The Rev. Dr. Glenda Curry elected Bishop Coadjutor

See article on page 10
THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH
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Bishop’s Address to the 189th Convention of the Diocese of Alabama

*The Rt. Rev. John McKee Sloan*
Hello, friends.

Several times through the years, people have asked me, why do you write “Hello friends” and not “Hello brothers and sisters” or “Children of God”? The reason is because you don’t choose your brothers and sisters. We don’t choose who is the children of God. We choose our friends, and I’m glad to be able to stand here and address this part of God’s Church and call you friends.

I imagine that there are some of you sitting here and some of you out there in internet land who are saying, “Hey, wait a minute. I thought we just elected a new Bishop. Why is this guy still up there?” And you’re right. We did elect a new bishop – the Rev. Dr. Glenda Curry was elected to be our Bishop Coadjutor a couple of weeks ago. She preached our opening Eucharist on Thursday evening, and did a great job reminding us that we’re called to be salt of the earth and the light of the world. She told us that one of the letters of congratulations she got from a young person, who said he wasn’t really sure what the Bishop does, but congratulations anyway. And I think that’s probably as good a summary of the Episcopacy as I’ve ever heard. So, Glenda, congratulations anyway, for whatever it is you’ve let God get you into.

I think we made a good choice in electing Glenda, and I’m excited about working with her. I believe we’re in good hands. She will continue to serve as the rector of All Saints’ in Homewood for a few more months, and she will be ordained a bishop on June 27th. Then she will serve as our Bishop Coadjutor until she becomes our Bishop Diocesan on January 9th, 2021. There are a lot of details to be worked out, but we’ll let you know in plenty of time – meanwhile, save those dates: June 27th and January 9th; it wouldn’t be the same if you were not there.

I hope and trust that you will give her and Bill the same love and support that you have given me and Tina through the years. I also want to thank the other folks who have allowed their names to be placed into consideration, especially our list of nominees. Our friend Evan Garner, our friend Allison Liles, our friend Aaron Raulerson, their spouses and families and the parishes they serve.

In the meantime, you’re stuck with me for a little while longer. But this will be my last address to the Convention of the Diocese of Alabama as your Bishop.
And now I apologize to our friend Kelley Hudlow who has the script I have in front of me and which I will now completely disregard.

The truth of it is, every year I come to this and I’m, I’m always, I love diocesan convention. I love it when we’re all together and I dread the Bishop’s Address. I used to dread it when I sat out there, but now I really dread it. Not because I don’t like talking to y’all, but because I’ve made myself write it all down. And then you write it all down and read it out loud and rearrange things, and should that be a semicolon, and do I really need that sentence in there? And I don’t know how you people who write your sermons out every week do it. It just drives me crazy.

What would you say in your last address to the diocese of the church that you love?

Yesterday, I was walking from one place to another and I came upon my friends Bartlee and Emily; Emily is a senior at VTS. Bartlee’s a good guy. Both of them children of this diocese, Special Session counselors and staff; Sawyerville counselors and staff. And Bartlee observed that this is my last address and I can say whatever I want to say. Bartlee said, “You are a dangerous man – a Bishop with nothing to lose.”

So, I’m going to tell you what I think.

Years ago, a lady in church turned 80 and we had a birthday party at the church, and I was talking to her and she said, “Now I can say whatever the hell I want to say.” I got a few years before I turn 80; mostly I want to say thank you.

I spent a couple of days making a list of all the people I should thank in this moment, and well after the list got too long I was still adding to it, so I tried to cut it back to just a couple of hundred people, and then I decided I’m not going to put you or me through all that. For the moment, I’m hoping it will be enough to thank you all for everything you’re doing and have done, and to thank my sweet Tina, who I can never thank enough, and our children McKee and Mary Nell, for their love and support, and for living this with me. I probably say this in every Bishop’s Address – and I probably should – being a clergy spouse is one of the most difficult jobs in the church, whether your spouse is a priest or a deacon or a bishop, it’s a hard job – and we’re grateful to all of you.

I’m back on script now.

To get myself all psyched up for this moment, I took some time to read through all the previous addresses I’ve given, and I’ve got to say: Y’all have been real patient with me through the years.

You’ve listened to me tell some of my favorite stories – about Jimmy Lee Washington, who told me that God loves us more than our mamas, who told me there ain’t nobody no better’n me, and I ain’t no better’n nobody else; about my mother who held her breath for me when we crossed a bridge and I couldn’t hold my breath because I was crying; about an elderly woman who talked about her father who continued to sell horses and mules well into the Automotive Age; about trusting a bus driver in Honduras named Jesus; about fishing with my dad, who asked me if I wanted to catch fish or just play with the bait; about a woman who chose not to pursue a career in dancing and felt the weight of that regret for the rest of her life.

You have suffered through story after story about summer camp: about being included in a game of Spades that changed my life; seeing a glimpse of the Kingdom of God in my first Special Session, and every Special Session since; about the transformation of a Special Session camper we were all afraid of until she had a counselor who didn’t know that she was supposed to be afraid and loved her anyway; and another camper who was born blind and trusted his knuckle-headed counselor enough to go off the high dive with him. And there are other stories – and on and on.

You have sat there without objection as I quoted Jimmy Buffet, George Carlin, Morgan Freeman, the apostle Paul and Popeye the Sailor Man.

You played along when I asked you to sing “The Garden Song” and “The Butterfly Song” and you popped up like popcorn when I called out a ministry that you were involved in or supported. You sang Happy Birthday to our daughter on her 16th birthday. And you, my friends, have
listened to talk and talk and talk about the Good News of our hope in the love of God and Jesus Christ our Lord. Thank you, thank you all.

The next part of this address will be available on the diocesan website, because it’s really good and because I spent a long time writing it. I want you to know, I want us all to know, that we are part of the story that started a long time ago, and the story continues through us and into the generations to come.

My wife came up a little while ago and said, “Are you going to tell a story?” I said, “Yes. I’m telling the story of the people of God from the Big Bang and to this day.” She said, “What?” I said, “I am telling the story of the Old Testament, the New Testament and church history all in one sitting.” She said, “What? You’re not going to tell a story!”

Well, I have learned over the years that I need to listen to Tina. So all of that wonderful story, Old Testament, New Testament church history will be on the website. It’s worth a read, but not right now.

Every year I get up here and wherever St. Thomas Episcopal church in Huntsville is, I start to tell a story and I can

You played along when I asked you to sing “The Garden Song” and “The Butterfly Song” and you popped up like popcorn when I called out a ministry that you were involved in or supported. You sang Happy Birthday to our daughter on her 16th birthday. And you, my friends, have listened to me talk and talk and talk about the Good News of our hope in the love of God and Jesus Christ our Lord. Thank you, thank you all.

see them around the table saying, “Yeah, we heard that one.” Well you haven’t heard this one.

Every 23rd of December I go to St. Mark’s in Boligee, Alabama. It’s in the archdiocese of Eutaw, 11 miles west where my mama was baptized and my mom and dad and grandparents and great grandparents are buried. It’s a sweet little church; I think there are five or six members, three or four of them are Methodists. Five of them are related to me somehow, and they pack the church every 23rd of December and have decorations, and it’s really a sweet, sweet service. This year I know, I knew that my sister Becki was coming, so that her husband could hear me preach before I retire. And as I was driving to Boligee and wondering what I was going to say, I stopped at a gas station and went inside for a pack of gum and remembered a story that I had forgotten a long time ago.

When I was six or seven years old, the four Sloan children were at home just before Christmas, the weather was inclement; we were trapped inside. I cannot imagine what my mother must have been going through, all four of us in our little bitty house all the time. And my sister Becky had a pack of Fruit Stripe gum. Some of you old folks remem-

ber Fruit Stripe gum. A pack of grape Fruit Stripe gum and it smelled real good. And we were trapped inside. We never had gum. Mom and dad didn’t let us have gum. I don’t know how my sister wound up with a pack of Fruit Stripe gum, but she had it and I was smelling it and I said, sort of by way of holiday generosity, maybe my sister would like to share that gum with me. So, I asked her and she said in the language of big sisters everywhere, “No.”

A long time went by and I saw that gum unprotected, defenseless, and I thought it was not right for my sister to have a pack of Fruit Stripe gum when I didn’t have any gum at all, and just in the interest of justice, I stole a piece of gum, went out behind our house, down the gully into the woods next to the creek and chewed that gum until all the sweet was gone and then I took the little paper wrapper and tore it into a little pieces and scattered it around; it was the perfect crime.

When I got back to the house, my sister, who apparently was running an inventory on her gum the whole time, asked me if I had stolen and chewed that piece of gum and I said, no, I did not. And I got about as indignant as I could about being accused of such a terrible thing. She couldn’t tell mom and dad because she wasn’t supposed to have gum anyway, and I thought I was safe.

A few days later, Mom and Dad took all four of us to see Santa Claus, in Vicksburg, Mississippi. It’s where the Corps of Engineers has a headquarters, and y’all know how engineers are, they had everything all organized and they had Santa Claus sitting in a sleigh and they had these little aluminum reindeer rocking back and forth. The first one had a little red nose and they were playing music. I don’t know how many songs they had to play, but they played one over and over and over and over, as we stood in line. “You better watch out. You better not cry. You better not pout. I’m telling you why – Santa Claus is coming to town.” And listen to this: “He knows when you’ve been sleeping. He knows when you’re awake. He knows when you’ve been bad or good, so be good for goodness sake.” Well, it was too late for me. Back then in – I guess 1961 or 2 or 3 – Santa didn’t have so many helpers as he does now and the whole town was lined up to see Santa, and the line moved slowly and we eventually moved towards Santa and then the more they played, “you better watch out, you better not
pout,” the more scared I got. Until finally Dad picked me up and put me on Santa’s lap, which was not a comfortable place for an invertebrate sinner to be.

And I told him some things that I would like to have, but I wasn’t really optimistic about it. On the way home, sitting in the back seat between my big sister and my big brother, I said to my brother, four years older and infinitely more sophisticated, then and now, “What happens if you’re bad?” And Crofton, my brother said, “You get a lump of coal.” Well, I grew up in Mississippi, we just have mud. I didn’t know anything about coal, but that didn’t sound like something I wanted for Christmas. I thought about confessing to my sister, but I figured that that would probably just make things worse and it was too late for me and Santa anyway.

Christmas morning came – my father the engineer had this array of spotlights connected to his movie camera so that every time we opened the door to come into the room, we were blinded. But, when my vision returned, I saw that my brother had a big stocking full of stuff and my sister had a big stocking full of stuff. My little sister had a big stocking full of stuff and I looked over there where my stocking was sure to hold coal, and saw that it was just as full and just as wonderful as anybody else’s. Well, wait a minute. That’s not right. I mean, clearly I had been bad, there was no question about anything about coal, but that didn’t sound like something I would like to have, but I wasn’t really optimistic about it. On the way home, sitting in the back seat between my big sister and my big brother, I said to my brother, four years older and infinitely more sophisticated, then and now, “What happens if you’re bad?” And Crofton, my brother said, “You get a lump of coal.” Well, I grew up in Mississippi, we just have mud. I didn’t know anything about coal, but that didn’t sound like something I wanted for Christmas. I thought about confessing to my sister, but I figured that that would probably just make things worse and it was too late for me and Santa anyway.

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Not many years after that, I went off to seminary and I got the Oxford Dictionary of the Christian Church, which every seminarian should have. It’s one of those books that tells you everything about the Christian Church that you want to know and a whole bunch of other stuff too. And eventually I looked up Santa Claus and it said, Saint Nicholas of Myra. I looked up Saint Nicholas of Myra and found out that in the fourth century there was a Bishop remembered for his kindness to children. Saint Nicholas of Myra is the patron saint of Russia, of sailors, of children, of prostitutes. On the list of people that went to the council of Nicaea in 325 one of the bishops listed is Nicholas of Myra. I just love the idea that Santa Claus might’ve had a hand in writing the Nicene Creed.

Saint Nicholas is one of the most popular saints in the church, and more churches are named for Saint Nicholas than any other saints except for Mary and Paul. And look what we have done to Saint Nicholas who loved children. “You...
what happens. But just for this moment, just for this one moment in our life together, let’s put aside that sense of propriety and if I say something that you believe you might just want to let loose and say “Amen.” All right? No, not now. I asked the Bishop in another part of God’s church who was expecting the House of Bishops to respond with “Amen,” and we were disappointing to her, I said, “Well, what do people say when they don’t agree?” And she said, “Well, mostly they just say, ‘Well.’” So, let’s try this again.


So, y’all been sitting for a little bit. I invite you to stand and play along one more time. Stand up if you can. Now: take somebody’s hand. Oh, I know there are a lot of icky germs out there, we got hand sanitizer; you’ll be alright. Love is risky sometimes.

Now, with your other hand. (Y’all are not paying attention.) So, you’ve got one hand holding somebody and you’ve got one hand free; take another person’s hand from another table. We’re not going to just hold hands around a table; that’s too congregational.

We are all connected this way. And you are touching somebody who is touching somebody who is touching somebody that you don’t agree with. You are touching somebody who’s touching somebody who doesn’t do it right. We’ve got High Church and Low Church and conservatives and progressives and Alleluia Three music and Bach concertos and Rite One and Rite Two and who knows what all else and Morning Prayer and the Holy Eucharist, we’ve got people from big congregations and little congregations, people who grew up Episcopalians and people who have seen other parts of the church – and together we are the people of God, [Amen.] brought together in the love of God and called to shine the light of Christ as the story of God with the people of God continues. [Amen.]

We are pilgrims on a journey; we are travelers on the road; we are here to help each other walk the mile and bear the load. [Amen.]

Some years ago somebody told me I was preaching “cheap grace;” I don’t think of grace as cheap; I believe it’s free: given to all of us whether we deserve it or not – God save us from getting what we deserve [Amen] – given to all of us and to all of the children of God. In the Outline of the Faith, in the back of the book, we teach that “grace is God’s favor toward us, undeserved and unearned. By grace, God forgives our sins, enlightens our mind, stirs our hearts, and strengthens our wills.” It is not right and certainly not our place to put conditions on the love of God. [Amen.]

So now beloved of God, we take our place in God’s story of love and grace and commit ourselves to witnessing to God’s new covenant of love, the Good News of the love of God in Jesus Christ, the Light of the World.

And so, I ask you, Will you continue in the Apostles’ teaching and fellowship in the breaking of bread and in the prayers? Will you persevere in resisting evil, and whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord? Will you proclaim by word and example the good news of God and Christ? [I will with God’s help.] Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself? [I will with God’s help.] Will you strive for justice and peace among all people and respect the dignity of every human being? [I will with God’s help.]

And the story of God and the people of God, continues. Thanks be to God. [Amen.]

*Kee*
During his address to the 188th Convention of the Diocese of Alabama in 2019, Bishop Sloan announced his plan to retire at the end of 2020 and called for the election of a Bishop Coadjutor. Following this announcement, the Standing Committee of the Diocese appointed persons to serve on a Bishop Search Committee and a Bishop Transition Committee.

For the Search Committee, the Standing Committee sought people who would represent the diverse interests of the diocese, make sound and faithful decisions, and follow the Holy Spirit’s guidance in the discernment of nominees for the election of the 12th Bishop of Alabama. This committee needed to be a manageable number of people who represented both the clergy and lay orders, as well as equal gender representation, included a youth liaison, and was made up of members that represented the three geographic districts of the diocese. The Standing Committee also attempted to identify a variety of “categories” that potential members represented, including being sensitive to the different types of clerical leadership in our diocese—retired, rector/associate, chaplain, and deacons as well as conservative and liberal theological constructs, the LGBTQ+ population, Cursillo, and parish size.

The members of the Transition Committee were intentionally selected for their gifts of organization, planning, and pastoral care. The work of this committee would focus on the logistics of the Walkabout, election, and consecration, as well as the logistics for travel for the nominees. Certain members of the committee would also serve as shepherds for the bishop-nominees—taking care of them during their stay in our diocese, through the election, and following up with them after as well. The work of this committee will continue through the Ordination and Consecration of the Bishop Coadjutor and Bishop Sloan’s retirement.

Throughout the spring and summer of 2019, the Search Committee met to develop the Diocesan Profile. Listening Sessions were held throughout the Diocese to provide information and guidance on writing the profile. The profile was published on August 28, 2019, and the nomination period was opened. At the conclusion of the nomination period, the Search Committee reviewed documents and interviewed nominees. On December 1, a slate of three nominees was announced to the Diocese. At the end of the Petition Period, the final slate of nominees was the Rev. Dr. Glenda S. Curry, the Rev. Dr. Catherine Collier, and the Rev. Bill Blackerby.

The Walkabout was held on January 4, 2020. Delegates filled the nave at St. Luke’s in Birmingham for the Walk About with the bishop candidates, while others watched on-site from Graham Hall or via the internet. The Walkabout was an opportunity for voting delegates to learn more about the candidates. The event began with Noon Day Prayer, and the conversation with the candidates was moderated by Mr. Bill Gamble. Each candidate was given 50 minutes to address the convention. Each began with short opening remarks. Following this, each candidate was asked the same four questions that had been selected by the Standing Committee. Delegates in attendance were invited to submit questions that were placed in a basket. Delegates could submit a general question, or questions for a specific candidate. Following the questions from the Standing Committee, as time allowed, the moderator pulled delegate questions from the basket. Candidates were then given the opportunity to offer brief closing remarks.

On January 18, 2020, delegates gathered at the Cathedral Church of the Advent for the election. The proceedings began with the Liturgy of the Word, and Bishop Sloan preached. Prior to the Great Thanksgiving, the Special Electing Convention was convened. The two orders met separately, with the Clergy delegates meeting in the Refectory. To be elected, a candidate needed to receive a simple majority of votes from both clergy and lay delegates, voting separately on the same ballot round.

The Rev. Dr. Glenda S. Curry, rector of All Saints’ Birmingham, was elected on the 2nd ballot, receiving 77 clergy votes and 127 lay votes. As Bishop Coadjutor, Curry will succeed Bishop Sloan upon his retirement at the end of 2020 and will become the 12th Bishop of the Diocese of Alabama. Curry is the first woman elected bishop in the Diocese of Alabama. In addressing the gathering, Curry said “I’m overwhelmed and I’m humbled. I know that we can do whatever God points us to do, with God’s help. And that’s what I’m going to count on, your help and God’s help.” Delegates then joined together for the Great Thanksgiving and Holy Communion.

According to the canons of The Episcopal Church, all bishop elections must receive the consent of a majority of diocesan bishops and diocesan standing committees. Following a successful consent process, Curry will be ordained and consecrated bishop on Saturday, June 27, 2020, at St. Luke’s, Birmingham, by the Most Rev. Michael Curry, presiding bishop of The Episcopal Church.

Bishop Kee Sloan and the Rev. Dr. Glenda S. Curry following her election as Bishop Coadjutor. Photo by Sarah Sexton Photography.
On February 6-8, the 189th Convention of the Diocese of Alabama gathered at Camp McDowell. This year our convention theme was “Behold what you are; Become what you receive,” and centered on lifelong Christian Formation.

Day One

Convention began on Thursday evening with dinner in Doug Carpenter Hall, followed by a Eucharist in St. Francis Chapel. A “Pop-up” Choir provided the music, and the Department of Lifelong Christian Formation offered an “Instructed Eucharist” service booklet. The Rev. Dr. Glenda S. Curry, Bishop-elect, preached. Reflecting on the Gospel reading, Curry stated, “as Bishop Elect, I am a work in progress, and as a child of God we are all works in progress and Jesus calls us to be salt and light anyway.” She continued, “Jesus will help me be ‘salt and light’ to you, and Jesus will help you be ‘salt and
light’ to me, and together we’ll be like a lamp on a stand that brings light to the whole world.”

The offering at the Eucharist was designated for students from the Virgin Islands entering the AIMS program. Following the Eucharist, those in attendance were invited to a reception in Hall Hall hosted by the Department of Lifelong Christian Formation.

**Day Two**

Registration continued on Friday, and delegates were invited to attend workshops. These offerings included Respite Ministry and Memory Care in our parishes with Susanna Whitsett and the Rev. Rich Webster; Handicapped Access to our Worship Spaces and services with Deacon Bob Serio; Information for Retired Clergy and Spouses with the Rev. Bill King; a “WALK-shop” to the dam on Clear Creek to learn more about the Archimedes Screw and renewable energy with the Rev. Tom Brown; and Folk School Arts & Crafts with Caitlin Lollar.

The first business session began following lunch and was held in Doug Carpenter Hall. The session was opened with singing led by the Rev. Mark Waldo and with prayers led by Bishop Sloan. The session began with introductions of those seated at the dais with Bishop Sloan — Rip Britton, Chancellor and appointed parliamentarian; the Rev. John Mark Ford, diocesan Secretary; and the Rev. Candice Burk Frazer, appointed Chair Dispatch of Business. With 69 parishes and 101 canonical clergy present, a quorum was had and business could proceed.

The Convention was welcomed by the Rev. Corey Jones, Executive Director of Camp McDowell. Following this welcome, Bishop Sloan introduced diocesan staff. Additionally, Bishop Sloan recognized Diocesan Council
members, members of the Standing Committee, non-canonical licensed clergy present, retired clergy, those in formation for ordination, and delegates from the Youth Department — Same Wilson and Evan Dunbar, both of St. Stephen’s Birmingham.

Bishop Sloan designated four worshipping communities, each allowed one delegate and alternate: The Abbeville Birmingham, Christ the Redeemer Montgomery, St. Martin’s in the Pines Birmingham, and Todos Los Santos, Montgomery. St. Dunstan’s, who had been a worshipping community for many years, petitioned to become a parish, and this request was approved by the Convention. Sloan also recognized the campus ministries, also allowed one delegate: Birmingham Episcopal Campus Ministries (Trinity Commons), Canterbury Chapel Tuscaloosa, UNA Campus Ministries Florence, St. Dunstan’s Auburn, and Jacksonville State. Bishop Sloan introduced the deans of the convocations and invited the deans to introduce new clergy in their convocation.

Before adjourning to caucus elections, the Rev. Dr. Glenda Curry, Bishop-elect, came forward to introduce a questionnaire that delegates would receive in caucus. Curry described this questionnaire as the early steps in developing a plan for the diocese, and that delegates’ answers would be part of the data used. The questions asked were: “(1) If the diocese could provide one resource or tool to your congregation, what would it be? (2) What is one resource your parish could provide (or continue to provide) to the rest of the diocese? (3) If the Diocese would ____________, I know I would call my friends and tell them what wonderful things they are missing. (4) What do you look forward to happening in the Diocese in the next decade?”

Following caucus elections, dinner was hosted in Doug Carpenter Hall. Attendees were then invited to Hall
Hall for special Harry Potter themed hospitality time. The folks from St. Thomas Huntsville turned Hall Hall into Hogwarts, complete with a Forbidden Forest and Whomping Willow. Our keynote speakers lead the group in games and theological discussion.

Keynote Address

Our keynote speakers were Lisa Kimball, Ph.D., and the Rev. Dr. Tricia Lyons. Kimball is the James Maxwell Professor of Lifelong Formation and Associate Dean of Lifelong Learning at Virginia Theological Seminary. Currently, she is directing Baptized for Life, a 5-year project supported by the Lilly Endowment, Inc., to mentor 17 congregations across 7 dioceses as they explore Christian calling and form lives of meaning and purpose. Lyons is currently serving as Affiliative Faculty and Director of Evangelism Initiatives at the Virginia Theological Seminary in Alexandria, VA. Prior to her current role at VTS, she served in the Episcopal Diocese of Washington as Canon for Evangelism. Lyons is the author of three books on faith formation, most recently *Teaching Faith with Harry Potter* and *What is Evangelism?*

They spoke to the Convention on Friday and Saturday afternoon. Part One of their remarks focused on “The Marriage of Formation and Evangelism.” Lyons began with a lively discussion using images from the Chronicles of Narnia, while Kimball pointed us to the importance of both “Macro” (ongoing life of the church, worship, fellowship, teaching, service, witness, lifelong, life-wide, life-deep, metabolism of a baptized community) and “Micro” formation (deep-dive, intentional bursts of focused, context-specific faith intensification). Part Two of their remarks given on Saturday, invited the Convention to consider how they view the facts about the current state of the church, and the vitality of smaller congregations when the focus is on lay leadership development and discipleship formation. You can view the keynote addresses online: Part One ([vimeo.com/390795330](vimeo.com/390795330)) and Part Two ([vimeo.com/390818975](vimeo.com/390818975)).

Day Two

The second business session began with the ratification of the caucus elections of representatives to Diocesan Council and Delegates to General Convention, followed by the Diocesan Council Report.
made by the Rev. Jack Alvey. Phyllis Hall, Diocesan Treasurer, presented the budgets for the diocese and Camp McDowell. Following this presentation, all budgets (Resolutions 1-2) were approved by convention. Bishop Sloan thanked Hall for her service as treasurer. The convention approved the chairs of the Departments, Commissions, and Agencies of the Diocese. The Convention also approved the Nominations from the Chair, which include positions such as the chancellor, treasurer, secretary, and Commission on Ministry.

As Convention resumed, the youth attending the Lock-in at Lower Camp on Clear Creek energized the gathering through dance for the final business session. The final session centered on the election of clergy and lay representatives to the Standing Committee, the Disciplinary Board, and At-large Delegates to General Convention, as well as the introduction and discussion of proposed resolutions. Convention approved Resolution 3, which encourages congregations to consider a carbon emissions financial offset and to take steps to reduce CO₂ emissions; and

**New Clergy Introductions**

**Tennessee Valley Convocation:** the Rev. Chase Ackerman, St. John’s Decatur

**Mountain Convocation:** the Rev. Polly Robb, St. Luke’s Scottsboro

**Birmingham Convocation:** the Rev. Paul Goldman, Christ Church Fairfield

**Montgomery Convocation:** the Rev. Mark Likos, Trinity Clanton; the Rev. Pam Long, Todo los Santos Montgomery

(Left-right) the Rev. Chase Ackerman, St. John’s Decatur; the Rev. Pam Long, Todo los Santos Montgomery; the Rev. Jeff Evans, Dean of the Tennessee Valley Convocation; the Rev. Mark Likos, Trinity Clanton; the Rev. Paul Goldman, Christ Church Fairfield; the Rev. Robert Wisenewski, Dean of the Montgomery Convocation; the Rev. Rich Webster, Dean of the Birmingham Convocation; the Rev. Polly Robb, St. Luke’s Scottsboro; the Rev. Carl Saxton, Dean of the Mountain Convocation.
Resolution 4, which reaffirms the commitment to parishes and community organizations that offer hospitality to migrants, immigrants, and refugees.

The business session was closed with a Commissioning Service. Before the Convention was adjourned, the Rev. David Meginniss, Christ Church Tuscaloosa, brought a final resolution to the floor honoring Bishop Sloan. The resolution was approved by a standing ovation. The Convention was then adjourned.

Special thanks to the staff of Camp McDowell, the members of the Department of Lifelong Christian Formation, St. Thomas Huntsville, and to all those that worked so hard to make convention a success. Also special thanks to Gene Lawson, Steven Lawson, and Deacon Dave Drachlis for their hard work with the audio and video.

Election Results

General Convention Delegates
Northern
The Rev. Polly Robb, Clergy Delegate
The Rev. Aaron Raulerson, 1st Alternate
The Rev. Worth Stuart, 2nd Alternate
Shari Harrison, Lay Delegate
Sally Upchurch, 1st Alternate
Marsha Babb, 2nd Alternate

Southern
The Rev. Candice Frazer, Clergy Delegate
The Rev. David Peeples, 1st Alternate
The Rev. Donna Gafford, 2nd Alternate
Annie Kimzey, Lay Delegate
Quincy Hall, 1st Alternate
Jane Dickson, 2nd Alternate

Middle
The Rev. Dr. Tommie Watkins, Clergy Delegate
The Rev. Seth Olson, 1st Alternate
The Rev. Josiah Rengers, 2nd Alternate
Bob Boylan, Lay Delegate
Virginia Hillhouse, 1st Alternate
Brian Denton-Trujillo, 2nd Alternate

At Large
The Rev. Seth Olson, Clergy Delegate
The Rev. Judy Quick, Deacon, 1st Alternate
The Rev. Chris Hartley, 2nd Alternate
Richard Norris, Lay Delegate
Mark Smith, 1st Alternate
Jim Jolly, 2nd Alternate

Diocesan Council
Northern District
Carl Ferguson, St. Joseph’s on the Mountain Mentone (2023)
Middle District
Lee Auman, St. Thomas Birmingham (2023)
Southern District - Suellen Young, Trinity Wetumpka (2023)

Standing Committee
The Rev. Jeff Evans, St. Stephen’s Huntsville (2024)
The Rev. Josiah Rengers, St. Thomas Birmingham (2022)
Richard Norris, Ascension Montgomery (2024)

Disciplinary Board
The Rev. Carl Saxton, Holy Comforter Gadsden (2023)
The Rev. Gail Goldsmith, Holy Trinity Auburn (2023)
Ellen Brooks, Ascension Montgomery (2023)

Resolutions
Resolution 1: Diocesan Budget (Adopted)
Resolution 2: Camp McDowell Budget (Adopted)
Resolution 3: Energy Usage & Emissions and Financial Offset (Adopted as Amended)
Resolution 4: Continuing Hospitality to Refugees (Adopted)

For complete coverage of the 189th Diocesan Convention, including video reports, live stream, Opening Eucharist sermon, and photos, visit https://www.dioala.org/dfc/newsdetail_2/3201630.
A Resolution Honoring

The Rt. Rev. John McKee Sloan

WHEREAS, the Rt. Rev. John McKee Sloan has presided over our diocesan conventions for the last eight years and

WHEREAS, we know he hates resolutions having clauses that begin with “whereas,” but, since his successor has been elected, his opinion doesn’t matter to us nearly as much; so

WHEREAS, this will be the last convention over which he will preside, a fact which no doubt allows Robert of the Rules of Order to rest more peacefully; and

WHEREAS, he has brought great humor to the diocesan conventions (most of which was unintentional) and created a spirit of joy, compassion, mutual respect, and even dancing and fun, for which we are immeasurably grateful (except, maybe, about the dancing); and

WHEREAS, although he will be our bishop for the rest of the year, we wish to mark this milestone by expressing our admiration for his leadership, our gratitude for his gentleness and grace, and most of all, our deep and abiding love for him;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that although he has not, at least to our knowledge, lost any more special session campers at a baseball game, nor snagged his fishing tackle on a submerged stump, nor blown up his neighbor’s mailbox again, we, the delegates of the 189th Convention of the Diocese of Alabama sitting near the still waters of Sloan Lake, do hereby metaphorically collectively pat him on the head and assure him that he is still a good kid, and,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this metaphor be expressed, and this resolution adopted, by a suitable ovation!
Earthkeeping: Creation Care in Global Mission is the theme of the 2020 GEMN Conference to be held at Christ Church Cathedral in Indianapolis, April 29-May 1, 2020.

Keynote Speakers include:

- Katharine Jefferts Schori, former Presiding Bishop and oceanographer, will provide theological grounding, scientific background and insights from her experience around the world.
- Leon Sampson of Navajoland will share how Native American perspectives correlate with Christian theology and offer ecological approaches from the First Nations.
- Rachel Mash, eco-activist and coordinator of the Green Anglicans network in Southern Africa, will discuss innovative approaches taken by the church in Africa and suggest specific ways Christians in the West can engage ecologically with companions in the Majority World.
- Orlando Gomez, the bishop of Costa Rica, and a team from that diocese will share how the climate crisis is affecting Latin America and how his diocese and others in that part of the world are actively engaged in the care of creation.

Mission workshops will give practical tools for mission:

- Active environmental ministries and global mission partnerships
- Theology of environmental mission
- Building climate resiliency (Deacon Judy Quick will lead this workshop)
- Healthy short-term mission
- Asset-Based Community Development
- Sustaining mission relationships
- Discerning a call as a missionary
- Cross-cultural best practices in mission engagement

At the annual GEMN Conferences, mission advocates connect with others who are passionate about global mission. They exchange ideas and experiences on how to expand the awareness of God’s mission throughout the world, sharing best practices to grow God’s kingdom, as missioners meet God in the other. The many and varied forms of worship at these Conferences deepen one’s own connection to God and to community.

Register now for the 2020 GEMN Conference in Indianapolis, April 29-May 1 (www.gemn.org) Come join other mission advocates to proclaim, inspire, and ignite the joy of God’s mission. Learn more about GEMN (Global Episcopal Mission Network) contact Ms. Christine Mercer, GEMN Board Member from the Diocese of Alabama (cemer@alabama).
On January 30, Sawyerville Mentoring hosted a full day of activities for its mentees. The mentees, juniors and seniors from Greensboro High School, traveled from Greensboro to Birmingham and convened at Vulcan Value Partners.

In the morning, a panel of professionals shared their career stories. Next, a member of Daxko’s human resources department talked about resumes and interviewing. Then, other Daxko employees engaged the mentees in mock interviews. Finally, the mentees shadowed a professional in their field of interest. The entire day helped to broaden the students’ horizons, one of Sawyerville’s three goals, and they returned home with a greater understanding of how they might achieve their career goals.

Thank you to Greg Keyes, Kim Kimberlin, Stephen Owenby, and Derrick Mills for participating in the panel; Chris Estes, Courtney Underwood, Selina Cervantes, and Kelly Lewis for teaching interview skills; and Janet Hall, Chris Skinner, and Jimmy Tracy for hosting job shadowing. Also, thank you to Kay Donnellan for coordinating the event and providing lunch and to Anne Douglass Williams for transporting students!

If you’d like to be involved in Sawyerville Mentoring, contact Crystal Jones at crystal@sawyerville.org.
Sawyerville’s Person2Person event welcomed 26 participants and staff from all over the Diocese. High school students, college students, and adults spent Martin Luther King, Jr. weekend learning about the history of race in Alabama and discerning how Christians are called to improve race relations now.

Similar to years past, the group stayed at St. John’s Episcopal Church and visited the National Memorial for Peace and Justice, the Legacy Museum, and the Civil Rights Memorial in Montgomery. The group also made a day trip to Selma where they toured the Selma Interpretive Center and enjoyed lunch at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church.

The weekend was packed with visits to important historical and cultural sites as well as group discussions about race. One participant said, “The field trips were great. They were powerful sites and really gave us a good idea of the Civil Rights Movement and the state of race relations today.” Another noted, “I liked how everyone was vulnerable this whole weekend and everyone respected everyone.”

Thank you to St. John’s, Montgomery for hosting the event and to Allison Manley, Kay Donnellan, St. Paul’s in Selma, Natalie Sansom, Rebecca Miller, Laura Malone, and St. Mary’s in Millbrook for providing meals!

If you’d like to be involved in Person2Person 2021, contact Bre Mitchell at breanna@sawyerville.org.
Christmas Conference

Emmie Neely, At-Large member of the Youth Department

Christmas Conference is one of my favorite youth events all year. All of the youth come together after Christmas and celebrate the season with their brothers and sisters in Christ. The joy is limitless throughout the weekend as we sing, dance, and pray together at Camp McDowell. The theme that the Youth Department chose for the program was, “The Joy in the Journey.” Thanks to Rev. Worth Stuart and his program staff, we learned about the journey that we are all taking and how Christ walks with us. There are a lot of special moments planned throughout the weekend, but the campers and counselors really make the event what it is every year. On that note, I would like to give thanks to all of the campers and counselors who participated, the adult staff who volunteered, and all of my fellow members of the Youth Department who planned this year’s Christmas Conference!

DOK Fall Assembly

The Fall Assembly Meeting for the Daughters of the King (DOK) in the Diocese of Alabama was held at the Episcopal Church of the Holy Apostles on September 14, 2019. DOK sisters from throughout the Diocese were in attendance.

Dr. Jose Fernandez presented an awesome program based on the theme for the day, “Harmony—Body, Mind and Soul”. In fulfillment of the DOK’s vow of Service, members brought hygiene items which were donated to One Roof, a nonprofit agency in Birmingham, AL.

The Spring Assembly Meeting for the DOK will be held on March 28, 2020, at The Episcopal Church of the Nativity in Huntsville, AL. A day of reflection, fellowship and growth is planned with Rev. Kaki O’Flinn, Deacon, leading the program, “HIDE and SEEK—Finding God’s Love in Life’s Challenges”. Registration forms will be emailed via the DOK Newsletter on or near February 15, 2020; copies will be mailed to all parishes with DOK chapters. Please contact Kathy Whatley, President, at 205-999-8920 or 205-874-6127 for more information.
Greetings from Camp McDowell. Convention at Camp is always a wonderful time for us to come together as a diocesan family. We love having everyone come up to visit God’s Backyard. Each year we have a spring fundraiser called the Friends of Camp McDowell Campaign. We usually ask for people to give so that we can make important updates and perform general maintenance around Camp. This year we are asking for your help to update lower camp! Eppes, the cabins, the chapel...it is all in need of some love. Bethany Village has been such a blessing to Camp McDowell, and we have so many diverse and amazing groups come through each year. It is the result of years of dreaming, building, and growing. It is time to turn our focus from the good work we’ve done up the hill at Bethany to the heart of Camp down the hill. Our dream is not to add any new buildings. It is not to change the things that have made the Camp we all know and love. Our goal is to make lower camp a place where people want to come and stay. To fix the things that need fixing and update the things that need to be brought up to date. I hope you join us in our effort to give back to the place that has given us all so much! Our summer campers and students from all over the southeast will be forever grateful. To learn more, please visit www.campmcdowell.com.
The Enneagram has become increasingly popular in the last few years, with religious folks as well as non-believers becoming more and more interested in the subject. To some, the nine-sided figure is a new phenomenon that helps in the self-discovery of their ego type. But the Enneagram is an ancient tool for spirituality when used for its highest purposes. And Alabamian and member of Grace Episcopal Church, Anniston, Dr. Joseph Benton Howell has been on the forefront of studying and teaching the spiritual tradition of the Enneagram since the early 1980s.

In fact, when our former Bishop Suffragan Marc Andrus visited the Diocese and spoke at St. Stephen’s, Birmingham in March of 2015, he said that three things stood out to him about the diocese from his four-year tenure here: the heart-warming of Cursillo, the mind-development of Education for Ministry (EfM), and the soul-expansion of Joe Howell’s teaching of the Enneagram.

Dr. Howell has been practicing Clinical Psychology since 1980 in Anniston, Alabama. He began teaching topics in spiritual development in the late eighties and has traveled extensively presenting conferences and seminars in such disciplines as dream work, the Enneagram, levels of spiritual development, techniques in spiritual direction, and the theology of Henri Nouwen, Joe’s mentor at Yale Divinity School. To share his accumulated knowledge and years of study across many disciplines, Joe, along with his wife Lark, aided by the Rev. Susan Sloan, founded The Institute of Conscious Being in 2012 to promote living in spiritual consciousness.

Among the first graduates of ICB’s certification program were longtime St. Andrew’s, Birmingham, member, Barbara Sloan and All Saints, Birmingham parishioner, John Adams. Both now teach with ICB. Later trainees who have joined the faculty include Roger Conville also of St. Andrew’s, and familiar Five O’Clock Band, Cursillo musician, and violist for String Theory, Melanie Rodgers. Erika Jobes and Drexel Rayford have also been certified and now teach with the group. And Lark Howell is also a vital member of the ICB faculty.
Though based here in the Diocese of Alabama, The Institute of Conscious Being is often on the road with conferences and workshops that have been attended by over a thousand people. Annual conferences are held at Kanuga, St. Mary’s in Sewanee, and other places like All Saints, Birmingham, and Mississippi’s Gray Center. ICB is different from other Enneagram teaching programs in that it educates people not through a single expert, but with an experienced faculty of diverse background who assist Dr. Howell. Conferences feature live music, interactive learning and arts experiences, small focused groups according to Ennea-type, the Enneagram Theatre, guided meditations that lead to finding your soul child, chaplains, the Living Enneagram, panels, and self-inquiry.

Dr. Howell has presented spiritual topics about the Enneagram at International Enneagram Association conferences in San Antonio, Cincinnati, Oakland, and Egypt, and is scheduled for another one in Stockholm in September. Lark and members of the faculty or trainees accompany and assist Joe on these excursions. The faculty has been on retreat in Italy and is planning a pilgrimage to Iona, Scotland in 2021.

The Institute also offers courses for certification in selected studies which put into practice the Enneagram and other tools for discerning higher consciousness, and have graduated over 75 people. Currently, they have 38 people in the Scholars program and 21 in Masters training, all of which is held at Camp McDowell.

Another way ICB reaches audiences is through weekly podcasts that began in January 2019. With over 1,500 weekly listeners, The Real Enneagram program has reached 57,900 listens since it was created a little over a year ago.

While ICB is inclusive of all conscious pathways to God, Christianity is its formation and container. The primary principle upon which the Institute is built is this: True spiritual consciousness is born of alignment with the love of God. In such alignment, the person exists primarily in their soul state rather than in their ego state. This principle forms the basis of the ICB teachings.

To learn more, visit theicb.org or www.facebook.com/therealenneagram.
On February 15, a Feast of Celebration of Absalom Jones was held at St. Andrew’s in Birmingham. Bishop Kee Sloan celebrated and Bishop Santosh Marray, Bishop of the Diocese of Easton, served as the preacher. Other visiting clergy included Deacon Carolyn Foster, St. Mark’s Birmingham, Deacon Pearl Slay, Trinity Demopolis, Heager Hill of St. Mark’s Birmingham and Adel Hamilton of Good Shepherd Montgomery 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 in Philadelphia, and in 1804 was the first person of African descent to be ordained a priest in the Episcopal Church. Jones was born into slavery in Delaware in 1746. While still enslaved, he married Mary King, who was also enslaved, in 1770. He worked for eight years to buy his wife’s freedom so that their children would be free, and seven years later, he was able to purchase his own freedom.

In 2018 the Dioceses of Alabama and the Central Gulf Coast joined to found the Rev. Canon Robert E. DuBose, Jr. Chapter of the Union of Black Episcopalians (UBE). DuBose was a native of Birmingham, AL, and served churches in Alabama and Pennsylvania. He 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 officers of the joint chapter are the Rev. Dr. Tommie Watkins, Jr. (President), Deacon Carolyn Foster (Vice President), and Mr. Joe McDaniels, Jr. (Secretary & Treasurer). The 52nd Annual Business Meeting and Conference of the Union of Black Episcopalians will be held in Montgomery, AL, on June 28-July 3. To learn more about this event, visit ube.org.

To view Bishop Marray’s sermon, visit vimeo.com/391896235. To view the full photo gallery, visit bit.ly/2wnCyGM.
News from our Parishes

2020 Saint Stephen’s Spring Lecture, Faith leader Workshop, and Contemplative Outreach Retreat all featuring the Rt. Rev. Marc Andrus

Saint Stephen’s Episcopal Church in partnership with Contemplative Outreach Birmingham is excited to announce the Saint Stephen’s spring lecture with the Rt. Rev. Marc Handley Andrus, 8th Bishop of California, a workshop for faith leaders, and a contemplative outreach retreat. On Thursday, April 2, Saint Stephen’s will host a lecture where Bishop Andrus will be addressing the question, “Why is the climate and environmental crisis a spiritual crisis? And why is the Episcopal Church a good place to help meet the climate and environmental crisis?” On Friday, with the Diocesan Task Force for Stewardship of Creation, a workshop will be hosted for ministry leaders: “Leading Faithful Conversations about the Climate Crisis.” On Saturday, Contemplative Outreach Birmingham will host a Centering Prayer Retreat with Bishop Andrus.

Andrus has led The Episcopal Church’s annual delegation to the U.N. Climate Change Summit and has led the Episcopal denomination in joining, “We are Still In,” an ongoing commitment to the Paris Agreement. Bishop Andrus also serves as co-chair of The Episcopal Church’s Advisory Council on Stewardship of Creation. He has attended UN Climate Conferences in Paris, Marrakesh, Bonn, and Katowice, Poland. Andrus is one of the most prophetic and important voices for Christianity and the Episcopal Church in understanding our connection to creation in light of the environmental and climate crisis.

Prior to being elected as Bishop of California, Andrus served as the Bishop Suffragan for the Episcopal Diocese of Alabama. He is married to Sheila Andrus, Ph.D., former director of the Sparkman Center at the University of Alabama at Birmingham’s School of Public Health.

The Lecture is free and open to the public. The Friday lunch and Saturday workshop require registration. All events will take place in the Parish Hall of Saint Stephen’s.

Saint Stephen’s is committed to recognizing the sacredness of all of creation. Our care and nurture of the environment is a critical way we live out our faith in Jesus Christ. In addition to lectures and formation opportunities, Saint Stephen’s has an ambitious program to remove invasive species from the grounds, an apiary, a partnership with a local farm, a plan to reduce and offsite carbon consumption and energy costs, and monthly Holy Hike.

Thursday – April 2
7:00pm – 8:00pm
“Why is the climate and environmental crisis a spiritual crisis? And Why is the Episcopal Church a good place to help meet the climate and environmental crisis?”

Friday – April 3
12:00pm – 1:30pm
Leading Faithful Conversations Around the Climate Crisis for ministry leaders hosted by the Episcopal Diocese of Alabama’s Task Force for Stewardship of Creation.
- $15 – Includes Lunch. For tickets, visit http://bit.ly/2SBx43W.

Saturday – April 4
9:00am – 2:00pm
A Centering Prayer retreat with Marc Andrus. The cost is $40 and includes lunch. Registration begins. At 8:30am. To register, please visit www.centeringprayeralabama.com.
The Rev. Maggie Taylor died on November 20, 2019. The funeral was December 17 at Holy Apostles, Hoover. Born in Pasadena, CA, she was an Episcopalian most of her adult life. She graduated from Colorado College in 1967 with a degree in religion and went to Taiwan with her first husband in 1973. She returned to the United States in the early 80’s to earn her master’s degree in counseling from Fairfield University and returned to Taiwan in 1982. She worked as a multicultural counselor until returning to New York City in 1987 to attend General Seminary. She graduated from General Seminary and was ordained an Episcopal priest in 1990. After spending four years as a priest associate at Nativity Episcopal Church in Huntsville, she was invited to move to Hoover, AL where she founded Holy Apostles Episcopal Church in 1994. She retired from Holy Apostles in 2011 but remained active in several parishes until her death.

The Rev. Jim Williams died on November 26, 2019. The funeral was held December 7 at Christ Episcopal Church in Fairfield. Williams was born in Huntington, Long Island N.Y. He graduated University of Lynchburg, Lynchburg, VA, and School of Theology, University of the South Sewanee, Tennessee. Williams served churches in Virginia, Arkansas, Georgia and Alabama.

The Rev. Arnold Bush died on January 10, 2020. Services were held on January 18 at St. James, Fairhope. He was a graduate of Millsaps College in 1959, and the School of Theology at the University of the South (Sewanee) in 1962. He was ordained a priest in the Episcopal Church in 1963 and served parishes all over the southeast for more than fifty years, including work as Province Coordinator for Evangelism and Renewal.
The Rev. Katie Rengers appointed Episcopal Church staff officer for Church Planting

The Rev. Katie Rengers has been appointed staff officer for Church Planting for The Episcopal Church, a member of the Presiding Bishop’s staff. Rengers has been offering her gifts to this work on an interim basis for the last six months; networking new ministries, developing resources and organizing trainings to support the development of new ministries of all kinds, across the Episcopal Church. In the previous triennium, she served on the Taskforce on Church Planting and discovered a passion for supporting innovative leaders in the creation and nurture of joyful and sustainable missional communities.

“It is a joy to welcome Rev. Rengers to the church planting and redevelopment team. She is a strategist, a practical thinker, an entrepreneur and a pastor, and I look forward to seeing the Episcopal church planting movement grow from strength to strength under her care.” said the Rev. Canon Stephanie Spellers, canon to the Presiding Bishop for evangelism, reconciliation and creation care.

The Rev. Tom Brackett, manager for church planting and ministry redevelopment, said, “Rev. Rengers brings her personal experience with planting ‘The Abbey’ in Birmingham to this role. She is inspired, in love with Jesus as well as with the power of the Gospel to change lives and whole communities. She brings all of the gifts and motivation to expand on the work that Rev. Mike Michie invested in developing support and infrastructure for church planting, over the last couple of years.”

Reflecting on the position, Rengers said, “I’m looking forward to supporting leaders in dioceses across the Church who are spreading the Gospel of Jesus by establishing new faith communities. This work is wild, risky and ultimately, I believe, vital to moving our denomination into what God is calling us to be in the 21st century.”

Rengers began her new position on January 6, 2020.

This article includes content from the January 28, 2020 press release from The Episcopal Church.

Bishop’s Visitation Schedule

March 1, 10 am, St. Mark’s, Prattville
March 8, 10:30 am, St. Joseph’s, Mentone
March 15, 8:30 & 11 am, All Saints’, Birmingham
March 22, 10:30 am, St. Andrew’s, Montevallo
April 5, 10 am, Ascension, Birmingham
April 11, 7 pm, St. Andrew’s, Birmingham
April 12, 10 am, St. Paul’s, Selma
April 19, 9 & 11 am, Holy Trinity, Auburn
April 19, 4:30 pm, St. Dunstan’s, Auburn
April 26, 10:30 am, St. Luke’s, Birmingham
May 3, 10:30 am, St. John’s, Montgomery
May 6, 5 pm, Cathedral Church of the Advent, Birmingham
Upcoming Events

March 6-8 Vocare 20
Vocare is a weekend retreat for college students and young adults (18-30 years old) at Camp McDowell. To learn more, please visit www.dioala.org/vocare.

March 7 A Lenten Reflection Day
Join us for a day to learn and experience a variety of Spiritual Practices at St. Stephen’s Birmingham. Registration opens at 8:30 am. Program is 9 am- 1pm. $20, lunch included. Register at bit.ly/LentReflectionday.

March 20-22 Rites of Spring
Rites of Spring will be held in Bethany Village at Camp McDowell for youth grades 9-12. This event doubles as a spring retreat at Camp and as our annual EYC Convention, where our Youth Department for the upcoming year will be elected. You do not have to be running for Youth Department to come to this event, it is open to any and all youth, grades 9-12. If you have questions about the requirements to run for Youth Department or how to be a delegate, or have any other questions about this event, contact Kathleen Lynch, Youth & Young Adult Ministries Coordinator at klynch@dioala.org. Registration can be found at dioala.org/youthevents.html.

March 28 Daughters of the King Spring Assembly
The Spring Assembly will be held at the Church of the Nativity in Huntsville, and the Rev. Mary Bea Sullivan will be the speaker. A day of reflection, fellowship and growth is planned with Rev. Kaki O’Flinn, Deacon, leading the program, “HIDE and SEEK—Finding God’s Love in Life’s Challenges.” Please contact Kathy Whatley, President, at 205-999-8920 or 205-874-6127 for more information.

April 18 Gumbo Gala
The 15th Annual Episcopal Place Gumbo Gala will be held at Sloss Furnaces in Birmingham. To learn more, please visit www.episcopalplace.org/gumbogala.

April 25 Plan Well – Life is a Journey
The Diocese of Alabama Commission on Aging will offer this seminar from 8 am – 12:15 pm at St. Francis of Assisi Indian Springs. The Rev. Dr. Malcolm Marler will speak on the “Journey of Intentional Living;” the Rev. Dr. Robert Serio will present on “Staying Fit in 2020;” and Shannon Atchenson, LCSW, will present on “Leaving Home Again – Preparing for Senior Communities, Assisted Living and Long Term Care.” There is no cost, but to help in planning please register at bit.ly/39Jhfhn.

April 30 – May 3 Cursillo #222
Cursillo is an opportunity to grow in faith and in spirituality. Cursillo begins with a three–day weekend at Camp McDowell where lay people and clergy share their experiences and perspective on a variety of topics related to the love of God, the Christian life, and Christian community. To learn more, please visit www.alabamacursillo.org.

June 5-12 Special Session I
June 14-21 Special Session II
Special Session is a summer camp for adults with disabilities at Camp McDowell, staffed by volunteer counselors (ages 16-24) and support staff (24+). Staff will arrive for their assigned session on June 5 or 14. Campers will arrive for their assigned session on June 7 or 16. More information at specialsessionalabama.org.

June 7-16 United Kingdom Pilgrimage
The Rev. Scott Arnold is leading a pilgrimage to the United Kingdom. 2020 marks 400th anniversary of the sailing of the Mayflower, and this pilgrimage will visit places associated with the Puritan leaders. For more information contact the Rev. Arnold at frscott@stmarksal.org or visit http://bit.ly/2Vz3jkg.

July 20-24 Young People Paint Birmingham
Young People Paint Birmingham is an event held for rising 7-9 graders with the opportunity for rising 11-12 graders to serve at CITs, July 20-24 at St. Stephen’s, Birmingham. This event is a work week in Birmingham, where youth will serve low-income residents of the Greater Birmingham Area by scraping, priming, and painting the homes of those who need the service in order to live in their homes. If you have questions about this event, please contact Kathleen Lynch, Youth & Young Adult Ministries Coordinator at klynch@dioala.org. Registration is open and can be found at dioala.org/youthevents.html under Summer Opportunities.
Upcoming Events

CAMP MCDOWELL RETREATS, SUMMER CAMP, EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS, AND THE FOLK SCHOOL

Visit campmcdowell.com/upcoming-events for more information and registration.

March 27-29 Awakenings
Spiritual-renewal retreat for 7th & 8th with all the fun of traditional camp activities.

April 2-5 Folk School: Bluegrass & Gee’s Bend
One of our most popular workshops is back with great Bluegrass music classes and Gee’s Bend quilting. This four-day workshop provides a truly immersive experience with a fun and enthusiastic community of musicians and artists.

April 17-19 Mother/Daughter Retreat
Quality time and camp activities for all combinations and interpretations of mothers & daughters. Recommended for 1st grade & up.

May-August Summer Camp Sessions
For a complete listing of Summer Camp Sessions and to register, please visit campmcdowell.com/upcoming-events.

May 27-30 Youth Folk Camp
This unique and popular Folk School session is designed just for youth! Youth Folk Camp is a unique combination of summer overnight camp that takes place in Bethany Village, community, and folk school instruction in a variety of classes, chosen by the camper. You entering 5th to 12 graders.

June 4-5 Growing Roots
You and your family are invited to attend one of McDowell Educational Program’s best events. “Growing Roots” features The Farm and the Environmental Center classes. Come explore the woods, milk a goat, take our Farm to Table class and watch the Black Vulture soar over your head. All ages are welcome. Questions or register: maggie@campmcdowell.com.

July 25-28 Bethany’s Kids
Bethany’s Kids is a 3-night summer camp for typical kids and kids with physical challenges and/or intellectual differences that fall within Camp McDowell’s scope of care. Open to rising 4th-8th graders/10-13 years of age.

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.
SAVE THE DATE

June 27, 11 am
St. Luke’s Birmingham
Ordination & Consecration of
the Rev. Dr.
Glenda S. Curry
as Bishop Coadjutor