

# MOUNTAIN ECHOES

EPISCOPAL APPALACHIAN MINISTRIES  
▲ A COALITION OF EPISCOPAL DIOCESES ▲  
161 Ravine Rd. • Kingsport, TN 37660  
•(423) 230-1034•  
www.visit-EAM.org  
Email: episcopalappministries@gmail.com  
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Summer 2010

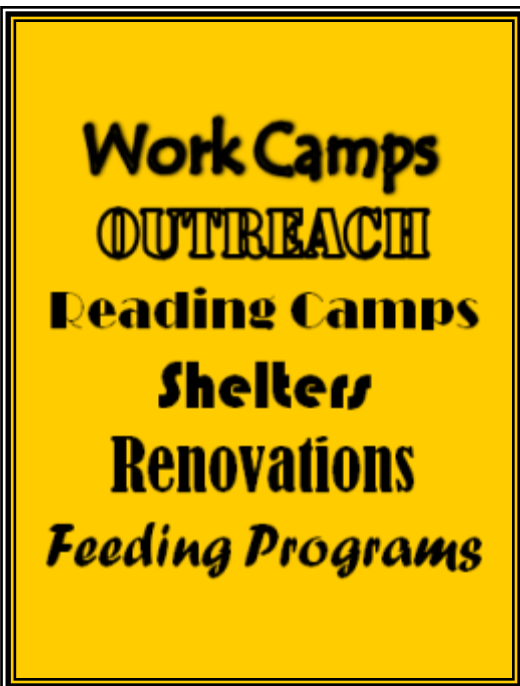
## Ten Organizations Awarded Episcopal Appalachian Ministries Initiative Grants!

One of the programs of Episcopal Appalachian Ministries with the biggest impact for grass roots ministries is the Small Grants Initiative. The EAM Small Grants Initiative was adopted by the EAM Board of Governors and is intended to be used as seed money for organizations to seize opportunities of a one-time nature. Successful applications will usually involve helping Appalachians address regional issues such as poverty, health care, unemployment, education, cultural affirmation, or the environment through direct service.

The spring awards were given to organizations in Dioceses across the Appalachian region. In total, \$10,430 was awarded to 10 different organizations throughout the region. Some of the projects that were funded included reading camps, outreach to Spanish speaking communities, renovations to a transitional living program, summer camps, and appliances for a feeding program.

The grants typically range in size from \$500 to \$3000. The grant selection

committee, comprised of Bishops from the Appalachian Region, meets two times a year to review applications and



allocate the awards. The recipients of the spring awards were *The Highland Educational Project* from the Diocese of West Virginia, *The Reading Camp* the Diocese of Lexington, *Oakhurst*

*Outreach* from the Diocese of West Virginia, *Reading Camp and Episcopal Appalachian Commission* from the Diocese of Southern Ohio, *St. James Church* from the Diocese of Maryland, *The Phoebe Needles Center* from the Diocese of Southwest Virginia, *Our Daily Bread Outreach Ministry* from the Diocese of Southern Ohio, *Faith Centre* from the Diocese of Central Pennsylvania, *St. Vincent Mission, Inc.* from the Diocese of Lexington and *St. James Church-Mission to the Mountains* also from the Diocese of Lexington.

Grant applications are accepted at any time during the year. The Grants Committee meets in April and October. Usual project start times are July 1 or January 1. Applications for April consideration are due by February 28th. Applications for October consideration are due by August 31st. You can download an application from the EAM website: [www.visit-EAM.org](http://www.visit-EAM.org) or can request a copy by emailing [episcopalappministries@gmail.com](mailto:episcopalappministries@gmail.com).

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## Message From the President of Episcopal Appalachian Ministries

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ, Following the Upper Big Branch mine explosion the Monday after Easter, the waiting and hoping in West Virginia is over. I wish to thank everyone who sent emails, cards and phone calls expressing their support and prayers for the miners who were killed in the disaster in Raleigh County, West Virginia. This tragedy reminds us all of the cost of dangerous work, and the cost of energy to keep our standard of living at our 'expected level.'

29 lives were lost. That's a tragedy.

But the greater tragedy will be if nothing good comes from this.

We have been promised a full investigation, but I have to say – the money involved in extraction industries, such as coal – often prevents a deep investigation into the real issues. The money involved in coal provides approxi-

mately 25% of our state's economy. The job opportunities are limited: coal – or unemployment, in many of our communities. The miners make VERY good money, but it's obviously very dangerous work. On a good day, it's difficult to go underground, and not see the sunshine for the entire day.

At the height of the coal industry in West Virginia, McDowell County reported about 100,000 residents. Today, that number is approximately 10,000. When coal leaves – people leave. Now the Federal Government is locating a Men's Federal Prison in McDowell County, hoping to spur employment. Unfortunately 70% of the residents won't be able to pass the drug test. In that light, coal looks very good.

I ask your prayers that the President and others will indeed demand and receive an honest accounting of the

accident in West Virginia. If it was caused by a mistake by the miners, we pray it doesn't happen again. If it was a systemic issue in the coal industry, or by Massey Energy, may we have an honest evaluation and have real change, that will never allow such a tragedy to happen again. The cost is too great.

I thank you all for your prayers for the good people of West Virginia.

In Christ,

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



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

*If you wish some realistic books on the life in the coal camps, I invite you to read books by Homer Hickam (October Skies, which was also a movie), or books by Denise Giardina. +WMK*

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## Grants Awarded... (continued from page 1)

### Highland Educational Project - Diocese of West Virginia

A grant was awarded to the Highland Educational Project in Welch, WV in the Diocese of West Virginia. The grant monies will be used to purchase a refrigerator and some beds to be used in the shelter located at Seager Hall.

The Highland Educational Project (HEP), located in McDowell County in West Virginia, is an ecumenical outreach ministry of the Diocese of West Virginia. Originally started as an educational ministry in January of 1940, the ministry has evolved into a public assistance agency due to the economic down-turns in the area over several decades.



Highland Educational Project Facilities

HEP's outreach programs include distributing donated clothing year-round, children's stockings at Christmas, and food to needy families. In addition,

HEP provides help with medical costs and heating bills along with other emergency assistance to needy families and individuals.

HEP operates an emergency shelter in Seager Hall which also doubles as housing for volunteers coming to the area during the summer months to do work projects. The grant money is being used to do some much needed improvements to the facility's appliances and beds.

*Originally started as an educational ministry in January of 1940, the ministry has evolved into a public assistance agency due to the economic down-turns in the area over several decades.*

For more information about the Highland Educational Project and Seager Hall, contact Lori Osborne, Director of HEP, PO Box 204, Welch, WV 24801; phone: 304-346-2641.

**Reading Camp - Diocese of Lexington** - The Reading Camp initiative of the Diocese of Lexington was awarded a grant to help expand current programs as well as help start new programs outside the Diocese.

The first Reading Camp was held in Lee County Kentucky, one of the poorest in the State, as part of a strategy to expand educational opportunities to the poor living in rural areas of Eastern Kentucky. The program began with 32 under-achieving children in the third and fourth grades. The initiative was so well received by parents, children and educators that the program nearly doubled in size in 2003 and had tripled in size by 2006.

Reading Camp's goal is to help children who are reluctant and struggling readers improve literacy skills and become more confident students. The camp does not "look" or "feel" like school. The setting is the great outdoors, and the materials are new to the children. Each child is helped to read books of their choosing, encouraged to develop a love of learning, and given tools for reading proficiency. The children receive personal attention in a "failure-free" setting.



In 2009, the Reading Camp expanded its program outside the Diocese of Lexington. Programs have been started both inside and outside the United States. There are currently

Reading Camps in Paducah, KY, Leesburg, VA and Grahams-town, South Africa.

The Reading Camp intends to have all the campers that attend one of their camps to have their reading skills improve and develop a

greater sense of self-confidence in both their reading skills and social skills. In addition to working on reading skills, the campers also have the opportunity to experience activities they might not otherwise encounter, like staying over night at camp, hiking, swimming, and meeting kids from other communities.

For more information on the Reading Camps, please contact: Allison Asay, PO Box 610, Lexington KY, 40508; phone: 859-252-6527. email: readingcamp@diolex.org

(Continued on page 4...)

## EAM Board Holds Spring Meeting and Retreat

The Episcopal Appalachian Ministries Board of Governors met at the Marydale Retreat Center in Erlanger, KY at the end of April for their Spring Meeting and Retreat. As EAM has begun this new era, much of the agenda and discussion was around how EAM continues to minister to the needs of the Appalachian Region through education, advocacy and mission. As the board met and prayed together, there continued to be great enthusiasm and resolve about the ministry of EAM and the direction of the Episcopal Church in Appalachia.

During the Board's time together, there was a time of sharing the various things happening across the various Dioceses represented by the Board. Despite the uniqueness of each Diocese represented, the issues around domestic poverty, economic justice, environmental issues, healthcare and Church growth are affecting us all. Appalachia is unique by virtue of its culture and geography that has a profound impact on how we minister to the needs of God's people.

One of the highlights of the board meeting was the opportunity to tour the Brighton Center, Inc. located in Newport, KY. (see pictures on page 3). The Brighton Center is a non-profit organization that has been in existence since 1966. The Brighton Center provides a broad range of social services to the area such as: youth services for homeless teenagers, job training, emergency assistance, food pantry, thrift stores, child care, family support services, and legal aide. The mission of Brighton Center, Inc. is to create opportunities for individuals and families to reach self-sufficiency through



**EAM Board: (Inset) A.J. Stack, L-R: Tupper Moorehead, Theresa Kelley, Bill Barton, Mary Berl, Leslie Flemming, Pam Fleming, Katharin Foster and Gordon Brewer**

family support services, education and leadership throughout the communities of Northern Kentucky. They achieve this mission by creating an environment which rewards excellence and innovation, encourages mutual respect and maximizes resources. The Brighton Center provides an outstanding model for addressing the complicated issues around social and economic justice and at the same time providing direct assistance to those in need.

The board discussed too, the need to expand the involvement in EAM across the member Dioceses in the Appalachian Region. One of the major strengths of EAM has been its diversity of having a good balance between involvement of both northern and southern Dioceses of the Appalachian Region; in particular, having the strong support of the various Bishops of the region.

Also during the board's time together,

the upcoming work camps at Grace House in the Diocese of Southwest Virginia were discussed. All three of the camp weeks are full for this year and we discussed the possibility of having a fourth week this next year. The upcoming Mountain Grace Conference will be held October 8-9, and the details of that event were discussed. EAM Coordinator, The Rev. Dcn. Gordon Brewer, presented to the board the list of recipients for the Small Grants Initiative. This particular program is one that the board hopes to expand in the future since it does support grass-roots ministries within the Appalachian Region.

The board was happy to welcome a new member, The Rev. Bill Barton from the Diocese of Tennessee. Rev. Barton is the Vicar of the Southeastern Tennessee Episcopal Ministry composed of Christ Church, Alto, TN, Church of the Holy Comforter, Monteagle, TN and Church of the Epiphany, Sherwood, TN. Also in attendance where, Mr. A.J. Stack; Diocese of Southern Ohio, The Rev. Katharin Foster; Diocese of Southern Ohio, The Rev. Theresa Kelley; Diocese of West Virginia, Dr. Tupper Morehead; Diocese of East Tennessee, Mrs. Mary Berl; Diocese of East Tennessee, The Rev. Leslie Fleming; Diocese of Southern Ohio, Ms. Pam Fleming; Diocese of Maryland and The Rev. Dcn. Gordon Brewer, EAM Executive Coordinator; from the Diocese of East Tennessee.

The board closed their meeting and retreat with the Celebration of the Eucharist. The next board meeting will be in October.

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## EAM Board Visits Brighton Center, Inc., Newport, KY

(see story page 2...)



EAM Board visits Job Training Center of the Brighton Center in Newport, KY



Rev. Clifton Bear (right) of The Brighton Center tells EAM Board about work being done at The Brighton Center.



EAM Board visits a Brighton Center thrift store that provides low and no cost merchandise to families in need.



Medical Assistant classes at the Brighton Center



### The River Adventure Program is now accepting registrations for summer of 2010.

[www.campbethelvirginia/RAP.htm](http://www.campbethelvirginia/RAP.htm)

We'll see YOU on the river!

#### TRIPS FOR 2010:

Week Long Adventures for Youth: Cost = \$275 per trip. (Price goes up after May 1!)

James River (rising 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grades): June 20-25:

Trip Leaders: Joe Harden, Kim Saunders and one Bethel staff member

New River I (rising 8<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> grades): June 27- July 2.

Trip Leaders: Beth and Steve Wiegandt and one Bethel staff member

New River II (rising 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> grades): July 4-9

Trip Leaders: John Eggleston, Geno Iannaccone, and Sue Bentley

Family/Adult Day Trips: Cost = \$15/adult; \$10/child (or \$30/family maximum)

Family Trip I & II: Saturday, July 17 and Saturday, August 21

**Women's Only Trip:** This overnight is designed to give women a chance to enjoy the peace and beauty of God's creation in a new way. What better way to end the summer and get ready for Fall! Cost includes meals and all gear except personal items. Leaders: Beth Wiegandt and Kim Saunders August 13-14. \$60.00

River Adventure Program is a joint program of the Episcopal Diocese of SWVA and Church of the Brethren, Camp Bethel.

## Appalachian Parishes Respond to Flood Damaged Neighborhoods in Nashville, TN

### Diocese of Tennessee -

After the devastating flash flood that affected parts of Tennessee, Kentucky and Mississippi and killed 29 people in May of this year, The Rt. Rev. John Bauerschmidt, Bishop of Tennessee, responded by designating St. Luke's Community House as a relief recipient for the Diocese. St. Luke's is well known throughout the diocese. Many parishes perform outreach to St. Luke's and the people of West Nashville. The area was flooded and homes were damaged. Many residents held jobs at Opryland and Opry Mills whose jobs are gone. Morale is low and the people are vulnerable - real estate agents are already trying to buy properties for redevelopment, which would change the neighborhood.

As soon as the area was cleared for re-entry, help was on hand. St. Luke's kitchen cooked meals for those who needed them and volunteers on site. The West Nashville Partnership conducted a thorough survey of the homes, checking on the residents, helping them leave if they wanted to and informing those who stayed about relief services available. Hands on Nashville sent work groups out to help with demolition of homes. FEMA set up a station to assist residents with filing for aid. Individuals brought clothes, cleaning supplies, baby needs, toys and food, and residents of the area

gratefully accepted.

The children served by the pre-school and other school programs got back on schedule pretty quickly. Within just a few days, all classes were in session.



Blankets and clothing donated for the victims of the flooding

As the news of flooding spread, so did the offer of aid. A radio station in Maryland conducted a supply drive, spearheaded by a DJ originally from West Nashville who wanted to help his neighbors. A truck, loaded with school supplies, toys, toiletries

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## Grants Awarded... (continued from page 2)

website:  
http://readingcamprocks.blogspot.com/

**Oakhurst Outreach - Diocese of West Virginia** - Oakhurst Outreach, Inc. in White Sulphur Springs, WV received a grant award to help renovate the Callahan Fellowship Hall into living quarters for a transitional living center for women recovering from drug and alcohol addictions.



Oakhurst Outreach, Inc.

The women living in the newly remodeled facility will be given a firm and broad foundation for their recovery through peer support, attendance at 12 step meetings, and involvement in a proposed cottage industry. The recovery environment of Oakhurst will experientially eradicate the extreme poverty and hunger that many of the participants will have known. Additionally, the improved self-esteem that will be engendered by positive peer support and living in a healthy environment is an excellent first step in em-

powering women.

For more information about Oakhurst please contact: Janeal Quinnell, PO Drawer 220, White Sulphur Springs, WV 24986; phone: 304-445-5079; email: Oakhurst.outreach@gmail.com.

### Reading Camp and Episcopal Appalachian Ministries Commission - Diocese of Southern Ohio

In the Diocese of Southern Ohio, a Reading Camp Committee was formed that consisted of 15 individuals from 12 different congregations. This group of people came together to develop a Reading Camp modeled after reading about the program in the Diocese of Lexington. EAM has awarded an Appalachian Initiative Grant to the Reading Camp Committee to help with the start-up of a Reading Camp in connection with Procter Camp and Conference Center.

*The program will strive to improve literacy skills and help the children to become more confident students.*

The majority of the committee members represent rural and urban Appalachian congregations where low income



Procter Camp and Conference Center Labyrinth

children struggle to succeed in school and lack of proficiency in reading. Staff leadership is being provided by Canon for Formation within the Diocese, The Rev. Canon Karl Ruttan and Procter Camp Director, Rob Konkel.

The goal of the Reading Camp will be to provide help to children who are struggling or reluctant readers. The program will strive to improve literacy skills and help the children to become more confident students. The Reading Camp will bring in 24 low income third grade children, recommended by their teachers, to camp. They will not only gain experience in reading skills,

but will experience the full range of camp activities. The program will be facilitated by volunteer teachers and assistants along with help from the camp staff in the evenings.

For more information about the Reading Camp to be held at the Procter Camp and Conference Center: The Rev. Lee Anne Reat, St. John's Episcopal Church, 1003 W. Town St., Columbus, OH 43222. Phone: 614-221-9328; email: revreat@aol.com

*Continued on page 7...*

## Reflections on the "issues" we face...

By The Rev. Dcn. Gordon Brewer - Executive Coordinator for Episcopal Appalachian Ministries

Over the past six months as I have immersed myself into my work with Episcopal Appalachian Ministries, I have been filled with excitement about the work being done to minister to the people of the Appalachian Region. At the same time, I have felt, as many of you might be feeling, a feeling of being overwhelmed by the sheer enormity of the issues we face in Appalachia, our country and throughout the world.

As I mentioned in one of my sermons in my home parish this past month, we live in scary times. The economic crisis, the wars in the Middle East, the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico, the coal mining explosion in West Virginia, the rising rate of unemployment... the list goes on and on. Regardless of a person's viewpoint on the various "issues", the consensus seems to be that we wish so much we could find the one "magic wand" that would fix it all, but there just isn't one we seem to see... at least not one we seem to be accessing. But despite the gloom and doom that seems to be all around us, there is some hope out there for the whole big picture.

I had the pleasure of attending the "Called to Serve" Episcopal Conference on Domestic Poverty in Newark, NJ about a month ago. At this confer-

ence, there were folks representing the whole gambit social, economic, healthcare and welfare groups within the Episcopal Church, in addition to experts from governmental and academic circles. I am still muddling through all the information that I received there... it is hopeful and at the same time overwhelming. Despite this, I left the conference with a renewed sense of energy about how we, as the Body of Christ, can begin to address the multiple issues that haunt us in this world. Although, as I mentioned, there is no one "magic wand" or solution, there are, however,

*"We're here to do justice, and love mercy. We're here to walk humbly with God and bring good news to the poor..."*

many solutions just as there are many parts to the body... it is all connected. The one thing I heard, above all the many issues that were discussed, is that there is a resolve within the Episcopal Church for us to work collaboratively to address the many complicated issues that we are all called to address by virtue of our Baptismal covenant. The truth is, we and "the issues" are all connected.

Our Presiding Bishop, The Most Rev.



Presiding Bishop, The Most Rev. Katherine Jefferts Schori, speaking at the "Called to Serve" conference

Katherine Jefferts Schori, was the keynote speaker at the conference. In her talk, she pointed out how so much of the problem with domestic poverty is interconnected with how we view each other and the earth we live in. She said, "We're here to do justice, and love mercy. We're here to walk humbly with God and bring

good news to the poor. That good news of justice and mercy looks like the ancient visions of the commonwealth of God where everyone has enough to eat, no one goes thirsty or homeless, all have access to meaningful employment and health care, the wealthy and powerful do not exploit the weak, and no one studies war any more. It includes the work of building community and caring for the earth, both of which are essential to the health of a spiritually rooted person, in right relationship with God and neighbor."

In a recent blog post on the website: www.huffingtonpost.com, Bishop Schori also spoke to how we are all

connected by saying, "The still-unfolding disaster in the Gulf of Mexico is good evidence of the interconnectedness of the whole. It has its origins in this nation's addiction to oil, uninhibited growth, and consumerism, as well as old-fashioned greed and what my tradition calls hubris and idolatry. Our collective sins are being visited on those who have had little or no part in them: birds, marine mammals, the tiny plants and animals that constitute the base of the vast food chain in the Gulf, and on which a major part of the seafood production of the United States depends. Our sins are being visited on the fishers of southern Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida, who seek to feed their families with the proceeds of what they catch each day. Our sins will expose New Orleans and other coastal cities to the increased likelihood of devastating floods, as the marshes that constitute the shrinking margin of storm protection continue to disappear, fouled and killed by oil..." Bishop Schori went on to say, "...We

*"It would be very easy for us to think of this as a 'Gulf Coast problem' and just head back up the holler, business as usual."*

are all connected, we will all suffer the consequences of this tragic disaster in the Gulf, and we must wake up and put a stop to the kind of robber baron behavior we supposedly regulated out of existence a hundred years ago. Our lives, and the liveliness of the entire planet, depend on it. "

Here in Appalachia, where I live, the Gulf Coast seems a million miles

*Continued on page 6...*

# Taking Mutual Ministry to the 'Next Level'

By Sharon Tillman (article reprinted by permission from Diocese of Maryland's *Church News*)

The Mutual Ministry program in Western Maryland received a vote of confidence when the Rev. Theresa Brion was named the diocese's first full-time Western Maryland missionary. Brion (pronounced Brian) was chosen after an extensive search to replace the Rev. Richard Morley in that role. Morley was called to a church in the Diocese of New Jersey.

As the first missionary, Morley worked part time as an advisor and pastor to Mutual Ministry team members throughout Western Maryland and liaison to the diocese while also serving as vicar of St. Peter's Church, Lonaconing, and rector of St. John's Church, Frostburg.

"Rick Morley, as our first missionary, linked the Diocese of Maryland with Living Stones – the consortium of mutual ministry dioceses in the United States and Canada, directed our first discernment and formation programs and raised the visibility, and, frankly, the credibility of the program. We have much to thank Rick for initiating and doing so well," said Bishop John L. Rabb, who instituted the Mutual Ministry program in Maryland.

The Rev. Dr. Chip Lee, rector of the Garrett County churches St. Matthew's and St. John's, was the acting missionary and member of the job search team.

A 2009 graduate of Episcopal Divinity School, Brion was recently ordained a transitional deacon in the Diocese of Southwestern Virginia. She has a long-



**The Rev. Theresa M. Brion**  
 Western Maryland Missioner  
 52 Broadway  
 P.O. Box 229  
 Frostburg, MD 21532  
 301-689-6634  
 tbrion@episcopalmaryland.org  
 Fax: 301-689-6944  
 Mobile: 443-642-7116

**The Churches of Western Maryland**

- Emmanuel Church, Cumberland
- Church of the Holy Cross, Cumberland
- St. George's Church, Mt. Savage
- St. James' Church, Westernport
- St. John's Church, Deer Park
- St. John's Church, Frostburg
- St. Matthew's Parish, Oakland
- St. Peter's Church, Lonaconing

time interest in rural ministry and the empowerment of the baptized. She will work out of St. John's Church, Frostburg.

While Brion will assist and provide service and direction to the clergy, vestries and congregations in the western region on whatever issues they may face, her focus will be on the implementation of Mutual Ministry. It was this focus that first attracted her to the job.

Brion said she has the opportunity to take Mutual Ministry and the western region, which consists of churches in Allegany and Garrett counties, "to the next level" because she is able to focus on the needs of the people and the region full time, and the program has already been cultivated and established. "Each team and church has different needs. My job is to first listen, then guide and support them in their ministry to their congregations," Brion said.

Part of that support is to offer pastoral care to the team members, many of whom are unpaid volunteers. Another aspect of her job is to help

others discern what they might bring to a Mutual Ministry team for their church and to provide training in various aspects of ministry. Filling open positions at churches and raising awareness and interest in the program for future team members is critical.

Brion has an extensive background in clinical pastoral education, having worked in both hospital and residential facility settings prior to entering seminary.

"Theresa was referred to us through Living Stones and she is in the Ministry Development Collaborative and will receive the Certificate in Ministry Development through the Episcopal Divinity School next year. She received, if you will, a "baptism by fire" in that her first act in the diocese was to be at Living Stones as Maryland presented, as all the member dioceses do, its case. Due to snow it was done through teleconferencing on her part! She was chosen from a group of well qualified persons and we are excited about her ministry," Bishop Rabb said.



## Mutual Ministry Defined

According to Armentrout and Slocum, "Mutual Ministry" is a term given to the concept of shared ministry and leadership in a congregation. Mutual ministry is an approach to Christian ministry that is lived out of the promises made in baptism. It sees the ministry of the whole congregation as the primary ministry. All members of the congregation are doers of ministry. Deacons and priests serve as resource and support persons to the congregation, and perform the other duties appropriate to their orders. The work of Roland Allen (1868-1947), an English missionary and parish priest, is the background of mutual ministry. Allen emphasized the training and empowerment of local leadership in the church, the importance of the laity, and the use of voluntary clergy. Leaders in mutual ministry in the Episcopal Church were Wesley Frensdorff, William Gordon, Charles Long, and H. Boone Porter. The dioceses of Nevada and Northern Michigan were forerunners in mutual ministry. The dioceses of Nebraska, Iowa, Minnesota, and North Dakota used it in certain areas. See Allen, Roland.

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### EAM Contact Information

With the transition to the new Executive Coordinator of Episcopal Appalachian Ministries in January of 2010, the addresses for EAM have changed.. The new address for EAM is now:

**The Rev. Dcn. L. Gordon Brewer, Jr.**  
 161 East Ravine Rd., Kingsport, TN 37660  
 Phone: 423-230-1034  
 Cell: 423-571-7423  
 Email: [episcopalappministries@gmail.com](mailto:episcopalappministries@gmail.com)

All transactions and contact for EAM should be directed to The Rev. Dcn. L. Gordon Brewer, Jr. at this new address.



*I want to be a part of the Episcopal Church mission and ministry in Appalachia...*

Enclosed is my gift:

\$10  \$25  \$50  \$100  \$500

Other amount \$\_\_\_\_\_

I pledge \$\_\_\_\_\_ to Episcopal Appalachian Ministries

to be paid:  monthly,  quarterly,  annually

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Diocese: \_\_\_\_\_

Parish: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: Episcopal Appalachian Ministries,  
 161 E. Ravine Road  
 Kingsport, TN 37660

**Grant Awards** *Continued from page 4...*

**St. James Church - Diocese of Maryland** - St. James Episcopal Church in Westernport, MD is located in the western panhandle of Maryland, a part of the state that is part of the Appalachian Region. St. James was awarded a grant to start-up a program to bring the unchurched, particularly Spanish speaking folks that have moved into their area of the country. St. James will be using musical programs, soup suppers, flea markets, and other similar events to bring people from the community into the church. Without a "hard sell", they will make them know they are welcome to worship there. Their emphasis with this ministry will be to provide outreach to families and Latino people.

*"...St. James has a strong commitment to making sure they are not the last generation of Episcopalians in their community."*

St. James is a parish that is 131 years old and situated in Westernport, MD, a town of 1,900 people with the population decreasing at a rate of about 8% per year. The community is poor; the only industries are a paper mill and coal mining.

In spite of the economic difficulties and a population that is aging and/or moving away, St. James has maintained the presence of the Episcopal Church in the town and surrounding area. Westernport has recently seen an influx of immigrants from Central America, and in response to these folks, St. James has added a weekly service in Spanish and has provided

English classes for them. St. James is making every effort to integrate them into the parish, holding joint services in a mix of English and Spanish several times a year.

St. James, like many Episcopal parishes, is an aging parish. Despite this, St. James has a strong commitment to making sure they are not the last generation of Episcopalians in their community. Their intention (mission and vision) is to reach out to all those around them, especially the unchurched families, to maintain an environment that is welcoming and affirming to all, and to meet the spiritual (to the extent possible with their resources) economic and other needs of this community.

For more information on St. James' ministry, please contact: The Rev. Thomas J. Hudson, OP; St. James Church, PO Box 279, Westernport, MD 21652. Email: [tjHUDSON@cebridge.net](mailto:tjHUDSON@cebridge.net)

**The Phoebe Needles Center—Diocese of Southwest Virginia**

The Phoebe Needles Center located in Callaway, VA in the Diocese of Southwest VA, was awarded a grant to help purchase building supplies for their summer outreach camp.

The Phoebe Needles Center is about the business of creating an environment and experiences that bring about transformation across generations. There is something wonderful that happens when you get a group of teenagers and seniors together to work for a week toward a common goal and on behalf of someone other than themselves. That is exactly what the Summer Outreach Camp does!

The camp program in particular follows a model of "action-reflection-

action". Most of the campers begin the week with the preconceived notion that they will be "helping people in need". By the end of the week they realize that they are the ones that have benefited the most by the experience. The campers spend a great deal of time getting to know the families they are helping so that they can see them as fellow human beings rather than "those people that live over there". The work is physical and many of the campers have had little experience doing this kind of physical labor. But by bringing together people of diverse backgrounds who normally would not associate with each other, an environment of learning is created that brings



about powerful "ah-ha" moments for everyone involved.

For more information about the Phoebe Needles Camp contact: The Rev. John Heck, 732 Turners Creek Rd., Callaway, VA 24067 or visit the website: [www.phoebeneedles.org](http://www.phoebeneedles.org) Email: [johnheck@gmail.com](mailto:johnheck@gmail.com)

**Our Daily Bread Outreach Ministry - Diocese of Southern Ohio**

"Our Daily Bread Outreach Ministry" was started in this past year to serve the Highland County Ohio area by providing a free, sit-down lunch two

days a week to those in need. "Our Daily Bread Outreach Ministry" has also received an Appalachian Initiative Grant from EAM to help with the purchase of kitchen supplies.

*"The goal is to both feed those in need and educate them on additional programs that may be able to help their particular situation."*

"Our Daily Bread" has been a collaborative effort between many organizations in Highland County including churches, businesses, private individuals and non-profit groups. These various organizations have come together during this recent economic crisis as a way to minister to the immediate needs of those in their community.

"Our Daily Bread" is governed by a board that coordinates the activities around the feeding program. The board is active in promoting the program in the community by seeking donations and volunteers in the community. The various service organizations were recruited to sign-up to purchase, prepare, serve and clean-up on the day they choose to volunteer. While citizens that are taking part in the lunch, community organizations have information available about services that may be of use to them. The goal is to both feed those in need and educate them on additional programs that may be able to help their particular situation.

Currently, the organizations that are involved in "Our Daily Bread" are St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Hillsboro,

*...continued on page 7*

**Reflections... continued from page 4**

**A coal train passes under a belt at Massey Energy's Upper Big Branch coal mine (Photo source, Jeff Genter/ AP)**

away. It would be very easy for us to think of this as a "Gulf Coast problem" and just head back up the holler, business as usual. But let's not forget that only 2 months ago there was a mining disaster in West Virginia. Twenty-nine lives were lost... There is an on-going battle between coal and the environment along with the battle to keep the jobs and economies that mineral extraction brings to Appalachia. It is a complicated issue... Just

like the complicated issue of fossil fuel extraction in the Gulf of Mexico... it is a common chord. Both in Appalachia and on the Gulf Coast the economies are driven and sustained by our demand for cheap energy.

Like you, I still have to drive to work... this computer that I am typing on is most likely using electricity generated from coal burning generators. The bottom line seems to be that the oil spill crisis in the Gulf and the re-

cent coal mine explosion in West Virginia just 2 months ago are all connected to our need to consume cheap energy. I, like you, would much rather I buy gas for \$2.30 a gallon than \$2.75 a gallon... I would much rather my electric bill be under \$150 a month... it IS complicated...

You see, poverty at home and abroad, the environment, corporate greed, terrorism and energy consumption and all that other stuff that scares us, is all connected. Here in Appalachia, people are dependent on the jobs that the coal extraction industries bring. We, as consumers, demand "cheap" energy and want it in abundance. And as long as we demand cheap energy, the coal industry is willing to oblige. The coal companies want to keep their profit margins high. For the coal companies to extract coal quickly and efficiently from these mountains and maintain their profits, it requires increased mechanization and/or putting people's lives at greater risk. It is complicated and at the same time completely connected to people's liveli-

*"...poverty at home and abroad, the environment, corporate greed, terrorism and energy consumption and all that other stuff that scares us, it is all connected."*

hoods and our demand for energy.

hoods and our demand for energy.

I think for most of us, we tend to have this flaw of wanting to point the finger and blame many of the hardships of life on something or someone besides ourselves. It is very easy to fall into the trap of pointing our finger at "the liberals" or "the conservatives". We want to blame BP, big coal companies, the Taliban, the lack of education or anything else we can point to for the plight of the world. But the hard truth is that we are all broken and flawed; we are all sinners. We put our own needs before others. We consume more than we need and we hold onto our "stuff" as if it were going to somehow save us.

As Christians, we know better... Jesus was very clear about our relationship to "stuff" and what we consume. We have all heard it before... "For

where your treasure is, there your heart will be also... No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and

*...continued on page 8*

## Flooding in Nashville, TN... continued from page 2



**Fourth Grade students from the Episcopal School in Knoxville, TN visit St. Luke's**

and more, pulled up to St. Luke's and the items were distributed immediately.

St. Luke's themselves, unloaded the van and visited with some of the neighborhood residents.

Fourth grade students at the Episcopal School of Knoxville, TN held a walkathon during Phys.Ed. class. Funds pledged will go directly to St. Luke's. Since the class was coming to Nashville for a field trip, they brought cleaning supplies and toured St. Luke's pre-school to meet some of the area kids they are assisting.

Nashville's Mayor Karl Dean appointed St. Luke's a formal Distribution Center for items such as mattresses, furniture, new clothing and toys. St. Luke's biggest immediate call is for food to stock emergency food boxes. There is still much work to be done in West Nashville. To get involved, contact Christie at 615-350-6937.

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**The Rev. Maggie Zeller and The Rev. Chris Harpster deliver supplies to St. Luke's during recent flooding in Nashville, TN**

The Rev. Maggie Zeller, rector of St. Christopher's Church in Kingsport TN and her congregation there wanted to collect items to send. She and the Rev. Chris Harpster of St. Paul's Church, Kingsport, TN drove the supplies to

## Grant Awards *Continued from page 6...*

OH, Hillsboro United Methodist Church, Highland County Community Action along with several other civic, school, scout and church groups.

For more information about "Our Daily Bread Outreach Ministry" please contact: Anna Spikler, Organizer of "Our Daily Bread"; c/o Hillsboro UMC, 133 East Walnut St., Hillsboro, OH 45133; Phone: 937-393-2981 email: spiklera@yahoo.com

**Faith Centre - Diocese of Central Pennsylvania** - The "Faith Centre" located in Bellefonte, PA received an Appalachian Initiative Grant from EAM to purchase kitchen equipment for their "Bread of Life Program" that provides meal preparation classes to teach low-income families how to prepare nutritious meals.

Faith Centre is a faith-based ministry serving Bellefonte, PA and the surrounding area, targeting persons in need across the life-span by offering facilities, programs and services in areas such as child and adolescent development and activities, family relations, elder care, nutrition and health related issues. Faith Centre houses,

among others, a thrift store, Bellefonte Food Pantry, a free drop-in coffee corner, a Kid's Korner and space for meetings, seminars, recreation and worship.



In responding to the need of low-income populations, Faith Centre is attempting to specifically address the problem of the quantity of food taking priority over the quality of food. There tends to be a lack of fresh produce and meats with many of the food banks across the region. As a result of this there is a chronic problem of obesity, diabetes, and general poor health

## 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:

June 30	Those preparing for Work Camps in Appalachia
July 7	The Diocese of Maryland
July 14	The Diocese of Atlanta
July 21	The EAM Work Camps and those that are served (July 18– August 7)
July 28	The Diocese of West Virginia and those working in the coal industry.
August 4	The Diocese of Atlanta
August 11	The Diocese of Tennessee
August 18	The Diocese of Southwestern Virginia
August 25	The Diocese of Central Pennsylvania
September 1	The Diocese of Western North Carolina
September 8	The Diocese of East Tennessee
September 15	The Diocese of Lexington
September 22	The Diocese of Southern Ohio
September 29	The Diocese of Bethlehem
October 6	The Mountain Grace Conference (Oct. 8-9)
October 13	The EAM Board as they meet (Oct. 17-19)
October 20	Those that work for justice and peace
October 27	Those that are unemployed or under-employed

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among many of our low-income populations in Appalachia. The goal of the Faith Centre is to educate the people they serve on these issues through their "Bread of Life Program".

The "Bread of Life Program" is in place to assist those feeling displaced or lonely and who lack basic home cooking skills. The Faith Centre is establishing a very specific type of Bible Study designed to nourish the body

*"Faith Centre is attempting to specifically address the problem of the quantity of food taking priority over the quality of food."*

as well as the soul. Under the direction of Deacon Alex Dyakiw, one evening a week, the Faith Centre will hold a meal preparation class and Bible study in which the participants will prepare and eat a meal together. The program is not only intended to teach cooking skills, but help develop a community of support for those living in isolation by sharing food, camarade-

rie and the good news of Christ through Bible study.

For more information about the "Faith Centre", please contact The Rev. Alex Dyakiw; St. John's Episcopal Church, 120 W. Lamb St., Bellefonte, PA 16823. Phone: 814-883-0430 Email: Deacon Alex@gmail.com Website: www.faithcentre.net

**St. Vincent Mission, Inc. - Diocese of Lexington** - St. Vincent Mission located in David, KY was awarded an Appalachian Initiative Grant to help provide art supplies for their "Family Day Out" program that was started. The "Family Day Out" program uses local artisans to teach young people arts and crafts that emphasize Appalachian heritage and culture.

St. Vincent Mission is located in Floyd County, KY which, according to the 2009 Census Bureau report, had an increase in its poverty level from 26% to 28.1% in 2009. St. Vincent Mission is a nonprofit outreach organization that was established by the Brothers of Charity from Philadelphia, PA. The mission has a food pantry, used clothing store, emergency assistance pro-

## Grant Awards

*Continued from page 7...*

gram, home repair program, scholarship program, annual Christmas Store and David Appalachian Crafts. In 2009, approximately 38,552 meals were provided through the food pantry and distributed \$14,642 in emergency assistance to 126 families. Thirty-nine

*"...located in Floyd County, KY which, according to the 2009 Census Bureau report, had an increased its poverty level from 26% to 28.1% in 2009."*

home received repairs, upgrades or additions. Over-all 420 volunteers gave 15,625 hours of time in helping with these projects.

In addition to the activities such as the arts and crafts being provided for the "Family Day Out" program, St. Vincent Mission provides a night out for the families receiving services. Local restaurants provide a discounted meal giving the families the joy of eating out and having a family outing that they normally could not afford.

For more information about St. Vincent Mission Outreach, Inc., contact Sr. Kathleen Weigand, OSB- Executive Director; PO Box 232, David, KY

*...continued from page 6*

Money". (Matthew 6: 21, 24)

I think that if there is a "magic fix" it has to be rooted in a change of heart for us all. It would be a spiritual change. It would be a drastic change in our relationship with our "stuff" and all the things we consume. It would look something like the Kingdom of God... or rather, would BE the Kingdom of God... Rather than be preoccupied with what we spend for energy or trying to hold onto and protect our "stuff" we would be preoccupied with loving our neighbors and protecting the neighborhood, "this fragile earth, our island home" (BCP 370).

Ultimately, all of this is about the relationships we have each other in this world. Jesus' message always put aside convention. Jesus was concerned about caring and compassion. When we are willing to do the same, I think that is the point at which we will see change in our country and the in world. For there to be change we will all have to be willing to truly live into our Baptismal covenant and truly



**St. James Church, Prestonsburg, KY**

**St. James Church - Mission to the Mountains - Diocese of Lexington** - The "Mission to the Mountains" is an outreach ministry of St. James Episcopal Church in Prestonsburg, KY, a town of 3,862 people and is the county seat. An Appalachian Initiative Grant was awarded to this ministry to help install showers for volunteers to use when working in the area on work projects.

Located in the mountains of Eastern Kentucky, "Mission to the Mountain" invites Episcopal congregations or colleges with Episcopal connections who are looking for a opportunity to

do volunteer work. The program began in 2005 and during that year 70 volunteers from four churches participated.

The over all goal is to host 7 to 8 groups a year to help the poor living in this area of Appalachia and also give valuable life experiences to the volunteers who come to form relationships between St. James and the sending church. An additional goal is to create dialogue among the volunteers about their faith and life as an Episcopalian in order to enhance their ability to reach out to others in a welcoming way.

St. James has two other social outreach programs. The "Fishes and Loaves" Food Pantry and "Wee Care", a preschool program serving many of the infants and toddlers of students attending the local community college who get a reduced rate for their child-care needs. In addition to the college

*The over all goal is to host 7 to 8 groups a year to help the poor living in this area of Appalachia and also give valuable life experiences to the volunteers who come to form relationships between St. James and the sending church.*

students, there are several families receiving government subsidies for child care that use the program because they could not afford other child care.

For more information about St. James Church and "Mission to the Mountains", please contact Sr. Judy Yunker, OSB; St. James Church, 562 University Dr., Prestonsburg, KY 41653. Phone: 606-886-8046. Email: mtabor150@hotmail.com



"seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving our neighbor as yourself". It means we each have to "strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being"(BCP 305). This my friends is the way of Christ... it is the way of God... it is the Kingdom of Heaven...

*Go in peace to love and serve the Lord!*  
-Deacon Gordon



**The Rev. Dcn. L. Gordon Brewer, Jr.**  
**Executive Coordinator**  
**Episcopal Appalachian Ministries**

**Save the Date!**

**Mountain Grace VII**

*"Building the Body of Christ through Community in Appalachia..."*

**Conference on Appalachian Ministry**

**October 8-9**

**Washington State Community College**

**Marietta, OH**

## 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.



Your letters, articles, pictures and stories are always welcome. Submission deadline for the next issue is August 31st

**The Reverend Deacon L. Gordon Brewer, Jr - Editor**