or share the vision of this church.

The communion describes the relationship between Anglican Churches as ‘autonomy in communion’, that is, member provinces are governed by their respective polity, ecclesiastical constitution and canons of law, doctrine, discipline, worship and order, duly discerned and assented to by their respective synods/conventions. It is un-Anglican for one member church to unilaterally impose their authority over the other. According to the communiqué coming out of the recently held Anglican Consultative Council (ACC) meeting in Lusaka, Zambia, the church is reminded that “the Anglican Communion finds its decisions through spiritual discernment in relationship, not through canons and procedures. Primates Meeting, Lambeth Conferences and ACCs are not a question of winning and losing, but of discerning together in love.”

Regarding the much publicized and widely discussed Primates Meeting communiqués issued by the Primates after their January gathering, the ACC, as recommended by the primates, committed the provinces to ‘walk together’ with each other. ACC16 neither endorsed nor affirmed the consequences contained in the Primates’ Communiqué. From all reports and confirmed by the six outgoing members of the Anglican Consultative Council and of the Standing Committee (Helen Buggins, Church of Wales; Joaquindo Burity, Igreja Episcopal Anglicana do Brasil; Bishop Ian Douglas, the Episcopal Church; Bishop Sara Macneil, Anglican Church of Australia; Elizabeth Paver, Church of England and Bishop James Tengatenga, Province of Central Africa and outgoing chair of the Anglican Consultative Council) in a clarifying comment said, “from our perspective there did not seem to be a common mind on the issue, other than the clear commitment to avoid further confrontation and division.”

The Archbishop of Canterbury, The Most Rev Justin Welby, as primus inter pares (a first among equals amongst fellow bishops), was asked to set up as Task Group with the responsibility of maintaining conversation among the member churches of the Anglican Communion (38 provinces/churches) with the distinct intention of “developing a more deeper and intentional relationship, the restoring of mutual trust, healing and legacy of hurt, recognition of the extent of our commonality and exploration of our deep differences to ensure they are held together between us (member churches) in love and grace of Christ”. According to the archbishop the Task Group is representative of
Bishop Marray honored by General Theological Seminary

Alabama’s Assistant Bishop, the Rt. Rev. Santosh Marray, was among three distinguished leaders honored by the General Theological Seminary May 11.

Marray was awarded the seminary’s Doctor of Divinity degree, honoris causa during the school’s 194th Commencement ceremonies. The other two recipients of the honorary degree were A. Gary Shilling, an economist and columnist for Forbes Magazine, and the Rev. Becca Stevens, an Episcopal priest, author, speaker, and social entrepreneur.

“We are delighted to be honoring these great disciples of Christ whose wisdom and witness inspire the entire General Seminary community, students, faculty, trustees and alumni,” said the Rev. Timothy A. Boggs, Chair of the Honorary Doctorate Committee.

The Very Rev. Kurt H. Dunkle, Dean and President, added, “These three candidates represent the great strengths of The Episcopal Church, and we are proud to honor them at General Seminary. From life-long lay service to holy activism to broad Anglican Communion leadership, the achievements we are honoring are emblematic of the diversity of accomplishment in our church and at General. I suspect Jesus is proud!”

In announcing Marray’s selection, the school pointed out that in addition to his current position he served five other dioceses, Guyana, The Bahamas, Florida, Seychelles and East Carolina; and three provinces of the Anglican Communion, the West Indies, The Episcopal Church, and the Indian Ocean. Prior to his call to be the Assistant Bishop of Alabama, he served as Bishop Assisting in the Diocese of East Carolina. Marray’s first episcopate was as Bishop of the Anglican Diocese of Seychelles, Province of the Indian Ocean. He was elected to the position in February 2005 while serving as Rector of St. Philip’s Episcopal Church, Jacksonville, Florida.

During his time as Bishop of the Seychelles, the diocese witnessed significant restoration of several diocesan buildings; renewal in its spiritual life, mission, ministry and witness to the community; lay and clergy empowerment; and strengthening of its financial sustainability. It effectively became a healthier and more viable church; including advocating in the province for the ordination of women to the priesthood. Marray was the first bishop to ordain a woman to the priesthood in the Province of the Indian Ocean. He describes his ministry in the Seychelles as a call from God he could not resist, especially if he were to remain faithful to his vows and love for Jesus and his Church. As Bishop of Seychelles, he gained the respect, trust and confidence of many in the nation, including government leaders—as a bridge builder and reconciler.

In pastoral ministry, Marray has served in nearly every possible parochial setting, including rural multi-church parishes; urban, inner city, suburban settings; and in the hinterland in Guyana. He has witnessed the revival and growth of many struggling congregations, restored and/or built several parish edifices, and led a number of successful capital campaigns. He is a strong advocate for the gospel of reconciliation, and God’s love and salvation for all persons. Marray has travelled extensively across the Anglican Communion in mission and ministry, and his work in community service, social outreach, and justice extend across many countries and communities. He has the distinction of being the first West Indian of East Indian ancestry to be elected and consecrated bishop in the Anglican Communion, and to serve as bishop in both the eastern and western hemispheres.

Marray holds a Diploma in Pastoral Studies and a B.A. in Theology, magna cum laude, from Codrington Theological College and University of the West Indies, Barbados; an S.T.M. in Christian Spirituality from The General Theological Seminary; a Master of Law in Canon Law at the University of Wales; a Doctor of Ministry from Colgate Rochester Divinity/Bexley Hall Episcopal Seminary, Rochester, New York. In 2008, he was awarded a Doctor of Divinity from Bexley Hall Seminary, Ohio, for work in church growth and renewal and his involvement in the wider Anglican Communion.
More than 2,200 people attended the 11th Annual Gumbo Gala hosted by Episcopal Place Saturday, April 23 at Regions Field in Birmingham. The annual event supports the independent living facility for seniors and disabled adults with limited income.

This year 42 cook teams, served up a variety of gumbo ranging from chicken to seafood and duck to alligator. Episcopal Place residents fielded two cook teams, the Cutie Patooties and the Stud Muffins. Other teams represented churches, local businesses and corporations, home cooks, and local restaurants.

Activities included a Kid Zone offering face painting, inflatables including a large slide, and cookie decorating. Vendors sold a variety of wares including soap, to prayer beads. Episcopal Place residents sold cookbooks and offered a drawing for a television. Zydeco music was provided by the Swamp Poppas.

Thanks to generous sponsors, great team participation, and high ticket sales, Gumbo Gala 2016 was a huge success, providing much needed support for the residents of Episcopal Place, according to Pat Flowers, Director of Development for Episcopal Place.

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 or free hot lunches, housekeeping for sick or frail residents, enrichment activities, pastoral care, and an emergency relief fund.
2016 WINNING TEAMS

Most Spirit Third Place – Pelham Financial Trinity Commons
Most Spirit Second Place – Ascension Gumbo Filers
Most Spirit First Place – Apostles with Fire
Chef’s Choice Chicken/Sausage Category – Arthur Gallagher & Co.
Chef’s Choice Seafood Category – Spoon & Ladle Soup Company
Chef’s Choice Specialty Category – Boateng’s Cajun Creations
Gumbo Divine – St. Marc De Birmingham
People’s Choice Third Place – Dyron’s Low Country
People’s Choice Second Place – St. Martin’s Rouxstirs
People’s Choice First Place – Arthur Gallagher
Birmingham’s Best Gumbo Backyard Division Third Place – Estes Automotive
Birmingham’s Best Gumbo Backyard Division Second Place – Pathways
Birmingham’s Best Gumbo Backyard Division First Place – The Abbey
Birmingham’s Best Gumbo Professional Division – Workplay

Winning team photos available at: http://bit.ly/1QYYzZm
Diocese of Alabama ordains four transitional deacons

Four recent seminary graduates were ordained to the Sacred Order of Deacons in the Diocese of Alabama in May.

- **Tommie Watkins** was ordained by the Rt. Rev. Santosh Murray, Alabama’s Assistant Bishop, at St. Andrew’s in Birmingham on May 13. At press time he was scheduled to begin serving at Canterbury Chapel in Tuscaloosa June 1.
- **John “Trey” Kennedy** was ordained by the Rt. Rev. Kee Sloan, Bishop of Alabama, at the Cathedral Church of the Advent in Birmingham on May 14, and was scheduled to begin serving at St. Paul’s in Greensboro June 1.
- **Tyler Richards** was ordained by the Bishop Murray at Canterbury Chapel in Tuscaloosa on May 14. He was scheduled to begin serving at St. Andrew’s in Montevallo June 1.
- **Pamela Payne** was ordained by Bishop Sloan at St. John’s in Decatur on May 21 and was scheduled to begin serving at St. Michael’s in Fayette June 1.

Diocese approves four postulants to become candidates for Holy Orders

The Diocese of Alabama has approved four postulants completing their second year in seminary as candidates for Holy Orders. They are:

- **Katherine Harper**, who is sponsored by All Saints’ in Birmingham, and is studying at Seminary of the Southwest;
- **Corey Jones**, who is sponsored by All Saints in Birmingham, and is studying at University of the South;
- **Jamie Osborne**, who is sponsored by St. Thomas in Huntsville, and is studying at University of the South;
- **Worth Stuart** who is sponsored by St. John’s in Montgomery, and is studying at Virginia Theological Seminary.

Three parishes seek youth ministers

Three Diocese of Alabama parishes are accepting applications for youth ministry positions.

**Trinity Episcopal Church in Florence** is accepting applications for a full-time youth director. The youth director will be a salaried staff position, reporting to the rector. This person should have a working knowledge of the Episcopal Church, or the willingness to learn, and will serve as a Christian leader to the people of Trinity Episcopal Church.


Interested applicants should email a résumé and list of references to the Rev. Andrew C. Keyse at akeyse@trinityflorence.org.

**St. Matthew’s Episcopal Church in Madison** is accepting applications for a part-time Episcopal Youth Community (EYC) Director. The selected candidate will report directly to the rector and work with an established community of youth volunteers and a Christian Formation Director.


Contact Geoff Beech for information: 256-690-8968 or geoff@wagontek.com.

**St. John’s Episcopal Church in Decatur** is accepting applications for a Director of Youth Ministries.

As a part of the parish’s program staff team, the Director of Youth Ministries will develop and administer Christian formation programs for youth in the 6th through 12th grades. He or she will use current parish resources and cultivate new resources in order to grow our youth program both in size and in the impact it has on the lives of our youth and the whole parish.

A complete position description and application instructions are available at: [bit.ly/1TIpr1C](http://bit.ly/1TIpr1C).
The Alabama Folk School hosted the long-time favorite Bluegrass & Gee's Bend Workshop from April 18-21, 2016 featuring instruction in banjo, fiddle, guitar, mandolin, bass, pottery, and quilting in the Gee's Bend tradition. Critically acclaimed instructors included Herb Trotman, Ned Luberecki, Mary Ann Pettway, China Pettway, Robbi Podrug, Becky Buller, Chas Williams, Kenny Smith, Jason Bailey, Stephen Mougin, and Skip Ward. Students participated from across the state of Alabama. The workshop also attracted students from California, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Mississippi, North Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia. The Bluegrass & Gee's Bend Workshop kicked off with a wine and cheese social on the first night. Workshops were held over the course of the four days in six classes. Students gathered the final night for an instructor concert featuring incredible bluegrass music played by ensembles of the guest instructors. That night also featured a silent auction benefiting the Camp McDowell scholarship fund. Over $2,000 were raised thanks to the many items donated and purchased through the auction. The workshop culminated on the final day with a student exhibition and presentations.

Many thanks go to Herb Trotman who served as the coordinator of Bluegrass & Gee’s Bend and Kathy Hinkle who coordinated the silent auction.

Save the Date!

Registration is now open for the popular Old Time Music & Crafts workshop from October 13-16, 2016. Workshops include banjo, basket making, fiddle, flatfoot dancing, Gee’s Bend quilting, guitar, mandolin, old time repertoire, painting, and ukulele. Visit www.alfolschool.com for the full calendar of fall workshops.
Debra Sanders

Debra Sanders is a long time matriarch, friend and leader of Camp McDowell. She has worked here the last 18 years in Eppes Kitchen, working as the manager for almost 11 years. She will be retiring in July and when we say she will be greatly missed, truer words have never been spoken.

I set down with Debra to hear her thoughts on the last 2 decades of being part of the family. She reassures all of us that although she is retiring, we will still see her all the time.

Q: How did you come to work?
A: My sister-in-law worked here and I started coming to work part time for her during the evening shifts so she could be at home with her kids. It was 1998 or 1999. I had another job on Mon-Wed and then I worked here through the weekend. I remember I had only been working here 2 months and I fell and broke my foot at home and was scared I wouldn’t have a job anymore! I became manager at Eppes about 10 or 11 years ago.

Q: What is one of your happiest memories of working here?
A: It was during a Clergy Conference at Stough-- it might have been the first one I ever worked. Mark was grilling and all the clergy were out there and they decided to have pig hollering contest and Johnny, my husband, brought this little, small pig up here. All the clergy made a big circle behind Stough where Pop’s Garden is now and Amill got out there with his wine glass and started speaking in Italian to the pig. The whole time he was talking the pig was just running around and finally when he hollered “SOOOIE” the pig just flopped down on the ground. [laughter]. You know because the pig was supposed to come to him and he was just a little pig and he just flopped down on the ground!

One of my fondest memories is Mark. When I first started I came up here to put my application in and I came into his office and here sits this man in overalls with long, long shaggy hair. Yeah. Of course I was raised Assembly of God and I’m thinking, this is the priest??? Ok.

So I had been working a couple of weeks and this man comes in the kitchen and speaks to everyone. I was working so I just said hello and went about my business. When he went out I asked Carolynn who that man was, she looked at me and said, “Well that’s Mark!”. Needless to say, he’s had his hair cut ever since then.

Q: Who is one of the most memorable campers or staff members?
A: I watched a lot of them grow up, the Kendrick girls and Ethan and Adam. Patrick Garman always stands out in my mind. He was the head counselor I don’t know how many years ago. He was just a sweet, sweet person. There was just something about Patrick that made him easy to work with. I’m not saying everyone else wasn’t easy to work with! I haven’t seen him since he was head counselor.

I love them all. I think a lot of them. I think that’s why it’s so hard to let go of the job itself. I wouldn’t even be leaving if it wasn’t for my health. Other than that, I love working here. I love dealing with the kids. It gets hectic but I have just loved work here. I really have. They say God blessed me when Mark hired me.

Q: What are you going to do now?
A: Nothing I can think of. I would like to quilt and do needlework when it’s not so hot. I like canning which is something I haven’t done in years. I’d love to build me a little rose garden.

I’ll have to get my grandson out there to dig my dirt though, he likes to work with me doing stuff like that.

Q: Is there any other job at camp you wished you could have done?
A: No, not at all. I loved the kitchen and enjoyed working with the kids.

Q: If you could only eat one food everyday for the rest of your life, what would it be?
A: Bacon [laughter].

SAVE THE DATE....
LABOR DAY GETAWAY
@ Camp McDowell
Farm & Folk Workshops, Traditional Camp Activities,
Jam Sessions & More
SEPTEMBER 2-5, 2016
*More details to come on our website under "Opportunities to Come to Camp"
Friendship

Q: What kind of ship never sinks?
A: Friendship!

This little riddle is one of the many exchanges of light humor that may happen at summer camp amidst singing, laughter, and activity with a group of campers. The feeling of goodwill that surrounds it is clear: friendship is something that helps us stay afloat in life. But, unlike a ship that never sinks, friendships most definitely have their ups and downs, like all relationships of worth. The foundation of a friendship - whether established early or late in life - generally determines whether or not it will stay afloat or sink when navigating the choppy waters that may come about. At Summer Camp, where everything we do is geared to show how the world could be in worship, learning, rest and play, the potential for establishing enduring and endearing friendships is great. When kids spread their wings and go to sleep-away camp, their sense of independence is strengthened, many times through the encouragement of other kids doing the same thing. Opportunities abound to share ideas, to hear and be heard, to wonder, ponder, and establish a stronger sense of self as they learn more about who God is calling them to be in the world. With the guidance and leadership of church leaders and a caring and capable staff, Summer Camp becomes fertile ground for life lessons and life-long friendships based on common experiences and the freedom to grow and learn in the safety of community in God’s Backyard.

There are numerous ways that we encourage and facilitate friendship during a summer camp session. Program time, the hour and a half following breakfast, is planned and facilitated by a diocesan priest who volunteers his or her time to help engage the faith of all children who come to Camp McDowell. Campers participate in group activities that are age-appropriate, theologically sound, and thought provoking during the morning program time. Through free swims in the pool, adventures on Clear Creek in the canoes, exploring the many crevices and canyons of God’s Backyard, or through simply sitting with someone new at lunch, friendships are cultivated during summer camp at Camp McDowell.

Join us this summer, for the first time or for the 50th time. We have expanded our Summer Camp sessions to include programming for children and youth in grief, for those with special needs, for those interested in exploring their musical passion, their sense of creativity, or their interest in being a better steward of creation on the farm and in the garden. We have no shortage of ways to have fun at Camp and we have opportunities for every age camper!

All are welcome with love and joy to experience the treasure that is summer camp. For more information, please visit our website or contact Stratt Byars (stratt@campmcdowell.com) or Susanna Whitsett (susanna@campmcdowell.com).

Order your child’s Summer Camp Care Package online to receive 15% OFF. Use discount code Canteen2016 Expires June 27, 2016
Phyllis and David have left an indelible mark on Camp McDowell by way of Hall Hall. The name of our new dance and performance hall makes me smile whenever I hear it. It is delightfully fun to tell others the name of this building because it is in the spirit of Camp McDowell, where life is lighter and sillier and yet full of grace, and where the name of a building points to something deeper.

The Halls, who are active in the Cursillo Community, know that much of our spiritual journey occurs in the world where we live out our faith. When we hear, “Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you…” they understand we aren’t supposed to be armchair Christians.

Hall Hall provides a space at camp to learn and grow through a number of ministries and what we learn there should be taken out of camp and into the world, “as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.” Phyllis and David have provided an extraordinary financial gift to our Diocese which they recently increased to help complete Bethany Village.

The Halls truly believe in the vision of our Bishop and the opportunities the Bethany expansion brings to the Episcopal Church in Alabama. They are grateful to be involved in our big family project. My hope is for you to meet them one day and share in their optimism with hearts that overflow. My hope is that others will follow their example and increase their current pledge to Bethany Village.

Please add this to (my parish’s) pledge total.
Floods, earthquakes, refugee response, Episcopal Relief & Development present in a time of need

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

A Prayer for Preparedness and Response: O God, our times are in your hand. In the midst of uncertainty lead us by your never-failing grace as we seek to be agents of healing and hope. Walk with us through difficult times; watch over us in danger; and give to us a spirit of love and compassion for those who suffer and mourn. And finally remind us that you have promised never to leave us so that even in the valley of the shadow of death your love may be felt, through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.

— The Rev. Lyndon Harris, from the Episcopal Diocese of New York disaster preparedness plan

FLOODS

Episcopal Relief & Development is partnering with the two Episcopal dioceses in Louisiana, with the Diocese of Texas, and has reached out to several more across the region, following severe weather that caused tornadoes and flooding from Texas to Tennessee in March and April.

Episcopal Relief & Development is supporting the response efforts of the Episcopal Dioceses of Louisiana and Western Louisiana, following storms that knocked out power and caused widespread flooding across the state.

Both dioceses are working through local churches and community ministries to care for vulnerable people and assist with needs such as food, fuel, temporary housing and supplies to clean and repair damaged homes and other property.

Record floods struck Houston and parts of Southeast Texas on April 18. Thousands were evacuated and over 1000 homes were flooded. Episcopal Relief & Development has partnered with the Diocese of Texas to provide temporary housing, pastoral care, and other emergency assistance through a trained network of church volunteers.

Please pray for people impacted by these most recent storms, and for those who are providing urgently needed care and assistance.

To support Episcopal Relief & Development’s response, please donate to the US Disaster Response Fund.

EARTHQUAKES

Earthquakes struck Ecuador and Japan very hard in April.

Episcopal Relief & Development urges prayers for all those impacted by the earthquakes that shook the two regions.

The coast of Ecuador was hit by a massive earthquake that registered 7.8 on the Richter scale and killed more than 270 people. Thousands of people have also been injured and displaced, especially in the coastal areas and cities.

Two earthquakes also struck the southern tip of Japan within 24 hours of each other. Following a series of aftershocks, at least 42 people have been found dead and over 110,000 are reported to have been displaced from their homes.

Episcopal Relief & Development has reached out to church partners in each country.

Please continue to pray for all those displaced by these disasters, and for first responders and volunteers who are working to rescue those in danger and care for people in need.

Contributions to Episcopal Relief & Development’s International Disaster Response Fund will support these relief efforts.

REFUGEES

It has been five years since the start of the Syrian conflict, which has displaced over 11.4 million people—half the country’s pre-conflict population. Responding to the needs of children with disabilities who have fled with their families to neighboring Jordan, the Holy Land Institute for the Deaf (HLID) has been working in the Za’atari Refugee Camp since 2012.

Since 2013, the Za’atari Disability Center, with support from Episcopal Relief & Development, has provided a much-needed gathering place for addressing the learning needs of children with disabilities who are also affected by the traumas of war and displacement.

Some have visual impairments; others may have hearing or mental disabilities. But all receive caring guidance, instruction and friendship through HLID staff and the center’s 14 volunteers, many of whom are living in the camp and looking to contribute the skills they used as teachers in Syria.

“So many families fleeing catastrophe, war and death become uninvited guests in another land, and many children with disabilities become the most vulnerable,” says HLID Director Brother Andrew L. de Carpentier, who launched the Za’atari Disability Center with support from Episcopal Relief & Development and other organizations. “Thank God for the goodness and kindness these guests meet on the way, like Mary and Joseph did in Bethlehem. Thank God that we are able to help them pick up some of the pieces of their lives and look after their children who already struggle with disabilities.”

Please continue to pray for all who are fleeing violence and unrest, all who are displaced by conflicts and war.

Contributions to the Syria Crisis Response Fund will help support relief efforts throughout the Middle East and Europe.

To learn more about Episcopal Relief & Development’s programs worldwide, visit www.episcopalrelief.org or contact the Rev. Deacon Judy Quick at jjquick@bellsouth.net 205.669.6862 (home), 770.366.4034 (cell) or Marilyn Lands at marilynlands@gmail.com.

Two churches connect

by Connie Blair

“Sharing the Love” was the theme when two of Alabama’s smallest companion Black Belt parishes came together April 24 to worship in the tiny historic village of Carlowville.

The parishes are St. Paul’s Carlowville, established in 1838, and St. Paul’s Lowndesboro, established in 1857. The two have many things in common, including pre-antebellum roots and rich histories. They both have small but energetic and active congregations, and both share a priest. The Rev. Sherod Mallow serves each parish on alternating Sundays.

The congregations celebrated Holy Eucharist together and then enjoyed a delicious brunch prepared and beautifully served by the Carlowville ladies. Both congregations are looking forward to coming together again soon in Lowndesboro.
‘Finding My Way’ is Summer 2016 Sawyerville Day Camp theme

This month we’ll kick off our free summer day camp and free summer learning program for children in Hale County. Kids ages 6-14 will come to Greensboro from surrounding neighborhoods to pray, play, and learn.

At the day camp, we’re expecting over 700 registered campers and over 300 volunteer staff - not to mention the countless volunteers who will serve meals, help at Family Night, write Prayer Partner letters, and much more!

The camp will follow the theme “Finding My Way.” The campers will hear the stories of Jonah, Ruth, the Good Shepherd, and the Prodigal Son. They’ll use art, writing, and song to unpack the lessons of grace and redemption found in those stories. At the end of each week, campers and their families come to Family Night for a worship service, hot dog dinner, and carnival. We’ll style the event as a “homecoming” and celebrate being found once again.

This summer, 24 young people will join our ranks as paid interns with the day camp (SDC) and paid teaching assistants with the learning program (YLP). These staff members represent eleven different colleges and universities across the Southeast. They will each bring unique skills to the table, and we’re very excited to have them on board. Say “hello” to our talented team!

SDC Interns:  
Tim Callahan  
Doss Cleveland  
Adelaide Cochran  
Tye Edwards  
Emily Hooker  
Sarah Hayden Logan  
Murray Manley  
Jackson Massey  
Austin Osborn  
Kennedy Schweter  
Murray Stuart  
Anne Douglass Williams

YLP Teaching Assistants:  
Ably Greenwell  
Margaret Ireland  
Anna Klopack  
Tatyana Lawson  
Christopher Murphee  
Kayla Pilkington  
Mollie Schaefer  
Gracie Thull  
Sullins Toomey

In addition to the teaching assistants, twenty teachers will make up the rest of the YLP staff. These teachers will come from the local community and from Birmingham, Florence, and Nashville. Having certified teachers lead instruction in reading intervention, literacy, grammar, creative writing, and math will greatly enhance the quality of programming offered to our students. We’re so thankful for these men and women and for the gifts and talents they will share this summer.

We hope you’ll keep up with us as we move through the summer. You can follow our progress in several different ways:

• Social Media - We’ll use social media to share daily photos and updates.
  o SDC Facebook - Sawyerville Day Camp  
  o SDC Instagram - @sawyerville  
  o SDC Twitter - @sawyervilledcamps  
  o YLP Facebook - Yellowhammer Learning Program  
  o YLP Instagram - @ylplearns  
  o YLP Twitter - @ylplearns  
  • Blog - Our blog is the place to read longer pieces about the camp and learning program. You can subscribe to the blog and receive an email each time we create a new post. That way you’ll never miss the news! Read and follow the blog here - https://sawyervilledaycamp.wordpress.com/  
  • Website - The website is always a great place to find information about the ministry. Visit the website here - http://www.sawyervilledaycamp.org/

You can still participate in Summer 2016!

It’s not too late to support our summer offerings! Because of your generosity, all of our programming is available free of charge to participants and staff. You can always make a gift online that will go directly to our programs. By simply tapping a few keys and clicking a few buttons, you can:

• offset program supply costs for one camper for $5.  
• offset a camper’s meals for one week for $25.  
• provide water bottles for 100 campers for $80.  
• sponsor one camper for one week for $150.  
• sponsor one Google Chromebook for the YLP for $200.  
• sponsor the cost of dinner for one YLP Parent Night for $300.  
• sponsor the facility fees for the YLP for $400.  
• sponsor one Yellowhammer Learning Program student for $1,500.

You can also visit our Amazon “wish list” for the learning program. There are still a few items we have yet to receive that we would absolutely love to have! Items range from superhero masks to math games and everything in between. Find something in your price range and fulfill our wish! Once you’ve purchased a wish list item, be sure to email Claire Cotten at ccotten@dioala.org so we know to remove it from the list. View the list here: http://bit.ly/ylpwishlist.

Sawyerville Day Camp receives grant from Alabama Power Foundation

We’re happy to announce that the Alabama Power Foundation has awarded Sawyerville Day Camp and the Yellowhammer Learning Program a grant of $40,000 for Summer 2016! This very generous gift will make a significant positive impact on our programming this summer. We’re so grateful to Alabama Power and especially to our friends in the Western Division Office. It’s all for the kids!
Sawyerville Leadership update

Leslie Manning has officially stepped down as Executive Director, and Carole Kelly has started as the Interim Director.

We are so very thankful for Leslie’s leadership over the past nine years. During Leslie’s tenure, the day camp tripled the number of sessions, campers, and counselors, and the Yellowhammer Learning Program was established and then grew from a pilot literacy camp to a five-week learning program.

As we move through this time of transition, we will keep our sights set on our strategic priorities that were identified during our recent strategic planning. We look forward to offering new programs throughout the year, creating a high performance permanent staff, securing reliable space for all programs, and developing a sustainable donor base.

Carole Kelly will lead Sawyerville Day Camp through the summer months until a new Director is called in the fall. Carole has been a dedicated volunteer for many, many years. She originally coordinated meals for the staff and campers and has served on the Sawyerville Commission. Carole retired from a successful career in software programming at BBVA Compass, and will bring lots of new gifts and talents to the SDC team. We are so grateful to Carole for taking on this role!

The search committee, led by Jim Park, is busy reviewing candidates. If you would like to recommend someone for the role of Sawyerville Day Camp Executive Director, please email the name and contact information to sawyervillesearch@gmail.com.

B-Metro features the Yellowhammer Learning Program

B-Metro: The Magazine of Metro Birmingham Living recently published an article entitled “Plant a Seed” about the Yellowhammer Learning Program. Catherine Pittman Smith wrote the article and provided the beautiful photographs. Catherine wrote, “The YLP staff are not only closing the achievement gap and preventing summer reading loss in Greensboro; they are teaching these kids the love of learning—a love that comes from the heart. And when the heart leads, the minds will follow.” To read more and see the photographs, pick up the print version or visit B-Metro’s website: http://bit.ly/YLPbmetro. Thank you to Catherine and B-Metro for sharing this story!

Parishioners at St. Philip’s in Fort Payne support Sawyerville Day Camp with a donation of swimsuits for campers.

EYC members gather at Bethany for Rites of Spring and Diocesan EYC Convention

It was a stellar group of about 52 campers and a wonderful experience at Rites of Spring April 1-3, at Camp McDowell. Making it even more special, the event was hosted for the first time in Bethany Village.

Rites of Spring is an important event because it includes our annual Diocesan EYC Convention where new Youth Department members are elected to serve for the next program year. It’s also an emotional, bittersweet event as we say farewell to the outgoing members and get excited about what’s to come with the new members.

The elections were held on Saturday during two separate hour-long business sessions, one to elect district representative and the other to elect at-large members. Seventeen people ran and eleven were elected to serve. Each person who accepts a nomination stands before their peers and gives a two-minute self-introduction to tell the community about who they are and why they want to serve in this role.

It takes courage to do this and it allows the rest of the community to get to know each person who is running in a way that we might not otherwise. I am so proud of each of the amazing youth who accepted their nomination and presented themselves to be considered to represent the youth of our great diocese.

The convention selected the Sawyerville ACT Test Prep Program to receive the annual Thank Offering. It is a privilege to see these young people be and become the talented and faithful humans that they are. So much growth, change, and light in the Diocesan EYC! And it’s just a whole lot of fun to be on retreat with them.

Throughout the rest of the event, we got to ride bikes, play a variety of games, hear program reflections led by two of our YD members, star-gaze at the pier, and initiate Bethany with our youth presence in a big way.

I’m very proud of the outgoing members of the Youth Department. It’s been a privilege serving with this group, growing in our faith and learning from our struggles. On Thursday evening before the event, the outgoing members gathered at camp for an “awards banquet.” Each member received a superlative award fitting his or her personality. Congratulations to this group for a fantastic year together!
Alabama Daughters of the King
Gather for Spring Assembly

More than 50 members of the Order of the Daughters of the King of the Diocese of Alabama gathered in Hall Hall at Camp McDowell, Saturday, April 9, for the group’s 2016 Spring Assembly.

The Rev. Dr. Deborah Jackson, Associate Dean for Community Life at the University of the South, School of Theology in Sewanee, TN and National Junior DOK Chaplain was special guest speaker. She addressed the theme, “Whom do you follow; how will you lead?” The Group explored servant leadership in the church and as a part of the vow of service made by Daughters of the King. The pros and cons of different types and styles of leadership, using biblical leaders as examples, were reviewed. Participants discovered and learned about their own individual leadership attributes.

A brief business meeting provided updates on the upcoming Province IV Summer Retreat and the Province IV Fall Assembly in Kanuga.

A closing Eucharist in the St. Francis Chapel was celebrated by Rev. Jackson and, a delightful meditation on Jesus as the Good Shepherd was offered by Dr. Yolanda Seawright, the Diocesan President.

Diocese now offers ChurchNext online Christian formation & community building

The Diocese of Alabama Department of Christian Formation has obtained a ChurchNext online Christian formation subscription and invites parishes to begin using it to introduce this concept of online learning and community building.

The subscription can be used in the parish setting for a Sunday morning or other class, and in small group and group home settings.

ChurchNext provides outstanding mainline Christian teaching on relevant topics with trustworthy religious teaching from an informed and moderate perspective.

Courses are led by clergy and educators who are excited about the possibilities online learning holds.

ChurchNext offers online Christian formation learning any time, any place with Internet access, to help you shape disciples, help people cross important thresholds, and train effective church leaders. There are more than 200 courses in the ChurchNext course library/catalog: https://www.churchnext.tv/library/ to choose from. The courses fall into three basic areas:

- Adult and young adult formation (Bible studies, theology, etc.);
- Threshold crossing (preparation for baptism, confirmation, marriage, etc.) and;
- Leadership (church marketing, church board leadership, how to run a vacation Bible school, etc.).

The ‘for groups’ courses include downloadable Facilitator and Participant guides designed to equip anyone to lead.

The courses have already been used in the diocese with positive results:

I used a Church Next series on Lay Eucharistic Minister Training to train a group at St. Mark’s who were seeking approval from the bishop to serve as Lay Eucharistic Ministers and Visitors. The Church Next training was good and helped me organize the material I wished to convey to those being trained. I would recommend its use to other parishes.

The Rev. Jayne Collins Pool, Rector
St. Mark’s Episcopal Church, Birmingham

We used Church Next to help with our Baptismal preparation. Parents who used it said they liked and enjoyed the videos. It was helpful for those that could not attend a face-to-face meeting due to living out of town or scheduling difficulties.

The Rev. Blake Hutson, Rector
Holy Apostles Episcopal Church, Hoover

Diocese of Alabama parishes and groups interested beginning to use the diocese’s ChurchNext subscription are encouraged to complete the electronic form on the Department of Christian Formation webpage at: (www.dioalaministries.org). For additional information, contact Kathy Graham, Lifelong Christian Formation Coordinator at: kgraham@dioala.org.
Thriving beans & rice ministry serves Tuscaloosa families

It began less than a year ago, and today the St. Matthias Episcopal Church Beans and Rice Ministry is providing food assistance to more than 150 Tuscaloosa area families each month.

“Our Beans and Rice Ministry has grown by leaps and bounds,” said John Stewart, a deacon candidate and member of St. Matthias. Since the ministry began in August 2015, St. Matthias parishioners have distributed more than three tons of pinto beans and enriched rice.

On the second Sunday of the month St. Matthias parishioners gather after church to assemble packages of pinto beans, enriched rice, bread, and a variety of other items such as peanut butter, onions, sweet potatoes, stuffing, macaroni & cheese and children’s books. They gather again at the church on the following Saturday to distribute the packages. The food, which is staged in the narthex, is delivered to waiting vehicles in the parking because many of the recipients are elderly or disabled.

The ministry has done more than provide help to families in the community who need assistance. “Beans and Rice has helped to bring our parishioners closer together through a shared call to servant ministry,” explained Stewart.

“Our special angels are our young people — Gracie, Zoe and Elijah — who are messengers of food to guests in waiting cars,” said Stewart.

Ducks paddle for charity in Huntsville

A raft of ducks of the plastic species paddled for charity in Huntsville May 7 as a string of thoroughbreds ran for the roses in Louisville.

Some 100 spectators were on hand at St. Thomas Church in Huntsville for the Great Derby Day Duck Race. In addition to the race on Aldridge Creek behind the church, the day’s events included a variety of good food including home-smoked BBQ and derby pie, children’s activities, a bonnet contest, and a visit and a special performance by “Disco Duck.” The day’s activities were capped by a big-screen view of the Kentucky Derby, and an evening meal.

Proceeds from the annual event support First Stop, a ministry to the Homeless in Huntsville, and Special Session, an Episcopal summer camp for mentally and physically challenged adults and young people.
Southern fried comedy, the three Verdeen cousins could not have picked a worse time to throw their family reunion. Their outrageous antics have delighted local gossips in the small town of Sweetgum and the eyes of Texas are upon them, as their self-righteous Aunt LaMerle is quick to point out, and a jaw-dropping high-stakes wager is made on who bakes the best red velvet cake for the family reunion. A parade of wildly eccentric Verdeens gathers on the hottest day of July, smack-dab in the middle of Texas tornado season, and things spin hilariously out of control!

Admission is $15 which includes complementary hors d’oeuvre and beverage at intermission. For additional information visit http://bit.ly/21h2ZKjA or contact Nell Richardson – (205) 305-2011 nelrichardson@aol.com

**Godly Play Core Training**

**June 23 – 25, St. Stephen’s, Birmingham**

Core Training is the essential training for all Godly Play teachers and is recommended every year for the first three years of your practice. Learn the processes and Core stories of Godly Play as well as the theology behind these practices. This time of retreat will strengthen your understanding of children’s spirituality and leave you spiritually refreshed. For brochure, registration, and detailed information visit http://bit.ly/1XxatRW

**THE RED VELVET CAKE WAR (DATE CHANGE)**

**June play dates, Epiphany, Leeds**

The Church of the Epiphany will present the Red Velvet Cake War, a comedy by Jessie Jones, Nicholas Hope, and Jamie Wooten, June 9, 10, 11, 12, 17 and 18 at 7:30 p.m. and June 19 at 1:30 p.m. Tickets go on sale May 16. In this humorous Southern-fried comedy, the three Verdeen cousins could not have picked a worse time to throw their family reunion. Their outrageous antics have delighted local gossips in the small town of Sweetgum and the eyes of Texas are upon them, as their self-righteous Aunt LaMerle is quick to point out, and a jaw-dropping high-stakes wager is made on who bakes the best red velvet cake for the family reunion.

God’s Welcome 5-Day Retreat with Bishop Sloan and Dr. Amy Oden slated for October at Bethany Village

**by Jennifer Roth-Burnette**

You are invited to participate in God’s Welcome, a 5-Day contemplative retreat at Wonderful, Wonderful Camp McDowell, Oct. 16-21.

For five wonderful days, come immerse yourself in study and reflection on the spirituality of Christian hospitality, in the company of the Rt. Rev. Kea Sloan and Dr. Amy Oden. Each day will be shaped by a Benedictine rhythm of prayer, fellowship, learning, and periods of silent contemplation, as well as free time for recreation and relaxation. The retreat will take place in the fully accessible Bethany Village area at camp.

The Episcopal Diocese of Alabama, the Academy for Spiritual Formation, and the North Alabama and Alabama-West Florida Conferences of the United Methodist Church are sponsoring this ecumenical retreat. All are welcome! This retreat series has traditionally drawn Christians from many different denominations.

The Episcopal Diocese of Alabama joined in co-sponsorship of these 5-Day Retreats beginning in 2014, to foster the creation of a time and place for contemplative spiritual practice in an ecumenical environment. My husband Marc and I served on staff at their first 5-Day Academy retreat on Celtic Spirituality in May 2014, The August 2015 retreat on Praying with the Psalms saw participation by Episcopal laity and clergy from across our diocese. Those retreats were held at the beautiful Camp Sumatanga, and we are quite thrilled to be able to offer the October 2016 retreat at Camp McDowell.

This is a wonderful opportunity for contemplation and growth—for five days away from your busy life to bask in God’s hospitality. The cost is $750 and covers room, board and tuition. A $50 deposit is required. Space is limited, so register today! Navigate to registration two ways: 1) Go to http://northalabamaumc.org and use the search for “Academy 2016” then look down the list for the October 16-21 item, or 2) Use this shortened url: http://bit.ly/1sU9Chj

For more information about the 5-Day Retreat, contact Pat Luna at pluna@nicom.com or 334-202-9440; or Kathy Norberg at Kathy.norberg@gmail.com, or 850-324-1015. Speak to a fellow Episcopalian who has been there or feel free to contact me at j.rothburnette@gmail.com, or on Facebook.

**E-FORMATION 2016**

**June 6-8m Online & ETS, Arlington, VA**

Is your congregation getting serious about its online presence, or hoping to take it to the next level? Would you like to learn with other ministry practitioners using technology in faith formation, communication, and other ministries? If so, jump-start your learning with hands-on training and big-picture inspiration at e-Formation 2016. Join our supportive learning community June 6-8 by webinar for $89 or at Virginia Theological Seminary for $289. Details: at http://bit.ly/1gqMWg

**JONATHAN DANIELS PILGRIMAGE & YOUTH LOCK-IN**

**August 13, Hayneville, AL**

Save the date for the 20th Annual Jonathan Daniels and Martyrs of Alabama Pilgrimage beginning at 11:00 a.m. in Hayneville. A pre-pilgrimage youth lock-in is planned for the Church of the Ascension in Montgomery the evening before. Details about the event will be forthcoming soon.

**LITURGICAL ARTS CONFERENCE**

**August 21 – 26, Kanuga Conference Center, NC**

Join us for a memorable, creative and spiritually uplifting week at the 19th annual Liturgical Arts Conference at Kanuga Conference Center in Hendersonville, N.C. Now known as FACE (Faith, Art and Creative Expression), you will be taught and guided by many experts in their field. This week offers not only an opportunity to increase your artistic skills, but to share with like-minded people and experience new ways of expressing your faith in a loving and inspiring environment. Visit www.kanuga.org/liturgalarts for details and to register.

**E-VANGELISM MATTERS**

**November 18-19, Dallas, TX**

Save the dates for Evangelism Matters, an Episcopal Church Evangelism Conference on Nov. 18-19 in Dallas, TX, for anyone who would like to learn more about evangelism and available resources to share our faith. This innovative churchwide event is co-sponsored by Forward Movement and the Episcopal Church Presiding Bishop’s Office, and is hosted by the Diocese of Dallas and Church of the Transfiguration, Dallas, where the activities will be held. Among the planned activities are an address by Presiding Bishop Michael Curry, plus plenary sessions and workshops by evangelism leaders. A portion of the Saturday events will be live webcast to allow for individual and group viewing during conventions, discussion groups, and local evangelism gatherings. For more information contact Spellers at spellects@episcopalchurch.org or Gunn at sgunn@forwardmovement.org

**UPCOMING EVENTS**
an extensive concordance, and 80,000 cross-references. A glossary of key terms, more than 80 maps and illustrations, character profiles; and 15 topical articles. It also features a notes; nearly 900 “Did You Know?” facts; 120 Bible for each book of the Bible; 12,000 clear, concise study This ESV bible provides introductions and timelines for each book of the Bible; 12,000 clear, concise study notes; nearly 900 “Did You Know?” facts; 120 Bible character profiles; and 15 topical articles. It also features a glossary of key terms, more than 80 maps and illustrations, an extensive concordance, and 80,000 cross-references. These and many other features make it the most comprehensive and content-rich student Bible available today.

The Faith of Christopher Hitchens: The Restless Soul of the World’s Most Notorious Atheist by Larry Taunton (Thomas Nelson, hardcover) Larry Taunton, the executive director of Fixed Point Foundation, offers a very personal perspective of one of our most interesting and most misunderstood public figures. Taunton traces Hitchens’ spiritual and intellectual development from his decision as a teenager to reject belief in God to his rise to prominence as one of the so-called Four Horsemen of the New Atheism. While Hitchens was, in the minds of many Christians, Public Enemy Number One - away from public view, a warm friendship flourished between Hitchens and the author; a friendship that culminated in two lengthy road trips where, after Hitchens’ diagnosis of esophageal cancer, they studied the Bible together. The Faith of Christopher Hitchens gives us a candid glimpse into the inner life of this intriguing, sometimes maddening, and unexpectedly vulnerable man.

ESV Student Study Bible by Crossway Bibles (available in Grey or Coral imitation leather) Winner of the 2012 ECPA Book of the Year Award for Bibles, the ESV Student Study Bible is adapted from the ESV Study Bible and is ideally suited for students who are serious about God’s Word and wanting to learn more about what the Bible teaches and how the Bible applies to all of life. This ESV bible provides introductions and timelines for each book of the Bible; 12,000 clear, concise study notes; nearly 900 “Did You Know?” facts; 120 Bible character profiles; and 15 topical articles. It also features a glossary of key terms, more than 80 maps and illustrations, an extensive concordance, and 80,000 cross-references. These and many other features make it the most comprehensive and content-rich student Bible available today.

Large knows just how to reassure Small in this warm and tender story about a child’s biggest worry and a parent’s endless capacity for love. This irresistible, heartwarming story is a perfect introduction to God’s unconditional love. Full color.

Reflections for Ragamuffins: Daily Devotions from the Writings of Brennan Manning edited by Ann McMath Weinhemer (HarperOne, paperback) Manning shares his joyful message in a powerful new way with his first-ever collection of daily devotions. For every day of the year the beloved author of Ragamuffin Gospel and The Boy Who Cried Abba offers a verse of scripture, and a complementary reading from his own writings. Whether your life has already been changed by Manning’s dynamic version of the good news or you are meeting him here for the first time, Reflections for Ragamuffins will open your mind and heart to a profound new experience of God’s unconditional love.

Outposts of Hope by Douglas D. Webster (Cascade Books, paperback) The original recipients of the Letter of First Peter inhabited a radically different social context from our own. We do not live under Roman imperial rule. Slave labor is not the driving force of our economy. Women are not under patriarchal domination in our culture as they once were. Society has changed, but what is beyond dispute is that Western culture remains antithetical to God’s will and hostile to the Jesus way. The imperial Caesar has been replaced by the imperial self. The Pax Romana has been replaced by the American Dream. Western capitalism still trades in the bodies and souls of human beings. Culture obsesses over sexual freedom and material indulgence. Idolatry is pervasive. Autonomous individualism is the ideal.

First Peter is about the inevitable clash with culture that ensues because of the good news of Jesus Christ. The Apostle Peter’s bottom-up profile of costly discipleship is far more radical than we may realize. Hostility against

BISHOPS’ VISITATION SCHEDULE

Sunday, June 5
10:30 a.m. Bishop Marray Epiphany, Talladega

Wednesday, June 8
7:00 p.m. Bishop Sloan St. Andrew’s, Montevallo

Sunday, June 12
9:30 a.m. Bishop Marray St. John’s, Decatur
12:00 p.m. Bishop Sloan St. James’, Alexander City

Sunday, June 19
9:30 a.m. Bishop Marray St. Joseph’s, Mentone
11:00 a.m. Bishop Sloan St. James’, Livingston

Sunday, June 26
10:00 a.m. Bishop Marray St. Barnabas, Roanoke

Sunday, July 10
11:00 a.m. Bishop Sloan St. Paul’s, Carrolsville

CLERGY NEWS

The Rev. Mary Balfour Dunlap will begin working with Christ Church Fairfield part time beginning June 5. She completed her ministry with St. Michael’s in Fayette May 15.

The Rev. Robert Fowler has accepted a call as rector of St. Luke’s in Jacksonville.

PLEASE NOTE OUR NEW HOURS – The Book Store is open Monday through Thursday 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 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.

May/June 2016
Washing clothes instead of feet: Trinity Clanton offers special Maundy Thursday service

Trinity Church in Clanton held a special Maundy Thursday service this year in a nontraditional setting—a laundromat. As part of the service, the parish washed clothes instead of feet.

Each quarter Trinity partners with Suds-R-Us in Clanton and the national Laundry Love program to offer a free clothes-washing ministry. On March 24, Trinity conducted their quarterly ministry in the context of a Maundy Thursday service.

The service began with singing of “Shall We Gather at the River,” followed by prayer, and the reading of the Gospel, according to the Clanton Advertiser which covered the special event.

“Every person in the Laundromat received Holy Communion during the service,” said the Rev. Bill King, Trinity’s rector, who led the service with the Rev. CJ Van Slyke, Trinity’s deacon.

“Some of them sat down with us and others continued washing their clothes, pausing as we walked around with the bread and wine.”

“We paid for 202 loads of laundry that afternoon and hugged a lot of people as they were leaving with clean clothes,” he continued.

After the Maundy Thursday service, a parishioner told King, “I have never felt closer to God than at that service.” Then she asked, “But, tell me, why did we do it that way?” He responded, “You have answered your own question.”

“Washing already clean feet is not what Jesus would be doing,” he explained. “While his disciples’ feet were dusty from their walking the road into Jerusalem, our feet are not dirty. Dirty laundry and not having enough money for clean clothes takes away hope, dignity and joyfulness. The sacrament most needed here on Maundy Thursday was clean clothes. That was what we offered in the most loving way possible. And then with each of our laundry guests, we also shared the bread and wine blessed,” said King.

“Every single person accepted the bread and the cup as a generous gift? No one refused our gift of clean clothes or our gift of the bread of life,” said King. “That is what Maundy Thursday is all about, we are changed and none of us will ever be the same. That is what sacraments are all about—we are changed—we are cleaned up.”

Laundry Love is an extension of the church’s Beans & Rice Ministry. “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, explained King.”

According to its website, Laundry Love began in California, resulting from a conversation with T-Bone (Eric), a homeless gentleman living in Ventura. In one particular conversation, a question was asked of him: “T-Bone, how can we come alongside your life in a way that would matter?” His response was honest and practical. “If I had clean clothes I think people would treat me like a human being.”

During their quarterly ministry, Trinity provides quarters for up to five loads of wash per family.

The next Laundry Love by Trinity in Clanton will be Wednesday, Aug. 3, from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m., just a few days before the start of the 2016-2017 school year.

Editor’s Note: Photos courtesy of The Clanton Advertiser. The advertiser also contributed to the article.

Department of Christian Formation offers summer Sunday suggestions

Summer is almost here, and many families will be away from church during the summer months. The Diocese of Alabama Department of Christian Formation has developed a series of Summer Sunday Lessons for use at home or away on vacation.

There is a lesson page for each Sunday beginning Sunday, May 29 and continuing through Sunday, Aug. 7. Lessons include Scripture readings, wondering questions, activity suggestions, and more. There is also a page on how to create an altar or sacred space wherever you may be.


Information on creating a home altar is available at: http://bit.ly/1VYG13D