



Communiqué

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Spring 2014

Helene Swanson

A Walk For Ratification

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Retreats and Conferences and Meetings – Oh My!



By *The Reverend Deacon Nancy R. Crawford*

We women get together for a variety of reasons, and always the Spirit is present with us. This past winter I went on retreat with a dozen other women from my parish. We stayed in cabins that can be found on the shores of the McKenzie River in Vida, Oregon. You could say it was a pre-Lenten retreat, before we gave up chocolate and wine and frivolous movies. However, the truth of the matter is that the retreat took place when we could find a time when the fewest number of us had conflicting obligations. (After all, we are busy people!) Our topic for the weekend was “Conversations with God’s Chosen Women.” We each took a chapter from *The Scarlet Cord* by the Rev. Lindsay Hardin Freeman and gained new insights into remarkable women of the Bible, as well as new insights into ourselves. The book’s style of including questions for conversation at the end of each chapter makes it ideal material for women’s gatherings. We cooked our own food, sat around to knit and talk, prayed and sang, and took walks along the river (although winter in Oregon meant they were walks in the rain)—and, yes, we watched a movie just for the fun of it—oh my! It was a refreshing and renewing time together. Retreats are good for body and soul.

It’s Conference Time

Then, I was off to the Women’s Leadership Conference in the Diocese of Colorado, which was held at their diocesan camp and conference center Cathedral Ridge near Colorado Springs. Among

those invited to the conference — besides myself and Barbara Schaffer, president of the United Thank Offering Board — were women of Colorado who had indicated that they were interested in women’s ministry, whether at the parish, diocesan, province, or church-wide level. Episcopal women in Colorado were ready to kick-start their organization, and so this conference came about.

Unlike the parish retreat I attended, this conference included homework of preliminary thinking and writing for each woman to reflect upon herself in relationship to the Episcopal Church, and then her relationship to her own parish and the diocese’s impact on her parish. Specifically, the women were to answer questions devised by the Taskforce to Reimagine the Episcopal Church, and to consider how to respond to the Diocese of Colorado’s four focus areas for mission. Facilitating discussion was Lelanda Lee of Colorado, Province VI representative to TEC Executive Council, and a strong proponent for racial justice and leadership development. Well-known actress, writer, and missionary from the Diocese of Kentucky, Katerina Whitley, interspersed stories of women of the Bible to inspire those present to carry on the work of women of the Church. Appreciative Inquiry, a method of looking at the systems from a positive view and building on what is good, was part of the leadership presentation, as well as Asset Based Community Development (ABCD), where YOU are the solution, both the individual and the group—oh my! It was hard work



yet fruitful. Conferences are good for taking next steps in ministry.

Goin' to Meetin' Time

As winter turned to spring, it was time for the National ECW Board to meet. We gathered in Salt Lake City and toured the site of the 2015 Triennial Meeting and General Convention. You will be pleased with the convention center, with everything—triennial meeting, workshops, exhibit hall, worship, and the two houses—all under one roof. At our first business session we talked about what had occurred since we last met. We had a successful 16 Days of Activism on our Web site and via emails in November; the new ECW brochure is now available on our Web site; and we financially assisted a girl to attend the Girls' Friendly Society international gathering in Wales. Teams met and much was accomplished. At our second business meeting we reported on our progress and our continuing work. Now that we are mid-way through this triennium, our focus has made a significant turn towards our June 2015 Triennial Meeting—oh my! Meeting face to face causes the infectious stirring of energy within. Meetings are



good for assessing what we have accomplished and what lies ahead.

No matter what the reason for coming together, the Spirit is always present, and we are renewed.

Amen.†

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2012-2015

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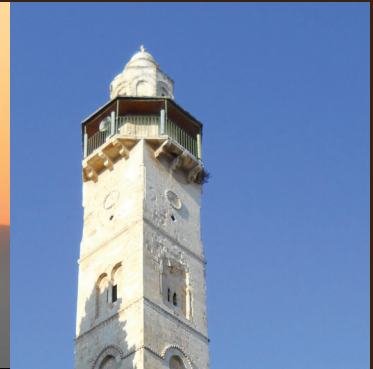
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Pilgrimage 2014



Have you planned your trip yet?

The ECW Pilgrimage to the Holy Land is planned for
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Communiqué is looking for writers.

Share the details of your ECW chapter's latest activities, or write to a topic you would like to share with other Episcopal women.

If you are interested, or have questions, please contact

TMEditor@ecwnational.org

Submissions should be sent as 600- to 1,000-word documents, in Word (.doc) or Rich Text (.rtf) format. Send photos in .jpg or .tif format, at 300 dpi.

Include a brief bio (50 words, or less) containing your name, parish, and province (and your email and website address, if desired).

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A Walk for Ratification

The daughter-in-law of priest and activist Katrina Swanson carries on her efforts to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment.

By Helene Swanson

Each step I take brings me closer to fulfilling my promise to help pass the Equal Rights Amendment. It's a promise I made a decade ago to my late mother-in-law, the Rev. Katrina Swanson. (Katrina was one of the "Philadelphia Eleven," the first group of women to be ordained as priests in these modern times in the U.S., after the Anglican Church of China.) A promise made by my husband and me to her in her last year of life. A promise, indeed a vow—now a dream moving to reality—we will resurrect and see enacted the Equal Rights Amendment.

As I look east at the snow-capped Sierras that I am soon to cross, I am reminded of my favorite lines from the poem "Snowflakes," by Linda A. Copp:

*Snowflakes spill from heaven's hand
Lovely and chaste like smooth white sand.*

Each day I awaken and anxiously check to see if this is a good day to hike the trail over the mountain pass to Lake Tahoe, and then onward to Carson City, capital of Nevada, the first state I'll pass through of the 15 that have yet to ratify the ERA. I have put my pilgrimage for justice that will take me across the United States in God's hands. God is in charge—not

me. And the doors that God has been opening over the last several years are simply amazing.

International Women's Day

When women's rights activist and Code Pink* member Toby Blome learned that I was to be stuck in the rain, sleet, and snow of a much-needed winter storm in Northern California, she reached out to her network. Since then, I have been staying with a newfound friend, Marida Martin, in her lovely home in Placerville, waiting for the storm to blow over. Toby readily shared her radio spot on KPFA with me on International Women's Day (March 8), when I launched my walk across the USA for the ERA.

On that glorious day, I was joined by many women from a number of different organizations each representing their cause united under the Katrina's Dream




Katrina Swanson (inset) was one of the "Philadelphia Eleven"—the first group of women to be ordained as priests.

Photo courtesy of lifeinlegacy.com

Helene Swanson (at right), founder of Katrina's Dream, on the Tahoe Rim Trail.

Photo by Marida Martin

A person wearing a red jacket, blue pants, and a grey beanie stands in a snowy mountain landscape. They are holding yellow ski poles and wearing blue ski boots. The background features a large lake, snow-covered mountains, and evergreen trees under a blue sky with light clouds. The person is standing on a path of snow, with large rocks and snowdrifts around them.

*“Snowflakes spill from
heaven’s hand,
Lovely and chaste like
smooth white sand.”*

— “Snowflakes” by Linda A. Cobb



The Rev. Estee Gardner Cantor blesses Helene Swanson at the Golden Gate Bridge on International Women's Day, March 8, 2014.

Photo by Katharine Whipple

umbrella. We walked across the Golden Gate Bridge together, demonstrating that women are uniting, moving humankind forward to as we have done since creation. After Nevada, I will press on, on foot, into neighboring Utah, the second of the 15 states. And then, it's on through Arizona, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Missouri, Illinois, Mississippi, Louisiana, Florida, Alabama, Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, and Virginia. The end of the pilgrimage comes on March 8, 2015, after a year of walking, when I will stand on the steps of the US Capitol in Washington, DC, advocating the ERA cause to the elected representatives and senators who are our servants. Standing beside me—many I hope in person, many, many more in spirit—will be the thousands who have supported me during this long, long walk.

In Retrospect

In a sense, my journey began to unfold the night in 2005, when a hurricane bearing Katrina's name hit the city of New Orleans. We Swansons found the signs to be prophetic, for as Katrina Swanson died, a

hurricane was showing the world just how difficult life is for women, people of color, and those who are economically disadvantaged. Days after our Katrina's death, we founded Katrina's Dream in her memory.

My husband, William Swanson, was in the process of formalizing his call to ordination when he was called home to God's kingdom on May 3, 2013. His passing to God's realm is a moment in time I go to in my mind daily on this pilgrimage, a moment I go to for comfort and reassurance. On the day of William's death, our brother Jesus's message that God's mansion has many rooms hit home for me. I realized that our acts here are adorning the unfolding framework of the City of God.

We are called to rebuild this planet we have been given, and a first step is to ensure that women here and abroad are restored to their rightful place alongside men. For us in the United States, that means adopting the Equal Rights Amendment. A study described in a 2013 *Shriver Report* found that one

The Rev. Katrina Swanson, and 10 other women, rocked the male-dominated hierarchy of the Episcopal Church on July 29, 1974. On that day, in Philadelphia, Pa., Swanson and her colleagues become the first women ordained priests in the church. The women became known as the **“Philadelphia Eleven.”**

in three Americans live below the poverty line, the majority in households headed by a woman. Why must there be a constitutional amendment? Take a look again at the 2011 US Supreme Court *WalMart vs Dukes* decision in which Supreme Court Justice Scalia ruled that the rights of women are not protected by the Constitution.

A “Kickin’ and Screamin’” Episcopalian

I did not come to the Christian faith easily, although now I am proud to call myself a “kickin’ and screamin’” Episcopalian. When I met my husband I was no longer attending church, but found solace as a student in studying philosophy, the occult, and other religious materials. William, however, was a cradle Episcopalian and his profound faith in God opened the doors of my heart to see the truth and the light and love in Christ. This pilgrimage I’m on is a working out

of my response to God’s call. I walk with a double purpose:

- to assure those with whom I speak that the Episcopal Church is a place where people are welcome to come and explore their relationship with and in God, and
- to be part of ushering in an age of legal gender equality.

For More Information

There’s much, much more about the pilgrimage and the work of Katrina’s Dream on our website www.katrinadream.org. Please visit us there, and see the link to the General Convention 2009 endorsement of the ERA! And please join me, at least in spirit, as I continue walking east in the months ahead. †

Helene Swanson is co-founder Katrina’s Dream (www.katrinadream.org), which was founded in the memory of her mother-in-law, the late Rev. Katrina Swanson, who was one of the Philadelphia Eleven, the first women ordained in the American Episcopal Church.*

**Katrina’s Dream is building a grassroots movement to make all Americans equal under the law. Connect with us and with others in this movement via Facebook and Twitter.*



Congressman Ami Bera (center) meets with Swanson and Bobby Rudl to support the cause.
Photo courtesy of Helene Swanson

Upending Traditional Time Management

“The time is always ripe to do right.”

—Nelson Mandela, 1918-2014, South African anti-apartheid revolutionary, politician, philanthropist, and President of South Africa from 1994 to 1999.

by Kristen Pratt Machado

I have always loved to volunteer. I remember counting down the days of my third grade school year so that, as a rising fourth grader, I could start volunteering at my local library. Oh how I loved putting the books back in their rightful spots on the dusty shelves and helping kids fill out forms to receive their first library cards. And don't get me started on the joys of using the Dewey Decimal System through row after row of tiny cards housed in neat little drawers (yes, I was a nerd) to help patrons find just the books for which they were looking. I think most of us, especially people of faith, want to perform good deeds. We want to make a difference, but often, this idea that we don't have enough time gets in the way.

As an adult, I volunteered in the intensive care unit at my community hospital, helping out the nursing staff. I ran races to raise money for breast cancer and diabetes research and cooked turkeys for families in need on Thanksgiving (as a vegetarian, this was always an adventure!). I enjoyed these little bits of service, and they were easy, as none of them put me out of my comfort zone. And then I was offered a position with a start-up company that required a 90-minute one-way commute – and my entire life changed. Besides immediately gaining 10 pounds, I suddenly had very little free time. I succumbed to the “I don't have enough time” mantra and remain very self-involved.

I toiled along this path for a few years, helping build a new company, and I had my first child. Then, I really didn't have any time. I had also lost the habit of churchgoing. I was so tired from the work week

that I was no longer willing to drive 30 minutes to my church every Sunday. But God opened another door for our new little family and we joined a tiny church in a nearby town, St. Michael the Archangel Episcopal Church. At this church with fewer than 50 members, I found my way back to faith and serving others in small ways. Being part of a church community again helped me to reach the surface and gulp in air, but I was still far from taking the deep yoga breaths that truly looking outward provides.

A Move to North Carolina

When we moved to North Carolina, I thought, this is it! I will have more time, no more commuting! I hadn't realized, though, how challenging it would be for me to get my footing in a new community where I knew not a soul. So I settled on donating blood—quick and easy with a big impact, right? The only problem was that I was terrible at donating blood. I have very small veins that are difficult to find. It would take even the most experienced phlebotomist several tries to get the needle in. After enduring the poking, I would have to pump my hand frantically during the entire donation in order to get any blood to spurt into the vial. After one particularly harrowing needle stick, I ended my blood-donating career. But what was next?

I had a second child and adjusted to working full-time with two children under the age of 3. Fun times! I found a church that I loved and slowly became a more active member, but I was still stuck in the rut of “I don't have time.” I was afraid to commit to much of anything for fear of feeling overwhelmed. As I was

stuck in my “don’t ask me, I don’t have time” phase for the next few years, my church was changing as well. The vestry and church administration found some funds to expand the positions of our children’s and youth ministers to include formation, development, and outreach. The Rev. Katie Bryant, now the minister with Children and Outreach, got right to work. She came back to our parish with the news that the homeless population of Winston-Salem was not being fully served and we were going to help fill this need by joining a consortium of churches that was providing overflow shelters for those who were unable or unwelcome to access the traditional homeless shelters that operate year round (see sidebar on page 14).

Connecting with the Homeless

Whoa...homeless people? I am passionate about women’s and children’s issues, but I did not think I could connect with the needs of our city’s homeless population. I had, of course, seen homeless people around town. My most frequent response was to hold my children’s hands a bit tighter and felt completely uncomfortable when we crossed paths.

But God seems to take great pleasure in making me feel uncomfortable and he kept bringing this outreach opportunity back to my mind during the most annoying moments. I could feel this emphasis that yes, me—one who is uncomfortable around homeless people—should really just get over it. I really couldn’t shake this feeling so while I was vacationing over Thanksgiving I asked my Bible study group if they would join me in feeding 50 homeless people one evening in December. Then in my typical fashion (read my last column), I told Katie a different date than my group had agreed upon and I promptly forgot about the commitment until the day before we were scheduled to serve the meal. Awesome. So with help of several friends, my children, and my long-suffering husband, we did it.

We made 50 bagged meals and suddenly I was downtown, in the dark and freezing cold with two other moms and four kids. We warily-eyed the entrance to the shelter check-in area that was surrounded by a crowd of rough-looking people encircled in a cloud of cigarette smoke. I was quickly volunteered to walk up to the front door to determine where to



The author, Kristen Pratt Machado, is the executive editor of a monthly clinical journal serving dental hygienists and director of publishing operations for the journal’s parent company, Belmont Publications, Inc. She and her husband, Che, have two children—6-year-old Piper and 4-year-old Beck—and reside in Winston-Salem, NC. Pratt Machado is a member of St. Timothy’s Episcopal Church where she leads the Meals for Moms (and Dads!) Ministry and serves as newsletter editor and hospitality chair for the church’s ECW chapter. She is also a member of the Winston-Salem Women’s Fund, a community of passionate women creating social change.

take the food. I did not want to do this with my whole body. I wanted to be back home in my nice warm house, with a hot toddy in hand. Ok God, I thought, I am here. I guess I can’t back out now. I considered trying to look tough, a ridiculous idea that made me laugh out loud, which helped me find my new approach—super nice lady. I got out of the car, walked

An Ecumenical Effort to Help Those in Need

“We can do hard things.”

—Blogger and author Glennon Doyle Melton, excerpt from *monastery.com*

The Winston-Salem Overflow Shelters began as an outreach of the nonprofit organization Anthony’s Plot, which is an intentional community located in an ethnically and socioeconomically diverse neighborhood near Winston’s downtown. Since 2010, Anthony’s Plot, which is rooted in the Moravian faith (a Protestant denomination, founded by Jan Hus in the 14th century), has been providing weekly meals and worship opportunities, as well as children’s services, to support the residents of the diverse neighborhood in which it is based. The organization also supports the homeless people of Winston-Salem by ensuring that their rights are not infringed upon, they are treated with respect, and they have access to benefits and services. Led by the Rev. Russell May, Anthony’s Plot hosts a variety of events throughout the year to support the needs of the city’s homeless citizens. They are treated with respect, and they have access to benefits and services. Led by the Rev. Russell May, Anthony’s Plot hosts a variety of events throughout the year to support the needs of the city’s homeless citizens.

Serving a Growing Need

In 2013, Anthony’s Plot sought the help of Winston-Salem’s faith communities to better serve the homeless population during the winter. On December 1, 2013, three overflow shelters opened at First Baptist Church, Augsburg Lutheran Church, and New Story Church, serving a total of 60+ guests each night. With a growing need for more beds and the desire to provide more individualized services, two additional shelters were opened, including St. Timothy’s, which all together served more than 100 people each night through March 31, 2014.

The Overflow Shelter at St. Timothy’s was staffed entirely by volunteers from the parish and partner groups. From the priest and church ministry staff each spending one night a week to monitor the shelter,



Drake Hall, the all-purpose meeting hall at St. Timothy’s, prepares to shelter homeless guests for the night.

Photo by Beckie McClean

to individual parishioners volunteering overnight, to children helping with meals and cleaning mattresses, to the knitting group making warm hats and scarves—it was truly an intergenerational outpouring of love and hospitality. St. Timothy’s homeless guests began to regard the church as “home”—and the St. Timothy’s family began to think of—and pray—for them as part of the parish. St. Timothy’s set out to change the world—at least a little part of it—through helping its homeless neighbors, but really, the greatest change was within the church as parishioners and staff were transformed by the love of Jesus Christ in and through their relationships with the homeless guests.

The needs of Winston-Salem’s homeless citizens remain great, and St. Timothy’s continues to partner with Anthony’s Plot to help fill these needs. For more information on Anthony’s Plot, visit www.anthonysplot.org. †

*Kristen Pratt Machado and the Rev. Katie Bryant,
Minister with Children and Outreach at St. Timothy’s
Episcopal Church, Winston-Salem.*

through the crowd, calling out “Good evening,” “Excuse me,” and “How are y’all?”

Who is this crazy person? I thought. The one uncomfortable with homeless people, the one who wanted to be anywhere but here a few seconds ago. I have also never said “y’all” in my entire life. And then I noticed smiles breaking out among the guests waiting to get a meal and a night’s shelter, and shouts of “Let the lady through!” A path was cleared. After meeting with the evening’s organizers, I went back to get the kids and the other moms to start bringing in the food. When I opened the door to my truck, I realized I was smiling ear to ear. I took a deep yoga breath and told them, “They are ready for us.”

That evening as I proudly watched my six-year-old daughter and her friends offer bagged sandwich-

es, oranges and bananas, and bottles of water to a long line of weary, cold people—young and old, black and white, women and men—I was overcome with emotion. These folks who had been outside all day and endured innumerable hardships seemed delighted to see children and cracked smile after smile. They were grateful for a very simple meal and to rest on the floor of a basketball gym. The tears flow whenever I reflect on this moment. We CAN make a difference. It does NOT take much. And yes, I do have time.

Rising to the Occasion

St. Timothy’s involvement steamrolled from providing and serving meals downtown to asking for volunteers to spend the night at these makeshift shelters held in the basements of churches really living what Jesus taught his followers to do—provide a shelter from the storm for those in need. When volunteers were requested to spend the night, I thought, “I’ll do the meals and help check people in, but I am never doing that.” Ha! And then the need was so great. This winter was the coldest that Winston-Salem has seen in 15 years. There was not enough room in the operating shelters to serve all of those who needed a safe, warm place to spend the night. And so my church opened its own overflow shelter for the last 6 weeks of winter, providing between 15 and 25 guests with a hot meal and shelter each night. And I felt God again, steering me in the right direction, and suddenly I was signed up to spend two nights listening to our guests snore away, hopefully catching a night of much needed rest before venturing out into the cold again. The staff and parishioners of St. Timothy’s rose to and beyond the occasion. With help from neighboring religious organizations—truly an ecumenical effort—St. Timothy’s helped society’s most vulnerable citizens weather a terribly bleak and cold winter.

Of course, in the whole scheme of things, this is just a blip. But I think in the hearts and minds of those who served and those who received, it meant much more. I know that I will never be the same. The amount of need faced by many across the globe is overwhelming, which can leave the rest of us ordinary folks unsure of where to start. But the fact is if each of us commits to doing good works, no matter how small, change is possible. When we stop falling back on how little time we have and start focusing on how little time it takes to make a difference, great things can happen. †

Pratt Machado and her children take part in the homeless outreach program at St. Timothy’s Episcopal Church, Winston-Salem, NC.



Record Shows Jesus Honored Women, Wife or No Wife



By The Rev. Lindsay Hardin Freeman

Ah, the famous papyrus fragment has popped up again ["Jesus' 'Wife' Papyrus is Likely Ancient," published April 11, 2013 in the *StarTribune*]. Did Jesus have a wife or didn't he? Could she be a disciple? After all, on the tiny, ink-splotted scrap of paper, dauntlessly unveiled in 2012 by Harvard Divinity School Prof. Karen King, the words are [more or less] clear: "My wife" and "She will be able to be a disciple." Now, other Ivy League universities such as Brown, Columbia, and MIT, are weighing in—No. Yes. Maybe. Yet, instead of debating which [Biblical] women might have been real, let's consider those whom Christians across the world know to be real.

Real Women of the Bible

Take Mary and Martha of Bethany, described in the [Gospel of John]. They were among Jesus' closest friends, the ones he returned to often. There, in their little Bethany home some two miles from Jerusalem, Mary poured expensive oil of spikenard (then worth about a year's salary) over his feet, drying them with her hair — infuriating the disciples, but offering Jesus extraordinary spiritual companionship.

It was there, too, that busy Martha was chastised by Jesus for being "distracted with many things." Yet one wonders if Jesus would have felt so welcome if the windows weren't clean, the food not plentiful, the bedding not fresh and the hearth not warm. After all, with no cellphones or mail, notice would not have preceded a visit from Jesus and 12 of his male friends. Surely, Martha needed a little help in the kitchen, and Peter, James, and John were probably not going to don aprons.

Connected to Jesus

Then there was Mary Magdalene, she of the tortured press over the years, described as a prostitute for centuries in popular history — yet not in scripture. Instead, she was "cured of seven demons" by Jesus, and

she was the first person — male or female — to see Jesus after His resurrection, when the disciples were in hiding.

The first word from the angel at the tomb: "Woman." The first word Jesus said after the resurrection: "Woman."

*The first word from the
angel at the tomb:*

"Woman."

*The first word Jesus said
after the resurrection:*

"Woman."

—The Rev. Lindsay Hardin Freeman

The Big Question

Was Jesus married? [I really] Don't think so. Scripture doesn't mention it. What if he was? Scandalous? [There were many more scandalous] things Jesus did in his time. The issue of marriage is not a deal breaker, at least for many of us. He was human and divine, after all, not just divine.

Here's what was really scandalous: calling us [women] friends, conversing with us (ie, the longest recorded conversation Jesus had with anyone was with a woman*, healing us, and our loved ones, driving out our demons, saving us from being stoned on charges of adultery, and—oh yes—overcoming evil and making eternal life possible. [That's] Scandalous enough—at least for me, and about two billion Christians around the world. †

The Rev. Lindsay Hardin Freeman is a Minnesota-based Episcopal priest who writes extensively on women of the Bible. She is the author of four books, including “The Scarlet Cord: Conversations With God’s Chosen Women.” She is currently working on a new book on women of the Bible, which will be released in September 2014.

This article has been adapted from one that originally appeared in the *Commentaries* section of the *StarTribune*, on April 17, 2014. It can be accessed at <http://www.startribune.com/opinion/commentaries/255718381.html>)

*This refers to the Samaritan woman at the well. [John 4: 4-26]



This stained glass window at Kilmore Church on the Isle of Mull, off the west coast of Scotland in the council area of Argyll and Bute, depicts Jesus with Mary Magdalene.

Image taken from www.thesundaytimes.co.uk

The background image depicts the controversial scrap of papyrus believed to date back to the fourth century, that contains a suspected reference to “the wife of Jesus.”

Image taken from news.nationalgeographic.com

ECW Board Introduces Keynote Speaker

By Shirley Greiman

The National ECW Board is pleased to announce the scheduled keynote speaker for the 2015 ECW Triennial Meeting in Salt Lake City—The Rev. Canon Jan Naylor Cope, Vicar of the National Cathedral, Washington, DC.

Cope was called as vicar of Washington National Cathedral in late September 2010 following a national search. In this senior position, Canon Cope serves as the leader of the Cathedral worshipping community and represents Dean Hall in his absence. In addition to leading the continued development and growth of the Cathedral Congregation, which now has more than 1,200 members, Canon Cope oversees comprehensive programs in community life, pastoral care, stewardship, hospitality, and congregational worship. She also is an active participant in Cathedral activities beyond her leadership and pastoral duties with respect to the Cathedral Congregation and larger Cathedral community.

Strong Executive and Interpersonal Skills

Formerly associate rector at St. David's Church in Northwest DC, Canon Cope also served as a key lay leader at St. John's Church, Lafayette Square, prior to ordained ministry, holding the positions of senior warden, junior warden, and chair of the search committee for a new rector. Professionally, her strong executive and interpersonal skills have been developed in key positions including her service as deputy director of presidential personnel in the White House. Following that tenure, she was president of a nationally recognized executive search firm, the J. Naylor Cope Company.

Canon Cope graduated summa cum laude from Wesley Theological Seminary, and she has just completed a Doctor of Ministry degree at Virginia Theo-



The Reverend Canon Jan Naylor Cope
Photo courtesy of www.nationalcathedral.org

logical Seminary. Her doctoral work included a concentrated study of young adult ministry culminating in her thesis, *A Budding Young Adult Ministry: Tending God's Garden at Washington National Cathedral*. She represents the Diocese of Washington as a member of the diocesan Resolutions Committee and as an elected clerical deputy to the Episcopal Church General Convention for 2012.

Keep an eye on the ECW Web site and future issues of *Communiqué* for Triennial updates. †

—Shirley Greiman, is the vice president of program for the National ECW Board

Save the Date...

You may have heard that the **2015 General Convention of the Episcopal Church** will be held in beautiful Salt Lake City, Utah, where a new Presiding Bishop will be elected to the Church.

The Triennial Meeting, in conjunction with General Convention, will be held inside the **Salt Palace Convention Center**. All of the scheduled events – including Community Eucharist and triennial workshops – will be inside the Convention Center providing participants more time to sit in on a session of the House of Bishops and House of Deputies, or visit the Exhibit Hall and **“shop ’til you drop.”**

Your National ECW Board is planning an exciting Triennial Meeting full of surprises.

Our theme: **“Stir Up The Spirit: ¡Celebremos!”** is inspiring us to think up new ways to celebrate women’s ministries in the Episcopal Church. We hope you are able to be a part of the celebration, in person or online.

— Shirley Greiman, VP of Program

Sharing the News From ECW Provinces

Province II

Diocese of Long Island

What started out as a one-time outreach project for the Episcopal Church Women of Long Island, has turned into a year-round series of similar projects. Following the devastation of “super storm Sandy,” St. John’s Episcopal Hospital, on the Rockaway peninsula, took on tremendous involvement with the residents of the community. Many of their own staff members lived in the area, and were completely wiped out by the storm. Since many of the pregnant women who came to the clinic had little or nothing with which to take their babies home, a joint baby shower was planned. Episcopal Church Women from across the diocese, along with many staff members, were asked to help. New baby clothes, blankets, bottles, lotions, and similar items flowed in from across the diocese and huge baskets were filled with everything a new mother might need.

That was only the beginning. Thanksgiving was coming, and many families were in need. Again, the call went out and all the fixings for a great Thanksgiving dinner were assembled and distributed. What about Christmas? A toy drive was initiated and the community’s children were invited to come and see Santa and receive a Christmas present. Following that event came “Adopt a Family” for the holidays. As a result, more than 100 families received Christmas gifts for every member of the family. God calls us to serve the communities in which we live. The ECW and St. John’s Episcopal Hospital are doing what they are called to do.

--Submitted by Barbara Taylor, finance chair, Diocese of Long Island

The ECW Diocesan Board of the Diocese of Long Island is comprised of 20 members representing four archdeaconries. Since 2012, the Board has provided a \$500 scholarship for post-secondary education to one woman in each of the four archdeaconries. A committee reviews the scholarship applications, which increased in number last year. June S. Gerbracht, diocesan ECW President, reports that “The

committee was very impressed with the aspirations and ministries of all the applicants.” The third ECW diocesan-wide quiet day was held on March 22. This year’s theme was “A Not-So-Quiet, Quiet Day.”

Diocese of New Jersey

Not long after his consecration as the Bishop of the Diocese of New Jersey last November, The Rt. Rev. William Stokes, together his wife Susan, attended an ECW Diocesan Board meeting. Bishop Stokes challenged the board members by his observation regarding ECW as “the work of tradition meeting the needs of today.” At the Diocesan Convention in February the ECW and the Women’s Commission again co-sponsored the Women’s Breakfast, at which The Rev. Barbara Crafton was guest speaker. Following the breakfast, the ECW sponsored the workshop “Christian Formation at Home.” On June 6 and 7, the ECW will conduct the spiritual retreat “Celebration of the Eucharist from the Age of Jesus to the Present,” at the Community of St. John Baptist in Mendham, New Jersey.

Diocese of New York

The Fall UTO Ingathering and ECW Semi-Annual Meeting, Diocese of New York, was held last year on November 6, in the St. James Chapel at the Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine. The Eucharist was celebrated by Assistant Bishop Chilton D. Knudsen. The luncheon speaker was The Rev. Canon Calvin C. McIntyre, rector of the Church of the Good Shepherd, Bronx, NY. The theme of the annual ECW School of Worship, held at the Cathedral in March, was “Stir Up the Spirit: Hear The Call, Be The Church.” The Eucharist preacher, presider, and luncheon speaker was The Rev. Canon Julia Whitworth, the Canon for Liturgy and the Arts at the Cathedral.

--Submitted by Ginger Lief, Province II Representative, Diocese of New York

Province III

Province III Episcopal Church Women held their 95th annual meeting in Hummelstown/Hershey, PA—the first weekend in April. The meeting was hosted by the women of Pennsylvania’s Central and Bethlehem

dioceses. Thirty-five women, representing five states and DC were present. At that time, newly-updated by-laws and job descriptions of officers were implemented. "Celebrating the Magnificent of All Women," the workshop theme for the weekend, was presented by former national president, Jane Banning, and former national UTO president, Wilma Johnson.

The women enjoyed sharing and reminiscing. The nominating committee presented its slate for officers to be elected following the old business and diocesan reports. In the afternoon, many of the attendees toured the Hershey Museum, and enjoyed a variety of samples of Hershey's chocolate candy. Once gathered back at the hotel, the group went to All Saints' Church in Hershey for a dinner put on by their youth in exchange for monies to be used this summer on "work projects" in West Virginia. The Rt. Rev. Dr. Nathan Baxter and his wife joined us for the installation of our newly-elected officers. Sunday morning, after a lovely service at All Saints', we enjoyed a wonderful breakfast at the hotel, gave each other hugs, and wished everyone a safe trip home.

Province IV

Province IV has had a mixture of winter weather. Many of so-called "Southern States" have had an abundance of snow and ice to deal with, and they do not have the correct equipment to handle the large and frequent amounts that arrived--and are still coming. Everyone is looking forward to spring and the end of the cold weather! Not many of our dioceses reported in this time. But those who have are listed below:

Diocese of Mississippi

The Episcopal Church Women of the Episcopal Diocese of Mississippi presented "Katerina Whitley: Speaking for Ourselves," on April 4 and 5, at Gray Center. Whitley, author and retreat leader, brought Eve and Peter's wife to life by performing dramatic monologues impersonating them. Also, Barbara Owens, president of Province IV, told the group about a Kanuga meeting.

The Diocese of Tennessee

On March 8, the Diocese of Tennessee Episcopal Church Women and the Diocese of Tennessee Daughters of the King jointly sponsored a Lenten Quiet Day. Bishop Bauerschmidt was the meditation leader. The theme was, "I Am Among You as One Who Serves."

This was also the theme of our Diocesan Convention in January, which boasted more than 50 attendees.

The annual Spring Conference, conducted by the women of the Diocese of Tennessee, East Tennessee, and West Tennessee, was held April 25 through April 27. Noted scholar, Katerina Whitley was the keynote speaker.

The Diocese of North Carolina

Every 3 years the Diocese of North Carolina's ECW hosts a forum with a social justice theme. This is known as the Harris-Evans Conference, and is named for the two women who endowed it. This year, the conference will be combined with our 2-day annual meeting in November. The focus will be on human trafficking as it relates to both the sex trade and slave labor. In addition to sharing information about the scope of this issue, including the fact that North Carolina ranks among the top 10 states for human trafficking, the goal is to inform attendees about the definitive steps they can take to address the problem and help change things for the better.

Also, in February, Lisa Towle, president of the ECW of the Diocese of NC, addressed the ECW of the Diocese of Upper South Carolina at their 1-day annual convention. The title of her speech was, "Be the Spirit of Change."

The Diocese of Atlanta

The year 2013 was very exciting for the Diocese of Atlanta. This was the first full year for Bishop Rob Wright. He has energized our diocese. His theme has been "Draw the Circle Wider." He is a supporter of the ECW. Our annual Spring Retreat at Camp Mikell was filled to capacity. Retreat leader was Katerina Whitley and her topic was "Ancient Women – Modern Women: Who were they? What binds us? Who are we?" Everyone had a great time.

Another success was the costume jewelry sale to benefit project SHARE. Project SHARE Military Initiative – Shepherd Center, Atlanta, is a comprehensive rehabilitation program that focuses on assessment and treatment for service men and women who have sustained brain injury and PTSD from serving in Afghanistan and Iraqi conflict. The jewelry sale began as a project by an ECW Convocation Representative at St. Veronica's guild at the Cathedral of St. Philip. She suggested that the whole diocese become involved.

The women worked once a week for a year cleaning, pricing, and categorizing various pieces. It was a wonderfully unifying project. They turned broken jewelry into sparkly Christmas trees. Though it was costume jewelry, several pieces were gold and silver. As a result of all this amazing work, the women of our Diocese raised \$50,000 for project SHARE.

A major project for the Board was the rewriting of the by-laws. Several of the laws did not cover current issues. In addition, there have been efforts to improve the Web site. It is a slow process, since none of us have done this before. We were told that it was an easy site to learn, but later, we found out it was only easy if you were an expert! We are slowly putting all our documents and events on the Web.

Unfortunately, I need to end with very sad news. Our board member, past president, and dear friend, Joan McCumber, died unexpectedly on February 16. The whole diocese is in a state of shock at her death. McCumber worked for the Cathedral book store and traveled around the Diocese. She was beloved by many. Her obituary can be found in the March 2, 2014, *Atlanta Journal Constitution*. Please keep her family in your prayers.

The Diocese of Central Gulf Coast

Our August meeting and final planning session for our Fall Retreat was held at St. Agatha's Episcopal Church in DeFuniak Springs, FL. Built in the late 19th century, the church and vicarage maintain a unique history and charm.

The commission continues its project to raise money to improve the sidewalk at Beckwith Camp and Conference Center. Becky Taylor Scott has accepted the challenge to coordinate raffle to assist with funding the project. Anne Hall announced that the ECW of St. Simon's on the Sound Episcopal Church in Fort Walton Beach, FL, have pledged \$1,000 per year for 3 years to assist this effort.

Unfortunately, our October 2013 retreat, with author and retreat leader Katerina Whitley, was cancelled due to Hurricane Karen—and a prediction of



**Author and retreat leader,
Katerina Whitley.**

10 inches of rain for the area. What a disappointment it was! We were able to reschedule Katerina for an "Advent Day Away" at the Church of the Nativity, in Dothan, AL. She presented her program, "Waiting for the Wonder," prepared as dramatic dialogue of the biblical characters of the Christmas narrative. What a joyous time it was preparing for the Christmas season.

At our February meeting at St. Simon's on the Sound Episcopal Church, UTO Chairwoman, Elizabeth Welch, reported \$19,142.99 in offerings in 2013. "Spring Day Away"

with the Reverend Carol Mead was held at the Episcopal Church of the Advent in Lillian, AL, on April 5. The officers for 2014 are Leslie Hahn, president; Becky Taylor Scott, vice president; Jo Munn, secretary; Meghan Fancher, treasurer; and Joyce Landers, UTO coordinator. Commissioning was held at "Spring Day Away."

It was announced that Central Gulf Coast Retreat of Women's Ministries will be held on October 3-5 at Beckwith Camp and Conference Center. The Reverend Lindsay Hardin Freeman will be the retreat leader. Women of Vision will be held at Beckwith July 25-26. We are planning for the future and exploring opportunities to support the women of our diocese in their ministry.

The Diocese of Central Florida

Episcopal Church Women (ECW) in the Diocese of Central Florida continues to be a vibrant organization for women in the Episcopal Church.

After its election in October 2012, the ECW Board of Directors met and established three goals. The newly elected Board (Fall 2013) voted to continue with the following goals:

- To continue to improve communications among women in the diocese via the Internet, social media, and a newsletter.
- To provide leadership training for women in the diocese using "Women of Vision," for which the first training sessions were held at Canterbury Retreat and Conference Center, Oviedo, FL, on Saturday, January 18 (17

participants), and Saturday, February 1 (25 participants). Bonnie Newland of St. Francis of Assisi, Lake Placid, served as facilitator, and LaVerne Collins of St. George, The Villages, was co-facilitator.

Additional sessions in the future will be based on the success of these sessions. We would like to have one in each deanery to be more accessible to women in the diocese.

The Diocese of East Carolina

The ECW in the Diocese of East Carolina voted to have a task force look at and revise the by-laws. These changes were voted on at our annual meeting on April 24. Also, we have provided scholarships to girls in the Dominican Republic to attend school. We have supported the Interfaith Refugee Ministry with funds raised. With CPC Funds we have provided three seminarians with \$600 each to purchase books. Some of our parishes have sent Wounded Warriors gifts of books, candies, toiletries, gift certificates and notes of encouragement at Christmas; filled Easter baskets for farm workers' children; and sent funds and helped cook meals for the homeless at the Good Shepherd House. The diocese is active and looking forward to an even more productive 2014. A report was given at the convention of the diocese encouraging more women to join our local chapters.

The Diocese of Southwest Florida

The Diocese of Southwest Florida deaneries are busy planning their Spring Deanery gatherings. These events include entertaining speakers and Eucharist. It is a time for fellowship with other women in each of the deaneries. They will be electing their next deanery director who will be installed at the November annual meeting.

--Kate Gosselin, representative Province IV

Province V

The 137th annual meeting of the Diocese of Ohio Episcopal Church Women was held May 9 and 10 in Warren, OH. Friday was at the Magnuson Grand Hotel and Saturday was at Christ Church. The keynote speaker Saturday morning was Theresa Flores, author of "The Slave Across the Street"—the true story of how she survived the world of human trafficking as a teen.

—Janet Smart, event chairperson

ECW National Board Contribution Form 2012-2015

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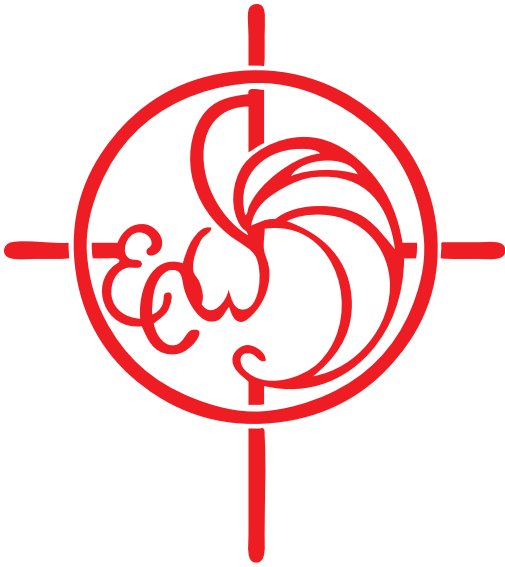
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- **Triennial Tidings** —
Run/Walk
- **EpiscoMom** —
Addressing the generation gap in
church programs.
- **Diocesan Discourse** –
News from the Provinces
- **Tech Talk** —

...And more!

Calendar of Events

Do you have something coming up in your diocese that you would like to share with the rest of the ECW? Information for this calendar comes from Episcopal Church Women throughout the Church. If your group or diocese has plans for meetings, special events, special missions, or other happenings, please send all pertinent information for inclusion in the next edition of *Communiqué* to: TMEditor@ecwnational.org.

*ECW Pilgrimage to the Holy Land:
December 1, 2014*

Save the Date!

Communiqué is looking for writers.
If you are interested, or have questions,
please contact TMEditor@ecwnational.org