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History of Camp McDowell
Rev. B. Scott Eppes

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A HISTORY OF CAMP McDOWELL

The Conference Center of the Diocese of Alabama, as compiled by the Reverend B. Scott Eppes, who was appointed by the Bishop of Alabama, the Right Reverend C. C. J. Carpenter, to build and be in charge from 1946 until his retirement in 1978.

CAMP SONG

By the Reverend Harry H. Pritchett, Jr.

Wonderful, wonderful, Camp McDowell beautiful queen of Clear Creek.
Where we come to stay, worship, work and play,
And our hearts are ever shining at
Wonderful, wonderful, Camp McDowell, how we hate to go away.
For these few short days we will ever praise, singing
Camp McDowell, wonderful, wonderful, Camp McDowell always!!!

BEGINNINGS

Camp McDowell began in 1922 at Battles Wharf in Baldwin County during the episcopates of Bishop Charles M. Beckwith and Bishop Wm. G. McDowell. It was conducted at several locations in Alabama after this beginning. Montevallo and Shocco Springs were two of the sites.

In 1945 the United States Government urged churches and other organizations to promote home morale. The Reverend Marshall Seifert suggested this to Bishop Carpenter, who brought the idea to the attention of the Department of Christian Education of the Diocese. The Reverend Randolph R. Claiborne, Jr., Chairman of the Department, and Mrs. Olive Crump, Director of Youth Work in the Diocese, made plans for camp at Oak Mountain State Park that summer. Then, for three summers, three camps were conducted there. Senior, junior and adult groups had enthusiastic gatherings.

Bishop Carpenter wanted to buy a permanent site for camps and conferences. The Department of Christian Education began searching for such a location. Two sites on the Tennessee River, suggested by the Reverend Robert Marlow, were examined. These could have been leased for terms of twenty years. A farm near Montevallo and property near Chalkville were looked over.

Then a site in Winston County was discovered. The Reverend B. Scott Eppes had been asked by the Reverend Randolph R. Claiborne, Jr. to aid in the search for a good location. Both had part in establishing Camp Mikell in the Diocese of Atlanta.

One day in November 1945, Mr. Eppes was visiting the Kiwanis Club of Jasper. The speaker for the program failed to appear, and Mr. Eppes was asked to talk. Having noticed a lack of recreational facilities in Jasper, he suggested that Jasper could use parks with baseball fields, tennis courts, a swimming pool and lodge for group meetings.

At the end of the impromptu talk he stated that the Episcopal Church in Alabama was looking for a site upon which to establish a camp and conference center. A place with rugged beauty, plenty of water for swimming and boating, level ground for athletics, accessible to electrical power, and easy access to a highway was what the Church had in mind. At the meeting Mr. Neil Kilgore suggested that he knew a wonderful place on Clear Creek.

One day, a cold December one in 1945, Mr. Kilgore took Mr. Eppes to the place. They rode part way in from Number 5 Highway, then walked a half mile to the creek. The property gave promise.

Mr. Eppes made several exploratory trips to the site. Mr. Lucien Boyer, recently returned from World War II in Germany, went along for the walk, with his mother's suggestion (prodding).

Mr. Kilgore took Mr. Eppes to the Winston County Court House at Double Springs to find out who owned the land. Mr. Pete Summers of Birmingham owned 160 acres in that area. He and his family had used it about twenty-five years for camping and hunting. He was willing to sell it as his children had grown up and moved away from the area.

The Department of Christian Education of the Diocese examined the site and was willing to locate Camp McDowell there. Mr. Claiborne had not seen the place and would not consent to the deal until Bishop Carpenter had visited it. So on a pretty day in May Bishop and Mrs. Carpenter, Mr. and Mrs. Marshall Seifert, Mr. and Mrs. Eppes and Benjamin Eppes spent most of the day on the beautiful white sandy beach. They explored the area and Mr. Seifert took many pictures that day and many days during the following years. During the day the Bishop asked Mr. Eppes when we were going to buy the place. He replied "When you say so." The purchase was consummated shortly.

BUYING THE LAND

Judge Baldwin, Chancellor of the Diocese, handled the business. When the final papers were ready to be signed, the judge noted that Mr. Summers' wife had signed them in Indiana. He hesitated a bit and discussion ensued. The conversation was a bit heated. At that point Mr. Eppes left the room and walked down the hall on the top floor of the Comer Building. This gave the two elderly men time to calm down. Mr. Summers threatened to drop the whole transaction. But the judge agreed that everything was legal.

At that time, the Depression was still influencing the economy. Land values, especially in that part of Winston County, were quite low. Much was sold at about \$2.00 per acre. Mr. Summers said that he would sell the 160 acres for less than he had paid for it. He had paid \$700.00 for it some twenty-five years earlier. Now he would sell for \$600.00. No jubilant smiles betrayed Mr. Eppes' inner feelings. The transaction was completed. Previously Mr. Summers had sold timber and made a little money.

Two additional parcels, each of 80 acres, were added to Camp McDowell's holdings soon...one from Mr. Grady Noblett, and one from Mr. Heuston Noblett. Mr. John Kilgore, father of Neil, was much help in these buyings. He continued to be of great help for many years.

The first 160 acres were rugged, not valuable for farming. The Noblett lands were better for farming. One tract cost \$1200.00 and the other, \$1800.00. This additional acreage gave room for hiking without trespassing on neighbors' lands. Also the camp's cattle production prospered on the pastures.

BUILDINGS

Mr. Seifert heard that Camp McClellan at Anniston, was selling surplus army barracks. Bishop Carpenter, Charles and Douglas Carpenter, Mr. Seifert and Mr. Eppes went to Anniston to learn about the sale. Hutments, 16' x 16', and buildings 20' x 100' were to be disposed of. The buildings were in good, usable condition. They were to be sold as they were, where they were. The buyer was to move them at his expense. Information gathered that day indicated that the small hutments would bring less than \$15.00....The larger ones about \$150.00. Our bids at these prices were accepted. We bought some then and others after the first of the year.

Mr. Tom King of Anniston made a bid on a building at the same time. He wanted to buy one and donate it to Judson College to replace one just burned. Mr. King got one building we had made a bid on and we got a building he had made a bid for. An exchange was made. In this business we met Mr. King and learned that his carpenters had built many such structures for the government.

Facing us was the task of moving eighteen buildings from Anniston some 150 miles, and in time for camp in 1948. Mr. King offered his crew of carpenters to dismantle, transport and erect them in Winston County; and we would pay their wages. One crew dismantled the structures at Camp McClellan. Another crew of six Anniston carpenters, plus six laborers from Winston County, put them together again.

The six Anniston carpenters arrived at McDowell one cold, rainy afternoon. The only shelter was a 20' x 60' shed with sides open. The work camp of twelve boys, three clergy and one man cook was the first to use the shed. Mr. Eppes wondered whether those men would leave for home that November afternoon. However, accustomed to hunting and camping out, they were ready to work the next day when the first load of buildings arrived. By night the first cabin, No. 8, equipped with a tiny pot-bellied stove, was complete. Eighteen structures were complete by Christmas Eve. All were insured that day.

Bids were made on additional cabins and bought in February. With these we began camp in June 1948. For insurance purposes each cabin was given a number. This first group was numbered 1 to 18. Following our numbering schedule, when another cabin was placed in the boys' unit, it was numbered "19". A metal number indicated the building. It happened to be next to Number 1. A short while after camp began the next summer, we heard campers speaking of Cabin Zero. They were corrected. "We have no cabin 'Zero.'" According to their reckoning, a cabin next to cabin "1" had to be "zero". Protests availed nothing. Cabin ZERO was its name.

FURTHER ACQUISITIONS OF LAND

The site chosen for our dam was partly on U. S. Forestry land. To obtain this required 39 months. The government forester offered to lease, without cost, the small lower beach area where we "swam" in three feet of cool water. Mr. Charles Tweedy, Jasper, advised us that the land could be acquired by a land-for-land exchange. However, we made no progress until Mr. Carter Manasco, Congressman for our district, met with the camp committee. Mrs. Olive Crump, diocesan youth worker, had known Mr. Manasco in Montgomery. Mr. Manasco invited the camp committee to lunch in Jasper. After lunch we all went out to the camp site. He asked if there was anything he could do to help us. We mentioned that we needed a little land on the creek for a dam.

The next week, the government forester in Montgomery called Mr. Eppes, offering to meet with him and Bishop Carpenter in Birmingham to discuss the proposed land exchange. Mr. Manasco was on the appropriation committee of Congress. The Forestry Department was glad to do favors for members of Congress. To complete the exchange we bought 150 acres of land six miles east of Double Springs from Mr. Will Brumbach and gave it for 32 acres which we needed for a lake. This cost us \$1940.00. The land we received measured 1/4 mile x 1/2 mile on both sides of Clear Creek.

The next 40 acres came in exchange for 40 we bought near Black Pond to exchange with Greif Brothers. This tract on the road between the highway and camp, one unoccupied house included, was used, had been for years, by bootleggers. This was undesirable.

We approached Mr. Chaffont, manager of Greif Bros., seeking to buy it. He laughed and said, "We buy land; we don't sell land." The problem remained.

A year or so later Mr. Chaffont met us at the site. He agreed to give us the unoccupied house and we could remove it. Mr. Gober, caretaker, dismantled it, moved it, rebuilt it for a barn. After five years Mr. Chaffont agreed to exchange that land for the Black Pond forty. He explained that he could not show a loss in acreage, but could show a difference in description. This forty cost \$1000.00.

Forty acres between camp and the highway were owned by Mr. Kidd. Ownership of this acreage would mean protection toward the highway. In conversation with the Bishop at one time, Mr. Eppes suggested that it would be nice to acquire it. During a very busy period of the summer camp, Mr. Kidd approached Mr. Gober and indicated that he would like to sell. Mr. Henry Calmes contacted Mr. Kidd at Sylacauga and arranged a meeting. Out of camp funds we bought that for \$1,000.00. Later in the week the Bishop was notified.

The Lethe Brook area was a favorite hiking place. Miss Peggy Horn took many groups there. She suggested that we buy it, but the Hiwassee Land Co. was not interested. A few years later a new manager and his family attended St. Mary's in Jasper. He worked out a deal whereby camp bought 32 acres, both sides of the creek, for \$1440.00. They sold rocky, unproductive timber land. But it was beautiful for our purpose.

A problem arose with strangers walking to the creek on government land which was just forty feet from our girls' cabins. The government owned 28 acres in this spot. To acquire this land we had to buy land, suitable to the government foresters, and exchange it for what we desired. Again Mr. Henry Calmes came to our aid, as he had throughout the years, and worked out the deal. The government set a price of \$5,000.00 on the 28 acres. Upon completion of the business we had a professional forester, timber cruiser, cruise the timber on the area. He estimated \$5,000.00 worth of timber on it. Not long after that we sold timber, realizing about \$17,000.00. Some of that was harvested on the twenty-eight acres.

THE ROAD

The Winston County Highway Department, with Mr. John Snoddy as chairman, promised and graded the road one and one-half miles into camp. It was grand....however, dusty in dry weather, slick and muddy in wet weather. It was completed in July 1947, just before the first workboy camp. We had contracted with Mr. L. V. Harvill, licensed civil engineer, to survey the road. Mr.

Snoddy asked us to cut all trees in the right-of-way, leaving them six feet tall. We hired a crew of men, and in extremely hot weather, cleared the road in two weeks. When the bulldozer operator came, he said that he wished we had left the whole trees as it was easier to push them over!

Mr. John Kilgore spoke often about graveling the road. Workboys hauled redrock for the road with an old dump truck donated by a layman from Opelika. After several years, the State Highway Department graveled the road. While completing the job, the highway department agreed to grade and gravel the road from the top of the hill left down by the director's cabin. This became the main road to the dining hall. The foreman on the job said there was enough money allotted for the job to complete this extra two hundred yards. Previously the road ended in front of the infirmary.

After a lapse of time "Mr. John" reported that the camp road was going to be paved. "Mr. John" was a politician. Working through Mr. Rankin Fite of Hamilton, who operated through Mr. "Big Jim" Folsom, he made the road-paving a reality.

Shortly before the road was paved we bought forty acres between the field and up to about two hundred yards of the highway. If we had not bought then, it would have cost more later.

ELECTRICITY

Before we bought camp property, the Alabama Power Company was informed of our plan and we asked if electricity would be available. We were given an affirmative answer, and we made plans with this in mind. As time went on and we began building we wondered when electricity would be produced. Talk with the Jasper manager was not favorable. Bishop Carpenter was called and asked whom he knew in the Power Company who could help. He said that Mr. Tom Martin, chairman of the board, had from time to time, called upon him to ask prayers at various meetings. He could contact him. In a few days the warden of Camp McDowell went out to camp, as was his custom, preparing the facilities for June operation. It was a sight to behold! Many men were at work building a mile and a half long line from the highway into camp. In four days the job was complete. Now the lights could come on!

WATER

The Reverend Mr. Kitchens, his sons Fern and Charles, drilled a 329-foot-deep well for water. It produced 45 gallons per minute.. and kept on producing at that rate for many years. We had pump troubles from time to time. Pumps do break down.

One Sunday morning as Mr. Eppes was about to begin service in St. Mary's in Jasper, Mrs. Eppes appeared at the side door of the church, followed by Mr. Marcus Gober, caretaker, with empty water barrels. Camp was out of water; the pump had broken down. One hundred people at camp needed water.

They filled the barrels while the vicar carried on with the service! His faithful wife, Frances, carried on! During the early 1950's water was scarce in Winston County, but the camp well's supply never faltered. Many neighbor farmers came with their water containers to be filled.

PLUMBING

The Rev. Wm. S. Stoney, Grace Church in Anniston, assisted in early plans and building of the camp. Through his connection with the Kilbys (Kilby Steel Co.), we secured 1700 feet of four inch cast iron pipe. This was used for main sewage lines. This gift saved many dollars. This gift came about in the following manner. The Second World War was going on. Kilby Steel Company needed steel to carry on its business. But government regulations would not allow them to buy steel unless they made cast iron pipe. Therefore they began producing pipe. When we began building camp, Kilby Steel happened to have 1700 feet of four inch pipe on hand which was donated to Camp McDowell.

Months before camp was to open in June, 1948, a plumbing company in Birmingham promised to supply 21 commodes. We completed the preliminary roughing-in. As weeks passed by, no commodes were available from the trusted supplier. They were just not available. His expected shipment failed to arrive. Three commodes were secured from three kind plumbing companies. These were installed. Three were not enough! Therefore Sunday afternoon before campers were to arrive the next day, the Rev. Thomas Thrasher, Charles Warden and other conscripted workers who happened to be nearby constructed three latrines. Mr. Beverly Eppes, brother of Scott, aided in plumbing installations.

DAM

Clear Creek, clear when rain was not falling, cool always, provided "swimming" in three feet deep water. Everyone had a splashing-good-time. Mr. Carol Smith, civil engineer of Decatur, selected a site for a small lake. The site happened to be partly on U. S. Forest land. This problem was worked out. Mr. Smith, with the help of a T. V. A. engineer, drew plans for the dam. The laymen of the diocese began raising money for the dam. Estimated cost of the dam was \$20,000.00. Laymen throughout

the state began saving dimes and placing them in small tin banks. Four thousand dollars were raised in this way. Laymen spoke of "Dam Dimes."

To dam the creek, it was necessary to secure permission from the state to "impound" water. The regulation required a valve to drain the water whenever necessary. Mr. Wolf of Winston County contracted to install the cast-iron gate and build the abutment on each side. The gate drained through a five-foot diameter pipe. To buy the gate cost \$1100.00. Other expenses used up most of the cash on hand. This left the abutment, pipe and valve in place but no dam!

A plan was conceived by which 90-pound steel rails were to be concreted in the solid rock bottom of the creek. A well-drilling outfit was engaged to drill 6" diameter holes three feet deep in the floor of the creek. Spaced four feet apart, they crossed the 150-foot width of the creek. This work required about three days in the month of April, usually a dry month. Rain would have meant high water and trouble. All went well.

The second step of the alternate plan for a dam was to bolt oak, pressure-treated 2" x 6" boards to the upstream side of the upright rails. Then heavy roll roofing tarpaper was tacked to the upstream side of the boards. Campers were swimming when the roofing was applied. One little boy wrote to his mother telling what a good lake we had at camp: "It filled up while we were in swimming." This temporary dam kept water impounded two years. Then we began building rock walls upstream and downstream of the rails. This was done little by little, as money for concrete became available.

Mr. Henry DeBardleben visited Camp McDowell one night. Later he offered to back up our dam with large rocks to give it support and prevent its collapse. We accepted his offer. He sent out a rock drilling outfit, blasting equipment and large bulldozer, and two men to operate the equipment. They worked one month and reinforced our dam with large boulders. Their work created a nice smooth rock ledge just behind our dam. However, the winter rains pushed the new rock dam downstream some twenty feet. The steel rail and wood dam stood firm. The rocks were utilized as fill between two rock walls we constructed upstream and downstream. When rocks were placed between the two dams of rock, ready-mixed concrete trucks were backed up to the dam and covered the rocks. Thus the dam grew to a height of seven feet.

During the construction of Smith Lake, the chairman of the Alabama Power Company's Board of Directors, Mr. Tom Martin, called

Bishop Carpenter and asked what they could do to avoid damaging our camp program. We suggested that they raise our camp dam five feet. This would raise the level of our lake four feet above the normal high-water mark of Smith Lake. They contracted with Steel City Construction Company of Birmingham, to do the work. This was performed. This elevation backed water upstream as far as our property extends.

When the Power Company impounded water in Smith Lake, some twelve acres of camp property were covered. We expected them to take ownership of this. But after more than one year had elapsed, they informed us that they would settle for an easement with a right to flood twelve acres. When our dam was raised an additional five feet by the Power Company, it necessitated clearing brush. As this was not included in the initial contract to clear the 500 miles of lake banks, they asked us to do this. We did the job for \$500 with "Work-Boy" labor.

RAFTING

During our first summer in Winston County someone donated a twelve-man life raft. During the swimming period with the creek elevated by rains, the workboys used it to float down the creek several hundred yards. After each trip, the raft had to be carried through the brush of the bank for another ride.

After the swimming period was over, Mr. Eppes suggested taking the raft up to Spain's mill at the Clear Creek bridge for a ride down five miles. All seven aboard had an experience to be remembered. Normally the stream has barely enough water to float a boat, but when there has been a good rain, floating is much fun.

Mrs. Eppes drove us to Spain's mill in the camp truck. By the time we were launched, the shades of night were falling fast! Soon it was quite dark. Many twists and turns were encountered. Rounding one bend we heard a waterfall. Soon the raft plunged several feet but remained right-side up. At Tiller's we also dropped several feet. The ride was great. Since that first trip older campers have enjoyed rafting when the creek was high.

FIRST RAFT TRIP TO CLEAR CREEK FALLS

One sunny day about 1952 several Camp McDowellites drifted down the creek. Two girls went along and when a stick punched a hole in the canvas raft, the girls were delegated to take turns holding one finger in the puncture. Their efforts kept the raft afloat.

RECOVERY OF THE LOST RAFT

A steel-framed raft measuring eight feet by ten feet, constructed of two-inch angle iron, housed ten 55-gallon steel drums. It was anchored in the lake above the dam by four concrete piers. It provided an island for swimmers to sun-bathe and dive from.

All went well until heavy rains one night broke the chains and washed the raft downstream. A three-mile search for it failed. An expedition was organized to find the missing raft. Workboys equipped with axes, a saw, rope, food, etc. set afloat downstream.

One boy, Jim Shelbourne, served as navigator. He was equipped with a map of the creek and a compass. He was able to mark the miles we traveled, twelve in all. The creek makes three "U" turns between camp and the Falls. Several miles downstream, we spotted the raft in a narrow, deep portion of the stream. The eight-foot side of the raft was barely showing above the water. Nearby, three of the lost barrels were trapped in bushes above the water. After much maneuvering we managed to place the three barrels under corners of the raft and float it down to the Falls where another workboy was to meet us with the camp truck. The raft was fetched that same day. It was retired from lake duty and given duty on dry land at camp.

CLERGY RAFT TRIP

During one of the early clergy conferences at Camp McDowell the twelve-man raft gave twelve clergy an exciting trip down the five-mile stretch from Spain's mill to camp. Near camp the raft caught on a submerged rock, causing it to swirl around. Lester McManis and Bob Cook, sitting in front and facing the rear, showed fear.

COLLEGE CAMPS

Bishop Murray directed camps for college students a few years. Students from Alabama and Auburn supplied most of the campers. There was great rivalry between the two groups. The Rev. James Stirling of Auburn breathed the War Eagle spirit. Time between the close of summer school and the opening of the fall session seemed to be the only available time for such a camp. Securing campers became more of a problem each year. Doug Carpenter, student, was successful in recruiting.

COLLEGE CAMPS

The Rev. Marshall Seifert organized and operated several camps for boys.

During the camp for boys, one day Mrs. Seifert and several other camp leaders were seated in the dining hall talking. One of her two sons appeared and announced that a snake was struggling to loose himself from where he was caught between two boards of the cabin wall. They all laughed. When it dawned upon Frances Seifert that it was her cabin the snake was in, the news took a rather personal turn. Something had to be done immediately. The twelve-inch long snake was freed!

CONFERENCES AND CAMPS FOR THE DEAF

The Rev. Robert C. Fletcher, minister to the deaf in Alabama, conducted one conference for all deaf workers of the Episcopal Church in the U.S. About thirty attended. Their children, mostly hearing, attended and enjoyed a special program for them.

For several years Mr. Fletcher, with help from Mrs. Fletcher and two or more teachers from the Talladega School for the Deaf, conducted camps for deaf children at McDowell. The campers put on exhibitions with their band.

The deaf congregations of Alabama gathered at McDowell for picnics and church services several years. The largest gathering numbered about 300 people. All were fed in the dining hall... and it was filled to the brim! On that occasion the camp staff served dinner. Other years each family supplied its own food.

At camp, and also at St. Mary's, Jasper, where services for the deaf were conducted by the Rev. Mr. Fletcher every second Sunday afternoon during free time, those attending gathered in circles and talked to one another. Circular groups gave everyone opportunity to follow the sign language being "spoken."

TIMBER SALES

From three timber sales, Camp McDowell has realized \$26,000. Each selling has been under the U.S. Forestry Dept. or Forest Management companies. Thus, only timber that needed to be cut was put up for sale. Timber that was mature, stopped growing or was dead was sold each time to the highest bidder. Under such management the forest thrives and produces. From 1946 to 1978 we paid \$12,000 for land. Sale of timber earned \$26,000.

CATTLE

When we began camping at Oak Mountain State Park, meat was rationed and had to be hauled to camp once each week. Meat was scarce. Therefore, when war began in Korea, we considered growing beef cattle. Bishop Carpenter asked Episcopalians throughout

Alabama to donate calves to camp. Many generous people responded. Calves were fetched in the camp truck. Much of the feed for the herd was produced on camp land. The herd was built up to about thirty. We planted pastures, baled hay and crushed corn. Four registered Hereford bulls were donated in the early days. One from Florence was named "C.C.J." In later days of our farming operations Mr. Jewett T. Flagg donated registered Santa Gertrudis bulls every two years, and many cows.

BARNES

The first was a little one moved from the Noblett field to a place near the caretaker's house. It served as stable for Nellie, Mr. Gober's horse. Camp fed Nellie, and Nellie worked the camp garden.

Next was the Grady Noblett House, owned by the Jasper Heading Mill. Mr. Noblett had moved away. The Heading Mill gave camp the house. Mr. Gober took it down, moved it to camp where hired carpenters erected a barn out of the lumber. This was used for hay and other feed.

The third was a barn donated by the Jasper Heading Mill (Greif Bros.) It was situated at Arley, 25 miles from camp. Workboys dismantled it and moved the lumber to camp. For several days the crew rode to Arley in the morning, began dismantling until dinner time, loaded lumber, hauled it to camp, ate lunch and went back for another load. Carpenters were hired to rebuild it.

The fourth barn, 30' X 70', used to store hay, lumber, furniture, etc. It was strong enough for trucks to drive in for unloading. The tractor unloads and stacks big bales of hay in it. One carpenter, Archie LaCroix, and a crew of workboys erected this one.

PEWS

The Rev. Marshall Seifert discovered some unused longleaf pine pews in a church in South Alabama. All Saints, Homewood, made use of them for some time. When All Saints needed them no longer we hauled them to camp where they are in use today. St. Mary's-On-The-Highlands, Birmingham, donated about six oak pews. Mrs. Linn Palmer, Jr., of Dora was instrumental in the donation of chapel pews and other furnishings. These were given by Mrs. S.T. Chichester of Hyattsville, Md.

CABINS

The first permanent cabin, St. Michael's, was given in the name of St. Michael's, Anniston. It came about in a rather unique

manner. During the diocesan convention in Selma, 1948, the committees considering Camp McDowell were asked by one member, Mr. John B. LaGarde of Anniston, what type of construction was to be used. Plans drawn by Mr. Allen L. Bartlett, architect appointed by Bishop Carpenter, were brought forth. During the afternoon meeting, Mr. LaGarde announced that he and Mr. Tom King of Anniston would give a cabin. Mr. King knew nothing of the promise! He received the news later after Mr. LaGarde returned to Anniston.

St. Luke's was given by St. Luke's, Birmingham Advent, by Church of the Advent, Birmingham. Murray Manor by Womans's Auxiliary of the diocese. This one was designed by the Department of Christian Education! Barnwell erected by St. Pauls's, Selma in memory of Bishop Barnwell. Carol Smith in honor of Carol Smith, Decatur engineer, cabin counselor, and maker of plans for the dam. Cabins St. Martha's, St. Francis, Carpenter and St. Mark's were built from Diocesan Advance Funds. The Women of the Church built the Infirmary. The Work Boys', Director's, Cook's, Care-taker's, and Warden's were financed by Advance funds of the diocese.

KILBY PAVILLION

Given in memory of Tommy Kilby, III who died serving his country in Korea, by Grace Church, Anniston.

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B U I L T I N T H A N K S G I V I N G
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" F A T H E R F O R G I V E "



A F R A M E D P L A Q U E C O N S I S T -
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COST OF CABINS

St. Luke's, Advent, Barnwell and Carol Smith cabins cost \$2,000 each to build. Carpenter, St. Mark's, St. Matthew, St. Martha's and St. Francis', built a few years later, cost \$3,000 each. Prices on other camp buildings varied much according to size. Cabin Zero's was about \$3,500, Eppes Hall, \$25,000, Claiborne Rec. Hall, \$17,000. The Business Women at their annual retreats donated several hundred dollars to camp each year. Also they paved the walk to the creek.

BELLS

The first bell was a locomotive bell with a good sound. It was purchased for \$12.00 at a junk yard in Birmingham. However, it was not loud enough (are any?) to awaken sleepy campers who stay awake too late at night. Therefore, when word came that a larger bell was available at an old Episcopal church in Hayneville, the opportunity was seized. The land and church had been sold. The bell was not. Early one summer morning the warden and Jeff Obert left camp in the camp truck, equipped with rope, pulleys and other tools with which to remove the bell from the church steeple and load it in the truck. Everything went well. None of the many wasps flying in the belfry bothered to sting. The trip back to camp was too late for a "lights out" bell ringing, but in time for a "wake up" one at 7 A.M. Later on, a suitable belfry was erected in the middle of camp. When the Rev. Graham Glover, a longtime camp staff member, asked for the locomotive bell, no longer needed at camp, it was donated to the church at Coden, Alabama.

THE CHAPEL

Near the beginning of our operations at Camp McDowell, Mrs. Pierce N. McDonald, widow of the Rev. Pierce N. McDonald, former rector of the Church of the Ascension, Montgomery, gave \$10,000 to build a chapel at camp in memory of her husband. She stipulated that it was to resemble the Church of the Ascension in Montgomery! What a large order. Mr. Bartlett, camp architect, worked on plans several months with little success. Then the Rev. Wm. S. Stoney, Grace Church, Anniston, told the camp committee about an open-air chapel for summer visitors to the mountains of South Carolina. Pictures of that chapel were secured and given to Mr. Bartlett. The building rested on a level lot covered with flagstones. The chancel and sanctuary were constructed of logs, the nave wide open, only posts and roof.

At that time we thought in terms of summertime use for the camp. Bishop Carpenter wanted nothing to impede the movement of breezes in the chapel, therefore the sides of the nave were left open.

With an accepted plan, we sought a builder. Some builders in Birmingham told the architect that it could be built for \$10,000, but none would agree to build it. Several took copies of the plans, kept them some months, returned them saying that they had government jobs and could not take the chapel job. Their government jobs paid cost-plus. Frustrated, the camp committee hired stone masons, Jesse Adams, sons and others, who began quarrying stone and digging foundations. Steel I-beams were bought and unloaded at the site. All foundations rested upon solid rock and were rather deep. Shaping stone by hand is slow work. When construction reached floor level, money ran out.

Timber sale on the 32 acres we got from the government brought \$2,000. From time to time money was available. The laymen of the diocese were active in keeping the project alive. Steel beams were erected, roof put on, temporary ends of the chapel built. After the elapse of some time, the laymen suggested that we hire a contractor, Mr. Todd Robbins, perhaps, to complete the job. He proposed to finish the chapel, replacing the temporary structure with permanent stone. The bid was \$28,000...We had \$8,000. No deal!

Shortly after that, we learned through Mr. Dawson Adams, who was adding a third floor to the Winston County Jail with stone from Oneonta, that Oneonta stone, almost ready to be used, could be bought at a price much lower than hand-dressed stone. Knowing what the stone would cost, the Adamses agreed to complete the chapel for \$8,000. In a short time the temporary part was removed and permanent stone laid. What began in 1950 was completed in 1957! The total cost was about \$35,000. It seats 175 campers. Mr. Robert Tomlinson, Trinity, Florence, was treasurer of camp fund during those trying years.

EMERGENCY VOLUNTEER

One summer when the Government began paying school lunch-room workers unemployment for the summer we had great difficulty hiring cooks. That July Mrs. Amalia Eppes Rogers came visiting her parents at Camp. Upon her arrival she "volnteered" for kitchen duty!

SWIMMING

First was in cool Clear Creek. Years later a lake created by a temporary dam of seven feet made for better "swimming", next a lake 12 ft. deep and 1/2 mile long, canoe size.

Year after year, campers asked for a swimming pool on top of the hill near the dining hall. Always the answer was..."When we get \$30,000 a pool will be built." Finally in 1960 Bishop Carpenter made arrangements to advance \$20,000 of money from the yearly Advance Fund of the diocese. And this with \$10,000 for the present year would practically pay for the pool. The National Pool Equipment Co. of Florence had the contract to build the pool, a Junior Olympic size one. We performed the grading and fencing around the pool. The total cost was about \$35,000. And it was worth every Advance Fund Dollar of it!

Operating a pool requires much know-how. When the pool was completed Mr. Eppes took his son, Benjamin, to Florence to consult with the National Pool Co., builders of the pool. Their specialist was hired for several days to train Benjamin to operate the pool. Benjamin operated the pool two years.

CANOES

One reason for a lake was to have canoes. People enjoy paddling canoes. Some fifteen are in service during the camping season. Trips down to Clear Creek Camp and back are adventuresome experiences.

CREEK ADVENTURES

For years, campers were transported to Clear Creek Falls, Twin Falls, as there were two, several hundred yards apart. After sight-seeing, picnic suppers were served.

Preceding one trip to the falls, during college camp, Doug Carpenter, Billy McVay, Richard Slye and another boy planned to hike from camp down twelve miles of creek bank to the falls. Leaving shortly after lunch they set out. They expected to eat supper with the group. The main camp arrived, ate supper and looked for the arrival of the hikers. Darkness fell, but no hikers put in their appearance! The miles from camp to the falls were through rough terrain. The camp truck made several trips on the road from camp to the falls, sounding the horn repeatedly, listening for an answer from the hikers. The road was not far from the creek, but no contact.

Then about One A.M. the truck's horn was sounded near the Falls City bridge. Then a happy rendezvous took place. Hiking from 1 P.M. to about 1 A.M. through thick brush, wading and swimming the creek, which proved easier, no food, clothed scantily, they made beds of large mountain magnolia leaves. Soon after they decided to spend the night where they were, the horn sounded! The hikers were only a few hundred yards from the bridge and the truck. Cut with briars and bushes but jubilant at being found, they piled into the truck. Arriving at camp they welcomed one raid on the refrigerator that was permitted.

SWINGING BRIDGE

The need of a bridge across the creek was felt many years. Dry crossing meant loading into the flat-bottomed row boat and paddling. And to transport a large number of campers for a hike on the other side was very time-consuming.

For years, camp leaders talked about a swinging bridge. Then one day during a picnic of St. John's Church, Ensley, a Mr. Bill Hanes listened and offered to build one. He was superintendent of Alabama Power Company steam plant at Gorgas. He designed the bridge with four one-inch steel cables, two for the floor and two for hand rails, floored with treated boards. Each cable was anchored in solid rock on both sides of the creek. He did most of the work himself. After hauling material for construction, he called the warden telling him that he was to begin work the next Saturday. The two worked together. Completed in a few weeks, the bridge served well during the camping season.

High water the next spring snapped the steel hooks to which the cables were attached. The bridge collapsed. To remedy this a raised concrete pier was erected on each side of the creek. Each pier, three feet square enclosing four large steel rods anchored in two-foot-deep drilled holes in solid rock.

The work-boys, under the supervision of Mr. Rick Johnson and Mr. Eppes, labored most of the summer clearing the sites, drilling holes in which steel anchor rods were grouted. They strung steel cable zip lines across the creek to transport concrete blocks and mixed concrete to the sites. Many batches of concrete were prepared by the operating crew.

The bridge crew consisted of Mr. Johnson, Paul Stricklin, Olin Mefford, Robert Childers, Tom Heflin, Thomas Bolen, Rust Ross and others from time to time.

THE CROSS

In 1964 the Leadership Training Conference some twenty-five young people from Liverpool, England and Coventry Cathedral, boys and girls, united at camp with some 65 Alabama young people.

Mr. Eppes was to provide work projects for ninety young people. Half were to work mornings and half in afternoons. Four workboys, one to each team of ten campers, supervised. One group was to erect a cross on the cliff. Another had the task of roofing the partly-completed pavilion in honor of Canon Patey of Coventry. The third project placing concrete seats for the outdoor chapel and making an outdoor altar. The fourth job was to clear the area

of the new pavilion of stumps and rocks. Two girls, one English and one American, took their job seriously. Working hard digging up stumps, taking turns with digging tools, they were offered help by a boy. They told him to get lost, that stump was woman's work. They completed the job.

Preparation was made ahead of time for the cross job. Four 5/8" steel rods for uprights and horizontal sections of the cross, together with forms for the steel and concrete were on hand. The first job was to drill two 1" holes, two feet deep in the solid rock cliff. Into these holes two of the steel rods were stood vertically. The others, horizontally for the cross piece. Across the creek in the rowboat the workers had to transport sand, gravel, cement and water for the concrete. Everything had to be carried up the steep cliff to the cross site. The horizontal rods wired to the vertical rods in the box forms were then covered with mixed concrete. Ten days later the cross was unveiled. It has been standing ever since.

PILGRIMAGES

For five years Bishop Carpenter set aside a day in May, Mother's Day, for pilgrimages to Camp McDowell. Close to 500 people, principally from North Alabama, journeyed to Winston County for services of Holy Communion and picnic dinners. The purpose was to show the place to the people of the diocese. He accomplished his mission. A spot where the chapel is now situated was selected for the service. A portable organ served for music. Mrs. Peggy Steppe was organist each year.

PRANKS

As campers passed the swimming pool on their way to breakfast one morning, they were amazed to see Jack Harrison's Volkswagen on the deck of the pool behind the locked fence. It seem that Jack had had another "misunderstanding" with the workboys. And it resulted in his latest predicament.

One nurse discovered a Volkswagen missing one fine morning. In the location where she left it the night before were metal articles resembling the shape of an auto. This staff person on camp also had not learned the meaning of the saying: "If you cannot lick 'em, join them."

DOGS

During the first summer in 1948, Mr. Gober, caretaker, acquired a little black hound puppy whose name was Drum. But that puppy grew up to be a big dog. He seemed to know who were campers and

belonged to the place...and who were not. One day several hunters happened to cross a camp field about 1/4 mile from the caretaker's house. Apparently, Drum heard them and proceeded to investigate. One hunter bragged to his companions that he was going to teach the dog a lesson. However, the story that his buddies told when they returned to Poplar Springs was that he lost the seat of his pants in the "lesson."

Benjamin Eppes had a little dog, Teeny, who preferred to spend most of his time near his home cabin. On many occasions Teeny was heard barking in a distinctive manner. That bark meant that he had cornered a snake in his yard. Harrassing the snake continued until someone went to the cabin to investigate. Someone's presence let him know that it was time to attack and kill the snake.

MORE SNAKES

One afternoon while groups of small campers were pursuing their activities down near the creek, unusual sound reached the porch of the dining hall. The warden became curious and went to investigate. The leader of the group and about a dozen campers were watching a black snake swallowing a copperhead snake. The eater was slightly larger than the one being eaten. Generally this seems to be true.

Another day immediately after the noonday meal, Rick Johnson was mowing grass near Little Lambeth cabin. He motioned to the first person leaving the dining hall to come over to him. There in the grass a rather large copperhead snake was struggling in the coils of an even larger snake. In a few moments many observers were nearby to witness nature's way of serving dinner for her creatures. For twenty or more minutes, the battle raged. Repeatedly the poisonous copperhead sank his fangs into the attacking snake, but his venom failed to save his life. After a while the copperhead's head and neck went limp. He had been choked to death by the coiled aggressor. It was time for the victor to feast.

TREES

Canadian hemlocks, mountain laurel and mountain magnolias abound on Clear Creek. Those attract all who have eyes to see and appreciate them. The warden made a visit to Athens, Ga., in February 1949 to perform the marriage of his niece. Coming home to Birmingham, he took a long way by Blairsville, Ga. In those mountains from the sides of the road he pulled up many small white pines. Not often were the grasses, weeds, saplings cut back. Placed in a garbage can filled with wet sawdust, they kept well and were planted at McDowell the next day. About 25

were transplanted; most of them lived. Today some are among the tallest trees on the property. These trees produce burrs and seed, but as yet, no seed have sprouted.

BELL RINGER

The locomotive bell was installed on top of a pole. It could revolve around and around when the rope was pulled in a certain manner. Devilish campers, at times the woods are full of them, discovered that the bell could be positioned upside down and it would remain balanced until the rope was pulled. Late at night after the lights-out bell such devilish campers inverted the bell, and filled it with water. Early the next morning they watched as the director pulled the bell rope and received an unexpected shower. This happened from time to time.

WHO REMOVED THE BELL?

One morning the bell was not sounded at the get-up time. It had vanished during the dark of night. The dietitian was disturbed because the bell had not been rung. Shortly before breakfast time the dining hall was locked. Campers began gathering at the doors. Some asked why the doors were locked! The answer given was that before breakfast the bell had to be rung. As the bell had not been rung...no breakfast! Campers were hungry and disturbed. After about five minutes four boys were observed retrieving the bell, mounted on its heavy platform, from down the side of the ravine. The director rang the bell, doors opened and everyone ate breakfast.

ONE RAID

During one of our first young people's camps, when the Rev. Joe Horn was director, the girls decided to raid, march through the boys' area at bedtime. Confusion reigned! Joe was wringing his hands, not knowing how to stop the raid. Someone with keys to the kitchen went in, pulled the main electrical switch which plunged the whole camp into darkness. Not many minutes elapsed before the girls came running by the kitchen on their way back to their cabins. After about fifteen minutes, the lights were on again.

PROPERTY LINE

An annual task was clearing the growth along the three-mile length of camp property line. The government forester advised this. On one occasion the workboys crossed the creek and worked in the northeast part of camp property. Each worker had his individual canteen filled with cool water. Then after some time

everyone sat down to rest and have a refreshing drink of water. The first swig brought forth a loud sputter. Cautiously, others sampled their water jugs. By then everyone knew that all soap suds had not been rinsed out after washing. Thirsty workers had to wait some time before relieving their thirst.

RED SEA

As part of the program at Midget Camps, Bishop Stough had the whole camp cross the Red Sea. As the campers (Israelites) were crossing the Red Sea (Clear Creek), the camp staff members (Egyptians) began their attack. However, the sea (Clear Creek) rose and drowned the Egyptians....Then a real Camp McDowell mud battle began.

PIGS

For a number of years we raised pigs at camp. Then every evening after supper the workboys hauled the table scraps in the camp truck to feed the animals. Often times several girls would ride in the truck with the boys and scraps. Once while Charles Smith was standing in the truck emptying the big can into the concrete trough where pigs were scrambling for food, he got over-balanced and landed in the middle of the bunch. Pigs scattered, Charles blushed and climbed out.

Y P S L DAYS

For a number of years, Camp McDowell struggled to succeed. If we had fifty campers in a session, we could pay expenses. With seventy-five, we made a little profit. If ninety to one-hundred campers were in session, we could provide more necessities for operating camps. However, during our best years the diocese subsidized camp every year.

For about seven years, it was difficult to register seventy-five campers. We were glad to have non-Episcopalians register. During those years Mrs. Peggy Horn Rupp was Youth Advisor: Her efforts with our young people attracted and held them to the church and Camp McDowell.

Mrs. Rupp supervised groups of our young people on trips to Coventry Cathedral. Canon Patey of Coventry spent several days with us at McDowell. Dean H.C.M. Williams of Coventry visited us and presented a Cross of Nails to camp. This cross of silvered nails, one of which was found in the rubble of the bombed cathedral, rests on the mantel in the dining hall. The message of Coventry is reconciliation after the great wars. Forgiveness and brotherhood are our business.

THE JAKE STORIES

During the first summer at camp, Douglas Carpenter began telling his noted "Jake stories". They never end, always more, ever mystifying campers.

J A K E

During its formative years unforgettable characters drifted in and out of Camp McDowell from the surrounding Winston County forest. Jake is one of the most memorable. He now resides in a remote suburb of Double Springs. His appearance is unfortunate. In 1949 his father, filled with moonshine, became unbearably irritated with Jake's dog scratching fleas while hiding in the kitchen cabinet. Able to tolerate it no longer Grady Neblet (I change the name to protect the guilty) hurled his ax at the animal, but it landed in Jake's face, staying where it hit. Being singleminded in purpose Grady grabbed the dog and threw him down the well. When he returned, Jake was gone. Workboys from McDowell found him in a ditch, and doctors in Jasper did what they could.

Jake never allowed himself to believe that his own father could have done such a thing to a dog, so forever after he has taken out his wrath on campers at McDowell. There are many episodes in my memory. I'll briefly relate one..

In 1950 I was cabin counsellor for six fourth grade boys in old cabin 14. On the fourth day shortly after mid-night I woke from a sound sleep. I listened intently for any threatening sounds from the night. What caused my skin to crawl was the total absence of sound. Not a leaf whispered. My heart stopped. Framed in the screen window was Jake. The full moon cast a somber light over his ghoulish face and reflected from his one bulging eye. As silent as the night he leapt from the window. The next instant the screen door banged open and Freddie Baker was snatched from his bunk. Five other boys were under theirs.

My adrenaline now flowing I followed as in a nightmare through the woods behind the girls' cabins. Suddenly all was still again. Then Jake's rasping voice echoed from the cave, "Doug, if you give me any trouble I'll make this boy smile from ear to ear."

I knew the expression. It described the results of plunging a knife into the throat under one ear lobe and slicing forward until it is pulled out under the other.

I was paralyzed with fear.

Then a great cry of pain split the night.

Before I moved I could see someone running straight toward me. It was Freddie.

By now there were cries in camp that Scott Eppes was on the way. Most know that he sleeps with his brogans on and his machete in hand. No doubt that's the reason we had no casualties in those early days.

When the commotion died down Jake was gone and we had found that Freddie, being unable to stand Jake's dirty hand across his mouth any longer, had bitten a finger clean off and thus escaped.

At breakfast a plump redheaded girl questioned the whole thing. "I bet you made the whole thing up just to scare the girls. And anyway you couldn't bite a man's finger clean off through the bone. And if you did, then let's go find it in the cave."

Freddie turned a little green and said, "I'm afraid we can't find it there."

A low moan went up from those at the table as one by one we realized what Freddie meant he had done with the finger in his haste to leave the cave. No more breakfast was eaten at that table that morning.

And now if you are good boys and girls one night around the camp fire I'll tell you what happened to the plump redheaded girl two summers later in an episode that I call "Jake Incorporated".

CARETAKERS

Mr. Marcus Gober took the job as caretaker in 1948 and served faithfully and well many years, until 1966. He looked after the place, supervised the workboys, planted and harvested the garden. In the 1960's queer ideas were floating around. Any-one different from you might be suspected of most anything. Episcopalians were a bit strange in Winston County. And in the minds of many, "camps" were associated with fishing camps where many fishers caroused..Again we were accused of being Communists as some of our men wore beards. Mr. Gober, a Methodist, invited his church leaders to visit the camp, told them about our program and convinced them that we had a Bible school here. He gave a good image of the camp.

Mr. Gober was thin and not too strong. However, he worked hard and accomplished the tasks at hand. Once while he and the workboys were sawing logs with two-man crosscut saws, he and Douglas Carpenter were at work on a log. They stopped to rest a spell. Douglas sat down. Mr. Gober called another boy to take Doug's place and continued sawing. He was a good Christian man who used no tobacco or profanity.

Mr. Roy V. Johnson, "Rick," came as our second caretaker-manager and has performed in an exceptional manner. His many skills have made him a valuable leader in the operation of the camp. His dedication and loyalty have meant much to the life of McDowell. For years his job operating our beef cattle farm was exacting and important. Constant care of the water system and swimming pool operation have kept both running smoothly. Since 1978, the renovation and expansion program here have taxed his time and energy. McDowell would be lost without Rick.

CAMP FEES

Several times the warden realized that more money was needed to operate the camp. This would mean a slight increase in camp fees. However each time a suggestion was made, Bishop Carpenter, from general funds, subsidized the camp by an estimated amount that was needed. He was anxious to keep camp fees within range of as many campers as possible.

MRS. FRANCES CRANE EPPES

Whose love, understanding, devotion, timely advice, energy and many abilities made possible much that has taken place at Camp McDowell between the years 1946-1978.

VARIOUS JOBS

NURSING, seven years or more: Mrs. Quomby Sewell, Mrs. H.B. Drew, Mrs. Libba Jackle.

When Bishop Stough was Billy Stough he and Bill Brame marched their midget campers (shed boys) down the hill for breakfast.

St. John's, Ensley, supplied volunteers for work on many occasions. Glen Cunningham, Clay Hart, Richard Slye, Harry Watkins, Reginald Martin and many others served as carpenters and other jobs. Mr. Hart claimed that Mr. Eppes knew his off day from the Steel Mill and asked him to work at camp that day.

DIETITIANS: Mrs. Clarice Ethridge, Mrs. Gordon, Mrs. Vivian Osborne. Pat Dunn, Howard Rogers and Dick Grayson formed an unusual trio.

Jamey Carey, Yankee who was forced to stand when campers sang Dixie.

Buddy Driver attended three Midget camps. Then served waterfront.

One hot July day the Work Boys were occupied working on the dam..Being in the water all were cold. Then Mr. Henry Calmes came by Camp to inform us that a forest fire was $\frac{1}{2}$ mile west of camp.. We loaded fifteen boys in the truck, armed with fire rakes, headed to Popular Springs to aid the Forest Service with the fire fighting. While raking leaves away from the fireline one workboy saw a treetop of dead leaves explode. He pictured it as hell fire! We worked during the afternoon, then returned to camp for supper. We returned later to check with Foresters to make certain the fire was under control.

Frances Eppes, later married to Albert Brame, who was a faithful Workboy, was a flunkie from secretary to purchaser of food and various camp supplies.

Mr. Robert Tomlinson of Florence was one the first camp committee members who served as camp treasurer.

Mr Shine Peebles of Decatur served in several capacities: waterfront director, who, when we swam in the creek, had his hands full. The buddy system whereby swimmers selected buddies for each swim period, and was supposed to stay near his buddy. This was most important for when a swimmer submerged he was not visible. One day a buddycheck was called. One boy could not find his buddy! Supposedly, the buddy was in the water. A thorough search revealed no one. Finally the buddyless camper confessed that he had no buddy.

Dr. T.J. Payne, Jr. of Jasper, served medical emergencies without pay for a year or so. Later camp contracted for medical insurance.

BISHOP CHARLES C.J. CARPENTE R

Thus Bishop's dream was born, nursed and matured. Many thousands of Episcopalians in Alabama have shared his dream and labored to make it come true. Many hundreds benefit by Camp Mc-Dowell every year. It is our hope and prayer that it continues to be used in the Lord,s business many years to come. Bishop Car;enter,s timely advice was, "Remember who you are and what you represent."

About the Author

The Reverend Benjamin Scott Eppes, born August 15, 1906, in Athens, Georgia is a graduate of the University of Georgia (A. B. Degree), and of Virginia Theological Seminary (M.D. Degree). He served as Minister-in-Charge of Episcopal churches in north Georgia and was instrumental in founding Camp Mikell at Toccoa, Conference Center for the Diocese of Atlanta. He came to the Diocese of Alabama in 1942, as Rector of St. John's, Ensley, where a new church was built under his leadership. He was also Vicar at St. Mary's, Jasper, from 1942 until May 1977. In 1947 he was appointed by Bishop C. C. J. Carpenter to build and be in charge of Camp McDowell. He gave 32 years of dedicated service to the Diocese of Alabama in procuring lands, planning, building, improving, and supervising the camp, and inspiring its staff, counselors, workboys, and campers to be "Saints of God", whether doctors, lawyers, priests, or bishops.

Scott and Frances, his wife, have two daughters and a son. Since retirement he resides in Jasper and continues active in community affairs. Of Camp McDowell it has often been said, "If heaven isn't like Camp McDowell, there will be a lot of disappointed people."

By Mrs. Serena Boykin Colvin

Mother of four Campers, Counselors, two Workboys, Secretary, and Cook, and Grandmother of one camper!

Theology and Rationale for the Existence of Camp McDowell

By the Rev. Marc Robertson

Camp McDowell is a worthy ministry, and is worth significant investment in our Capital Funds Drive. Clear and simple. Here's why:

Camp McDowell teaches people how to SERVE. Through providing a place where community-building is not only taught but lived, thousands of people have had the experience of serving and being served, and enjoying that special grace that comes from both giving and receiving. Summer camps, retreats, and Cursillo are just a few of the powerful ways that young people and adults enter into forms of service never before experienced, and the church in this Diocese is more of a servant church as a result.

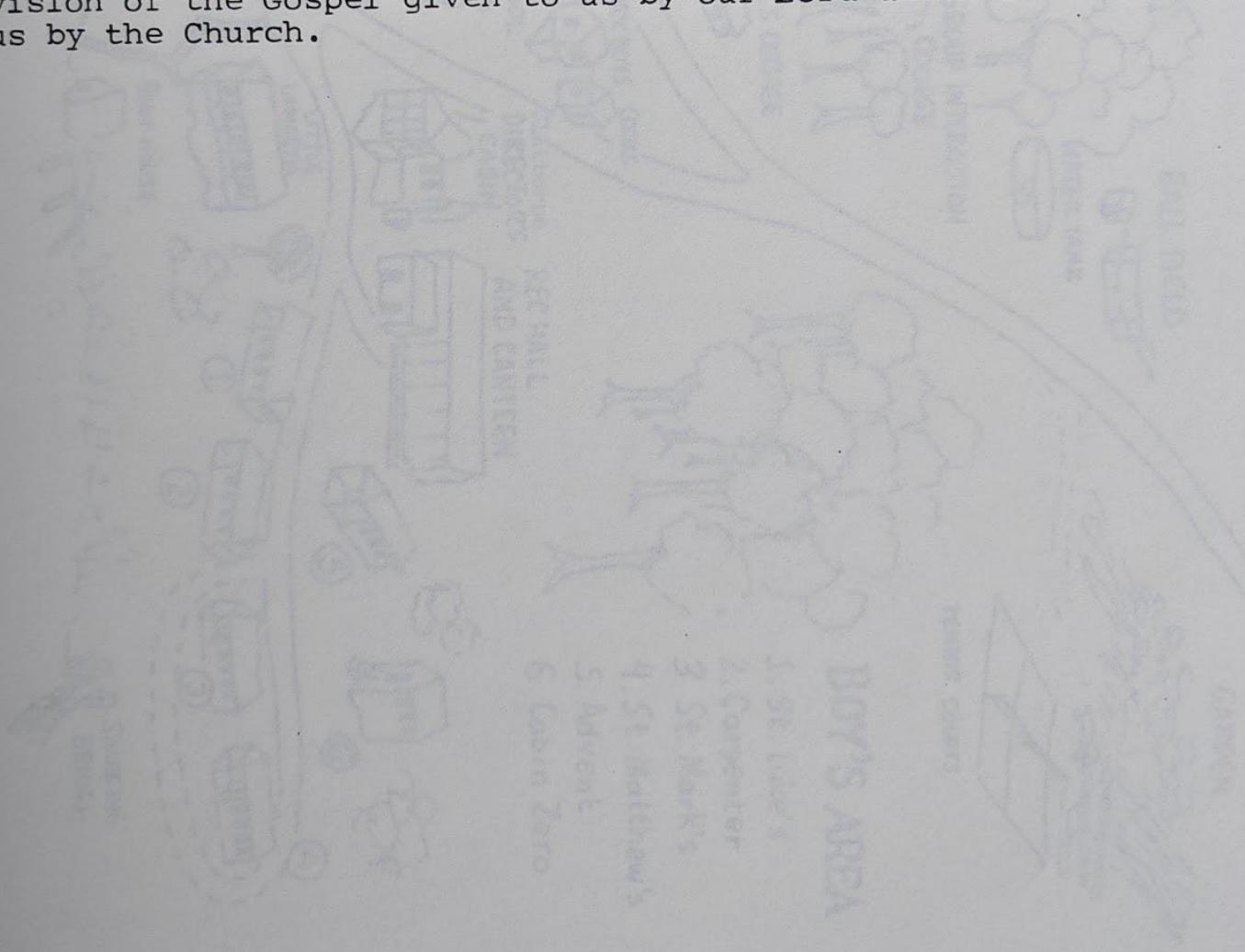
Camp McDowell gives powerful opportunities for WORSHIP. Here is a beautiful and exciting "laboratory" where many children receive communion for the first time, many adults participate in the liturgy in new and varied ways, where worship receives new and different faces, but where the Anglican tradition is always the anchor. Creativity linked with tradition makes Camp McDowell the most powerful vehicle for liturgical renewal in our Diocese.

Camp McDowell generates hundreds of opportunities for EDUCATION. Parish retreats, vestry retreats, youth conferences, Cursillo, stewardship education, special speakers...they have all been held at McDowell, and the teaching environment this camp has provided has been a catalyst for spiritual growth. Over the last few years alone, literally thousands of discerning hearts and minds have been challenged, nurtured, and instructed at this place, which provides that combination of comfort and rustic beauty so conducive to learning.

Camp McDowell is a spring-board for EVANGELISM. It happens quietly, subtly, but almost daily at this place. This summer alone there were dozens of children who came from other denominations who were exposed to the joy and freedom found in our Anglican tradition. More importantly, there were many young people with no church affiliation at all that came to camp and played, worshiped, and prayed. Scores and scores of high-school and college-age kids have found McDowell a place to ask difficult questions and to receive honest answers. The faith is not pre-packaged here for easy distribution---rather it is carved and hammered out of the difficult realities of human life...and it makes a difference. Renewal has been an integral part of McDowell, and those who have experienced Cursillo at this place can witness to the special setting McDowell provides. Throughout the years, McDowell has been a constant witness to the saving grace of Jesus Christ.

Finally, McDowell lends itself to the ministry of PASTORAL CARE. More than once intimate conversations about God have taken place in these woods. Quiet walks on the trails, rocking on the back porch of Eppes Hall, or sitting around the fireplace on a chilly evening all provide scenes of Christians caring for their fellow Christians. It was here at McDowell that many have received the pastoral guidance of the Bishop and the Commission on Ministry regarding their call to the priesthood. At this camp numerous opportunities to share grief and joy, victory and defeat, clarity of vision and confusion of mind with fellow pilgrims in the faith have occurred, and this place has provided that necessary atmosphere for such care to happen.

There is no single place that embodies so many different elements of the ministry of the Gospel in such a unique fashion as Camp McDowell. An investment of our time, effort, and money into this place, coupled with a creative vision of what it could really accomplish is not only important, but absolutely necessary to the vision of the Gospel given to us by our Lord and held forth for us by the Church.

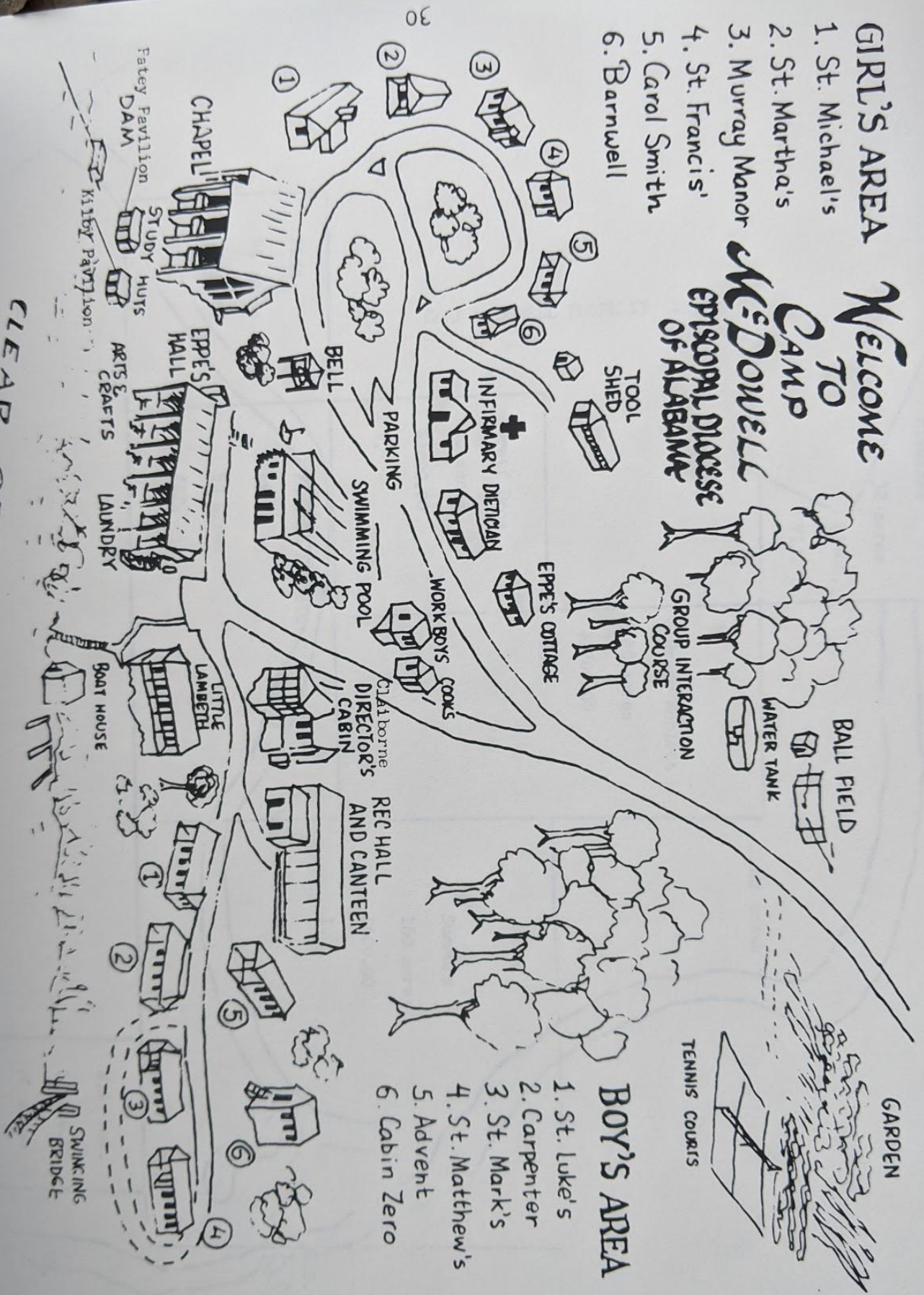


WELCOME TO MEDDOWELL CAMP

EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF ALABAMA

- GIRL'S AREA**
1. St. Michael's
 2. St. Martha's
 3. Murray Manor
 4. St. Francis'
 5. Carol Smith
 6. Barnwell

CLEAR CREEK



- BOY'S AREA**
1. St. Luke's
 2. Carpenter
 3. St. Mark's
 4. St. Matthew's
 5. Advent
 6. Cabin Zero

CAMP McDOWELL PROPERTY 1978

