

READING CAMP

The summer of 2010 marked our 8th year of Reading Camps and our continued growth outside of our diocese with volunteers leading new camps in Paducah and Leesburg, Va as well as our programs already running in South Africa, Lexington, Pine Mountain, Danville, Covington, and at the Domain. Veteran volunteers in our diocese and beyond experience not only the opportunity to enrich the lives of the campers, but also the gift to participate in the transformational mission that Reading Camp offers all who serve. The ministry of Reading Camp provides a path to meet and experience God in our neighbors who struggle with the foundational skill of reading.

Energetic volunteers plan to continue growing our ministry this summer at Emmanuel, Winchester, in the Diocese of Southern Ohio, and at St. Paul's in Cleveland Heights, Ohio. There's also an expansion with a second week of camp at St. James in Leesburg, Va where that parish is embarking on our second African adventure—this time with the first West African Reading Camp—through a connection with the Bromley School for Girls in Monrovia, Liberia. We continue to receive great interest in our ministry from all over The Episcopal Church.

We have been blessed with our most exceptional asset: extremely dedicated and faithful volunteers who coordinate and facilitate all aspects of the Reading Camp ministry. Reading Camp simply could not flourish without the time and talent of the many people committed to this ministry. The dedication of our volunteer teachers, support staff, camp directors, counselors, steering committee, parish liaisons, and recruiters make this ministry one of the great witnesses of loving our neighbors not only in this diocese, but in The Episcopal Church. To these people, I give my great thanks and gratitude for being the change so many wish to see in the world.

With the success and growth of Reading Camp, we also face financial challenges. While Reading Camp could not exist without the gifts of volunteers, it also cannot exist without very real financial costs. As we look to expand this ministry to other children and to other parts of this diocese, this country, and this world, we also look for ways to meet the costs of sharing this ministry with more and more people who deserve the right of the dignity of literacy.

Reading Camp now enters a period of transition with my resignation this month as I move on to new adventures. I look forward to celebrating the ministry of Reading Camp with our diocese at convention this month, and I also look forward to being in the position of an enthusiastic Reading Camp volunteer who still feels called to share the ministry of Reading Camp whenever and however I can. I know "Reading Rocks!"

The Rev. Janey Wilson comes in as a part-time interim Executive Director later this month and will serve through the end of August. I am grateful for the great volunteer leaders and executive directors who came before and provided a foundation from which we stepped forward, a foundation on which Janey and those to come will continue to build. I am thankful for my time leading the ministry in our diocese and excited that it remains an important mission of our diocese.

Respectfully submitted by,
Benjamin "Bungee" Bynum, Executive Director