

**EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN – DIOCESE OF ALABAMA  
MINUTES\* OF THE BOARD MEETING  
CARPENTER HOUSE- APRIL 8, 2008**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Dee Buzby, Gethryn Giles, Marilyn Atkins, Carolyn Woodson, Barbara Carpenter, The Rev. Deacon Katy Smith, Alyce Smith, Anne Kimzey, Linda George, Tana Branch, Fiona Watts, Nancy Thompson, Sallie Lowe, Liz Ensey, Frances Lowe, Bea Strong, Alleen Cater, Cheri Blair, Sally Sinclair, Brenda Mayhall, and The Right Rev. Henry N. Parsley, Jr., Ex Officio.

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Cathy Blackney, Jane Dickson, Andi Silberman, Lisa Parrish, Tor Johnson, Valerie Burnes and Lisa Gruner.

Dee Buzby, President, called the meeting to order at 10:08 a.m.-- giving a warm welcome to everyone. Dee thanked Gethryn Giles for organizing the Parish Leadership Training Event held this past Saturday, April 5.

Anne Kimzey led the devotion which began by listening to a beautiful Easter hymn. She passed around a basket of Easter eggs containing hymns, Bible verses, and quotations and asked each board member to participate by reading their selection. She closed with a prayer for guidance.

The minutes of the January 4 & 5, 2008 board meeting at Camp McDowell were approved as presented on a motion by Gethryn Giles. The minutes are posted on the ECW website [www.alabamawcw.org](http://www.alabamawcw.org)

Carolyn Woodson, Treasurer, gave the Treasurer's Report. Operating Fund: Total receipts for the period ending 4-4-08 were \$8,866.95 plus the beginning balance of \$1,807.92 equals \$10,674.87. Total disbursements were \$3,225.00. The ending balance in the Operating Fund is \$7,449.87. Under Disbursements, two line items that are no longer valid will be deleted. They are: Church Women United under Gifts; and Board Assistance (Continuing Education) under Education, Information & Inspiration. Gethryn Giles moved the \$435.51 in the Board Assistance Fund be added to the Women At The Well segregated account. Motion passed. The amount

available for college scholarships will be determined and Carolyn will call Nancy Thompson with that information. The complete Treasurer's Report is posted on the website.

Assistant Treasurer Sallie Lowe reiterated the request that money sent to Carpenter House be clearly marked for ECW. The UTO box of cash from the PLTE meeting was given to Barbara Carpenter to count and return with a check for deposit.

Calendar Handbooks - Gethryn Giles reported that the cost of printing has increased for the 2009 Calendar Handbook, "St. Anne, Grandmother of our Savior." Gethryn moved the price of the 2009 extra calendars be increased from \$3.50 to \$5.00 per calendar to cover the printing increase. Motion passed. Dee Buzby announced she has found a potential speaker, Katerina Whitley, who is knowledgeable about St. Anne. The cost will be \$500 plus transportation and lodging but she is agreeable to staying in someone's home. Bea Strong moved that the board approve inviting Katerina Whitley to be the speaker for the 2009 Fall Conference. Motion passed. This will now go to the Bishop for final approval. This report is attached.

UTO – Barbara Carpenter reported that \$80.00 was received from the boxes placed on the tables at the convention. She thanked Zona Tounsley for filling in for her at PLTE. The spring UTO Ingathering will be in May.

Dee announced that Lisa Cade-Gruner is on the diocesan task force for the Stewardship of Creation and will be the ECW Board's liaison with that group.

Archivist – Valerie Pope Burnes' report is attached. Jim Baggett at the Birmingham Public Library has agreed to accept the ECW papers and make them part of the Diocesan Collection at the archives.

CPC – Brenda Mayhall announced that the CPC designated Sunday is May 6. She will get the list of seminarians' names mid summer and will let us know how much money each will receive for help with the cost of their books. The National CPC has sent a letter telling of their need for funds and prayers.

Clergy Liaison – Katy Smith has received the first verbal request for money from the Women At The Well Fund. The committee consists of Katy Smith,

Fiona Watts and Adele Colvin. Clergy Conference comes up in two weeks. Alleen Cater asked that the clergy talk up the upcoming Art Auction.

DOK – Andi Silberman’s report is attached.

Hospitality – Alyce Smith will furnish lunch for each board meeting. There will be a \$5.00 charge each meeting. Alyce asked to be notified of food restrictions.

Mission and Ministries – Fran Lowe has been attending convocation meetings requesting parishes fill out a form that will provide information about their mission and outreach activities as well as fundraising for these events. The form is on the website.

Nominations – Dee announced that board members should notify Jane Dickson if they want to continue on the board. A slate of officers will be presented at the September meeting.

Publicity – Fiona Watts appreciates that items for The Apostle are being sent to her copy ready. Photographs in JPEG form are encouraged. There is a ‘save the date’ space available if you wish to publicize an event in the future.

Scholarships – Nancy Thompson’s committee will meet May 12 to review college scholarship applications. Discussion followed on who is eligible to receive a scholarship. The recipient must be a communicant in good standing with the Episcopal Church, Diocese of Alabama.

Alleen Cater brought up the fact that the IRS requires we give a written acknowledgement to every donor. Reference the Scholarship program, Alleen drafted 3 forms to simplify acknowledgements. The first would be to the donor giving in memory or in honor of someone and would state that “No goods or services were received for this donation.” The second would be a new general contribution form to the College Scholarship Fund with an envelope and would be sent with the thank you to the donor to be available for the next contribution. A small brochure could also be included. The third would notify the family of the person being honored. Sallie Lowe, Assistant Treasurer, would continue to administer acknowledgements using

the new forms. It was suggested that donors names might be listed in The Apostle as a means to encourage donations. The Acts 2 donors will also need to be acknowledged.

Webmaster – Sally Sinclair emailed a thorough report of all the website updates, Convocation Coordinator requests and recommendations to all ECW Board members. The report is attached.

Women's Weekend – In the absence of Cathy Blackney, Dee shared the highlights of the upcoming Women's Weekend event which will be held May 16 – 18, 2008 at Camp McDowell. The Rev. Bob Blackwell and his wife Kay will be the speakers. Alleen Cater moved that the Alms from Women's Weekend go to the Acts 2 fund. Motion carried. Cathy still needs someone to be in charge of the 'Wine and Unwind' on Friday night after the poolside Compline. It was suggested that the registration form contain a line for people to sign up to bring something to share for that part of the weekend. Cathy's report is attached.

Kanuga – This year Dee Buzby, Gethryn Giles, Barbara Carpenter, Tora Johnson, Alyce Smith, and Carolyn Woodson (and husband) will represent us at the Province IV Episcopal Church Women Conference that will be held at Kanuga in North Carolina, June 2 – 4.

Noon Day Prayers were led by Bishop Parsley in the Chapel at Carpenter House. The cross, given by the ECW, in memory of Bishop Furman C. "Bill" Stough was dedicated. The cross was designed by the late Cordray Parker. Guests present for the dedication were: Leslie Stough Lynch, daughter of Bishop Stough, Summer Stough Horn, neice of Bishop Stough, Nancy Poynor and Jane Menendez, Advent Garden Committee Members, Canon Craig Smalley and Canon Joe Warren, Clergy Staff at Advent, The Rev. Pat Wingo and Olivia Weingarten, ECW Past President.

Following lunch with Bishop Parsley, ECW President, Dee Buzby, called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m. Dee invited the Bishop to share some thoughts with the board.

Bishop Parsley greeted us this Easter season by saying, "Happy Easter during these great 50 days." He likes to remind people that Easter doesn't come

and go but it comes and stays for almost seven weeks. He thanked the ECW for the wonderful gift of the cross in memory of Bishop Stough.

The Bishop is looking forward to the art auction next week and has plans to contribute something special. He said, "The auction is a wonderful thing to do, not only because it brings money for a good cause but it also involves people with their gifts and talents and it brings us together in ways that are so important for the Church." The goal is to have the Chapel finished by the 2009 convention.

The Lambeth Conference is still on for July 9 – August 3 and Bishop Sloan and Bishop Parsley plan to go. The Bishop asked us to, "Please pray for Lambeth; it is a time of renewal and unity for the Anglican communion in the midst of great strife about various things."

After the conference Bishop Parsley will be on Sabbatical for three months. He requests our prayers for a good Sabbath time. Bishop Sloan will be with us during that time.

Other prayer requests are for the extremely important work being done in Haiti and for the recently approved ordination of five new deacons.

Bishop Parsley asked to purchase 12 tickets to the art auction to give to his staff.

Alleen Cater shared with the board that Bishop Parsley and Becky have offered to host dinner for eight in their Birmingham home as a live auction item. Rob Morpeth will be the chef, members of the diocesan staff will serve the meal and Bishop Parsley will act as maitre d'. There will be seven courses with wine to match.

## CONVOCATION REPORTS

Birmingham – Liz Ensey reported the convocation met in February at Cathedral Church of The Advent. The speaker was Timothy George, founding Dean of Beeson Divinity School, Samford University.

Black Belt – Bea Strong reported the convocation met March 8 at Christ Church, Tuscaloosa, with the Rev. David Meginniss speaking on, "The Treatment of Women in the Bible." The group voted to give \$200 to the ACTS 2 campaign and \$200 to the Scholarship Fund. Since the lunch was donated, an additional \$222 that was collected for lunch will be given to ACTS 2. The report is attached.

Cheaha – Linda George – The Spring meeting was held March 27 at Grace Church, Anniston. The Rev. Deacon Dave Drachlis, Huntsville gave a Powerpoint presentation telling about the mission work with the people of Haiti. The Alms received that day were \$280 and went for the Haiti Mission. The report is attached.

East Alabama – Tana Branch – Meeting date to be announced.

Mountain – Cheri Blair – Convocation will meet April 29, 9:30 a.m., at Church of the Epiphany, Guntersville. Paula Dabney will speak on the greening of the Church. She will tell us how to recycle, reuse and be more responsible for earth's creation.

Montgomery – In the absence of Lisa Parrish, Anne Kimsey announced that the Spring meeting will be May 7 at Church of the Ascension in Montgomery. The Rev. Mary Earle will be the speaker. This is part of their 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration.

Tennessee Valley – Dee announced that with sadness and regret she has accepted the resignation of Caroline Bright and is looking for a new Coordinator for the Tennessee Valley. Nativity, Huntsville will have a convocation meeting April 24. Rich Webster will be the speaker.

#### ON-GOING BUSINESS

Parish Leadership Training Event (PLTE) – Gethryn Giles thanked Tana Branch for the cute Convocation signs for the tables. This first ever ECW workshop at PLTE was well received by attendees and the evaluations showed that follow-up sessions are desired in fundraising, programs, project development, parish ECW organizations and how to attract members. Consideration will be given to a longer time slot at next year's PLTE. This report is attached.

ACTS 2 Wine and Cheese Art Auction – Fiona Watts – The Art Auction will be held at All Saints Episcopal Church, Homewood, April 17, 2008, 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. The goal is to have more than 200 people attend the event as there are so many very nice items being auctioned. Alleen Cater and Lyle Hohnke are offering brunch or dinner for 30 with the Chancellor at their

Sewanee home. The full list of over 200 items is on the website. Everyone is encouraged to bring others for this fun evening. Dee announced that the Tennessee Valley Convocation offered to put on an ACTS 2 fundraiser in 2010.

St. Claire's needle arts guild up-date – Alleen will inform the board when this project actually takes off.

Fall Conference – Liz Ensey – October 9 & 10, 2008 will be the Fall Conference at St. Stephen's in Birmingham. The speaker will be the Rev. Dr. Jo Bailey Wells, Duke University. The ECW Board will meet on Wednesday night, October 8 for dinner at The Club. Lodging will be available at the Comfort Inn in the Colonnades. There is a free, full hot breakfast beginning at 6:30 a.m. The Wine and Cheese will be held at St. John's for the Deaf. It was suggested that we might have someone teach us some sign language at our September board meeting so we can communicate with them.

Kanuga – Dee announced that officers will be elected for Province IV. If anyone is interested; please talk with her.

Fall Board Meeting – September 2, 2008, 10:00 a.m. at Carpenter House.

## NEW BUSINESS

Pay Pal – Sally Sinclair – Beginning with Fall Conference Sally would like to offer people the option of registering and paying online if they wish. They would still have the option of mailing in their registration and check. She would like to set up a Pay Pal account. Fiona Watts moved we open a Pay Pal account. Motion carried. A question was raised about the percentage charged for using the account. There is a small fee and this will be worked out with the Birmingham Convocation.

Mission Project – Fran Lowe – It has been suggested that the ECW have one outreach project that all ECW would do together. This could be very unifying. Perhaps it could be something for children and/or women in Haiti. Anne Kimzey is going to look into something that would be fun for the children. Back packs, flip flops, slides, barrettes, lacy socks, school supplies were a few suggestions. Anne and Fran will look into this and report back.

ACTS 2 Financial listing – Carolyn Woodson – Individual names of donors will be listed online with the ACTS 2 Thermometer. The amount given will not be shown, unless requested. Churches and convocations will be listed with amounts given.

The meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m. Anne Kimzey closed with the ECW Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marilyn D. Atkins  
Recording Secretary

Paper copies of reports are attached to the hardcopy files of the minutes held by the President, Secretary and Historian. Electronic versions of the attachments are available online at [www.alabamaecw.org](http://www.alabamaecw.org)

Treasurer's Report (1-1-08 to 4-4-08) – Carolyn Woodson  
President-Elect's Report – Gethryn Giles  
Archives Report – Valerie Pope Burnes  
Daughter's of the King Report – Andi Silberman  
Webmaster's Report – Sally Sinclair  
Women's Weekend Report – Cathy Blackney  
Black Belt Convocation – Bea Strong  
Cheaha Convocation – Linda George  
Parish Leadership Training Event Workshop Report – Gethryn Giles

\*This is a preliminary copy of the minutes for your review. A corrected/approved copy will be posted after the September Board meeting.