

**Always Building God's Kingdom**



**Ways To Serve  
2008**

**St. Mary's-on-the-Highlands  
Episcopal Church**



## OUTREACH COMMITTEE

The mission for Outreach at St. Mary's is to be faithful to the Great Commandment of our Lord to love God and to love our neighbors as ourselves. The Outreach Committee strives to involve the parish in the community, to respond to human needs, and to educate and empower lay ministry. Please contact Melissa Strange at 967-9621 or [melstrange@aol.com](mailto:melstrange@aol.com) if you would like to be a part of this committee or if you have any questions or comments.

*Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, to all the people you can, in all the places you can, as long as ever you can.*

John Wesley

## 20/30 SOMETHINGS

Members of the 20/30 Somethings group are active participants in many aspects of parish life. Our involvement ranges from Christian education to outreach to social "get togethers." With regard to Christian education, there is a Sunday school class specifically devoted to members of the 20/30 Somethings group—past and current topics of the class include a historical overview of the Episcopal Church and Religion in Pop Culture. Recently, the 20/30 Somethings started a Wednesday night class that is led by various members of the group, and we held a four-week Bible study during the summer. The 20/30 Somethings are very involved in outreach. Not only do our members generally participate in parish-wide projects, but we are also actively involved in several specific projects, including Birmingham Hospitality Network, the Sunday Club, the Table ministry at the Firehouse Shelter, Haiti outreach, and outreach devoted to those serving in the armed forces. The 20/30 Somethings also spend time just hanging-out and getting to know each other. Quarterly social activities have included bowling, picnics, seasonal kick-off gatherings, and happy hours.

If you'd like to join or would like more information, please contact Lauren DeMoss at [ldemoss@maynardcooper.com](mailto:ldemoss@maynardcooper.com).

*He who labors as he prays lifts up his heart to God with his hands.*  
St. Bernard of Clairvaux

## **ALTAR GUILD**

Being a member of the altar guild requires a once-a-month commitment of approximately an hour and a half on a Saturday morning and then helping with one service the next day—setting up the altar and setting up for baptisms when they occur. If you're interested, please contact Pam Stone at 824-5329.

## **BIRMINGHAM EPISCOPAL CAMPUS MINISTRIES**

Birmingham Episcopal Campus Ministries (BECM) now has a home of its own—Trinity Commons located at 1170 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue South. BECM offers much to college students in the Birmingham area including Sunday evening worship, Thursday lunches, and a place for students to study and “hang-out.” With the new facility have come new opportunities to serve in helping BECM meet its bigger program budget, helping maintain the facility and finding a full-time administrator which will allow the chaplain to focus on ministry. If you would like to help with this vital ministry, please contact the Rev. William Blackerby at 320-1500 or at [becm@mindspring.com](mailto:becm@mindspring.com).

## **BIRMINGHAM HOSPITALITY NETWORK**

The Birmingham Hospitality Network (“BHN”) is a group of more than 14 churches that provide housing and food for families that are temporarily unable to maintain their former accommodations. Only families are accepted, and they may stay in the network for up to three months. The director accepts applications and screens the applicants. The families stay at each church for one week, from Sunday to Sunday. The maximum number of people at one time in the network is 14. There are cots that are also rotated in a trailer from church to church. The guests arrive at 5:30 in the afternoon, eat dinner, pack lunches for the next day, sleep, and have breakfast the next morning. They leave at 7 a.m. Some of the families have cars and others are transported in the BHN van. During the day, the director helps those who not working look for employment. This is a system that runs very smoothly and is very much appreciated by the guests. St. Mary's will be a BHN host during the following weeks in 2008: March 2, June 22, and Oct. 12.

As you might imagine, there are several opportunities to volunteer during the weeks that St. Mary's is a host—setting up on Sunday after the 11:00 service, serving as an evening, dinner, or overnight hosts, and helping with the laundry when the week comes to a close. Help is also needed with the two fundraising activities BHN has each year—gift wrapping at Christmas and the silent auction in July. If you can help, please contact Leslie Youngson at [youngsons@msn.com](mailto:youngsons@msn.com) or 290-0467.



## **BRIDGE MINISTRIES**

Bridge Ministries provides direct financial assistance as well as help with utility bills, groceries, and personal products to those in need in this area. Their offices are currently located at Southside Baptist Church. The most efficient way to aid Bridge Ministries is through financial contributions when then are used to help in a myriad of ways for those in need. Contact Lauren or Jordan DeMoss at 879-6924 for more information about Bridge Ministries.

*And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.*

Romans 12.2

## **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

### **CHILD CARE ON SUNDAYS**

Child-care is available from 8:45 a.m. through the 11:00 a.m. service for infants through two years of age. Infants (birth to walking) are in Room 201. Toddlers (walkers - 2yrs. old) are in Room 202. Our Sunday morning child-care offers a safe, loving environment staffed by child-care professionals with many years of St. Mary's experience. Toddlers hear simple Bible stories and participate in age-appropriate activities.

### **CHILDREN'S CHAPEL I**

3K-5K

8:45 am

Room 207

Children in this age group begin the hour in Children's Chapel. Parents and other parishioners lead the children through a simple liturgy and reflection on the Gospel. The children then return to their families at the Peace to celebrate the Eucharist. Parents are asked to volunteer to lead chapel on a rotating basis.

### **CHILDREN'S CHAPEL II**

1st-4th Grades

Chapel

Children in this age group begin the morning in church with their families and after the Gospel reading follow the Crucifer to the Chapel. The children participate in a simplified worship service based on the Book of Common Prayer and the lectionary. They have opportunities to "take part" in the service as lay readers, acolytes, ministers, ushers and greeters. They respond to the Gospel and begin to learn the rituals of the Church. The children then join their families at the Peace to celebrate the Eucharist. Parents are asked to volunteer to assist with Chapel on a rotating basis.

### **SUNDAY MORNINGS FOR CHILDREN**

10:10 am-10:50 am

**Little Lambs:** 2 years of age by September 1, 2007

Room 204

Our young children learn about God's world through music, play, storytelling, and art activities. In this class, the two year-olds explore basic, age-appropriate themes such as "God Made Me Special" and "All God's Children" providing a strong foundation for future religious learning. Little Lambs is open during the 9:00 am service as well.

**Godly Play:**

Scripture is told through sacred stories (Old Testament), parables, and liturgical action (including Eucharist and Baptism). Biblical stories are told using a Montessori approach. Focus is on the child's relationship to God, Jesus, or the Holy Spirit and the characters and actions within the story. Each "lesson" is a worship service in itself, modeled after a Eucharist: a time for lesson/story, wondering/response, prayers, feast, and goodbye/blessing.

**Godly Play I**

Age 3 by September 1, 2007-age 4 after Sept. 1, 2007

Room 210

**Godly Play II**

Age 4 before September 1, 2007-all 5 year olds

Room 209

**Catechesis of the Good Shepherd**

1st-4th Grades

Rooms 205 and 207

The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is a formation experience for children based on the belief that children can and do experience God. The work of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is done in a specially prepared environment called an atrium. Children use hands-on materials to explore and reflect on scripture, prayer, and liturgical events. Together children and adults reflect on the great mysteries of the Christian faith.

**A NEW WEEKDAY CLASS FOR CHILDREN AND ADULTS:  
LEVEL I CATECHESIS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD  
Adult Training and Formation**

Wednesday Mornings

January 30 - May 14, 2008

September 3-December 17, 2008

9:15 am - 11:15 am

Location: St. Mary's-on-the-Highlands

Facilitated by Stephanie Diethelm

(From All Saints Episcopal Church, Homewood)

The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is based upon the belief that the youngest children can and do experience God. In the specially prepared environment, the atrium, children and adults use concrete materials to lead them closer to Christ. Spontaneous prayer, song, and silence arise naturally.

The Holy Spirit is the true teacher in the atrium, whereas the catechist (adult) is merely a facilitator and fellow Christian along his own spiritual journey. Through the proclamation of scripture, exploration of parables, examination and celebration of liturgical events, the spiritual life of the child is carefully nurtured. Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is truly about spiritual formation of those who choose share in its lessons.

Those who take the entire course will receive a certificate of completion from the National Association of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd. If you are interested in registering or finding out more, please contact Beverley at 933-1140 x104 or [Beverley@stmarysoth.org](mailto:Beverley@stmarysoth.org).

Stephanie Diethelm from All Saints Episcopal Church in Homewood, has been a catechist for over 10 years and has conducted several nationally recognized courses for Catechesis of the Good Shepherd.

A nursery is provided for those with children under age 2. Children age 2 and up are invited to join Beverley for Catechesis of the Good Shepherd.

### **YOUTH MINISTRIES**

The youth program here at St. Mary's is involved in many different activities from weekly Bible studies and Sunday school to our outreach work with Grace House ministries, Invisible Children, Inc., Katrina Relief in New Orleans, and the Sawyerville camp work project. From our weekly EYC events to our big events, like the Episkopal ski trip and our Youth Week and our very busy Summer O'Fun schedule, we have a full calendar. In short, there is a great need for members of this congregation to help serve the youth program.

Ways to serve the youth program here at St. Mary's are teaching a Sunday school class, bringing or preparing food for EYC and Club 56 events, help with Wednesday night Bible studies or study hall, chaperoning or driving for an event or trip, helping phone other parents about events, and helping with fundraisers.

If interested please fill out our youth service pledge card and place in the box by Brooks' office, or contact Evelyn Pritchard, Youth Committee Chair at 879-7072 or Brooks Boylan, Coordinator of Youth Ministries, at 933-1140.

### **ACOLYTES**

We are always looking for members to assist with the acolytes and acolyte training and to help the youth of our parish better understand the importance of their leadership roles during services. Please contact Ed Allen, head acolyte master at 226-3413 or Brooks Boylan, acolyte czar at 933-1140.

### **ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

The Adult Christian Education Committee meets on call to assist the Rev. Rusty McCown plan rewarding and meaningful programs for Sunday morning and Wednesday evening. Committee members seek comments and suggestions from those growing in their commitment to Christ as well as folks who would be

willing to teach a class. Did I mention that this group meets for lunch? The "I" is Jim Harbour—contact him to help, to make suggestions, or to volunteer to teach at 991-1839.



*Almighty and most merciful God, we remember before you all poor and neglected persons whom it would be easy for us to forget: the homeless and the destitute, the old and the sick, and all who have none to care for them. Help us to heal those who are broken in body or spirit, and to turn their sorrow into joy. Grant this, Father, for the love of your Son, who for our sake became poor, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*  
BCP, p. 826

## COMMUNITY KITCHENS

One of Community Kitchens' locations is just a few blocks from St. Mary's—in the kitchen and parish hall of St. Andrew's, and the other is at Grace Episcopal Church in Woodlawn. Additionally meals are provided for Episcopal Place. This ministry has been in existence for the past 26 years, and over 150,000 meals are provided annually. This efforts requires many volunteers and many financial contributions. If you would like to volunteer or obtain more information, please call Community Kitchens at 251-3569.

## CURSILLO

**Cursillo** - a Spanish word meaning "short course"

### **What does Cursillo mean for us?**

Cursillo is for those looking to deepen their spiritual relationship with God and become leaders in the church.

### **What is the purpose of Cursillo?**

The Ministry section of the Catechism in the Book of Common Prayer concludes with the question "What is the duty of all Christians?" The duty of all Christians is to follow Christ, to come together week by week for corporate worship, and to work, pray and give for the spread of the kingdom of God.

### **What is the goal of Cursillo?**

The goal of Cursillo is to restore all people to unity with God and unity with each other through Christ.

If you or someone you know is interested in Cursillo please contact: Donne and Patrick Toomey, 3707 Mountain Park Circle, B'ham, AL 35213; 802-5522

## **DAUGHTERS OF THE KING**

The Daughters of the King is an international organization of women committed to service and to prayer. The St. Mary's chapter meets on the first and third Monday afternoons of each month. Central to all of the meetings is prayer—prayer for all those on our church prayer list by name and prayer for those on the Daughters' prayer list—also by name. On the first Monday, worship through Evening Prayer is conducted, and on the third Monday, there is a time for study through speakers and/or videos. If you would like to become a member of the Daughters' chapter at St. Mary's, please contact Micki Haralson at 972-1258 or Kitty Davies at 879-9957.

## **EDUCATION FOR MINISTRY**

Education for Ministry ("EfM") is a four-year program developed by the School of Theology at the University of the South for those who long to go deeper into the study of the Old and New Testaments as well as church history and theology. A class currently meets here at St. Mary's on Thursday mornings. If you would like to know more, please contact Melodie Elam (933-1140) or Peytie Carmichael (967-5185).

## **EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN**

If you are a woman and a parishioner at St. Mary's, you are already a member of the ECW! Please join us on the first Monday of each month to enjoy lunch together and a speaker. Other ways to participate in the ECW are to become active in one of the guilds: the Guild of the Christ Child (the delivery of books of prayers to our new babies with a meal for the parents); the Altar Guild; the Flower Guild, the Daughters of the King, and the Garden Unit. The ECW also organizes the Easter Project which provides Easter clothes and gifts to select participants in Bridge Ministries. Finally the ECW is responsible for the annual Christmas Bazaar. If you have any questions about ECW or the Christmas Bazaar, please contact Virginia Phillips at 879-8187.

## **EPISCOPAL PLACE**

Episcopal Place, located on the southside of Birmingham, exists to provide residents safe, affordable housing in a caring community. The facility has 141 apartments where older or physically-challenged adults on fixed incomes may age in dignity. These apartments are open to all eligible persons. Episcopal Place opened its doors in 1980 and is sponsored by the Episcopal Diocese of Alabama and is supported by 15 parishes, including St. Mary's. Episcopal Place welcomes contributions to its Endowment Fund through memorials, honorariums, bequests, and gifts as well as contributions to the Episcopal Place Supportive Services Fund. Volunteers are always needed to assist in programs that enrich the lives of residents. Call 939-0085.

*In all ranks of life the human heart yearns for the beautiful;  
and the beautiful things that God makes are his gifts to all alike.*

Harriet Beecher Stowe

## **THE FLOWER GUILD**

The Flower Guild consists of men and women of St. Mary's who enjoy working with flowers. Our duties include providing flower arrangements for church services for the altar and occasionally for other areas of the church. We would be delighted for you to join us. Please call Evie Vare at 322-4332 or Nancy Denson at 870-8596 with any questions.

## **THE GARDEN UNIT**

The Garden Unit of St. Mary's is open to all member of St. Mary's. The Unit meets on the second Monday of each month in Randolph Memorial Hall at 11 a.m. to hear an interesting speaker and enjoy lunch together. All are welcome. Please contact Betsy Cobb at 967-1126 if you are interested in the activities of this group.



## **THE GED PROGRAM**

What St. Mary's GED program does: we have a class and a teacher to help women study to pass the GED test; we offer a nursery for preschool children and lunch for the mothers and the children; and we meet on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 9:30 to 1:00. We would like to have help with several different parts of the program: tutoring the women, providing lunch, serving lunch and helping with the nursery! Call Melissa Strange about Wednesday lunches at 967-9621. Call Marjorie Jones about tutoring or Tuesday lunches at 967-8492. Call Lucy Watson about the nursery at 967-4421.

## **GRACE HOUSE**

Grace House began because of the vision of "Mama" Lois Coleman. She dreamed of a place where abused and neglected girls in the Fairfield area could find a nurturing Christian home. In 1992, Mama Lois and a host of volunteers opened the first Grace house. Today her vision is more properly referred to as Grace Village because there are now three houses that stand side-by-side in Fairfield and offer a place to live for girls in crisis, ages 6 to 18. Contributions of both money, time and talents are greatly appreciated. For more information, contact Grace House at 786-4663.

## **GREETERS**

Greeters stand in the narthex, along with the ushers, and welcome people with a smile as they enter the nave for worship. Greeters offer assistance into the nave and answer any questions parishioners, newcom-

ers, or visitors may have. Greeters may also assist ushers during special services. If you're interested in serving as a greeter, please contact Cissy Henderson at 933-1140 or at [cissy@stmarysoth.org](mailto:cissy@stmarysoth.org).

## **HAITI**

An ongoing project at St. Mary's is the effort to raise actual money, collect vitamins, and respond to many other needs of Haiti, our companion diocese, as part of our call to always be building God's Kingdom. Haiti is a country that has very little and thus needs much, but one of the main needs is a Nutrition Clinic where malnourished children can go to be healed and where education on proper nourishment can take place. The parish of St. Mary's has responded generously by donating almost \$9,000 to this cause. Of course, we want to raise more! If you are interested in donating financially, giving supplies such as vitamins or actually making a trip to Haiti, please contact Mary Balfour Van Zandt at (205) 612-9280 or [mvanzandt@uab.edu](mailto:mvanzandt@uab.edu).

## **KAIROS**

"Kairos," which means "God's special time," is now synonymous with a prison ministry. For me (Hap Parker) and for many other free men and women, Kairos is a very special time. We have witnessed God truly change the hearts of many men and women that are inmates in for life as well as the hearts of some who will be released in a short period of time. Many of these men and women become productive citizens that help others come closer to Christ inside prison and outside in the free world.

Words cannot describe the feeling that comes over me when I see a hard-hearted criminal that hates everyone including himself transformed and realizing that he, too, is a Child of God. To see this person receive God's Love and give that Love to others is an incredible experience.

The next Kairos at Donaldson Prison is scheduled for April 10<sup>th</sup> through April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2008. Weekly team meetings begin on February 11, 2008. If being on a team is not for you, you can contribute nonetheless by baking cookies or having your children make posters. And most importantly, you can pray for the inmates and all the members of the team.

If you are interested in being a part of this ministry, talk to Hap Parker or Mike Hubbard. May you know God's blessings today and every day to come.

## **THE LIBRARY**

The library committee is a group of individuals who help keep the library orderly, purchase new books, prepare the purchased and donated books for check-out for the adult, youth and children's libraries. Anyone who has an interest in helping would be very welcome, for their input of ideas, recommendations of books to purchase, or perhaps you are interested in writing a book review to stimulate interest in the books of our libraries. Please consider this ministry at St. Mary's. For more information, contact Ann Burrows at 591-1078.

## **THE LOVELADY CENTER**

The James K. Lovelady Center is a place that offers 6 to 12 month programs and opportunities for women with their children to transitions back into society from time spent in jail or prison. It is also a place where abused women can take shelter and where those trying to overcome addictions can find a place to live as well as programs to help them “get on their feet” so that they, too, can live independent and successful lives. The facility provides educational opportunities and well as vocational assessment and training. To volunteer, call 833-7411.

*Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.  
Matthew 4.19 KJV*

## **MEN-OF-THE-CHURCH**

The Men-of-the-Church is a Christian fellowship group for the men of St. Mary's. The organization promotes various activities, such as serving as ushers, Bible study, social activities, and service projects within the parish. To become involved you can reach Miles Parsons at 802-7293 or Jeff Payne at 223-2961.

*Hear, O kings; give ear, O princes;  
to the Lord I will sing.  
I will make melody to the Lord, the God of Israel.  
Judges 5.3*

## **MUSIC MINISTRY**

St. Mary's Music Ministry offers choirs for 5K through adults as well as a Handbell Choir! If you are interested in more information on any of our choirs, please contact [ann@stmarysoth.org](mailto:ann@stmarysoth.org) or Ann Giambrone at 933-1140.

## **PARISH LIFE EVENTS**

Parish Retreat  
Potluck Suppers  
Wednesday Night Dinners

Confirmation Reception  
Annual Party

Parish Picnic  
Parish Luncheon

St. Mary's celebrates and offers many opportunities to socialize within our parish. Come join us and make new friends and get to know old ones better. We offer special events every month and encourage participation from everyone. The Parish Life committee also needs and welcomes your help in planning and making events possible. Pick an event you'd like to help with - no matter how big or little. Help every time or once a year! We welcome your ideas and input for new and continuing events to bring St. Mary's parishioners closer together. For information please contact: Melanie Barnes.

*Keep Jesus Christ in your hearts and you will recognize his face in every human being. You will want to help him out in all his needs; the needs of your brothers and sisters.*

John Paul II



## **PASTORAL CARE**

The Pastoral Care Committee has almost daily activity. Nancy Whitson chairs this committee, and its work includes the following: calling, visiting, and delivering food to our sick and elderly; visiting Episcopal Place with lunch with November birthday remembrances each year; an annual ice cream sundae party at the Trade Towers; working with the freezer ministry of the parish, prayer list follow-up; and monthly visitations to St. Martin's in the Pines, Mt. Royal and Somerby. Please contact Nancy Whitson at 879-8975 if you're interested in being a part of pastoral care at St. Mary's.

*God, give us grace to accept with serenity the things that cannot be changed,  
courage to change the things that should be changed,  
and the wisdom to distinguish the one from the other.*

Reinhold Niebuhr

## **PRESCHOOL PARTNERS**

Preschool Partners is a high-quality preschool program serving at-risk, lower income families from North Birmingham. In addition to structured classroom and enrichment activities for three and four-year-olds, mandatory classes for parents are provided each Monday. Parents receive over 100 hours of instruction in areas of stress and anger management, nutrition, child development, family literacy and money management. More information is available at [www.preschool-partners.org](http://www.preschool-partners.org). You can also contact Katie Dewees at 979-4694.

## **ST. ANNE'S HOME**

St. Anne's Home is located on Hanover Circle, close to St. Vincent's. It was founded in 1964 by an interdenominational women's prayer group. It is an extended stay residential rehabilitation facility where professional counseling is provided for women who are suffering with chemical dependence. The prayer is that they will be able to begin new lives—physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually. An atmosphere of love, acceptance, and support is provided 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. For more information about providing financial assistance or volunteering, call 933-2402.

## **ST. MARTIN'S-IN-THE-PINES**

St. Martin's-in-the-Pines was founded in 1957 by St Mary's-on-the-Highlands' rector at the time, David Cady Wright, in order to provide a place for dignified and comfortable retirement for his parishioners. Today it has become a comprehensive retirement community, with a skilled nursing center, an assisted living facility, a secure Alzheimer's community and a four story independent retirement apartment building. The mission of St. Martin's is to meet the physical, social, and spiritual needs of each resident. Although the religious orientation of St Martin's is Episcopalian, residents of all denominations are welcome. Contact Nancy Whitson at 879-8975 for more information about opportunities to volunteer.

*Work is the natural exercise and function of man. . . .  
Work is not primarily a thing one does to live, but the thing one lives to do.  
It is, or should be, the full expression of the worker's faculties,  
the thing in which he finds spiritual, mental, and bodily satisfaction,  
and the medium in which he offers himself to God.*

Dorothy Leigh Sayers

## **SAWYERVILLE**

"Sawyerville" is short for the Sawyerville Day Camp Summer Work Project sponsored by the Diocesan Youth Department and Blackbelt Ministries of the Episcopal Diocese of Alabama. This project is approximately 15 year old and serves about 200 campers each summer with a staff of 65. The camp takes place in Greensboro and is a week-long free camp for the campers who come from Greensboro, Akron, and Sawyerville. There are actually two camps with the lower camp serving children, ages 6-11, and the upper camp serving youth, ages 12-14. If you are interested in assisting with this annual project, contact Leslie Bridger Manning, the diocesan coordinator of the project at the Diocesan offices (715-2060, ext. 325), our own Joanna Ware, co-chair of the Sawyerville Commission at 871-6723, or Brooks at 933-1140.



## **SENSATIONAL SENIORS**

The Sensational Seniors came into existence as a group almost a year ago with their first trip to explore two of the older churches in the diocese located in Anniston. Our next venture was a trip to an exhibit at the museum. Trips are currently being planned for 2008. If you would like to join the group but have not been receiving our mailings, please contact Cissy in the church office. If you would like to help plan future adventures for this group, please contact Vivian Jones at 969-2713 or Vicki McGehee at 879-7985.

*Gracious God, the comfort of all who sorrow, the strength of all who suffer: Let the cry of those in misery and need come to you, that they may find your mercy present with them in all their afflictions; and give us, we pray, the strength to serve them for the sake of Him who suffered for us, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*  
BCP p. 279

## **SOUTHSIDE SHEPHERD'S CENTER**

The Southside Shepherd's Center was formed in the 1980's to provide a quality of life for the older adults in the part of Birmingham known as "the Southside." It began as a once-a-week activity that included health screenings, programs and lunches for its members. Today, the center is dedicated to the opening and operation of a Senior Center that will be located at Southside Baptist Church. It will be open every-day from 10 to 2 with lunch served at noon. There will be many activities and programs such as movies, games, line dancing, just to name a few. The Center will open in early February. Contact Nancy Whitson at 879-8975 for more information about opportunities to volunteer.

*Still, when we honestly ask ourselves which persons in our lives mean the most to us, we often find that it is those who, instead of giving much advice, solutions, or cures, have chosen rather to share our pain and touch our wounds with a gentle and tender hand. The friend who can be silent with us in a moment of despair or confusion, who can say with us in an hour of grief and bereavement, who can tolerate not-knowing, not-curing, not-healing and face with us the reality of our powerlessness, that is the friend who cares.*  
Henri J. M. Nouwen

## **STEPHEN MINISTRY**

Stephen Ministry is a lay-led pastoral care ministry. If you have the desire to help those who are suffering spiritually, physically, or emotionally, please contact Micki Haralson at 972-1258, Danielle Dunbar at 969-5850, or Deb Braden at 933-1140. You will be trained as to how best to be an uplifting presence in the life of one who is hurting. If you are going through a difficult time and would like to have someone to talk to in a confidential setting, please let one of the clergy at St. Mary's know.

*Great works do not always lie in our way,  
but every moment we may do little ones excellently,  
that is, with great love.*  
St. Francis de Sales

## STEWARDSHIP OF CREATION AT ST. MARY'S

A "Stewardship of Creation Task Force" has been established in our diocese "to educate the people of the diocese, to advocate for wise and just environmental policy, and to provide opportunities for service in the stewardship of earth". Liaisons at each parish have been appointed to help carry out the mission of the task force. Brantley Fry and Ann Sweeney serve as the liaisons at St. Mary's.

Last year, Maggie Johnston, the Director of the Environmental Center at Camp McDowell, spoke to a Sunday School class here about the center's mission of providing opportunities for young people to experience and enjoy the extraordinary beauty of the 1,100 acre camp property. She also told us about the center's school programs that educate children about the natural history, the wonders, the interconnectedness, and the fragility of our home, the planet Earth. Camp McDowell's environmental center hosts multi-day sessions serving thousands of youth every year from public and private schools throughout the state. What a treasure "our" wonderful Camp McDowell is, and what great stewards of creation our friends, Maggie and her husband, Mark, are.

Another Sunday, we gathered to hear local architect and fellow Episcopalian, Jack Allin, discuss his efforts to design buildings that protect and enhance existing natural ecosystems rather than diminish them. We learned that "sustainable design" of future buildings and energy audits of existing ones can conserve a significant amount of energy and water that, in turn, not only preserve increasingly limited natural resources, but often save a considerable amount of money. Recognizing the multiple benefits of energy audits, many parishes throughout the country have utilized them. That is something St. Mary's might consider this year.

The staff at St. Mary's continues to ensure that its discarded paper is consolidated in order to be picked up by parishioner, Wilma Lane, and taken to the Recycling Center downtown.

This spring, on Sunday, April 27, St. Mary's will celebrate Earth Day! The celebration will culminate in a sermon by Huey that will honor St. Mary's commitment to "stewardship of creation". Let's fill the sanctuary in gratitude for "all things bright and beautiful."

We welcome everyone's ideas for ways in which St. Mary's can be better stewards of creation.

Co-liaisons: Brantley Fry (967-2621, [adafry@aol.com](mailto:adafry@aol.com)) and Ann Sweeney (879-7127, [asweene@bellsouth.net](mailto:asweene@bellsouth.net))

*We are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus for the life of good deeds which God designed for us.*  
Ephesians 2.10



## **THE SUNDAY CLUB**

The Sunday Club meets every Sunday at South Highlands Presbyterian Church from two until four. Approximately 50 folks with mental challenges meet there for fellowship, a meal, and a brief program. St. Mary's provides the meal and activity on two Sunday afternoons every year. Volunteers are needed to help with this very rewarding venture.

## **USHERS**

The leaders of the usher teams are always looking for ushers to help at both the 9:00 and 11:00 services. This is a great way to provide a vital contribution to the various worship services at St. Mary's. Volunteering is pretty simple—if you have an e-mail address, you can be added to the "usher distribution list". People interested in serving as an usher at the 9:00 service can call Phillip Esdale at 205-873-2879 or preferably e-mail him at [pesdale@yahoo.com](mailto:pesdale@yahoo.com). Contact Bill Wright at [BWright@EBSCO.COM](mailto:BWright@EBSCO.COM) or Andy Robison at [arobison@bradleyarant.com](mailto:arobison@bradleyarant.com) if you are interested in ushering at the 11:00 service.



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