



Fall-Winter 2008

Go Tell It On The Mountains

The Newsletter of the Episcopal Church Women - Diocese of Western North Carolina
www.episcopalchurchwomen-wnc.org

Come Join Us *Women's Gathering* September 19-20, 2008

Lutheridge Conference Center, Arden, NC

"Caring for Ourselves, Caring for the World"

Come experience a fresh new vision and workshops to nourish your mind, body and spirit, and an opportunity to meet with other women from your diocese. Come join us for worship and sistership and help us envision a new vision together for all our women!

Invited Workshop Speakers



**The Rev. Deacon
Joyce Beschta**



**The Rev. Deacon
Muriel Moore**



**The Rev.
Linda Nye**



Jane Erickson



Jo Taylor

The Rev. Jeanne Finan Keynote Speaker

Rev. Finan will explore the dynamic connection between caring for ourselves—body, mind and spirit—and caring for the world as a reflection of God's love and as source for both personal and congregational spirituality, renewal, hope and change.



Registration Open until Sept 5th download form from website

President's Message...

Dear Episcopal Church Women of Western North Carolina,

It has been awhile since our last issue of **Go Tell It On The Mountains** newsletter. These past several months, many of you have been contacted by your Deanery Chair person about what is going on as far as events and our upcoming Women's Gathering "**Caring for Ourselves, Caring for the World**" to be held on September 19-20 at Lutheridge Conference Center, Arden NC. We are still taking registrations up until Sept. 5th so please mail in your material to Diane Mance by this date.



I hope you will take time out of your busy schedules to join your sisters for this gathering. We have excellent speakers who will offer workshops to nourish your mind, body and spirit as well as Jo Taylor who will talk about her *Reflections on Lambeth*. I beg you to please make time and come and be a part of this gathering. Your board has worked extremely hard to make this event a reality. This will be our **86th year** of being together as Episcopal Church Women of Western North Carolina.

Dear Episcopal Church Women, this is your organization! ECW as an national organization goes all the way back to 1872. What wonderful history our organization has for doing God's work of mission and ministry locally and globally.

Your diocesan ECW Board realizes the face of ECW has been changing over the years, and will continue to change for the future, however, one thing that has not changed is your ECW Board's commitment to do mission and ministry in our diocese and to be supportive of what work you do in your own ECWs.

Your board continues to work constantly to find new ways to bring in younger women and yet at the same time allow women who have been faithful servants of ECW over the years see the organization stay ALIVE and WELL! As I travel around our diocese and talk with our women, **one comment which comes up often is how important it is to find ways to bring in younger women** and have them understand the rich heritage and history of one of the oldest women's organizations in the nation and in the Episcopal Church. Women in our parishes have express the need to pass the ECW torch to younger women. Why? Because their mothers had passed this torch



Be a cheerleader
for ECW



ECW Needs
Your News!

to them. These women want so very much to be mentors to the church's younger women and also ask their help to keep ECW alive and well for future generation of women in the Episcopal Church. Another thing these women want to do is to share their ECW stories about the history of ECW and what it has meant to them in their church life growth. I ask each of you: How can we help them do this? How can we as women come together to keep the hope and dream alive of our wonderful organization? One way is to share your information and stories. So, I ask each parish ECW to send photos and events or whatever you may want to share with other women to me and this information will be posted on the WNC ECW website www.episcopalchurchwomen-wnc.org which I feel will give all our diocesan ECW a feeling of being connected to each other through this media.

As for my own story, presently, my morning reading includes Margaret Guenther's book **At Home in the World**. Guenther writes..."The very term 'work of God' suggests so many things:

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I think of obligation, responsibility, and repetitiveness. A task can be accomplished quickly, and then it is done, but work is ongoing. Ideally we should love our work, or at the very least be convinced that it is worth doing. Work is not always interesting or immediately rewarding; sometimes it is downright drudgery. We tire, we wonder why and how we have committed ourselves, we may even despair, but we keep on working. Sometimes we work alone, and sometimes our work is shared with others. In the course of a lifetime, we may experience many kinds of work: manual labor and menial chores, work that challenges our minds and work that deadens them, work that is important to our own well-being and the well-being of others and work that seems embarrassingly trivial, but (we persuade ourselves) is nevertheless somehow worth and must be accomplished."

Guenter wrote these words regarding prayer, however, as I read these words over and over I realized that this is how we as Episcopal Church Women might feel at times when we are being and doing as ECWs. Sometimes we may feel our ECW work is drudgery. Sometimes we may feel we do not have the support of our priests, our bishop or of the women in our churches. We may feel like we are alone. Other times we sometimes feel we are doing this work with others and in the long run what we do as Episcopal Church Women in our ECWs is worthwhile and must be accomplished and this feeling is what keeps us going as Episcopal Church Women.



So, my dear sisters, I tell you...please do not worry about your ECWs in your parishes. WE all must all work and pray together. God has a plan for all of us and we have to just pray and do the best we can and know we are serving Christ and others through our hard work as ECWs. Sometimes when we are two or three gathered in His name, we get discouraged because of the few in numbers. However, remember large numbers are nice but not necessary to do the work of the Lord. Somehow all will be done as God wills it to be done. All we have to do is be "faithful servants" and believe Christ knows what our desires and needs are for our women and for the world and have faith that He will provide us with what we need to get the job done. Also, our Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori had expressed her own support for the work of the ECW in one of her early speeches. However, praise is not necessary when doing Christ's work. The reward comes from being able to serve others in Christ's name. This service is what has kept ECWs alive and well over these past 136 years.

I feel so bless to be a part of this wonderful history and be associated with an organization who's goal has been mission and ministry for 136 years. As we move into the future, I know the ECW will continue to thrive and do the work of the Lord. As our work continues, I want to thank the WNC ECW Board for their support and prayers and also to each of you for your support and for the wonderful work you all continue to do. I also want to thank the priests who continue to lift our women up in prayer and for Bishop Taylor who also keeps us all in his daily prayers.

Love and Peace,
Mary Ann Ransom

PS: Visit the National ECW website <http://www.nationalecw.org> and click on the **Special Edition** and read about the wonderful work all Episcopal Church Women are doing on a

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national and global level. Also, check out the **Spring 2008 Edition of *Communiqué*** to read about Province IV ECW. This is the Province our diocese is in. In the Special Edition, you will read about: Episcopal Church Women; Anglican Women's Empowerment; Committee on the Status of Women; Church Periodical Club; Daughters of the King; Episcopal Asiamerica Ministry Women's Convocation; Episcopal Women's Caucus; Episcopal Women's History Project; Girls' Friendly Society, USA; Mothers' Union; National Altar Guild Association; and United Thank Offering.



Roll of Remembrance

Please send your names of church women who have died in the last 12 months to be remembered at the 86th Women's Gathering September 19-20th.

Please print or type name in Capital letters (given name, church and deanery) and send by September 10th to either your deanery chair or to mransom1@bellsouth.net or Mary Ann Ransom, 170 Ransom Road, Lake Lure NC 28746.

Any gifts honoring a deceased churchwoman will be added to the ECW Women's Scholarship Fund and your gift can be mailed to Diane Mance, WNC ECW Treasurer, 105 Poppy Lane, Asheville NC 28803. Please make check payable to WNC ECW and mark "scholarship".

TO: ECW Parish President or ECW Contact



If you wish to solicit request for the ASDMO Funds, please email or mail your request by September 10th to either your deanery chair (see names and phone number listed below) or to Mary Ann Ransom, 170 Ransom Road, Lake Lure NC 28746.

Your request should outline the detail and estimate cost involved in your project you have selected for your parish. The project should be one that will improve, enhance or fulfill an emergency need and pertain to your parish buildings i.e. sanctuary, parish house etc. Also, your request can be for a new work or project which has already been started.

The women will vote on the ASDMO project at the business meeting on September 20, 2008 at the women's gathering. This offering will not be awarded to the same church but once in every 5 years, however, if you have applied the year before or in the past and were not selected you can apply the next year. Last year the funds were given to Blue Ridge Mountains Health Project, Inc. in Cashiers, NC for Good Shepherd, Cashiers.

Deanery Chair Contacts:

Asheville Deanery Chair: Janice Priest 828.298.7823

Foothills Deanery Chairs: Joan Summerfield 704.437.1592 or Mary Oxford 828.437.6725

Hendersonville Deanery Chair: Jane Erickson 828.685.8102

Mountain Deanery Chairs: Sally Prosch 828.962.2395 or Francile Shelley 828.898.3100

Piedmont Deanery Chairs: Becky Whelan 704.487.1324 or Renee Lynch 828.286.4754

Western Deanery Chair: Alyson Nelson 828.627.2055

(for more detail addresses, please visit website www.episcopalchurchwomen-wnc.org)



Help shape the future of ECW in our Diocese for 2009!

We need women who are willing to serve on the Diocesan ECW Board. The benefits of serving on the board are many. You will have the opportunity to work with a wonderful group of women throughout the diocese and on the provincial and national level.

We do need a Vice-President/President-Elect, Christian Social Concern Chair, Public Relations/Multi Media Chair, ECW History Project Chair, Yearbook Chair, ASDMO Coordinator and a Devotional Life Chair. Some of these are new positions. Many of us on the board have just been wearing more than one hat at a time. However, if we are to do ECW justice, we need to have each position filled with a person who has the passion and love of doing ECW work. If you are interested in serving in any of these positions, please contact Mary Ann at mransom1@bellsouth.net or 828.625.8338.

Job Descriptions can be read in my details in the directory under By-Laws.

Vice-President/President-Elect Job Description: She shall act as an aide to the president and in the absence of the president; assume the duties of the office. She shall plan in consultation with the board the program for the diocesan meetings. She shall serve as chair of the Constitution and By-Law Committee. She shall assist Deanery Chairs in planning and conducting Deanery meetings. In the event of resignation or illness of the President, she shall assume her office.

ASDMO (All Saints Day Memorial Offering Coordinator): Write letters to the churches to solicit request for the fund. Distribute the ASDMO envelopes. Keep abreast of rules and guidelines for this fund. Order ASDMO envelopes when necessary - work with the Treasurer to do this.

Christian Social Concern Chair; This person is to attend the Diocesan Justice & Outreach Committee meetings. Keep board abreast of justice and outreach issues especially the MDGs which have been adopted by our diocese and by the National Church. Pray for all Christian Social Concerns.

Public Relations/Multi Media Chair: This person will work with the President to prepare the ECW Diocesan newsletter and to keep the mailing lists up to date and to help work on the website. Develop all promotional materials which the Board deems necessary. Send out press releases.

ECW History Project Chair: Gather documents and information to keep archives updated on activities of ECWs throughout the diocese. Help produce History book on ECW in WNC.

Yearbook/Directory Chair: Gather yearly the names of Branches' ECW officers and help produce yearbook in a timely matter with updates.

Devotional Life/Chaplain Chair: Plan and conduct devotions for ECW Diocesan Board meetings. Organize a Worship Retreat for Board and encourage our branches and deaneries to conduct spiritual retreats and quiet days. Pray for all our women.

We will install new officers at the September 20th service.

Read about your Deanery Chairs, UTO, CPC and your Board by visiting website
www.episcopalchurchwomen-wnc.org



Margaret King, Sec.



Diane Mance, Tres.



Pat Jollie, UTO & DOK



Donna Murray, CPC



Jancie Priest,
Asheville Deanery Chair



Joan Summerfield & Mary Oxford
Foothills Deanery Chairs



Jane Erickson
Hendersonville
Deanery Chair



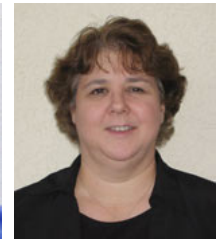
Sally Prosch
Mountain
Deanery Chair



Becky Whelan
Piedmont
Deanery Chair



Alyson Nelson
Western
Deanery Chair



Photos not available for Francile Shelley, Mountain; Renee Lynch, Piedmont; Robin Owens, Liaison to Spanish Speaking Comm.



Mary Ann Ransom
170 Ransom Road
Lake Lure NC 28746



Go Tell It On The Mountains is a publication of the Episcopal Church Women, Diocese of Western North Carolina. To correct or change a mailing address for publication, please send information to Mary Ann Ransom, 170 Ransom Road, Lake Lure NC 28746 or email: mransom1@bellsouth.net. If you wish to help with the cost of newsletter, please mail a check payable to "WNC ECW" mark "newsletter" and send to Diane Mance, 105 Poppy Lane, Asheville NC 28803. Thanks.