Deacons Katy Smith and Carolyn Foster lead the procession for the Good Friday Stations of the Cross in downtown Birmingham.

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Hello, friends

I'm inviting you to join me in a metaphor. When I was growing up, all the kids in the neighborhood gathered in our front yard; it was the largest flat area around. We played kick ball, dodgeball, and whiffle ball there, always mindful of Mom’s rose bushes at one end of the yard, and the hill that led up to our neighbors’ house on the other. In the spring and summer we kept time by the insects: we could play outside until the June bugs came out or the mosquitos and horseflies chased us inside.

One of our favorite games was Tag. The light pole in the southeast corner of our yard was usually Base. You were safe as long as you stayed on Base. If a kid left Base to run around a little or to taunt the kid who was It, that kid ran the risk of being tagged and becoming the new It. The point of the game, as far as I was concerned, was to not be It, to be safe. But if you just stay on Base, you’re not really playing the game – you’re just standing there watching the other kids play.

There was a fire hydrant in the northeast corner of our yard. One of the variations on Tag in our neighborhood was that sometimes the kid who was It could yell “Fire hydrant!” to declare that now the fire hydrant was Base, and we’d all have to run to the other end of the yard to latch onto the fire hydrant to be safe again. After a while, whoever was It could call out “Light pole!” and we’d all have to run back.

Maybe this idea of Base is why it seems so important to so many of us (including me) that the Church stay the same. As the world swirls and changes and spins out of control around us, we want our church to be Base, a safe place. That’s not always a bad thing; it’s good to have a place where we can relax, step out of the chase for a bit. But when we get stuck on Base, we’re not really playing the game we’re supposed to be playing. When we get stuck on Base, it becomes critically important that we don’t move or change anything, the things that should be helping us realize that we are in the presence of God become false idols, and it becomes disproportionately important that we never ever change the Prayer Book, that we use only organ music, that we never move the candles or the Baptismal Font, and don’t even think about changing the time of the service!

Ready or not, the world continues to change; like it or not, the Church will either adapt to those changes or become museums dedicated to the memory of How Things Used To Be.

But here’s the thing: playing Tag in the front yard is an outdated metaphor at best. A lot of our sisters and brothers under the age of thirty are likely to have never played Tag. I bet some of our younger folks have never had to run inside to get away from horseflies. This metaphor may touch some of us quite deeply, but others it will not touch at all.

These people, these young people don’t know that much about telling time by June bugs; these people live in a world of Instagram and virtual reality computer games. They don’t remember reading the comics page from the local daily newspaper: Peanuts, Beetle Bailey, Snuffy Smith; they get their news on their smart phones, they’re comfort-
able with technology and have actual relationships with people they’ve never even met in person.

These people, these young people will soon be the stewards of the Church, if the Church is to continue in God’s mission to reconcile the children of God to each other and to God through Jesus Christ our Lord. And many of these people, these Gen X’ers and Millennials who have such different life experiences and assumptions, have given up on the Church, on faith, on God – as irrelevant, as unnecessary, as a relic of the dying past.

But the reality of God remains. The Good News of the love of the Creator for all of us in Jesus Christ is still there. And we are still called to share that reality, to shine the Light of Christ into the world.

If we are going to touch these people, these young people, we’re going to have to let go of the safety of Base. We can’t just latch on to what feels safe and watch others play.

It’s most comfortable for me to do things the Way We’ve Always Done Them. Most of us want things to stay just like they are now, if we can’t go back to the way it was. Most of us want to stay on Base. But we’re not really doing what we’ve been called to do if we don’t make the Church we love inviting and engaging to these young people coming along – it’s not much of a game if we stay on Base and play it safe all the time. Sometimes we have to let go of safety and run around a little, take a risk. More and more now, it seems like Base is at the other end of the yard, and we need to let go.
Getting Ready for General Convention

The Rev. Evan Garner

The Rev. Evan Garner is the rector of St. John’s Decatur, and is a Clergy Representative from the Northern District for General Convention. This will be Garner’s third time to serve at General Convention.

Every three years, Episcopalians from all over the world gather to conduct the business of The Episcopal Church at General Convention. This summer, July 5-13, our bishop and deputies from the Diocese of Alabama will join in that work in Austin, Texas. They will share their efforts with over 800 other deputies and 300 other bishops, but how will that work get done?

General Convention is a mixture of a legislative process, through which resolutions are adopted, a worship experience, in which participants celebrate the fullness of our Church’s tradition, and a collegial gathering, at which ideas and best practices for ministry are shared. Each component is an important part of how General Convention carries out God’s work in the Church and in the world.

The legislative process is a formal way for our Church to carry out its business. Like at our Diocesan Convention, resolutions that guide the Church’s work and fund its ministries are proposed, debated, and acted upon, but, unlike at the diocesan level, these resolutions are focused on the next triennium or three-year period before General Convention convenes again.

Here is a snapshot of how the legislative process works. Resolutions may be proposed by deputies or bishops, by dioceses through action at their conventions, by provinces (groups of dioceses) at their provincial synods, or by official committees or task forces of The Episcopal Church. In order for a resolution to be adopted, it must be approved by both the House of Deputies and the House of Bishops, which, similar to the U. S. Congress, constitute the two houses of our bicameral legislative body.

Before Convention begins, each resolution is assigned to a legislative committee. Those committees offer the opportunity for a public hearing on every resolution before considering each one. The committee then votes to recommend its adoption, rejection, amendment, or it can offer a substitute resolution. When the action of the legislative committee comes to the floor of one of the two houses, it is debated and acted upon, and then sent to the other house for its consideration. Once adopted by both houses, a resolution becomes the policy of The Episcopal Church.

At this General Convention, many important topics will be considered. Some of them—like a possible revision of the prayer book—will get a great deal of attention, and others—like the incorporation of the Episcopal Asset Map into the parochial report process—will not. Among the substantial issues likely to be considered at this year’s convention are the process for prayer book revision, a report from the Marriage Task Force and accompanying changes to the canons and catechism, a closer relationship with The United Methodist Church, the incorporation of the Episcopal Church in Cuba into The Episcopal Church, the creation of a compensation package for the President of the House of Deputies, and possible revisions to the pension and health insurance plans for lay and ordained church workers.

Undergirding the legislative process is daily worship at General Convention. Every day, in addition to prayers at the beginning of each legislative session, we stop in the middle of the day for Holy Eucharist. In Alabama, we tend to forget that the same Episcopal Church of which we are members is present and active in places like Honduras, Colombia, Venezuela, Micronesia, Taiwan, France, and Belgium. Our Church includes diverse cultures and ethnicities and languages from beyond and within those national borders. Worship at General Convention gives participants an opportunity to experience the richness of our Anglican, prayer book tradition in ways that more fully reflect our international identity as The Episcopal Church.

Every day of General Convention is packed from sunrise to long past sunset with some combination of meetings, hearings, debates, and legislative sessions. In between all of the scheduled events, however, some of the most beneficial work
of Convention take place. For two weeks in Austin, leaders from all over The Episcopal Church will gather in fellowship. Meals are shared with friends from across the Church. Conversations are had with new acquaintances. Throughout it all, ideas for parish ministry and diocesan programs and missional engagements are shared. Seeds, which may not sprout for years, are planted. In time, with God’s help, they blossom into fruitful ministry.

The people who gather at General Convention come from radically different backgrounds, yet they all share a common goal: to serve Jesus Christ in the building up of his church to the glory of God. We all rarely agree on how that work should be carried out, but God is with us through it all. Please hold your bishop and deputies and alternates in prayer as we approach and participate in this exciting, exhausting, encouraging time in the life of The Episcopal Church.

Keeping up with General Convention

News and updates about General Convention and the Diocese of Alabama delegation will be available at dioala.org and on facebook.com/dioala. Coverage from Episcopal News Service is available at episcopalnewsservice.org/tag/general-convention-2018/. The Blue Book Reports, legislative information, and calendars are available online at generalconvention.org.

79th General Convention Representatives & Committee Assignments

The Rt. Rev. Kee Sloan (Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget & Finance)

At the Diocesan Convention in 2017, the following were elected:
The Rev. Evan Garner, Northern District (Vice chair of Church Pension Fund Committee)
Shari Harrison, Northern District
The Rev. Donna Gerold, Middle District
Virginia Hillhouse, Middle District (Christian Formation & Discipleship Committee)
The Rev. Candice Frazer, Southern District (Stewardship & Socially Responsible Investing Committee)
Anne Kimzey, Southern District
The Rev. Lee Shafer, At Large
Mark Smith, At Large (Safeguarding & Title IV Committee)

The following were elected as 1st alternates: the Rev. Andy Anderson, Bingham Edwards, Deacon Judy Quick, Brad Lamonte, the Rev. Dr. Tommie Watkins, Jr., Betsy Stallworth, the Rev. Tyler Richards, Brian Denton-Trujillo.
On February 14, 2018, a 19-year-old man armed with an AR-15 style rifle entered Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida. In six minutes, the shooter killed seventeen students and teachers, and injured seventeen others. One of the students killed was 16-year-old Carmen Schentrup, who was a youth group leader at St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church in nearby Coral Springs, Florida.

The student survivors of the mass shooting began a national campaign calling on officials on the local and national level to take steps to prevent another such mass shooting through gun control legislation. From this movement, a march in Washington DC called “March for Our Lives” was scheduled for March 24. Sibling marches across the country were also scheduled.

While meeting in March, the House of Bishops of the Episcopal Church received a letter from Carmen’s parents, Philip and April Schentrup. The bishops unanimously accepted a statement in support of the Parkland students and pledging participation in the “March for Our Lives.”

DioAla Youth were participants and leaders in this movement, together with adults and clergy from across the Diocese of Alabama.

A Reflection from Cate Meher, All Saints Birmingham

Cate Meher served as a co-organizer for the Birmingham March for Our Lives. This march was held on March 24 at Railroad Park, and attendance was estimated at 5,000.

Earlier this year, a friend invited me to come to a meeting to plan the Birmingham March For Our Lives. At first I was wary. I do love to get involved, but with all of my AP classes and my job, I wasn’t sure taking on yet another thing would be the best idea. Going to the meeting immediately made me realize that this was something I needed to be heavily involved in.

As a student in a high school very similar to Marjorie Stoneman Douglas, I was very aware that this could’ve been my school. I was appalled that the shooter in this case had posted multiple threatening things on social media and was known for having disciplinary issues but no authority figure had said “Hey, maybe we need to see what’s going on here.” March For Our
Lives was spurred by this recent shooting in Parkland, Florida but it does not exclude all other shootings and gun violence all around the country.

A major thing that was brought to my attention was the difference between “gun reform” and “gun control”. The Birmingham march organizers, including myself, decided to never use the words “gun control” in any of our messages. Common Sense Gun Reform was and is the platform we use. This stands for more in-depth background checks, a training course, a test to pass, and a thorough mental exam. Working with MFOL really brought to light some of these issues.

On the day of the march, after endless meetings, group texts, and phone calls, not to mention the emails and questions from social media, we arrived at Railroad Park early and were excited to make our voices heard among the other millions around the country. After setting up, it came time for people to arrive and let me just say, it was the most satisfying thing I have ever done. After all of our hard work, there were thousands of people at the park that shared the same views as us, that came to share their voices, and to take a stand. Knowing that I had made an impact on this city and this movement was extremely gratifying. Overall, My favorite experience of the entire process was hearing one of my 11th grade History teachers speak. Hearing how gun violence had effected his life, someone I know and most importantly a teacher, brought me very close to tears. I was so proud of the organizational team and all the hard work we had done and continue to do. Currently we are planning a town hall meeting that is also associated with MFOL, that will be happening in the next few weeks. I am so proud to have been a part of this amazing movement and I intend to continue doing similar things as long as I can.

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**A Reflection from Alec Bonner, Nativity Huntsville**

The March for Our Lives in Washington D.C., was one of the most moving experiences of my life. I was brought to tears when child after child took the microphone with such powerful voices and shared their experiences with gun violence not only from Parkland, but across our nation. When Martin Luther King, Jr.’s 9-year-old granddaughter got on stage and gave her dream for the future of the United States, just as her grandfather did 55 years ago, I felt the power, the anger, and the passion of three generations sweep over me. When I heard tens of thousands of teenagers just like me chanting for reform in the streets of Washington DC, I felt the true strength of my generation and I no longer feared for the security of our nation’s future. In these moments I truly knew that we are not the future of the nation but the now.
In 2018, The Episcopal Church has taken an active role in the public life of our country. From joining the Poor People’s Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival (poorpeoplescampaign.org) to supporting the March for Our Lives movement, The Episcopal Church has spoken and acted as a witness in the public square to the radical and transformational grace and love offered through Jesus Christ. The Most Rev. Michael Curry signed the statement Reclaiming Jesus: A Confession of Faith in a Time of Crisis, which states,

The church’s role is to change the world through the life and love of Jesus Christ. The government’s role is to serve the common good by protecting justice and peace, rewarding good behavior while restraining bad behavior (Romans 13). When that role is undermined by political leadership, faith leaders must stand up and speak out. Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. said, “The church must be reminded that it is not the master or the servant of the state, but rather the conscience of the state.” (reclaimingjesus.org)
The call to bear witness in the public square to our foundational belief — Jesus is Lord — comes at a time when our nation, our communities, and our relationships are increasingly strained by division. Lines drawn in the starkest black and white obscure the complexity of issues and relationships. Episcopalians are not of the same mind when it comes to the role of the Church in the public square.

For many Alabama Episcopalians, current events and discussions occur in the shadow of the Civil Rights movement of the 1960’s. This year marks the 50th Anniversary of the Assassination of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and the 55th Anniversary of both the Children’s March in Birmingham and of King’s “Letter from Birmingham Jail.” For contemporary Alabama Episcopalians, it is King’s letter and his disappointment in the white church for remaining “silent behind the anesthetizing security of the stained glass windows” that perhaps echoes the loudest in the current discussion.

I was born in 1979 in Mobile, Alabama. I have never known The Episcopal Church without the “new” prayerbook. I have never attended a segregated school. Prior to moving to Birmingham, my understanding of the Civil Rights Movement was confined to what made it into the history books — black and white photos, published letters, and historians’ accounts of the events. After moving to Birmingham, I walked the streets where the events in the history books took place. Suddenly, those flat black and white photos have depth and color of an actual place. Now I know folks that experienced the events. Once I added relationships with real people to the equation, it became clear that there are many more shades of gray and depth to the story.

The reflections that follow developed from an exchange of experiences between colleagues. Current events led both Doug Carpenter and Carolyn Foster to reflect on the events of 1963. These reflections are not offered for the reader to pick a side. Each reflection is the true experience of the writer — a devoted son and a young black girl. These appear to conflict. Paul reminds us that, in the current age, “we see in a mirror, dimly,” but when the Kingdom of God comes fully, we will know and be known fully. (1 Cor. 13:12) As Anglicans, we hold conflicting truths in tension. We do this not to avoid picking sides, but to know God’s greater truth of grace and reconciliation through Jesus Christ.
The Rev. Doug Carpenter has served the Diocese of Alabama for over 50 years, and is the son of Bishop Charles C.J. Carpenter. He is the author of several books including, A Powerful Blessing: The Life of Charles Clock Jones Carpenter, Sr. In 2013, Doug met with Bernice King, daughter of Dr. King. A short story about and video of the meeting are available at bit.ly/2qnAlob.

I was a thirty year old Episcopal priest in 1963, thus in a position of leadership in Alabama and capable of having a positive influence on the Civil Rights Movement. Like many of us who are now in our seventies, eighties and nineties, I think back and disturb my soul by asking what more I could have done. These thoughts came again when one of my children was comparing the current student marches with the children’s march in Birmingham in the summer of 1963. Why was I not standing with those children? What if our bishops had walked with them, perhaps in vestments!

And now the House of Bishops of The Episcopal Church has urged us to support the student marches. I am so glad, but the question has come up again about what our two bishops, Carpenter and Murray, were doing in 1963. Why were they not in the marches? I can tell you they were not perfect, but they were not just standing around, uninvolved. Both of them received frequent death threats from the KKK and angry calls from the White Citizens’ Council. My father started getting these death threats back in the late 1940’s when I was still living at home. In the early 1960s George Murray’s children were still living at home, and he had them move their beds to the middle of the house so that a bomb thrown through the window would have less chance of killing them. Dynamite was a big item in those days.

Carpenter House was chosen as the safe meeting place for integrated Civil Rights meetings in 1963. At the meeting at Dorchester Academy in Midway, Georgia, when plans were made for the Civil Rights Campaign in Birmingham, Martin Luther King, Jr. asked where they could meet in Birmingham. Andy Young, one of the greatest of the Civil Rights leaders, said it would be safe to meet at Carpenter House, and that is where they met. Young knew Peggy Horn, Youth Worker for the Diocese, and he knew enough about who she worked with to know it would be a safe place for them. The staff at Carpenter House hadn’t just been standing around to get this reputation.

When George Wallace made his “Segregation Forever” inaugural speech in January of 1963, our two bishops and a few other leading clergy in Alabama immediately published an article condemning it. When Bull Conner and the other two Commissioners were voted out of office in the spring of 1963, it was partly because our bishops had not been just standing around.

When the settlement was made between the Civil Rights Leaders and the Business Leaders that summer, Bishop Carpenter was chosen by blacks and whites to be chairman of the integrated Group Relations Committee that was charged with continuing to improve civil rights. After the bombing of the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church, there was a meeting to figure out how to minister to that congregation and how to restore their church. They met at Carpenter House.

I never heard any one of the eight who Dr. King addressed in his letter ever criticize it. It was a wonderful “letter.” It spoke to our human condition. It spoke to all of us. Our bishops had to ask God to forgive their sins of both omission and commission, just as we all do. But they weren’t just standing around.

We continue to question ourselves. Why did I not visit King in jail? Why did I not march with the children? Why did I not march in Selma two years later? Why did I not speak more convincingly? Why did I not spend more time developing friendships with those who were oppressed? So, taped to the cabinet above me is, “No one can go back and make a new start, but anyone can start from here and make a new end.”
The 50th Anniversary of the assassination of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., has brought to the forefront the struggles, tumultuous times and hard fought efforts of the civil rights movement of the 1960’s. While there are some who may have sequestered memories of that time in the deep recesses of their minds, for others those memories are still very present and not in the past at all. One’s perspective and memories of the past depends on the lens through which those memories are viewed. As co-chair of the Diocesan Commission on Race Relations, we encourage attendees of the anti-racism workshops to try to see the perspective of the other.

I spent the afternoon of Saturday, March 24, at Railroad Park in Birmingham at the March for our Lives Event, organized and led by young people. I could not help but remember the Children’s March of 1963. I was ten years old. My parents would not allow me to participate, fearing that I could be harmed or worse. The dangers for me and my “kind” were very real. I grew up in segregated Birmingham. I lived in a black neighborhood, my school had black students and teachers, my friends were black and even when my family joined The Episcopal Church, my parish was categorized as the Episcopal Church where blacks attended.

My childhood neighborhood is nicknamed “Dynamite Hill” — so called because of the bombings that occurred there by the Ku Klux Klan. I know what the blast of a bomb feels like. I was thrown from my bed one night from an explosion at Attorney Arthur Shores’ house, who lived a few blocks away from me and my family. Fear and intimidation kept many black people “in their place.” Fear and intimidation also kept many good white people “in their place” too.

The blatant evils of that time were palpable and could keep God-fearing white people from being publicly outspoken about the sin of racism and violence against black people while at the same time, seemingly aligning themselves with their group or their own kind, working against the cause of swift justice.

A good example of this is the public statement from the eight Alabama Clergymen directed to Dr. King on April 12, 1963, two of whom were my own Bishops Carpenter and Murray. In that letter, Dr. King was criticized as being an outsider, that the Negro should be patient and wait for change to come by way of the court system. Dr. King’s response in his letter from a Birmingham Jail explains why the Negro can’t wait. He explains that he was not an outsider. In fact he was invited to Birmingham. Three hundred and forty years of oppression was long enough to wait and that justice could not be found in the court system for the Negro. Equal rights and freedom must be demanded because it is never voluntarily given by the oppressor, King said.

Bishops Carpenter and Murray’s gradual approach to equal justice under the law could be interpreted as not wanting to further trouble the waters for those in his group who supported segregation. However, if the system of racial inequality has its foot on the necks of black people, a gradual approach is not the answer. People get hurt, houses are bombed, children are killed. “The time is always right to do right,” said King.
Recently, I spent a week on Tortola in the British Virgin Islands. Juxtaposed to the beauty of the azure blue/green seas and lush white beaches, there is devastation.

Ever since Hurricane Irma devastated the island last September 6, there is a pile of twisted metal where a high school once stood, restaurants operating on ground floors with rebar sticking up where the second levels used to be, and gritty dust that sticks to the cars, and your skin, swirling around from roads that have been ripped up by 200 mph winds.

Most cars still have plastic covering where the windows used to be. Luxury villas are swamped with water and infested with rats. It is difficult to get insurance claims finalized, and materials and labor are scarce on the island.

For six months, the people of Tortola have been clawing their way back from the destruction. Everything takes more effort than before. Electricity is in most places, but no land lines. Seven of the fourteen schools in Tortola were either destroyed or made uninhabitable.

Elementary age children who should be snuggling up with their parents at night have been sent far away so they can receive an education. Extended families have packed in together for months.

You would imagine that the people of Tortola would be beleaguered and angry and exhausted. And many of them are—rightly so. Yet, during my time there, I heard more laughter than lamentation. I saw more joy than tears. I heard fervent prayers of thanksgiving. I experienced community and generosity rather than scarcity and selfishness.

And I saw resilience.

I saw resilience in the octogenarian patriarch of St. Paul’s Mission Church showing up early and staying late for every service—serving as an acolyte and a Lay Eucharistic Minister. Standing in love, he was a stalwart symbol of survival for his family and community.

I saw resilience in the Reverend Sandra Malone’s family who generously shared their space with me and another visitor, even though they had been relegated to a two-bedroom apartment below their gorgeous home which remained open to the elements.

I saw resilience in the principals and guidance counselors who showed up in support of the children who had seen their roofs blown off and their toys and clothes sucked out of their homes. Even though these very same principals and guidance counselors were struggling to repair their own homes, and managing on an island where the simplest of tasks had become complex.

I heard resilience in the voices of the participants of the retreat I facilitated as they chanted “be still and know that I am God.” Although I was sent by the Diocese to bring them hope—it was I who was renewed. It was my faith that was restored.

I saw joy in the St. Paul’s congregation as they received new Books of Common Prayer and Hymnals from St. Mary’s on the Highlands and books for their elementary school from St. Luke’s in Birmingham.

I do not want to romanticize the experience of this tragedy—people lost their lives and their homes and the closeness of their children. They are tired and some remain traumatized.
Yet, the storm does not get the last word.

Just before I returned home, I toured the Ebenezer Primary School on the island. My guide was their principal, Ms. Sybil Hodge, a member of St. Paul’s, the church I went to visit. The students at Ebenezer Primary School had been hit hard—in addition to experiencing loss or damage to their homes, portions of their school had to be rebuilt. Half of the roof is still not repaired, and their library lost most of its books. The children miss their classmates who have left the island.

Yet they show up every day. They squeal on the playground running races. They tussle with one another over who gets to help the teacher. Every time we entered a classroom, the children would stand up at their desks and say in unison, “Good morning Ms. Hodge. Good Morning Reverend Bea. Welcome to our classroom.”

At the end of my visit, I sat with leaders of the school and asked, “What sustains you?”

One of the woman leaned very close to me, as if she wanted to make sure not a word from her mouth escaped on its journey to my ear.

Hope. That is the secret that gets us through the day.

We hold on to a hope that is different; one that knows that a better life is coming. We knew how to do that before the storms. Our faith taught us that. How to see that the outer world is one way, but … we know a secret, our secret is the hope that God is preparing a better place for us.

We hope in community coming back together and taking care of one another. We don’t give up on Friday, because Sunday is coming to remind us of the hope in Jesus Christ.”

Time and again I heard people refer to their faith in God as a motivating factor to get out of bed, to care for one another, to give THANKS for life and love. And to laugh—there was an abundance of laughter and joy.

That’s a messy kind of hope. All of our resurrections bear the marks of the cross.

A few locals pointed out that there are flowers blooming on the island this spring that have not bloomed there in decades, or ever. These are from seeds that were stirred up from the storms, or traveled from surrounding islands or exposed from deep, deep soil, bearing fruit once more.

All of our resurrections bear the marks of the cross.
Our Companion Relationship with the Virgin Islands continues to deepen as recovery work gets underway.

In January, Deacon Kathi Jacob, from the Cathedral Church of the Advent, launched our Clergy Initiative by serving at St. John’s on St. Croix, providing its rector, the Reverend Gregory Gibson an opportunity to visit his wife and son, who had been stateside since October, so the son could continue his high school education.

In February, Deacon Judy Quick again traveled to St. Thomas to meet with Bishop Gumbs and his leadership teams and with Abagail Nelson, Senior Vice President, Episcopal Relief & Development and Jay Rollins, on site Coordinator for Episcopal Relief & Development. The Diocesan Long Term Recovery Committees in each deanery are actively engaged with the Long Term Recovery Groups on St. Thomas, St. John, St. Croix, and in the British Virgin Islands to provide a more coordinated response and use of resources for rebuilding.

Some churches have received Church Insurance funds and have begun repairs and restorations. We are learning that the preference is to hire local contractors for the work. In fact, in the British Virgin Islands, work visas are required for any reconstruction or rebuilding work.

Also in February, the Rev. Rosa Lindahl led a vestry retreat for All Saints Cathedral and preached at services on two Sundays and during the week she was there. This offered Bishop Gumbs and his wife an opportunity to be with their two daughters who were continuing their high school education in Alabama. They were able to celebrate the 18th birthday of one of their daughters.

Mrs. Christine Mercer and Mrs. Margie Fox served on the first Care Team which spent time with children, teachers, and staff at the All Saints Cathedral School. Christine reflects on their visit:

The Virgin Islands: These beautiful islands are home to some of the most resilient people I have had the pleasure to know. Although their island home was hit by two category 5 hurricanes, commonly called “IrMaria”, their faith was not shaken. Spending 10 days with our brothers and sisters on St. Thomas showed me that relationships are more important than material things. The stories of survival are frightening, but the stories of recovery and faith far outweigh the bad.

Life on the islands is beginning to return to some semblance of normalcy. The cruise ships are returning, so businesses are reopening. It will be a long, slow process to recover, but they will recover.

Our friends in the Virgin Islands need our prayers, but what I discovered they want most is our friendship. Reach out, extend a hand in friendship, and you will have made the world a better place.

So the friendships continue as parishes throughout the diocese are partnering with parishes in the Virgin Islands in a variety of ways such as youth engagement, clergy relief, health clinics, Cursillo, or school support. The generous donations to the diocesan hurricane fund for the Virgin Islands as well as parish-led fundraising efforts for parishes in the Virgin Islands are sustaining the rebuilding effort and are helping support missioners on their journey with our Virgin Islands partners. These donations supplement the substantial financial and staffing support from Episcopal Relief & Development to the Diocese of the Virgin Islands.

Thank you for your generosity and your prayers for our Virgin Islands friends who radiate hope and resilience after such a traumatic time. They are ever grateful for our love and friendship.

For More Information on Episcopal Relief & Development or the Companion Diocese Relationship with the Virgin Islands, contact the Reverend Judy Quick (jgquick@bellsouth.net) or visit www.episcopalrelief.org.
The Jonathan Daniels Pilgrimage will take place in Hayneville, Lowndes County, Alabama on Saturday, August 11, 2018, and is organized by the Diocese of Alabama and the Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast. Over its 22 years, the pilgrimage has grown into one of the most recognized pilgrimages of our Church, bringing people from many dioceses and seminaries across the country to the spot where Daniels, an Episcopal seminarian from Keene, New Hampshire, was shot to death in August 1965 trying to protect an African-American teenage girl. The event is held annually on the second Saturday of August.

The Pilgrimage begins at 11:00 a.m. in front of the courthouse in Hayneville, the place where an all-white jury in a sham trial lasting less than an hour found Jonathan’s murderer, Tom Coleman, not guilty. Pilgrims march to the jail where Daniels and his companions were held, and from there to the place where he was killed at a small country store that has since been razed, then back to the court house. In a moving Eucharist, the judge’s bench of that 1965 trial becomes the altar on which the sacrament is consecrated. Fourteen other martyrs of the Alabama civil rights movement are recognized and honored in this service as well as Daniels.

The keynote speaker this year is the Rev. Ed Bacon, retired priest in the Diocese of Los Angeles and former rector of All Saints, Pasadena now living in Birmingham. He was the Dean of the Cathedral in Jackson, Mississippi, before going to California. He is a graduate of the Candler School of Theology at Emory University. He was ordained in 1983. His widely read book, *8 Habits of Love*, has captured large numbers of spiritual seekers following the Thomas Merton/Franciscan tradition. A progressive spokesman on issues of faith and justice, he has been a regular guest host on Oprah Winfrey’s Soul Series and has been named “Soul Teacher” on her list of 100 awakened leaders who are using their voice to elevate humanity. He has won numerous awards, including honors from the NAACP, the ACLU, the Rainbow/PUSH Coalition, and the Islamic Center of Southern California. He holds an honorary doctorate from the Church Divinity School of the Pacific.

**Pre-Register for a Special Forum Following the Pilgrimage**

Following the Pilgrimage and lunch, attendees are invited to a special forum on the issues related to immigration: “Coming to America: Who Should We Welcome, What Should We Do?” Participants will share their personal experiences relating to immigrants and deliberate on the issues related to immigration using a non-partisan guide published by the National Issues Forum Institute. The Commission on Race Relations in the Church strongly encourages you to plan to stay for this two-hour forum and to express your views, listen, and learn from your fellow pilgrims. There is no cost to participate, but space is limited. Everyone is encouraged to register online at https://goo.gl/SDYiBb.

**Deliberation: What is it, and why is it important?**

National Issues Forum trainers employ Deliberation in their work. Deliberation is the kind of talking that people do when they realize that they are responsible for making decisions and choices – or giving guidance to those who will. All decisions have both costs and consequences. Deliberation is hard work. People look at the pros and cons of different approaches to the resolution of problems while paying attention to the different perspectives of those expressing their opinions. This means that participants need to listen to people they don’t agree with and make a real effort to understand why others see the issue the way they do.
On February 17, a Feast of Celebration of Absalom Jones was held at Canterbury Chapel Tuscaloosa to mark the founding of a joint Diocese of Alabama and the Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast chapter of the Union of Black Episcopalians (UBE). Bishop Kee Sloan was joined by Bishop Russell Kendrick of the Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast. Bishop Gayle Harris, Bishop Suffragan of the Diocese of Massachusetts, served as preacher. Other visiting clergy included the Rev. John C. George, rector of Good Shepherd Mobile, Deacon Carolyn Foster, St. Mark’s Birmingham, Deacon Pearl Slay, Trinity Demopolis. Mark Smith of St. Mark’s Birmingham and Adel Hamilton of Good Shepherd Mobile served as lectors.

The propers for the service were of Blessed Absalom Jones, whose feast day is February 13. Jones was a founder of St. Thomas’ African Episcopal Church in Philadelphia, and in 1804 was the first person of African descent to be ordained a priest in The Episcopal Church. These accomplishments are certainly enough for Jones to be commemorated and celebrated, but Bishop Harris reminded us that there was more. During the outbreaks of typhoid and yellow fever, Jones led his congregation to remain in the city and to care for all people, black and white, that were stricken with these fevers. Through her sermon, Bishop Harris reminded worshippers that “this church has benefitted by the rich heritage of the peoples of African descent, and our contribution to the world wide Anglican ethos is great. And it comes after the path that Absalom trod, from servanthood to friendship. He became free to serve God. Free to be friends to those who would push him down. He was free because he was a friend of God.”

The chapter will be named for the Rev. Canon Robert E. DuBose, Jr., a native of Birmingham, AL. DuBose served churches in Alabama and Pennsylvania, and was an honorary canon of the Cathedral Church of the Most Holy Trinity in Accra, Ghana. In the 1960’s, DuBose participated in the Montgomery bus boycott and sit-ins, and was the plaintiff in a court case which led to desegregation of Alabama restaurants. The joint chapter was organized by the Rev. Dr. Tommie Watkins, Jr., Deacons Carolyn Foster and Pearl Slay, and Mr. Joe McDaniels from Good Shepherd Mobile. Watkins will serve as president, Foster as vice president, and McDaniels as secretary and treasurer. This chapter will work to foster collaborative social justice projects and community focused programs to meet the unique needs of under-sourced parishes in the two dioceses, and membership is open to all who wish to share in and support this work. For more information about membership, visit bit.ly/2v91gK8 or contact the Rev. Dr. Tommie Watkins, Jr. (canterburytommie@gmail.com).

To view Bishop Harris’ sermon, visit vimeo.com/256512745. To view the full photo gallery, visit bit.ly/2H8W65H.
I n case you haven’t heard, Camp McDowell has a new Executive Director! John Campagna officially started in his new role in March, and has been learning the ins & outs of Camp, its ministries, and the 100+ amazing people that work at Camp. His wife, Vivian, and daughter, Lila, visited camp at the end of March and were able to spend some time in their soon-to-be stomping grounds and meet with several team members. Vivian and Lila will be moving to McDowell after the school year ends. In an effort to get to know the new family, we asked them some questions:

In the time you’ve spent at McDowell, what has been your favorite thing?

John: The combination of the natural beauty and sounds of people (especially kids) enjoying it.

Vivian: Appreciating that the Camp I loved as a child is still here, and beginning to experience all that’s new—the incredible people and the AMAZING programs they’re co-creating.

Lila: The baby goats.

What do you do in your spare time? Any hobbies?

John: I love the outdoors including gardening, hiking, canoeing and riding horses I have ridden my whole life!

Vivian: I love to hike & explore the outdoors. I’m a huge fan of dance breaks too. I just put on some great music, let loose and dance! Great way to blow off or gain some steam (depending on the day), and a huge perk of working at home.

Lila: I play the violin, love to ride horses & I am an avid reader of realistic fiction.

What excites you most about moving down south & to Camp McDowell?

John: For our family this is a homecoming of sorts. Vivian’s family has been part of Camp McDowell for generations, and her mother and others still live in Birmingham. Also, love the place—beautiful southern Appalachian woods! BBQ, and fried chicken high on the list too.

Vivian: I am returning to my roots, which feels like a turn towards my deepest self, the people I love and the land that feels like home.

Lila: I’m looking forward to living closer to my grandparents.

If you could only eat one thing for the rest of your life, and nutrition and expense were not an issue, what would it be?

John: Pies - any type!

Vivian: John’s homemade pizza. He makes the crust from scratch and it’s delicious! This is where his Sicilian roots shine big time.

Lila: Chocolate, obviously.

What book are you currently reading or what was the last book you read? What is one of your favorite books?

John: Biography of Daniel Boone. It reminds me how much natural beauty we have here and sadly, how much we lost. One book that I loved when I read it in high school was My Antonia by Willa Cather. All about growing up,
With 1,140 acres, 775 beds (300 of which are hotel-style) meeting spaces that accommodate up to 800 guests, Camp McDowell is the largest Episcopal Camp and Conference Center in the country. The Camp’s offering of special-needs-friendly grounds, farm-to-table meals, eco-responsible & renewable energy ethos, tons of recreational activities, and friendly, servant-hearted staff, attracts groups from all over the nation and even from other parts of the world (in 2017, camp hosted well over 50,000 guests). As one of the largest and most collaborative ministries of the parishes in the Episcopal Diocese of Alabama, McDowell is living into their mission of showing the way the world could be through worship, learning, rest and play in the beauty of God’s Backyard.

You can help us expand our reach even further by recommending wonderful, wonderful Camp McDowell to anyone or any group that is looking for a place to hold an event. The following 2018 dates are still available (at time of writing): August 3-5, 10-12, 17-19; September 7-10; October 26-28; November 9-11, 16-18; and December 14-16.

We are booking for 2019! Please call 205-387-1806 or email wonderful@campmcdowell.com for more information.
**Conference & Retreat Center**

Beginning April 1, Stratt Byars has stepped into the new role of Conference and Retreat Center Director. For the past four years, Stratt has served as the Summer Camp Coordinator for Camps on Clear Creek and the Summer Camp Director for Staffing and Administration. Stratt says that it has been a wonderful treat to serve Camp McDowell and the Diocese of Alabama in this way, and he is incredibly excited to be a part of the many Conference and Retreat ministries at Camp. Stratt’s goal is for the Conference and Retreat Center to continue to be seen as a tool of our Diocese for all Episcopalians far and wide to congregate, have fellowship, and experience God’s Backyard. He also feels very blessed to be able to offer outreach in the form of Christian hospitality to all the many non-church groups that use our facilities every year. Please do not hesitate to reach out to Stratt (stratt@campmcdowell.com) with feedback and ideas on how the Camp McDowell Conference and Retreat Center can continue to be wonderful, wonderful.

**Summer Camps & Retreats**

Kathryn Kendrick, a long-time Friend of Camp McDowell, has accepted the role of Director of Staffing and Administration for Summer Camps and Retreats. Kathryn attended Camp since she was little and was a Summer Camp Counselor (along with her sisters) for several years. She has spent the last 10 years serving both non-profit and corporate organizations, including YouthServe, Greater Birmingham Ministries, and YWCA of Central Alabama - all groups that serve children, women, and families. Her start-date is April 12th and her family will join her in living at McDowell later this Summer. Kathryn will work closely with Susanna Whitsett (Director of Summer Camps & Retreats Programming & Development) to provide life-changing camp experiences while sustaining our wonderful traditions. Kathryn can be reached at kathryn@campmcdowell.com. Welcome Kathryn!

**McDowell Farm School**

Andrew Shea, who has been serving on the McDowell Farm since 2008, is now serving as the McDowell Farm School Director. The farm, the animals, and the McDowell Farm School (MFS) are hopping this Spring! If you have a group to bring to the MFS, please contact Andrew Shea at farmschooldirector@campmcdowell.com.
The McDowell Environmental Center

Trish Smrecak, Director of the McDowell Environmental Center

The McDowell Environmental Center (MEC) has lots of new things going on! In the last year, the MEC has modified our core curriculum to be even more student-driven and focused on authentic science inquiry. Our classes can be modified to fit the needs of learners of all ages and backgrounds, and are aligned to Next Generation Science Standards, Alabama Course of Study, Mississippi Science Framework, Georgia Standards of Excellence, and the Tennessee Academic Standards for Science. We also have open inquiry options like Mysterious Medley and Nature Hike for folks who just love to explore. We have a new ambassador bird, a black vulture, which we expect to begin incorporating into our bird programming later this spring! Our instructors, as always, are college-educated, and have undergone a rigorous two week training prior to the start of each season to learn our teaching philosophy, and how to incorporate student-driven inquiry into each class.

If you’ve been looking for a way to bring your school to the McDowell Environmental Center, you’re in luck! We’ve got some open dates to fill! We also have some weekend availability this spring if you’ve got a group (like Boy or Girl Scouts, 4-H, robotics or tennis team, etc) you’d like to bring out! To learn more, visit mcdowellec.com. Contact us at pc@campmcdowell.com, or 205-387-1806, ext.108 to schedule a trip today! Please share with all the teachers you know. Visit bit.ly/2HrKQz4 for a schedule of dates available in 2018.

Learn something new this year at the Alabama Folk School! For details visit alfolkschool.com. Questions? Contact folkschool@campmcdowell.com.

May 3-6: Blacksmithing, Chair Caning, Fiber Art Landscapes, and Painting: Latex & Mix Media
Jul 31-Aug 3: Youth Folk Camp
Sep 14-16: Intro to Blacksmithing, Mosaic Glass Quilts, Ribbed Antler Baskets
Oct 11-14: Old Time Music & Gee’s Bend Quilting
Nov 9-11: Blacksmithing, Cooking, & Spinning with Angora Wool

For information contact Kathryn Kendrick, kathryn@campmcdowell.com or visit campmcdowell.com/summer-camps-retreats.

May 25-27: Primary I (Rising 1st-3rd w/ adult)
May 28-Jun 1: CREATE (Rising 9th & 10th)
May 30-Jun 5: Junior High I (Rising 7th & 8th)
Jun 8-16: Sophomore (Rising 8th & 9th)
Jun 20-25: Middler (Rising 5th & 6th)
Jun 28-Jul 1: Elementary I (Rising 3rd-4th)
Jul 6-15: Senior Camp (Rising 10th-12th)
Jul 18-25: Junior High II (Rising 7th & 8th)
Jul 24-27: Bethany’s Kids (Rising 4th-8th)
Jul 28-Aug 1: Elementary II (Rising 3rd-4th)
July 31-Aug 3: Alabama Folk Camp (Rising 5th-12th)
August 3-5: Primary II (Rising 1st-3rd w/ adult)
Sept. 7-9: Father/Son Retreat
Sept. 21-23: McDowell Women’s Retreat
Spring and The Magnolia Nature School: Loving Every Minute of it!

Madeleine Pearce, Director Magnolia Nature Preschool

Spring has definitely come to God’s Backyard and we are loving every minute of it! From the climbing wall to the farm and everywhere in between, the preschoolers and their teachers (Anne-Emerson and Lauren) are checking out all the new life. There are new chicks, goats, and piglets, and new bunnies, flowers and trees have burst forth! This summer, Anne-Emerson and Lauren will continue the fun by leading hikes, exploring the farm, canoeing, and swimming (among other fun activities) with 4-6 year olds from the Jasper area. Our day camp is full with 12 children and a waiting list! Some children are new to our program while a few have been to Magnolia’s day camp all three years it has been in existence. For more information about the Magnolia Nature School, email mcdowellpreschool@campmcdowell.com or visit campmcdowell.com/educational-programs/magnolia-nature-school.

Educator Workshops Offered

The McDowell Educational Programs are offering several Educator Workshops and Expeditions this Summer. These sessions are not exclusive to classroom teachers, and we bet that most of you are an educator in one way or another! For details and information on these workshops, visit campmcdowell.com/educational-programs/educator-workshops.

June 11-13 Using Alabama Rocks, Inquiry, & Observation to Unearth Our Past

A three day, two-night experience learning about local rocks and fossils.

June 18-20 Agricultural Advocates: Farming as Teaching

Learn more about how important farming is to Alabama and enjoy harvesting food straight from the Earth and prepping a Farm-to-Table meal.

June 24-July 1 Mountains to the Gulf Expedition

The sixth annual Mountains to the Gulf (M2G) event! Many past participants have called this the most amazing 8 days of a teacher’s professional life! A group of twenty-five teachers from across Alabama is selected to travel the state of Alabama for a week with some of the Southeast’s top experts on geology, watersheds, herpetology, and ecology.
Folks again gathered at noon on Good Friday in Linn Park for “Stations of the Cross: Seeking the Suffering Jesus on the Streets of Birmingham.” This year’s service was sponsored by St. Luke’s Birmingham, Greater Birmingham Ministries, Church in the Park, and First Presbyterian Church. The reflections used at each station were adapted from the original “Walking the Way of the Cross” written by the Ven. Lou Thibodaux. Approximately 50 people participated representing several Episcopal parishes and other ecumenical partners.

The path for the Stations traveled approximately 15 blocks through downtown Birmingham. From Linn Park, participants were led by Deacon Mark LaGory carrying a large wooden cross. Station locations included Boutwell Auditorium, the Jefferson County Jail, a bus stop on 22nd St. N., the financial district, and several stations in Kelly Ingram Park. Readers took turns carrying the cross and hymns were sung as the group traveled between stations. At each station, prayers were offered focusing on a continuing injustice, such as poverty, drug addiction, child abuse, racism, gun violence, or abusive financial practices. The final station — Jesus laid in the tomb — was located at the Four Spirits Monument to the four little girls killed in the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church bombing.
St. Joseph’s on the Mountain Celebrates Episcopal Relief & Development

Deacon Judy Quick, Diocesan Coordinator, and Susan Van Apeldoorn, Network Representative

St. Joseph’s on the Mountain in Mentone, a small church with a very big heart, feeds the physical and spiritual needs of its community. Under the fine leadership of the Reverend Bill Winters and his wife Rita, the congregation is active in the Mentone Food Ministries and hosts Papa Joe’s Coffee House, a free, audience-participation musical/storytelling/poetry performance evening. A Prayer Garden and a church that is always open soothe the souls of all who enter.

Father Bill invited Susan Van Apeldoorn to be the parish representative for Episcopal Relief & Development, to keep the parish informed about the work of Episcopal Relief & Development in response to disasters and for long-term development to alleviate global poverty. Susan engaged the entire community of Mentone as she sought a creative way to support Episcopal Relief & Development. She developed a special package of a mountain getaway with meals and activities donated by local businesses. She coordinated her event with the popular Fall Colorfest, which brings tourists to Mentone to enjoy the fall foliage and artists’ booths. Donations for tickets raised $1000 for Episcopal Relief & Development. In addition to raising funds and creating more awareness for Episcopal Relief & Development, local businesses were honored with their support of this fundraising effort.

Susan dreams of an annual event to engage the congregation and the community to support Episcopal Relief & Development. She notes: “These things need time to grow and knit themselves into the life of the community. As they grow, may we also grow in spirit and service to God.”

The generosity of St. Joseph’s on the Mountain is one of the 54 congregations in the Diocese of Alabama where the parish, the ECW, or individuals in the parish donated to continue healing a hurting world, contributing over $222,000 in 2017 to help after the disasters in the United States and the Caribbean and to support programs which empower communities to provide food security, health services, early childhood education, and economic opportunities. Thank you, Diocese of Alabama. And thanks be to God!

For More Information on Episcopal Relief & Development, contact the Reverend Judy Quick (jgquick@bellsouth.net) or visit www.episcopalrelief.org
News from Our Shared Ministries

The Church Periodical Club supports full-time seminarians in the Diocese

Linda Kennedy

Lord Jesus, we ask your special blessing on the seminarians of the Diocese of Alabama as they prepare for ordained ministry. We pray that they will grow in faith, hope, and charity. May the gifts of the CPC aid them in their studies, that they will be formed for ministry with a compassionate heart, a hunger for understanding and wisdom, and a desire to inspire others in answer to your call. When they are lonely and discouraged, fill them with your peace and the knowledge of our care for them. Let them know that they are in our prayers.

In the coming weeks, the Episcopal Church Women will be collecting funds at churches throughout the diocese for the Church Periodical Club (CPC). It is just one of the ways that we as a diocese help our seminarians while they are preparing for their future ministries and remain connected to them when they are away. The ECW will distribute the dollars collected from our churches and send to our Alabama seminarians to help them pay for books and materials.

One seminarian wrote that they were humbled by the love and prayers from the Diocese of Alabama through the CPC program. Others have told us that the timing of our prayer and gift has been key. “The CPC funds have been much appreciated each year during our time in seminary. They always seem to come at exactly the right moment, just when we’re feeling the squeeze of buying books and paying fees at the beginning of the school year. Daniel and I are so grateful for your generosity and your prayers” commented Lucy Strandlund, currently studying at the Seminary of the Southwest in Austin, Texas. Her husband, Daniel, also attended the Seminary of the Southwest and served for several years in Alabama.

Others have told us that the funds have allowed them to purchase books that will help them throughout their ministry. “It meant a lot for me to receive funds from the Church Periodical Club. I remember receiving my check and letter and feeling a deep love and gratitude for my diocese and the wonderful Episcopal Church women who made it possible for me to receive those funds. It allowed me to buy a commentary set that I used through seminary and that I continue to use as a priest,” commented the Reverend Jamie Osborne at St. John’s, Montgomery.

CPC has been around for over 130 years and throughout those years, its mission has been ensuring that church periodicals and publications, Bibles, and Prayer Books have found their way to those who need them in their work. In the early days, the project started out by sending bundles of materials out west on the Wells Fargo Stage Coach line. Today, we are able to send a check through the mail. But throughout the years, the CPC has connected those who are serving far away to those in their home parishes. The ECW is grateful that we can make these gifts to our seminarians on your behalf.

If you have further questions, please contact Bea Strong, CPC Chair, gtr113@aol.com.

The Sky is No Limit for God and God’s Church

Danielle Dunbar, Director of Mission Funding

“Can you discover the limits and bounds of the greatness and power of God? The sky is no limit for God, but it lies beyond your reach.” Job 11:7-8, Good News Translation Bible

It is an endless journey to seek God and begin to understand his love, expectations, and power. We will never fully “discover the limits and bounds of the greatness and power of God” but that does not put a stop to our journey to know and make God known in the world. We seek to know God through worship and formation in Christian community. Through outreach and evangelism, we make God known and invite others into the loving, liberating, and life giving relationship with God offered through Jesus Christ.

Without a financially stable church, our Christian formation, outreach, evangelism, and worship are in jeopardy. We can ensure a financially stable church by including the Church in our estate plans. We are called to use God’s gifts to do God’s work during our time on earth. We are also called to ensure that God’s work continues well into the future. By endowing your annual commitment to your parish you are affirming that the sky’s no limit for God and his Church.
“It’s time to get camp!”

Sawyerville Summer Camp and Summer Learning are right around the corner, and we’re busy getting ready. We can’t wait for our 14 summer-long interns to begin in mid-May. These young people come from all over, and they’ll take on big responsibilities at the camp and learning program. Please keep them and their work in your prayers. This summer’s interns are:

Emily Hooker, Staff Registrar
Faith Bryant, Camper Registrar
Ty Edwards, Camper Registrar
Tatyana Lawson, Student Registrar
Olivia Chew, Summer Learning Meals Assistant
Meredith Schoel, Summer Camp Meals Assistant
Virginia Thornton, Summer Camp Communications Assistant
Alice McGowin, Summer Learning Communications Assistant
Ella O’Neill, Lower Camp Co-Coordinator
Nick Squillacote, Lower Camp Co-Coordinator
Anne Douglass Williams, Middler Camp Co-Coordinator
Duncan Manley, Middler Camp Co-Coordinator
Breanna Mitchell, Upper Camp Co-Coordinator
Liam Ayres, Upper Camp Co-Coordinator

You can learn more about the interns on our blog: bit.ly/SvilleInterns

While the interns will tackle lots of projects, we still need help from Episcopal parishes and parishioners. If your church or small group has always wanted to serve a meal to the Sawyerville staff but found the idea of serving 130 people a bit daunting, we have another opportunity for you! This summer, we need meals for a smaller group of only 30 Summer Learning staff. If you’re interested in providing a smaller meal, please contact Evelyn Pritchard at evelyn@sawyerville.org.

We’re also looking for educators who can teach either rising third- or fourth-grade students for at least one week at Sawyerville Summer Learning. Teachers receive a stipend, and meals and housing are provided. If you’d like to teach this summer, please fill out this online form – bit.ly/SSLTeach.

Additionally, we need teachers who can administer running records on June 18, June 26, or July 11. For more information, please contact Crystal Jones at crystal@sawyerville.org.
On the first weekend of April, youth from all over the diocese came together for the annual Rites of Spring event in Bethany Village at Camp McDowell. Rites of Spring is part awesome retreat at Camp and part EYC Convention! Youth gathered to play, sing, worship and to elect a new Youth Department for the 2018-2019 school year. The event was planned and hosted by the 2017-2018 Youth Department with a program entitled “Discover, Explore, Illuminate, Create” offered by the Rev. Jeff Evans of St. Stephen’s, Huntsville.

The 2018 EYC convention convened with two business meetings. The first was held Saturday morning to elect six district representatives, with two representatives from each district. The second one was held Saturday evening to elect five at large members. Eleven fine young people were elected by their peers to represent them.

The Diocese of Alabama is one of the few dioceses that has a Youth Department elected by their peers and that gives seat, voice and vote on Diocesan Council. Serving on the Youth Department is a tremendous honor. Congratulations and thanks go to the 2017-2018 Youth Department — Annie O’Neill, Lucy Smith, Ava Claire Mattox, Will Hamlett, Josh Carter, Alec Bonner, Ethan Evans, Ricky Gauld, Sarah Lane, Sara Hutchens and Cricket Powell. These young people have worked hard since last July planning and implementing District Day, Christmas Conference, DioAla Convention Lock-In and Rites of Spring. They have served faithfully, and with just the right amount of silliness. These young people bring joy and light to everything they do. The 2017-2018 Youth Department also had an amazing group of adults supporting them—Catherine Poellnitz, Kathleen Lynch, Sarah Watts, Thomas Gordon, Spencer Anglin and Megan Briggs.

Congratulations to the newly elected 2018-2019 Youth Department!

At Large members are: Sara Hutchens, Ricky Gauld, Ethan Evans, Jacob Letson, Katie Ray

District Representatives are: Northern District - Canon Tidwell & Jacob Raulerson, Central District - Seth Evans & Keeley Davis, and Southern District - Shelton Griffith & Edward Lam
### Seminarians Approved for Ordination

Three seminarians have been approved for ordination to the transitional diaconate.

Jeremy Carlson will be ordained on Saturday, May 19, at 2 pm, at St. Thomas in Birmingham. Following ordination, Carlson will serve at St. Mary’s on the Highlands, Birmingham.

Richelle Thompson will be ordained on Saturday, May 26, at 11 am, at the Church of the Ascension in Montgomery. Following ordination, Thompson will serve at St. Michael’s, Fayette.

Nathaniel Darville will be ordained on Saturday, June 9, at 11 am, at Grace Episcopal Church in Woodlawn.

### Alabama Seminarians to Serve as Sacristans

On March 5, the dean of the Seminary of the Southwest, Cynthia Kittredge, announced that Diocese of Alabama seminarians Lucy Strandlund and Drew Brislin had been selected to represent their class as sacristans in Christ Chapel. Sacristans are responsible for ensuring the smooth running of services at the chapel, and for scheduling officiants, servers, and readers. Sacristans also work with the officiants to plan special liturgy, such as the Triduum or weddings. Seminary staff and the current sacristans select new sacristans based on the recommendations of the class members, and submit the selections for approval to the dean. Strandlund and Brislin are both in their first year of seminary, and will serve as sacristans for the next two years.

### Bishop’s Visitation Schedule

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Church</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May 6, 10:30 am</td>
<td>St. John’s, Montgomery</td>
<td>Montgomery</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 13, 10:00 am</td>
<td>Nativity, Huntsville</td>
<td>Huntsville</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 16, 6:00 pm</td>
<td>St. Mark’s, Prattville</td>
<td>Prattville</td>
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<td>May 20, 10:15 am</td>
<td>Ascension, Montgomery</td>
<td>Montgomery</td>
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<td>June 3, 10:00 am</td>
<td>St. James, Alexander City</td>
<td>Alexander City</td>
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<td>June 17, 11:00 am</td>
<td>St. Paul’s, Minter (Carlowville)</td>
<td>Minter (Carlowville)</td>
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<td>June 24, 9:00 am</td>
<td>Holy Cross &amp; St. Michael’s</td>
<td>Minter (Carlowville)</td>
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<td>July 1, 10:00 am</td>
<td>Trinity, Demopolis</td>
<td>Demopolis</td>
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<td>July 15, 11:00 am</td>
<td>Calvary, Oneonta</td>
<td>Oneonta</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 29, 3 pm</td>
<td>Diocesan-wide Confirmation Service</td>
<td>Camp McDowell</td>
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Upcoming Events

May 3 The ONE Conference: Creating Sacred Digital Space
The ONE Conference will be May 3, 10 am to 2 pm, at St. Stephen’s in Birmingham. Lisa Brown will be the keynote speaker on “Finding God in the Digital Space: Moving from an Informational to Relational Understanding of Digital Ministry.” Workshops on digital evangelism, digital stewardship, and videography will be offered. For more information, please visit http://bit.ly/2F18Qb1.

May 10-20 Thy Kingdom Come
Thy Kingdom Come is a global prayer movement, which invites Christians around the world to pray between Ascension and Pentecost for more people to come to know Jesus Christ. What started our as an invitation from the Archbishops’ of Canterbury and York to the Church of England has grown into an international and ecumenical call to prayer. For more information and resources, please visit www.thykingdomcome.global.

May 13- June 21 The Poor People’s Campaign — 40 Days of Moral Action
The Poor People’s Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival will engage in 40 days of moral action. Local actions will be coordinated by state committees in more than 40 states. To learn about actions in Alabama visit facebook.com/AlabamaPPC.

June 4-July 13 Sawyerville
Sawyerville Summer Camp will offer three sessions for campers — June 4-7, 18-21, 25-28. The Sawyerville Summer Learning program will run for five weeks from June 11-July 13. For more information, please visit sawyerville.org.

June 4-July 20 GraceWorks
GraceWorks is a summer program for youth, ages 10-14, and is a ministry of Grace Church in Woodlawn. For more information, visit gracechurchwoodlawn.org/graceworks/.

June 7-10 Cursillo #213
Applications for pilgrims are due by May 7. If you are interested in attending, please contact your local Parish Lay Rector (cursilloalabama.org/parish-lay-rector-list).

June 8-10 Diocesan Homecoming at Camp McDowell
Diocesan Homecoming is a weekend retreat for all members of the Camp McDowell and Diocese of Alabama families! For more information, please visit http://bit.ly/2so1Vtw.

June 11-24 Special Session at Camp McDowell
Special Session will be held at Bethany Village at Camp McDowell. Two sessions will be held for campers — June 11-16 and June 19-24. For more information, please visit specialsessionalabama.org.

July 9-13 Young People Paint Birmingham
Young People Paint Birmingham is a diocesan wide junior high service project. Youth entering 7th-9th grades are invited to join us for a weeklong work experience in Birmingham’s West End neighborhoods. Through a partnership with Urban Ministries and The Joe Rush Center for the last 20 years, young people in our diocese have had hands on service experience scraping and painting houses for homeowners who cannot afford to pay for this work to be done. During the evenings, the youth participate in a program that will help them learn more about poverty and how we are called to respond as Christians. St. Stephen’s, Birmingham will serve as a home base for meals, program and sleeping. For more information, please visit http://bit.ly/2EqlAuN.

July 5-13 General Convention
The 79th General Convention of the Episcopal Church will be held in Austin, TX. News and updates from General Convention and the Diocese of Alabama delegation will be available at dioala.org and facebook.com/dioala.

July 16-20 Foothills Day Camp
Foothills Day Camp is a free summer day camp taking place at Camp Lee in Anniston, AL, for children ages 6-10. For more information, please visit foothillsdaycamp.org.

July 29, 3 pm Confirmation Service at St. Francis
All parishes are invited to bring their candidates for Confirmation or Reception to this service. For confirmands
Upcoming Events

in grades 8-12, a retreat will be held at Camp McDowell beginning July 27. For more information, contact Deacon Jeanne Randall (jrann228@gmail.com).

July 30-August 1 Retired Clergy and Spouse Annual Retreat
This retreat is for retired clergy, spouses, and clergy surviving spouses, and is held annually at Camp McDowell. For more information please contact the Rev. Bill King, Chaplain for Retired Clergy, Spouses, and Surviving Spouses — hp3king@bellsouth.net or 205.915.6594.

August 11, 11 am 22nd Annual Jonathan Daniels Pilgrimage
The Rev. Ed Bacon will be the keynote speaker. The pilgrimage will begin at the courthouse in Hayneville. The pilgrimage will travel to the jail where Daniels was held, the location where Daniels was martyred, and conclude with Eucharist in the courtroom where the man who shot Daniels was acquitted. Following the Pilgrimage a special forum will be held on the theme “Coming to America: Who Should We Welcome, What Should We Do?”

September 13-16 Cursillo #214
Applications for pilgrims are due by August 13. If you are interested in attending, please contact your local Parish Lay Rector (cursilloalabama.org/parish-lay-rector-list).

October 25-28 Cursillo #215
Applications for pilgrims are due by September 24. If you are interested in attending, please contact your local Parish Lay Rector (cursilloalabama.org/parish-lay-rector-list).

November 9-11 Happening #73
Happening #73 will be held at St. Luke’s in Birmingham. During this three-day weekend retreat, participants spend time seriously considering the person and teaching of Jesus Christ in a relaxed, fun, informal and loving atmosphere. Those wishing to serve on staff should submit applications by August 27. For more information, please visit https://bit.ly/2uEJHRG.

Share Your Stories & Events!

The Alabama Episcopalian is published quarterly (March 1, May 1, August 1, November 1), with the deadline for submission being the first day of the preceding month.

Submissions should be sent via email as Word documents. Submissions should be a minimum of 500 words and be written in news style. A limited number of first person reflections may be accepted.

The DioAla News Update is published semimonthly on the first and third Monday of the month and features current news and events. The deadline for submission is the Friday preceding publication.

Submissions should be sent via email, and should include links to the event, job/volunteer posting, or announcement hosted on submitting organizations web or social media site.

Website & Social Media is updated regularly. Please like/follow us on social media for updates on events and news around the diocese.

If you have an event, job/volunteer opportunity, or other announcement, please submit it via email, including appropriate links you your content.

Photos or artwork should be submitted as separate files at the highest resolution possible. Please include information for captions and photographer/artist credit.

For more information about submission requirements and style guides, visit dioala.org/communications

For questions, or to submit an article, email khudlow@dioala.org.
Looking for a great way for the whole family to enjoy Camp McDowell this summer? Join us for Diocesan Homecoming, a camp-style weekend retreat in Bethany Village for all ages. It’s a mini summer vacation where all the details are planned! Join your Diocesan family for swimming in the pool and at Tillers beach, hiking, kickball, canoeing on Clear Creek, a Pasture Party, a hayride, Compline, campfires and guitar playing, and starlight in the gorgeous Camp night sky.

Got questions? Contact Georganne Perrine, 205-358-9230 or gperrine@dioala.org.
Register at campmcdowell.com/retreats/diocesan-homecoming!