

UTO REPORT
SEPTEMBER, 2010
Brenda Mayhall, Diocesan Coordinator

The total ingathering to date as of July 31, 2010 from parishes in the diocese is \$18,073.01. The balance in the UTO fund as of July 31, 2010 is \$25,117.34

The Diocese of Alabama has been notified by Claudia Conner, National United Thank Offering Coordinator that UTO grant awards have been approved for the two grants submitted by the ECW UTO Committee this past January. These grants selected received the approval of Bishop Parsley and were forwarded to National UTO.

The \$40,000.00 foreign grant application submitted was for the rebuilding of St. Alban's Church and School in Crochu, Haiti. This facility serves several mountain villages around Crochu of, collectively 15,000 people. St. Alban's church is the primary institution in the community, serving this population spiritually, educationally and medically. The parishioners of St. Alban's hoped to replace their crumbling wood, tin and stucco church, with a sturdy building large enough to serve their growing ministries. When a team from the Diocese of Alabama visited in 2006, they asked about a large pile of rocks surrounding the church. Rev. Fritz Valdema (known as "Pere Val") explained that since they had no money to rebuild the church, each family brought a rock to church as a weekly tithe. Those rocks will be used in the foundation. How exciting for the folks in Crochu !! Praise God !!

The \$17,750.00 domestic grant application submitted by St. Peter's Episcopal Church and Day School in Talladega is to assist in the funding for a handicapped accessible playground. This will allow mobility challenged students to be able to access the playground and enjoy the interaction with all the children in the same space. St. Peter's Day School currently has physically challenged children enrolled in their program who have not been able to fully participate during their outdoor time on the playground. This project will allow the program to continue to accept the physically challenged children. St. Peter's Episcopal Church and Day School's mission for the project is simple. They want to bear witness to the Episcopal Church's millennium goals and be recognized in their community as a servant and advocate for ALL of God's children. Congratulations St. Peters !! Thanks be to God !!

A presentation to the grant recipients is planned at the 2010 Fall Conference in Anniston.

If a parish or project wishes to complete a grant application for the upcoming year, please inform them to visit the ECW website at www.alabamaecw.org for more information on the application process. The completed applications are due back into the diocesan office by December 31st.

The Fall UTO Ingathering season is approaching. The recommended ingathering date should be scheduled so that the funds can be remitted to the ECW treasurer by November 15th.

United Thank Offering brings together Episcopalians in:

- Offering daily thanks and prayers as part of our life in Christ
- Taking the opportunity to put an offering in our UTO boxes
- Bringing our offering boxes, envelopes, or checks to our local parishes on ingathering days
- Joining our offerings with others to support mission projects at home and around the world.

Submitted by,

Brenda Mayhall
UTO Diocesan Coordinator