



STIR UP THE
SPIRIT
¡CELEBREMOS!

Triennial Today

Monday June 29, 2015

48th Triennial Meeting of the Episcopal Church Women

Salt Lake City, Utah

Painting the Women of the Bible

Glowing works of art provide an additional way to approach thoughtful commentary on Lindsay Hardin Freeman's book *Bible Women*.

ECW President Nancy Crawford's seven-month blog on Freeman's book is illustrated with 14 watercolors by Claire Elam, a fellow parishioner at St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Eugene, Ore.

Elam, a 2014 graduate of Bennington College in Vermont, has had showings at college, and painted four murals in St. Mary's Sunday school wing.

Elam said that Crawford, knowing she was an artist and vocal feminist, approached her about illustrating the blog.

Elam read each chapter of *Bible Women* and said she sometimes illustrated based on what Freeman wrote, and sometimes based on what Crawford wrote.

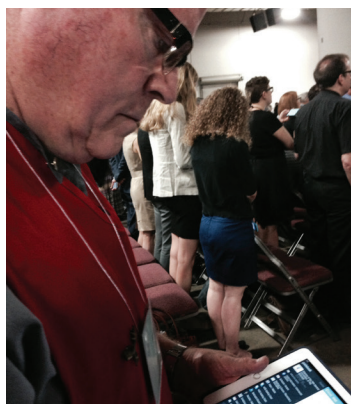
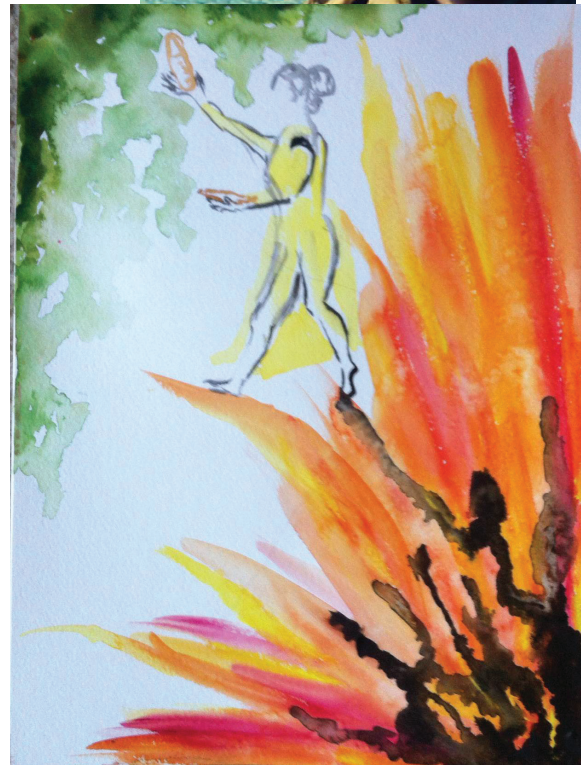
"I really enjoyed learning about the lower-profile women," Elam said. "It was nice to feel a connection with the deep, rich history of women that hadn't been told before, to give a face to it, to take all that history and make it modern and accessible."

She likes the challenge of oils and their color richness.

Some of Elam's abstract collage paintings use vintage wallpaper, windows, mirrors and parts of home appliances to explore the idea of home and what it's like to have it disintegrate and be rebuilt.

The *Bible Women* paintings are watercolors, which she likes, but which are difficult to control.

"I don't control it," she said. "I like the mistakes watercolors make."



Poll on Paperless

Morning Eucharist on Thursday was an unusual sight. Hundreds of worshippers filled a giant hall in the Salt Palace Convention Center.

Their faces were gently lit by the glow of the iPads and iPhones they were reading.

The once-forbidden objects

in church were the sanctioned source - the only source - of the day's worship service. This was the result of a decision made at the 2012 General Convention to save forests of paper by going digital.

They were aiming for the "greenest convention ever" and promised a "conven-

tion of screens."

The reaction to the first paperless Eucharist at General Convention and the ECW Triennial Meeting was mixed, and tended to fall along generational lines.

"Worship is open to all people. It's one place they shouldn't be

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Program Highlights

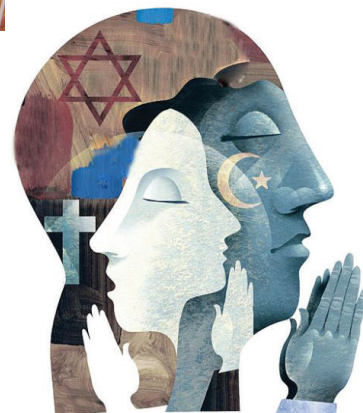
11:15 a.m. - 1 p.m. General Conversation - Mission Conversation

2 - 3:30 p.m. Workshops

1. *Anglican Prayer Beads: Construction and Use* - Karen Poggemeyer and Joy Prestidge
2. *Savoring Life's Turning Points* - Sharon Stetz
3. *Revolver hasta que el Espiritu de UTO* - Olga Arevalo
4. *Celebrate! A Clean House Without Chemicals* - The Rev. Dcn. Teri Van Huss
5. *Mind, Body and Tea* - The Rev. Becca Stevens
6. *Make Lavender Wands* - Belle Schwarzenbach
7. *Stir Up the Spirit with Centering Prayer* - Dana Lee and the Rev. Sarah Carver
8. *Why is SIM Important to ECW?* - Rachael Desmond and Sarah Milford
9. *Strength and Shame: The Discipleship of Mary Magdalene and the Role of Women in the Church* - The Very Rev. Kate Moorehead
10. *Stirring Up the Holy Huddle* - Sharon Tillman
11. *Women of the Bible: A Look at Jewish, Christian and Muslim Women Who Have Made a Difference* - The Rev. Mary Janda
12. *New Orleans Jazz Revival Mass* - Matt Lemmler and Father Bill Miller

4 - 5:30 p.m. Workshops

1. *Chair Yoga with a Christian Twist* - Judy Spratling
2. *Women of Vision* - Barbara Owens
3. *Crowd Funding Works* - Sara Milford
4. *Building Beloved Community: One Transition at a Time* - The Rev. Canon Dr. Angela F. Shepherd
5. *Improving the Visibility of the United Thank Offering* - Sandra Squires
6. *Mujeres: Sembradoras de Justicia* - The Rev. Margartia Santana
7. *Celebrate! A Clean House Without Chemicals* - The Rev. Dcn. Teri Van Huss
8. *Healing Oils for Daily Use* - The Rev. Becca Stevens
9. *Diabetes: Things Everyone Who Has It Should Know* - Belle Schwarzenbach
10. *Role of a Faith Community* - Tony Milner
11. *What Do Benedict & Our Baptismal Covenant Say to Us Today* - Sue Schlanbusch and Kathyleen Funk



Continued from Page 1

paperless," said an experienced South Dakota delegate who preferred not to be named.

More than one-half of her diocese's members are Native American, and many cannot afford smart phones and iPads, so they are not familiar with their use. "If we want to grow our church, at least communication has to be guaranteed. They could have had big screens."

"I thought it was a little strange to do," said Stephanie Ash-Harris, from the Bronx. "Participation was not 100 percent."

"People had to have planned ahead, downloaded ahead," said a self-described "rebel priest" from Colorado. "I still think we need something for people with no access to computers. Not everybody is computer-literate. I don't want to exclude anyone. I love that every General Convention delegate was given an iPad."

Irene Kornelly of Colorado said she thought it was great. "It went very smoothly. We had no trouble because our priest downloaded all of ours."

"I was fine," said Sandra Squires of Nebraska. "I could enlarge the print and turn it sideways."

Marilyn Braaten of Wyoming didn't have a copy to view. "I had to just get by. Now I know how to get to it on my phone, and it will get better." She said one priest in Wyoming wants to go paperless in the parish. "It's a key factor for young people. That's what they are accustomed to," she said.

Kayla Lynn Hyde is a college student from Wyoming. "Yeah, to me, taught not to have a cell phone in church, it felt weird having it out. I like the paperless, to save trees."

"It's going to take some getting used to," said Diana Gabbard of Kentucky. "I didn't have it today but will have tomorrow. We'll get there."

Photos and Digital Downloads of the Episcopal Church Women 2015 Triennial Meeting may be viewed and ordered at: www.dlugophoto.zenfolio.com/ecw

Images will be edited and uploaded to this site from the meeting as quickly as possible.

Triennial Today
Staff

Christine Budzowski
Editor in Chief

Marium F. Mohiuddin
Editor

Barbara Harris
Media Team, Writer

Dottie Arthur
Writer

Samar Fay
Media Team, Writer

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Media Team

Jackie Meeks
Writer

Mayra Brown
Media Team

Shetwan Roberison
Media Team

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Writer

Bev Ruebech
Media Team, Writer

In Their Own Words

How did you first feel about coming to Triennial?

Super excited! Very, very excited! I was excited because I had never been to Utah and I wanted to meet the girls from New Jersey.

I felt a little nervous because I was leaving my mom and wouldn't be with my family.

Do you have that God given spirit within you to be ready to share with your other Sisters in Christ?

I was thinking that I would make new friends and that they would be lots of fun. I was pretty sure it would be fun because I had Skyped with Catherine and her mom, Lydia, and I already knew Aiyana.

I was pretty sure the other girls from New Jersey would be nice, too.

Why is it important to attend such an event?

I thought it was important to help with the things I could help out with and to tell people about GFS and why GFS was important for girls and women.

People asked me what GFS was and I told them that it was an organization that helps girls make friends, learn about themselves and become confident. It's a place where a girl can be a leader if she wants to be.

How has the experience been so far?

(Big smile) Some of it has been what I expected, but some of it hasn't. I didn't expect was that we would be able to walk around and go sightseeing. I didn't expect to be able to walk around the convention area and that so many people would



want to talk to our group.

The thing that surprised me the most was that there were so many adults that didn't know about GFS!! I have kept in touch with my parents while on this trip and I called my mom a few times.

I also kept in touch with my siblings by texting. I liked meeting new people in the exhibit hall and learning why they were there.

I liked the shopping because there were interesting and neat things to buy. The worship services were very nice and the singing was beautiful. I like to sing and I was able to use my phone to follow along.

Autumn is 13 years and old and is a GFS member in the Diocese of Los Angeles. She helps set up for the Christmas and Halloween parties at her church. Her GFS branch is creating a garden at her church and she has helped with the decoration of the floats for the Rose Parade for 3 years. She studies art and plays the piano. She has 2 cats and turtle!

GFS: Fun in the Sun in Salt Lake

The GFS girls hit the ground running upon their arrival in Salt Lake City and were prepared to serve in whatever capacity they were needed. Along with the wide variety of duties they were assigned during the Triennial, it wasn't going to be all work and no play!

We were able to squeeze in a tour of Temple Square where we learned a bit about the Mormon faith as well as touring the Tabernacle, home of the famous Mormon Tabernacle Choir and the Conference Center with its 21,000 seat auditorium and 4 acre rooftop garden.

With so much to see and so little time, small intervals allowed a visit to the Farmers Market in Pioneer Park and the

Arts Festival in Library Square. What trip would be complete without a visit to the mall, so off to City Creek Center we went.

Our final outing was to the Great Salt Lake and the Copper Mines.

The girls enjoyed catching brine shrimp, dipping their toes in the water and admiring the landscape. As we traveled the steep, narrow road up to the copper mines, the mountain views were breath taking. Our tour guide was a wealth of information and pointed out an antelope, a mule deer and avocet bird along the way. Once we reached the top, we gazed down upon the copper mining pit and were astounded by the enormity of the site.

Our time here in Salt Lake City is coming to an end but the memories of this amazing experience will stay with us for a lifetime. Thank you for inviting us, it has truly been a pleasure working with the entire ECW community.



The Venerable Woman: Mother God, Mother Church, Mother Women...

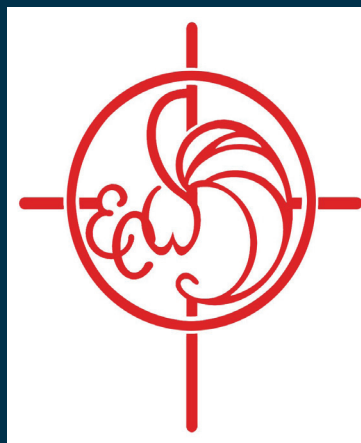
“Talitha cum”: Get up Girl, Your work is not done yet! As I absorbed Bishop Schori’s words delivered at Eucharist on Sunday, June 28th, (intonation on point) I felt that she had been sitting with me in the Plenary room since our Triennial Meeting had begun; she has heard our collective plights of frustration and attitudes of defeat at our dwindling Episcopal Church Women groups. She suggests that on one hand she shares our pain but she neither supports nor endorses

our submission to the dogs that appear to be ferociously barking at our heels. In fact she emphatically asserts “Talitha cum”.

Sitting in the seats and observing the wall hangings at the back of the altar, I am able to discern two eyeless faces at the top of the mountains, one on each side looking down on us. When I gaze at these faces etched in the stone formation, I am reminded of Lady Justice who is a major demonstrator of impartiality; a blind justice exists for all. These faces which overlook us during worship say that all are welcome to partake. When you become tired and weary I will give you, my child, strength to persevere and reserve for the long haul. “Talitha cum.”

During the remainder of Bishop Schori’s sermon I appreciate a look of reverence on the faces of congregants which surround me. What happens when we leave this hallowed place? What happens when we leave our Plenary room? Are we going to eagerly return home with grand plans of implementing some or all that we have learned or are we going to store this acquired knowledge for a later day because it is just too difficult and time consuming to attempt innovative concepts and ideas; predictably, we know “it just won’t work” and “no one will come or participate.”

Mathew 18:20 informs us that where two or three are gathered together in my name, there I am in the midst. “Talitha cum!”



Episcopal Church Women
ecwnational.org