

MOUNTAIN ECHOES

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A Newsletter of Episcopal Appalachian Ministries



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Autumn/Winter 2010

Work Camps 2010

By Paul Buckley

Well the EAM Workcamp 2010 is behind us and the planning for 2011 has already started. This was my 6th workcamp with EAM at Grace House and my second year as work camp director and I have to say this was one the most rewarding years. For anyone that has attended one of the workcamps, you know that this is an experience that you will carry with you forever. The host families are generally very warm and inviting and always glad that we are there to work on their homes, and the 2010 host families were all this and more. We had some of the most generous host families I have experienced. We also had many new work campers this year making this a great year to see people experience this for the first time.

As I said, the host families are almost always inviting but our hosts this year surprised even me. We had several hosts that cooked daily for the teams in their homes. Many of the campers



this year were treated to home cooked meals, deserts and treats throughout the day. I certainly had a difficult time having room for the evening meals on more than one day. I just felt that the

campers and hosts connected better this year than in years past. It was an amazing thing for me to see and to see the effect it had on the campers, especially the teenagers.

We had close to 80 volunteers this summer during the three weeks of camp. We worked on 12 homes this summer and completed a laundry list of projects, including; 2 completely new bathrooms, a new bath tub, deck & ramp repairs, roofing, painting and more tasks than I can list.

As in past years, the teenagers surprised and amazed the adults with their understanding, patience and willingness to do work and sometimes even do menial tasks. I know from experience that the teens on these trips are amazing but it's so much fun to see how the other adults react. We also did something else new this year. During the third week of camp we had two teams that were lead by Teen Leaders. My personal thanks to Sylvia, Riley & John for the awesome jobs they did. They were tasked with jobs that none of them had done before and they all did great jobs. I believe that one of the things that make EAM

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From the President and Executive Coordinator

Dear Friends of EAM,

Over this past year, we have had a wonderful transition into a new era for Episcopal Appalachian Ministries. As many of you know, the office for EAM moved to its current location at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Kingsport, TN. The Rev. Dcn. Gordon Brewer took over as Executive Coordinator for EAM in January of this year.

It has now been 45 years since the leadership of the Episcopal Church called on the Appalachian bishops to develop a program in response to Appalachian poverty. The resulting coalition of Episcopal dioceses has existed under three different names: Appalachia South, Appalachian Peoples Service Organization and now Episcopal Appalachian Ministries.

EAM continues to fulfill the response to domestic poverty by the Episcopal Church in Appalachia. Through our broad programs of education, advo-

cacy and mission, we are ministering to the needs of Appalachia at a grassroots level. EAM has helped close to 15 different ministries this year with start-up expenses through our Small Grants Initiative. Additionally we have sponsored 3 weeks of work camps at Grace House on the Mountain that helped 12 families with home repairs and contributed close to \$20,000.00 to the local economy. The Mountain Grace Conference was held again for the 7th time in Marietta, OH. People from all over the region attended this annual conference to pray, learn, network and give thanks for the people of Appalachia.

In addition to these exciting ministries, EAM continues to explore ways to expand its ministry in Appalachia. This next year we will be expanding our work camp sponsorships. Our hope is to have work camps in each of the Dioceses that are involved in EAM. We will also be increasing our

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The Rt. Rev. W. Michie Klusmeyer
EAM President



The Rev. Dcn. L. Gordon Brewer, Jr.
EAM Executive Coordinator

Mountain Grace VII

The Mountain Grace Conference on Ministry in Appalachia is an annual conference co-sponsored by the Diocese of Southern Ohio, The Diocese of West Virginia, Episcopal Appalachian Ministries, Disciples Net, and Episcopal Community Services Foundation. This year was the seventh Mountain Grace Conference was held October 8-9 in Marietta, OH at St. Luke's Church and Washington State Community College. Despite the lower numbers in attendance, the participants indicated that this was one of the better Mountain Grace Conferences that has been held. The theme of the conference was



Mr. Matthew Ellis

"Building the Body of Christ Through Community in Appalachia".

The opening session on Friday evening was lead by Mr. Matthew Ellis, Executive Director of National Episcopal Health Ministries. Mr. Ellis discussed some of the collaborative efforts being made by several organizations within the Episcopal Church to address the myriad issues around domestic poverty. He especially highlighted the "Called To Serve" Conference that was held in the spring of this year. Mr. Ellis also discussed the many areas in which we can minister to people in Appalachia through health ministries and discussed several ways in which congregations across the nation and region are doing this at a very grass-roots level.

The Rt. Rev. Thomas Breidenthal, Bishop of Southern Ohio, and The Ven. Faith Perizzo, Archdeacon of West Virginia gave the introductions and welcome for the sessions on Saturday. The keynote address given on Saturday was by Dr. Richard Greenlee, Dean of Ohio University, East-



Dr. Richard Greenlee

ern Campus in Clairsville, OH. In his address, Dr. Greenlee told his own life's story of being raised in poverty in Appalachia. Dr. Greenlee was able to overcome much of the adversity he faced due to having adults and people outside his family that took an interest in him during his formative years and in early adulthood. Be-

cause of their encouragement he was able to overcome the odds of a child being raised in poverty. Dr. Greenlee suggested that much of our ministry to the people of Appalachia must be modeled after this paradigm; we must be willing to form relationships and look beyond the stereotypes and biases.

One of the highlights of the conference was the presentations given by the Southern Ohio Episcopal Appalachian Ministries Committee's John and Jean Carson Awards for outstanding service in Appalachian ministry. The Southern Ohio Appalachian Ministry committee awarded the John Carson Award for outstanding clergy service in Appalachian ministry to The Rev. Roy Gene Crist, Missioner of the New River Episcopal Ministries in Diocese of West Virginia. The Jean Carson award to a lay person for outstanding service in Appalachian ministry went to Ariel Miller of the Diocese of Southern Ohio. Both Crist and Miller received quilted wall hangings in traditional Appalachian patterns made by the Rev. Theresa Kelley of Wheeling, WV, Vice President of EAM. The awards honor the tremendous role John and Jean played in social justice and human services during John's tenure as rector of St. Mary's Hillsboro, Ohio. Both died in 2007.

Several workshops were held that addressed the various areas of ministry in Appalachia. These workshops included: a workshop on *Intentional Communities* lead by two intentional Christian communities of young adults: **Paul Clever** from the rural Common Friars, and **Jonathan Youngman**, from the urban Jezreel Community; a workshop on *After School Programs; Ending the Cycle of Poverty* lead by **Mr. Harry Chase**, from the Diocese of East Tennessee talked about his efforts in Campbell Co., TN to end the cycles of poverty through the establishment of Maple Tree Learning Center, a day care center established to reach out to lower income families in this Appalachian region of Tennessee; a workshop on *Community Organizing/Advocacy* lead by **Sherri Schafer**, Executive Director for Community Lutheran Partners. Participants heard ways in which congregations can become more involved through educational programs such as "Just Neighbors" and "Disaster Preparedness"; another workshop was held on *Summer Enrichment Camps; Academic Day Camps* lead by **Dr. Sonya Armstrong** and **Michael Anderson** offered information about their ministry in Charleston, WV of offering an academic day camp for the youth of their community; a workshop on *Planning Mission Trips* was lead by **The Rev. Gordon Brewer**, Executive Coordinator of Episcopal Appalachian Ministries, discussed ideas and issues around planning a mission trip to Appalachia; and a workshop on *Interfaith Power and Light* was presented by **The Rev. Frank Edmands**, priest of Trinity Church, London, OH. An environmental scientist specializing in marine ecology, he was named a Green Faith Fellow in 2008, and serves on the board of the Ohio Interfaith Power and Light, as a Presenter for the Climate Project, and has served on the Leadership Group of Episcopal Environmental Network.

The conference concluded with Holy Eucharist and music by a local bluegrass band singing traditional Appalachian gospel music. Over-all the conference was an excellent way for people to worship, connect, fellowship and network around Appalachian ministry. Plans for next year's conference are already being made.



Dinner at St. Luke's Friday Evening



The Rev. Roy Gene Crist receives the John Carson Award



Ms. Ariel Miller receives the Jean Carson Award



Dr. Sonya Armstrong and Michael Anderson

Highland Educational Project 2010 Summer Work Learn Share Program

By Lori Osborne

At the beginning of Work Learn Share Season, we had 60 plus applications for home repair. We managed to do 15 home visits, and complete 5 and 1/2 projects. The half project was to pressure wash a trailer that St. Thomas was going to paint. This does not count the side project of working on Seager Hall and assisting at the Distribution Center.

Well, it started out as a beautiful Saturday morning in June, St. Thomas A Beckett was ready to roll with their project. They were busy pressure washing the home and swatting the gnats that seemed to be everywhere, soon the sky turned black and it started pouring, so we packed up and moved on to an indoor job in Carswell Hollow. It continued to rain most of the day, sometimes hard downpours, and sometimes a steady drizzle. While at this home, they stripped tile from the bathroom floor, painted the bathroom and a bedroom as well as replaced a screen door. A lot of work was done that day despite the rain, and they did a great job. They were preparing to head home on Sunday morning, but during the night it had continued raining, which caused some flooding in Welch and the surrounding areas. We drove around to see if we could find them a safe way out so they wouldn't be stuck in McDowell County forever. By the time we got up Route 52, the water there had receded so they could take the long way home. They made it back safely and for that we are thankful.

That flood changed the plans for the next group coming in which was St. Barnabus from Upper Marlboro, Maryland. They were originally going to repaint a house and repair a ceiling for one family, and fix a bathroom floor, bedroom floor and change the broken tub out for a shower for another family. Instead, they still worked on the bathroom and bedroom floor, but we also had them help out at the main distribution center to get it organized for the flood recovery effort in progress. They also went to Seager Hall to clean. We are so grateful that they were flexible in this time of chaos.

St. Paul's from Alexandria, Virginia,



took down and rebuilt a porch for a lady in Premier, WV. The porch rebuild took the whole week as it was a porch the full length of the house including a roof that needed to be taken down and replaced with a smaller deck so the grandchildren would have a safe place to play. The group decided to surprise the owner by putting a full house length porch back on minus the roof. They put rails and pickets the whole way around so the kids can have a giant playpen. Once the kids



get older, she can have steps put on if she chooses.

St. James, from Leesburg, Virginia, had to cancel their trip because the leader had a motorcycle accident. Since they hold our record for the most decks built in the shortest time; 4 decks in 4 days, we decided to do a job in their honor. There is a lady in Iaeger, WV that is wheelchair bound and has to leave home 3 times a week for dialysis treatment. Her issue was that the ramp that she had on the back of her home was falling apart, and she only had steps at the front that she couldn't use. We spent 2 days building her a new deck and ramp on the front

of her home so she can now get in and out safely. The old ramp on the back can be used for emergency reasons, and can be replaced at another time. We can't do a deck in a day like St. James, but we did get her a safe way in and out of her home.

The final group that came, St. Andrew's from Valparaiso, Indiana worked on a home in the Brown's Creek area. The kitchen drain was not attached to anything and was rotting

out the cabinet under the sink, the kitchen needed new flooring, a window in the bedroom needed replaced, and the hot water heater was leaking at the top and rotting out the floor underneath. The group put in a whole new sink drain from the basins down, and replaced the cabinet floor with 5/8 plywood. Now there are no leaks or mold from rot. They made a custom window for the children's bedroom out of Plexiglas and wooden spindles. They then added hinges and posts so they could open and close it. We had some leftover tile from the Learning Center that they put on the kitchen floor, it was beautiful when they finished. The only thing they didn't get to fix was

the hot water tank because they were not sure how to fix it safely. The lady of the house said her dad might able to fix it. This is the first time this group has come to West Virginia. They did a great job and would like to comeback.

Summer wouldn't be any fun without the minor mishaps that pop up now and then. This year we had three. The first happened right before St. Paul's came. Bucky and I were checking on Seager Hall, while I was packing up the plastic from the new beds. My hand slipped and I scratched my eyeball with my thumbnail. I had to run around for a week with a wet rag pressed to my eye, or wear an eye patch. Thankfully Josh was here and could drive me around since I had no depth perception. The second thing that happened was that St. Paul's had a flat tire on the truck while they were at the land fill. Someone at the land fill plugged the hole for them and put air in the tire. It took Josh, Bucky, David and myself to try to get one tire off that old truck,. Finally we got the spare on and it wasn't any good either. So we took it to a garage and got all 4 tires changed. The next day one of the team leaders got the truck hung up in someone's yard and she walked to the job site fuming at the person that had run her off the road. Two of the other leaders walked down to the truck and got it unstuck, and brought it back. Incident number three happened at about 10:30 pm the night the new group from Indiana had arrived. I had checked the building earlier and all was well. Once the group got here and I was giving them the grand tour of the center, we got to the bunk bed room to find water all over the floor and dripping from the ceiling. It turned out that the air conditioner was overworked and the condensation went into the ceiling instead of out the drain pipe. We spent a good 30 minutes cleaning up water and tearing out soggy dry-wall. Some way to make a first impression! It all turned out ok, they did get to sleep, and got up in time to start the day on their project. They plan to return next year.

I can't wait to see what next year brings!



I want to be a part of the Episcopal Church mission and ministry in Appalachia...Enclosed is my gift:

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I pledge \$_____ to Episcopal Appalachian Ministries to be paid: monthly, quarterly, annually

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From the President and Executive Coordinator
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collaboration with other Episcopal and ecumenical partners to address the ever growing problems associated with domestic poverty.

Our presence on the internet is also being expanded as we update our website and increase our communications through social networking providers such as Facebook. There are numerous opportunities to get the word out about EAM and its mission in the world. This next year we will be expanding this.

Your support of EAM is crucial to the ministry of the Episcopal Church in Appalachia. Please consider giving to EAM during this next year. Your ongoing support allows us to continue the ministry of EAM by living into our Baptismal Vows. We thank you for your past gifts and ask you to continue your generous support along with your prayers for this important ministry.

Yours Truly in Christ,



The Rt. Rev. W. Michie Klusmeyer
 EAM President
 Bishop of West Virginia



The Rev. Dcn. L. Gordon Brewer, Jr.
 EAM Executive Coordinator

Work Camps 2010
...Continued from page 1

workcamps unique is the team concept that combines experienced, inexperienced, young, and old and folks from different churches. This team makeup is intentionally designed to push everyone outside of their comfort zone. The result has been incredibly functioning and well blended teams. I was approached by 2 teens with the idea for teen leaders and I think it is just the next logical extension of what we do at camp. We're raising these teens to be leaders, let's give them the chance to prove themselves.

My sincere and heartfelt thanks got out to all the volunteer camp attendees this year. Also to Jan & Larry MacLeod who volunteered their time to cook for all 3 weeks of camp. Everyone really enjoyed the food and their company. Also, my thanks go out to Anita & Jerry Boyd and their first year as directors of Grace House. And last, but not least, to Gordon Brewer, Executive Coordinator for EAM, for his support both in time and for my emotional support. Without you all these camps would not be possible.

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Christ Church, Blacksburg, Virginia Honors The Rev. "B" Lloyd and Mrs. Sally Mackie

There are a few folks still around that remember how it was back in the 1960's when the roots of what we now know as "Episcopal Appalachian Ministries" was taking hold. In fact when people ask the question, what is Episcopal Appalachian Ministries (EAM), the answer is usually made simple by responding with: "Do you remember 'B' Lloyd, Sally Mackie and APSO (Appalachian People's Service Organization)?" Most Episcopalians that lived through that era know that the names of "B" Lloyd and Sally Mackie were synonymous with advocacy for the people living in Appalachia.

The Rev. Baldwin "B" Lloyd and Ms. Sally Mackie are both truly two of the most influential people in the history of Appalachian Ministry. It was during the 1960's during the Lyndon Johnson administration and the ground breaking social reforms that were occurring in the nation, that EAM did have its beginnings. It was during this time period that the General Convention adopted a resolution that encouraged the Bishops of the Appalachian Region to actively address the social and economic justice issues affecting the people living in Appalachia; the two main issues being sky rocketing poverty rates and unethical coal mining



The Rev. Baldwin "B" and Mary Ellen Lloyd



Ms. Sally Mackie

practices. As a result of this action by the General Convention and the Appalachian Bishops, APSO came into be-

ing. This later evolved into EAM.

On the Sunday just prior to All Saints Day, The Rev. Scott West and the people of Christ Church, Blacksburg, VA honored The Rev. "B" Lloyd and Ms. Sally Mackie for their legacy and service to the people of Appalachia. Through their work with APSO Father Lloyd and Ms. Mackie forged relationships between people, parishes, dioceses and communities that addressed social justice, poverty, housing, and economics of Appalachia. They gave voice to the Episcopal Church in the region and with the people. They used an approach of ministry WITH people instead of ministry TO people. Through their work they were able to break down many of the stereotypes associated with Appalachia. As The Rev. Scott West pointed out in his presentation to the people of Christ Church, The Rev. "B" Lloyd and Ms. Sally Mackie are truly two Saints of God that we honor.

The EAM Board of Governors gave to The Rev. "B" Lloyd and Ms. Sally Mackie certificates of appreciation in honor of their service and legacy to Episcopal Appalachian Ministries.

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New Look!



The EAM website has undergone a facelift! As we have moved well into the 21st century, it is absolutely essential for any organization to have a broad presence on the world wide web. When people want information, the first place they look is on the internet. So it is very important to have an easy to use website. It was with that in mind that the website changes were made.



The new website design features a "Flash" slideshow with pictures from Appalachia and some of the EAM sponsored ministries. The menu is more user friendly and categorized. An events calendar has been added along with links to Appalachian resources.

In addition to the new website look, EAM is using social networking sites

to communicate with people. EAM is using Facebook to get the word out and share pictures and information with those that are subscribers. EAM has been using Facebook since the beginning of the year.

Beginning in January of 2011, EAM will be sending out a monthly E-newsletter to the people on our listserv and email distribution lists. This will enable us to communicate on a more regular basis at a greatly reduced cost. People receiving the E-newsletter will be able to "opt-in" or "opt-out" to the newsletter based on their personal preferences.

Mt. Echoes will continued to be published, but on a more semi-annual basis. This will enable us to save a great deal on printing and postage costs over the course of the year.

As always, stories and pictures are always welcome for the website, E-newsletter and Mountain Echoes.

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Mountain Echoes

Is the newsletter of Episcopal Appalachian Ministries. It is published to affirm and support those involved in ministering to the needs of Appalachian people living in both rural and urban settings. This newsletter serves to inform the Church at large about the social and economic issues that affect Appalachia.

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Your letters, articles, pictures and stories are always welcome. Submission deadline for the next issue is February 15th

The Rev. Dcn. L. Gordon Brewer

Editor

The Work Camp Experience

By Charles Graves

It had been four long years since I last saw Grace House. But a part of me always stayed in those Mountains. Waiting, calling, begging me to return. And finally I did.

It all came back to me. That first week I had the pleasure to work for Linda, a charming woman with a lovely laugh and a spark for entertaining people. Her aging home had a bathroom that was so slanted that even standing upright was difficult. The door to that restroom had been torn off, leaving only the privacy of a curtain between an unsuspecting bather and guests in the living room. And it featured a sink, bathtub and toilet that were all troubled and aging.

And so the five of us, all from Maryland and mostly youth members, set out to fix things in only one week's time. So we pulled out every board and appliance, every nail and screw until there was nothing before us but an empty room. We built up, starting with an even floor, then new walls and a tub. In came new plumbing and a toilet and even a new vanity. However by week's end we hadn't finished our task. But while my teammates returned north, I had the blessing of another week.

By Sylvia Okoye

I had a very different experience going to Grace House this year because I was a camp leader. A camp leader is someone that guides the other workers in your group, on what tasks need to be accomplished and what tasks need to be done for the day and hopefully for the week. I did not realize how draining being team leader could be. I love taking leadership roles, but this was a different kind of leadership. I felt like it was my duty to get my team to do all the work in the time we were given and I felt like we were capable of doing that. I had been in other groups where we finished the work in more than enough time, so I did not see why this project would be any different. The project my group had was to fix up a bathroom. We had to put up walls, install a shower and put in a window. It was a heavy duty job, but I knew we could handle it.

There was so much work to be done on that bathroom, that it was impossible for us to finish the project. There were people that came before us in other weeks and still the bathroom was not finished. I was devastated when we did not finish the bathroom because it was the first time I was not able to finish a project on time. It was emotionally draining to come back to Grace House, knowing that the bath-

The next Monday, I was pleased to meet new friends from Michigan, Massachusetts and New Jersey and start another task. We ventured down the mountain to meet Frank, a former miner and excellent cook who was never without a smile. To get to his front door, one had to cross the rail-less front deck which is eight feet high and was supported by just a few two-by-fours and some rusty nails. Standing on

"...a bathroom was so slanted that even standing upright was difficult..."

top we could even hear it creak beneath us. So we carefully added sets of four-by-fours and runners to brace the deck. And we put up a fence on the edge to keep everyone safe. We even added a gate for his puppies and fixed the crumbling attached staircase. And I was happy to learn that another group finished Linda's house and then came to help at Frank's!

During those weeks at Grace house, I learned, grew, prayed, and had lots and lots of fun. It reminded me of God's many blessings, in the people, places, and animals all around. Although have left, that piece of me is still in those mountains. It continues to await my return, and I will answer the call. May God bless those mountains forever. They are truly closer to Heaven.

room would not be done by my group. It made it that much harder because I was group leader and I felt like I let everyone down. Everyone was telling me different, that I made so much progress, but deep down inside I was so disappointed because I was spoiled in other years. It was such a rewarding feeling to be able to finish the projects that we were given and this time, it was not the case. The one thing that kept me in high hopes was when I found out the bathroom was going to

"It was a heavy duty job, but I knew we could handle it."

be completed by Paul Buckley because he knew how upset I was. It was awesome to see the final product because he sent us pictures. I am a sophomore in college and I have been going to Grace House

since my sophomore year in high school. It has been an amazing experience every time I go. I learned some amazing skills, both people skills and skill that could be used around the house. I have also had the privilege to meet some amazing people and interact with different kinds of people. I learned at Grace House how privileged the people are, but in a different way. They appreciate all of us for taking time, out of our daily lives to make the living conditions for them bearable. We are just average people, that do not know a lot about construction, but want to give of ourselves.



EAM Awards Fall Small Grants

Christ Episcopal Church, Blacksburg, VA / Parish Nurse Program – An EAM grant was awarded to Christ Episcopal Church and to help with the start-up costs to begin a new parish nurse program within the parish and the Diocese of Southwestern Virginia. In particular, the program will help to target the health needs of seniors within the parish and diocese. The program will partner with National Episcopal Health Ministries. For more information contact, Susan Donckers, Email: sandjdonckers@msn.com



Volunteer Ministry Center, Knoxville, TN/ AV Equipment for Training Programs – a grant was awarded to the Volunteer Ministry Center, an ecumenical organization that ministers to the needs of homeless people in Knoxville, TN. The grant monies will be used to buy maintenance equipment and audio/visual equipment to be used for training programs offered to clients to teach independent living skills. For more information see the website: www.vmcinc.org or contact Mary Beth Ramey, Email: mramey@vmcinc.org

The Counseling Center, Inc., Portsmouth, OH/ Wellness Program – a grant was awarded to The Counseling Center, Inc. to help purchase fitness equipment for a new wellness program being started. The Counseling Center is a non-profit behavioral health provider that is supported by All Saints Episcopal Church in Portsmouth, OH. For more information contact Susan McComas, Email: susanm@thecounselingcenter.org; website: www.thecounselingcenter.org



The Interfaith Service Coalition, Hancock, MD/Senior Care Program – a grant was awarded to the Interfaith Service Coalition to help with a new program that provides basic need items to lower income seniors living in their area. Interfaith Service Coalition is an ecumenical organization serving the poor and disadvantaged in Hancock, MD. For more information contact Deborah Cohill, Email: debcohill@verizon.net

The Literacy Imperative, Knoxville, TN/ Parenting Class – a grant was awarded to the Literacy Imperative, a faith based organization that addresses

adult literacy and learning. The grant monies will be used to fund a new parenting course that is being offered to clients of the Literacy Imperative. For more information contact McAndrea Hughes, Email: mcandrea0315@yahoo.com

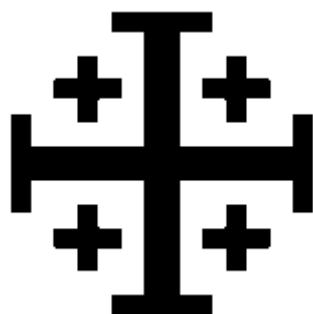
Christ Episcopal Church, Springfield, OH/ Reading Camp – a grant was awarded to Christ Episcopal Church to help fund a new reading camp that is to start in 2011. Modeled after the reading camps of other parishes in the diocese, the reading camp will target children that are struggling in school and are reluctant readers. The area of town that is being targeted is heavily Appalachian. For more information contact, The Rev. Charlotte Collins Reed, Email: charlotte.reed@cecpfldoh.org

Good Earth Farm, Athens, OH/ Retreat Space Construction – a grant is being awarded to the Good Earth



Farm to help fund the completion of a new retreat center located on the farm. The Good Earth Farm is run by the Common Friars, an intentional community that promotes sustainable living and spiritual disciplines. The Good Earth Farm provides educational and retreat opportunities for those seeking to learn more about sustainable living within a spiritual discipline. For more information contact, Paul Clever, Email: pclever2@yahoo.com

Church of the Good Shepherd, Galax, VA/ Children's Outreach Ministry- a grant is being awarded to Church of the Good Shepherd to help fund a new children's outreach ministry to the children of incarcerated parents. Working with local human services agencies, the parish will provide activities to these children in need. For more information contact Deborah T. Davis, Email, ddavis@hollins.edu.



Prayer Calendar

A Prayer for Appalachian Ministry
(Written by The Rev. T. Scott Allen)

Gracious Creator God, we thank you for the rich texture of our land — for the hollows, rivers, tree-covered mountains and rolling hills. We bring before you those who, for reasons of injustice, cannot share in the riches and bounty you provide in these hills. Send your Spirit to nourish, strengthen and guide us to be helpful companions with those who thirst for righteousness, justice and peace. Where we can find the way, with whom we can make a difference, we seek your guidance. All this we ask through Jesus, on whom your Spirit rested in all power to proclaim release to the captives, the recovery of sight to the blind and freedom to the oppressed. And in all that is before us, help us to remember that *this* is the year of The Lord's favor. *AMEN.*

Please remember the following in this cycle of prayer:

- November 24 Those traveling for the Thanksgiving Holiday
- December 1 The Diocese of West Virginia
- December 8 The Diocese of Pittsburgh
- December 15 Those who are homeless
- December 22 The Diocese of Central Pennsylvania
- December 25 The Nativity of Our Lord
- December 29 The Diocese of Western North Carolina
- January 5 The unemployed and under employed
- January 12 The Diocese of Bethlehem
- January 19 The Diocese of Tennessee Convention (Jan. 21-22)
- January 26 The Diocese of Southwestern Virginia Convention (Jan. 28-30)
- February 2 The poor and the oppressed
- February 9 The Election of the 4th Bishop of East Tennessee (Feb.11-12)
- February 16 The Diocese of Southern Ohio
- February 23 The Diocese of Lexington Convention (Feb. 24-26)
- March 2 The Diocese of Maryland
- March 9 The Diocese of Atlanta
- March 16 Those who work for social and economic justice
- March 23 Seminarians
- March 30 Those working in the coal industry
- April 6 The Diocese of West Virginia
- April 13 The EAM Board as they meet



What are you afraid of?

By The Rev. Cathy L. Deats

What are you afraid of?

Heights? Getting cancer? Afraid of living longer than your money lasts?

There was a teenager at the EAM work camp at Grace House who was afraid of spiders. Every time you heard a scream, you knew Eva had seen a spider. There was a lot of screaming because there are a lot of spiders in the mountains.

There are a lot of ways people try to conquer fear: hypnosis, desensitization, books like *Overcoming Anxiety*, or *From Power to Panic* – let's face it, if those books actually worked, someone would be a billionaire and no one would be afraid.

Jesus spent most of his time teaching his followers how to live as disciples, how to live in the kingdom of God. He knew that fear was the biggest obstacle to this life.

In Appalachia, there are plenty of poor people. There are plenty of sick peo-

ing they are not afraid, but I do think the way they live in community helps keep fear from overpowering them or preventing them from leading lives as disciples.

I spent a week this summer at Grace House in Appalachia with some fellow disciples from St. James': Katie, Sylvia and Barbara. I will call the homeowner we worked with Martin. He was one of many children; more than ten, though I cannot recall the exact number. He has spent his life in a quarter mile radius, went to school in a two room schoolhouse until junior high, and lived in his present home with his wife and two sons, now grown, since 1985. Their home is a double wide modular home, and the repairs needed were for the front porch / deck. The deck was the way in and out of the house via a staircase, which also needed repair. It appeared to have been around for the 25 years since the home was constructed there, and did not have any railing. Since the homes we repaired were selected to be made safe, warm and dry, we knew Martin's home had serious safety is-

sure lunch for us the next day. The temperature was in the ninetys and the humidity was near 100%. It was nice to sit inside at lunchtime with the air conditioning in the living room. But on the third day, we noticed it was not on. This was because we had moved our operation to the deck itself and Frank did not want the hot air of the

lives – with Jesus always there to supply their needs, so they need not fear giving their last bottle of water, their time or opening their door to someone in need.

I was touched by the open and matter-of-fact faith I saw in speech and song and action. And I wondered about its



AC to be blowing on us. He began to have cold bottled water for us every day, and when he found out we loved the iced tea and fruit punch water flavorings, they were there too. The lunch he made on Wednesday was soup beans, fried potatoes and cornbread and was delicious. During lunch, his wife called, and told us her husband would give us each a pint of apple butter she had made. The next day, Martin said, he would make lunch again. The smell of grilled hot dogs was our companion that morning. They were served with chili his wife made the night before after getting home from work. While we were still eating, he leaned back in his chair and said, "I thought for lunch tomorrow, I would make spaghetti." Yes, with meat sauce and garlic bread.

On Friday night, the people share their songs and stories with us. They are songs of faith, most of which might be considered a little too on the "evangelical" side for our liking. But as we sat and listened after a week of working in their homes, and hearing their stories, they were just a natural expression of how they lived their

connection to something my 12-step friends speak of: taking life on life's terms. It is not resignation; it is surrender to a higher power. It is what Jesus meant when he said, where your treasure is, there will your heart be. Martin and his wife treasured our gifts as gifts from God, and without fear of not having enough, gave what they had. Martin gave us his skill as a cook, he gave us simple and delicious food, he gave us himself. No apology for something he did not have to give, no holding back in case he needed it next week. This is the kind of giving that can only be done without fear. This kind of giving is about the resources of ourselves, our time, our own talents and our presence. We thought we were going to help people less fortunate than ourselves. We returned knowing that they are more fortunate than we are in many ways.

Before Jesus told his disciples how to live like this and how to give like this, he said this: Do not be afraid.



ple. There are plenty of people who are poor and sick. There is a very real possibility that many will find themselves sick and poor and without insurance. But from my conversations with them, I did not get the impression that they were ruled by fear. I'm not say-

sues. From the moment we arrived, he a bit shyly offered what he had to us. He noticed our cooler and sandwiches we shared for lunch, and we included him in our nutritious but ho-hum meal. On Tuesday, he asked if he could pre-

Episcopal Appalachian Ministries Fall Board Meeting

The Episcopal Appalachian Ministries Board of Governors met in Erlanger, KY at the Marydale Retreat Center for its fall meeting on October 17th through the 19th. The board members that were present were **The Rt. Rev. W. Michie Klusmeyer**, President and Bishop of West Virginia, **The Rev. Bill Barton**, Diocese of Tennessee, **The Rev. Scott West**, Diocese of Southwestern Virginia, **The Rev. Leslie Flemming**, Diocese of Southern Ohio, **Mr. "AJ" Stacks**, Diocese of Southern Ohio, **The Rev. Katharin Foster**, Diocese of Southern Ohio, **Ms. Pam Fleming**, Secretary, Diocese of Maryland, **The Rt. Rev. Charles vonRosenberg**, Bishop of East Tennessee, **Ms. Mary Berl**, Treasurer, Diocese of East Tennessee and **The Rev. Gordon Brewer**, Executive Coordinator, Diocese of East Tennessee.

The Board of EAM spent their time in prayer together and discussing the various

ministries of EAM that are occurring throughout the Appalachian Region. The board also spent time talking about the future of EAM and plans to expand programs that are directly related to EAM's mission and ministry.

One of the most exciting actions taken by the board was to begin the work of expanding the summer EAM work camp programs. The goal is to have EAM sponsored work camp and/or mission sites in each of the Dioceses that are part of EAM throughout Appalachia. In addition to the three weeks of EAM work camps held at Grace House in the Diocese of Southwestern Virginia, EAM is going

to be working with the Highland Educational Project in the Diocese of West Virginia to have an EAM sponsored work camp beginning in the summer of 2011. EAM will also be seeking partnerships with other mission sites in the other Dioceses that are associated with EAM.

In addition to the work camp/mission opportunities, the board is going to be exploring ways to expand the Appalachian Small Grants Initiative, host a small congregation conference, and getting other Appalachian Dioceses more involved. The board also began planning for the 2012 General Convention to be held in Indianapolis.

"The goal is to have EAM sponsored work camp and/or mission sites in each of the Dioceses that are part of EAM throughout Appalachia."

The hope is for EAM to have a very viable presence at that convention.

EAM Executive Coordinator, The Rev. Gordon Brewer, got approval from the board to expand and update the EAM website and to begin sending out a monthly e-newsletter to help communicate on a more regular and efficient basis with folks involved with EAM. To save trees (paper) and postal expense, the board decided that *Mountain Echoes* will be printed and mailed out only three times a year instead of quarterly as it has been in the past. This should all be in place by the first of the year in 2011.

Over-all, Episcopal Appalachian Ministries continues to be the voice of ministry in Appalachia through its broad programs of education, advocacy and mission!

Grace House on the Mountain - Workcamp 2010



Amen!