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**Upcoming events**

**Jan. 16** – ACPP empowerment training with the Alabama chapter of the National Association of Social Workers, 5015 Woods Crossing Drive, Montgomery, 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. For details, email organizer Shakita Jones at [shakita@alarise.org](mailto:shakita@alarise.org).

**April 14** – Arise Legislative Day, Montgomery. Details TBA.

**A few words from Kimble**



*By Kimble Forrister,  
 executive director*

My last sabbatical was in 1988 when I was working at Bread for the World. Bread's sabbaticals were not mere vacations. Neither is the one I'm taking now.

At the ACPP board's insistence, I'm taking three months of sabbatical between now and August. I've split this sabbatical in two – now until Jan. 30, and then June 16 to July 31, because the 2015 legislative session is set to end June 15. For this first stint, I plan to read long-postponed books, write a little and work on our archives. Best of all, I get to work uninterrupted. Worst of all, I'm an extrovert, so my family may find me even more chatty than usual.

In my absence, organizing director Presdelane Harris will handle internal matters, and policy director Jim Carnes will handle external ones. We have a strong team at ACPP, so I look forward to returning just in time for an outstanding conference Feb. 5 in Birmingham!

# Report

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January 2, 2015

## Arise Policy Conference: Feb. 5 in Birmingham Help us move Alabama forward!



*Heather McGhee*

Together, we can create a path forward for Alabama. That's the vision driving the 2015 Arise Policy Conference. Hundreds of energized Alabamians will gather in Birmingham next month to learn how public policy decisions on health care, housing, education and other issues affect the lives of all of us – and how your advocacy can help make those decisions better.



*Dr. Michael Saag*

**We'll have many great speakers**, including Heather McGhee, president of the national policy group Demos; Dr. Michael Saag, a pioneering HIV researcher at UAB; and State Health Officer Dr. Don Williamson. It'll be a fantastic day, and we hope you'll be there!

### **Arise Policy Conference: What you need to know**

**When:** Thursday, Feb. 5, 2015, 8:45 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Registration will begin at 8 a.m.

**Where:** Birmingham-Southern College, Norton Campus Center.

**Cost:** \$80 for the general public; \$50 for ACPP members; \$15 for students. Lunch is included.

**Registration:** Two easy options!  
 (1) Sign up at [arisecitizens.org](http://arisecitizens.org) and pay with a credit card or PayPal, or  
 (2) Complete the registration form enclosed with this newsletter and mail it along with a check to ACPP, P.O. Box 1188, Montgomery, AL 36101. Please register by Jan. 30!

## **The payday reform push goes nationwide!**



*ACPP policy analyst Stephen Stetson (fifth from left) was among the advocates who met Dec. 4 with Richard Cordray (center), director of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, to discuss the need for tight regulation of payday loans. The loans carry interest rates up to 456 percent APR in Alabama.*

## Check out the new digs! ACPP settles in at our new office



*Arise staffers gather in mid-November for their first staff meeting in Montgomery's Bailey Building, Arise's first new home in the last 23 years. Pictured above are (clockwise around the table) Carol Gundlach, Jim Carnes, Rebecca Jackson, David Stout, Melissa Oliver, Chris Sanders, Brenda Boman, Shakiita Jones, Stan Johnson, M.J. Ellington, Robyn Hyden and Kimble Forrister. Below left is the Arise 20th-anniversary banner that greets visitors as soon as they step inside Suite 340. Below right is a look inside the office we've nicknamed "The Forest" because of the lush foliage on both sides of the windows. (Our communications director will finish unpacking someday.) It's a great place to continue our work toward a better Alabama for all, and your support made it possible. Thank you!*

