

TENNESSEE VALLEY CONVOCATION REPORT

September 3, 2007

Barbara Carpenter, Coordinator

The Tennessee Valley Convocation Spring Meeting was held on March 20th at St. Stephen's Church in Huntsville. Debra Kibler, St. Stephen's ECW President coordinated the meeting. We were pleased, once again, to welcome our Diocesan President, Alleen Cater to our meeting. To begin the day, Holy Eucharist was celebrated by St. Stephen's Rector, Susan Sloan. After the Eucharist the business meeting was called to order.

Women's Weekend was the topic of business for the day. Parish assignments, activities, schedules, subjects of seminars, etc. were finalized. Everyone planning to attend was asked to come early and help set up, and prepare the finger food and beverages for the Friday Night "Wine and Unwind" hosted by the Huntsville and Madison parishes. After our business meeting a delicious lunch was served by the Women of St. Stephen's.

On May 18th to the 20th Women's Weekend was hosted by the Tennessee Valley Convocation. Cathy Blackney chaired the weekend with a large committee representing parishes throughout the convocation. I have to express my thanks and gratitude to the ladies of Good Shepherd in Decatur who planned and worked so hard to make the weekend the success that it was. Susan Sloan, rector of St. Stephen's was facilitator for the seminars. Various activities were also enjoyed by all. (Belly dancing, karaoke, paper hat making, style show at evening meal of the creative paper hats, hiking, fellowship, etc.) Food was outstanding and the camp directors and employees were very accommodating. The weekend was a huge success with 96 attendees. The financial report is attached. At the closing session several attendees came to me to thank us for a wonderful weekend and said that they were already looking forward to next year's weekend. I must say, I felt the presence of the Lord the entire weekend.

As my term as the Tennessee Valley Coordinator comes to an end, I was asked to help find my successor. Carolyn Bright, from Grace Church in Sheffield has accepted the position. She will be an asset to the next board as she has extensive ECW experience.

Our fall meeting will be held at St. Matthew's in Madison in October or November. Date and time to be determined. An invitation will be sent to all and we hope that all will come to see the new sanctuary at St. Matthew's.