



## ***The ECW "Calendar, Girls"***

### **Diocese of Texas Annual Meeting Workshop**

### ***"Sizzling" New Ideas***

The 2003 movie, "Calendar Girls" shows the age-old stuffiness of the Women's Institute of Yorkshire, England as a few of their group of "freer" spirits produce a different (and successful) fundraiser for an outreach concern.

Four main concepts of the movie are good to remember for our "Women's Institute", known as the Episcopal Church Women.

#### ***CREATIVITY***

#### ***FOCUS ON OUR PURPOSE (Outreach)***

#### ***WORKING TOGETHER (Fellowship)***

#### ***TRUE MEANING OF ACTIONS (Spiritual Growth)***

These concepts reflect the Purpose of the Episcopal Church Women ... "to empower each other to live the life for which Christ called us by sharing His love through outreach, fellowship and spiritual growth."

***CREATIVITY:*** Consider ideas and concepts that are going to peak an interest – How do we communicate our ideas, intrigue people, or get their attention. Think about "Bad Women of the Bible", "Passionate Moves", or "the Calendar, Girls". What is each of these about?

***Bad Women of the Bible*** - a play performed by women of your parish about famous women of the bible. The scrip can be funny and involving many different women.

***Passionate Moves*** – an introduction to Compassion Ministries, giving opportunities for signing up

***The Calendar, Girls*** – we got you here, didn't we? This could be a beginning of the year theme for a meeting, laying out key events that will be held in your home area. Please include Convocational and Diocesan events, too.

***FOCUS ON OUR PURPOSE:*** No matter what the thoughts, go to God in prayer; ask Him what His will is. Outreach is led by something touching our hearts. Look around – what is needed to help those in your area. Would any of these interest your group?

**Children's School Supplies Boxes** (needed all year round), buying and reading books for a local school or child care facility



**Bassinettes** for new underprivileged mothers in local hospitals, baskets of goodies for visiting church members or people deployed in the military

**Babysitting** one or two hours for young mothers to meet for coffee and study

**Playing games** with those in nursing homes, working with Meals on Wheels

Actions led by God, no matter the size, are treasures to behold.

**WORKING TOGETHER:** Through fellowship we are each blessed; with God our time together gives us a glimpse of His strength, laughter, and joy to be in relationship with us. How do we spend that time?

**Cook** a lunch menu together to sell as take out to the working community or school teachers. Make it a simple menu of salad, soup and bread

Start a **small gift shop** with specialty items – be creative and unique in your approach, it can be open a few days a week or just on Sundays. It could also be a series of items printed with the same logo that can be taken to different meetings and sold (i.e. butterfly collection)

**Road Trips** to an antique store, historic churches, shopping, museums, even touring your own church with the meanings of windows or historical information

**Special Events** like wine tastings, fun runs for charity, and of course luncheons and bazaars

**TRUE MEANING OF OUR ACTIONS:** In all we do, understanding God's will for us is the premier focus. Enriching our lives through prayer and study is always a good idea. Nourishing ourselves gives us a chance to be fed and hear God speaking to us.

**Quiet Day** (or non-quiet day) held at a ranch or in the country away from the normal environment. Speakers can be from your own parish or by a diocesan contact. Many of the board members are free and willing speakers about a variety of topics, or your coordinators can suggest speakers.

**Bible/Book Study** is a way to make a "meeting" purposeful and meaningful. Choose a short simple book and discuss a chapter a meeting. Keep the meetings short and weekly, twice a month, or even monthly

**Personal needs** are something that God also calls us to care for like presentations by specialized attorneys for wills, "Women and Fitness" topics, or even agricultural/horticultural specialists

**Faith Journeys** by learning to make a prayer shawl; or walking a labyrinth; or praying with the Anglican Rosary

***As the movie "The Calendar Girls" states "A group of ordinary women changed the world one month at a time".***

May God Bless you and Guide you, in all your works.

