

**EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN - DIOCESE OF ALABAMA  
MINUTES\* OF BOARD MEETING  
JANUARY 4 & 5, 2008  
AT CAMP McDOWELL**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Dee Buzby, Gethryn Giles, Barbara Carpenter, Alyce Smith, Anne Kimzey, Linda George, Tana Branch, Fiona Watts, Nancy Thompson, Sallie Lowe, Liz Ensey, Lisa Parrish, Caroline Bright, Tora Johnson, Frances Lowe, Bea Strong, Valerie Burnes, Alleen Cater, Cheri Blair, Carolyn Woodson, Marilyn Atkins, Lisa Gruner, The Rev. Deacon Katy Smith and The Right Rev. Henry N. Parsley, Jr., Ex Officio.

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Cathy Blackney, Jane Dickson, Brenda Mayhall, Andi Silberman, and Sally Sinclair.

**GUEST:** Becky Parsley

**January 4<sup>th</sup> - Bishop Parsley's comments:**

On Friday evening, Bishop Parsley and Becky joined the Board for dinner and informal conversation. The bishop commended the ECW for their vital work in the Church, thanked us for our contribution to ACTS 2 and spoke about up-coming events for which our prayers are needed: construction on the new chapel to begin in late January; the ordination and consecration of The Rev. John McKee Sloan as Bishop Suffragan, January 12; opportunities to get to know our Presiding Bishop, Katharine Jefferts Schori, January 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>; the 177<sup>th</sup> Annual Diocesan Convention, February 21<sup>st</sup> - 23<sup>rd</sup>; the Lambeth Conference in August; the bishop and Becky's sabbatical the following three months; and Becky's job as National Coordinator of Bishop's Spouses.

Summarizing, Bishop Parsley said there's a lot of good going on in our diocese. "Let's be Christ centered. Issues won't go away - we need to learn how to love one another when we are different." He closed the evening with a devotional on our theme, "Blessed Is She Who Believes" encouraging us to: 1) be attentive and listen for God to speak to us, 2) believe in God's promises; God says, "Love one another", we should expect something to happen and 3) God wants us to have joy in our lives. By our joy and love, people will know we are Christians.

## **BOARD MEETING, Saturday, January 5, 2008**

Dee Buzby, President, called the Board meeting to order at 9:08 a.m.--giving a warm welcome to everyone. Dee thanked Gethryn Giles for leading the informative Convocation Coordinators class on Friday evening. She requested that reports be emailed to all Board members and/or posted on the website before the Board meetings so everyone can have a copy at the meeting.

Anne Kimsey gave a devotional quoting from the book, "God Calling", edited by A.J. Russell. The author says as we start the New Year we should bury every fear of the future and trust God to supply the wisdom and strength for each day.

The minutes of the October 11, 2007 Board meeting and the minutes of the 118<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference October 11 & 12, 2007, were approved as presented on a motion by Fiona Watts. The minutes will be posted on the ECW website [www.alabamaecw.org](http://www.alabamaecw.org)

In the absence of Brenda Mayhall, outgoing Treasurer, a written copy of the Treasurer's report was disbursed. Operating Fund: Total receipts for the year 2007 were \$11,880.39 and total disbursements were \$10,623.23. The ending balance in the Operating Fund is \$777.62. Discussion followed about the issue of high cost for deaf interpreters at the Fall Conference. Alleen Cater said the policy regarding payment needs to be clarified for the future. She suggested that the President and the President-Elect resolve this issue with the diocese by having a meeting with the bishops, Rob Morpeth and Marianne Stephens. The Treasurer's report will be posted on the website.

Calendar Handbooks - Gethryn Giles announced the deadline for getting all information including annual events in the 2009 Calendar Handbook is July 1, 2008 and the deadline for ordering extra copies is August 1, 2008. The bishop has approved the theme, "St. Anne, Grandmother of our Savior" for the 2009 Calendar Handbook. 2008 Calendar Handbooks are available from Dee.

UTO - Barbara Carpenter reported that two grant applications have been received. One from Bakers On Wheels, Inc., Moody, AL and one from the

Shoals Family Success Center for their Family Life University. The Board discussed the applications. Barbara's committee will review the applications and pass their recommendations on to Bishop Parsley. If approved, the applications will be submitted to the National UTO Committee.

Parliamentarian - Alleen Cater told about the Bishop's Guild which is housed at the Advent and run mostly by Advent people, however, they welcome help from the outside. They have requested more finger food for the reception following the consecration of the Bishop Suffragan. Please bring food, table ready or simply give money to Alleen and she will purchase food. They also need people to help serve and clean up.

Archivist - Valerie Burnes set the standard for keeping records. Each Board member's notebook should contain only reports created by them. Board members may keep anything they wish for themselves, but should keep it in a separate notebook and do not pass that on. Valerie will keep a copy of the more recent records and asks that everyone who creates a report, please email it to her. If the report is emailed to the whole Board then she will print and save it. For the older records that need a permanent home, Valerie will contact the Birmingham Library to see if they will allow ECW records as that is where the diocesan archival records are kept.

CPC (Church Periodical Club) - In the absence of Brenda Mayhall, Gethryn Giles explained that CPC money is collected on the first Sunday in May. In Alabama, we do not send all our money to the National CPC; we give some money to each seminarian from Alabama for books each year.

Clergy Liaison - Katy Smith said she was pleased to see the article in the "Apostle" saying there is money available for women interested in spiritual refreshment.

Daughter's of the King (DOK) - Andi Silberman's report is attached to the minutes as she was unable to attend. The Spring Assembly of the DOK will be at Grace Church, Cullman, February 2, 2008.

Devotions - Anne Kimsey said part of her job is to arrange for prayer concerns to be shared with the Board. After discussion, it was decided that Board members could either contact Anne with prayer concerns and she will

let everyone know or they can send an email direct. Anne shared how much it meant to her to receive cards and emails that people were praying for her both during her father's illness and her surgery.

Events Coordinator - Tora Johnson talked about the Province IV Episcopal Church Women Conference that will be held at Kanuga in North Carolina June 2-4; encouraging everyone to attend. It is an opportunity to see how the wider ECW functions. Dee suggested those who have never been there check the website at [www.kanuga.org](http://www.kanuga.org) and those planning to attend let her know by February 1.

Hospitality - Alyce Smith prepared lunch for the Board at the cottage.

Missions and Ministries - Fran Lowe asked that Board members let her know if their church or anyone they know is involved in any of these activities and give her a contact person so she can let everyone know.

Publicity - Fiona Watts announced the deadline for getting articles in the "Apostle" is the first of the month for the following month publication. Articles submitted must be copy ready. It can be an attachment to an email. Photographs are encouraged and can be emailed.

BREAK -- The Rev. Mark Johnston arrived to celebrate the Holy Eucharist. Mark shared up-coming events at Camp and told us about the BRICK CAMPAIGN - "Completing the vision: one brick, one act, at a time." Bricks will be used for walkways and patios at the new chapel. He gave us order forms to fill out to designate the name of the donor or the honorees name. Cost is \$125 per brick. Lunch followed.

The Board meeting resumed following lunch with Dee calling the meeting to order at 12:55 p.m.

Scholarship - Nancy Thompson stated that one of the \$1,000 scholarships given in 2007 was not used by the recipient, thus the sum of scholarships awarded in 2007 is \$1,000 less than the \$12,750 that was reported in the minutes of the September 4, 2007 Board meeting. In an effort to

streamline the application process, some new guidelines are posted on the website. All applicants must be a communicant member of the Episcopal Church, in the Diocese of Alabama. Nancy also mentioned the possibility of designing a scholarship brochure. It was suggested that the idea be discussed with the new youth director.

Webmaster - Sally Sinclair was absent so Fiona Watts gave her report. After the Fall Conference presentation, more parishes are sending in information to be posted on the website, however more parish events for 2008 and updates on ACTS 2 are needed. Sally recommends you put the website address on every ECW correspondence you write, paper and email. Sally requests that each committee chair check their webpage against what is printed in the Calendar Handbook and let her know what needs updating on their page. Also each Convocation Coordinator should check their Convocation page and make sure their list of parishes is up to date. If you want any of your reports to the ECW Board on the Reports webpage, you need to send them to Sally electronically. This report is on the website.

Women's Weekend - Cathy Blackney was unable to be present. Dee announced that Bob and Kay Blackwell will be the speakers for Women's Weekend, May 16 - 18, 2008.

Corresponding Secretary - Lisa-Cade Gruner presented the Diocesan ECW Correspondence Secretary's report which she also handed out. She included a summary of email addresses in constant contact. Lisa requested that if you send any information to Sally Sinclair for posting on the web or in the "Apostle", please send it to her also. This report is attached.

## CONVOCAATION REPORTS

Birmingham - Liz Ensey - Fall convocation was held at St. Michael's on October 24 with installation of the new officers. The Spring meeting will be at the Cathedral Church of the Advent, date TBA and the Fall meeting will be hosted by St. Luke's. Plans are in progress for the Birmingham Convocation to host the Fall Conference, October 9 and 10 at St. Stephen's Church. The speaker will be The Rev. Dr. Jo Bailey Wells, Duke University.

Black Belt - Bea Strong - The Fall luncheon meeting was held at the home of Valerie Burnes in Marion on December 14. ACTS 2 was discussed and Bea was introduced as the new coordinator. The Spring meeting will be at Christ Church in Tuscaloosa.

Cheaha - Linda George - The Fall convocation meeting was held at St. Peter's in Talladega on October 25 with Bob and Kay Blackwell as the speaker's who shared their experiences as missionaries in Syria. Linda was introduced as the new coordinator. ACTS 2 was discussed. St. Luke's Church, Jacksonville, brought a hand made quilt that was being raffled. \$605 was received from that raffle and given to ACTS 2. The Spring meeting will be at Grace Church in Anniston.

East Alabama - Tana Branch praised the ladies of the East Alabama Convocation for working so hard and accomplishing a very successful Fall Conference at which time the Board broke out in applause commending the group for an outstanding job. Tana presented extra scarfs from the Conference for Board members and asked that they be shared with ECW members who are ill.

Montgomery - Lisa Parrish announced their Spring Convocation meeting will be May 8, at the Church of the Ascension in Montgomery with the speaker being The Rev. Mary Earle. All are welcome.

Tennessee Valley - Caroline Bright announced the Fall meeting was held at St. Matthew's in Madison with good attendance.

Mountain - Cheri Blair stated they had a bazaar November 17 and raised \$6500. Cheri will be meeting with all the presidents in the convocation the end of January to set-up all the convocation dates for the next two years.

#### ON-GOING BUSINESS

ACTS 2 - Fiona Watts said the first fundraiser will be a Wine and Cheese Silent Auction held at All Saints Church in Homewood on either April 17th or 24<sup>th</sup> pending approval from the diocese. Olivia Weingarten is working with Fiona and the committee will be made up of mainly churches in the Birmingham area, however, they would appreciate help from any Board

members who would like to be on the committee as this is a diocesan event not just a Birmingham event.

Over the next three years, there will be three diocesan fundraisers to raise money toward our ACTS 2 commitment of \$65,000. The next two are planned for Huntsville and Montgomery.

Fiona asked each Board member to get items for the silent auction and bring them to the April 8<sup>th</sup> Board meeting. It can be anything considered auctionable; art work, jewelry, toiletries, wine, pottery, gift certificates or anything you would consider bidding on yourself. Lisa Parrish suggested that each Board member bring a bottle of wine to the next Board meeting; several bottles of good wine could be grouped together on a wine table and auctioned off. Another suggestion was to have wine baskets with crackers, etc.

Corporate Gift - Dee explained that each year the ECW gives \$2,000 to the diocese from the funds received from annual parish contributions. In 2007, the corporate gift went towards our ACTS 2 commitment and it is expected to continue going to ACTS 2 until the ECW reaches its goal.

ECW Banner - Dee announced that Alleen will be carrying the ECW Banner in the processional for the ordination of the Bishop Suffragan.

Diocesan Convention - Dee stated that the ECW has been given permission to place UTO Blue Boxes on all the tables at the convention.

Clergy Directory - Lisa Gruner will coordinate with the Rev. Pat Wingo to continue to update the clergy directory.

Bookmarks - For the past two years, Alleen has had ECW bookmarks made up with our logo on the back and passed them out at convention. Dee will order bookmarks to distribute at the convention in February and for other events.

UTO Conference - Face to Face - Dee Buzby and Barbara Carpenter attended the conference last August in Richmond, VA. Barbara explained that Face to Face is a workshop presented by the National UTO Committee to give new UTO Coordinators an overview of the total program. Expenses up to \$600 per diocese, for representatives to attend, will be paid by the National UTO Committee.

Spring meeting is April 8<sup>th</sup> at Carpenter House at 10:00 a.m. Free parking is available at the Compass Bank parking garage on 5<sup>th</sup> Ave. North. The ticket must be stamped at Carpenter House for the diocese to pay for the parking.

Nominations - Dee asked that ECW members give names of potential Board members to Jane Dickson as her committee will be presenting a slate to be elected in October.

St. Claire's needle arts guild up-date - Alleen said she is still seeking someone to organize the guild. It will be set-up as a resource page on the website.

Dee thanked Alyce Smith and Tora Johnson for preparing the lunch today and all for coming.

The meeting adjourned at 2:10 p.m. Anne Kimsey 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 2007 - Brenda Mayhall  
Daughter's of the King Report - Andi Silberman  
Webmaster's Report - Sally Sinclair  
Correspondence Secretary's Report - Lisa Gruner

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