

**EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN - DIOCESE OF ALABAMA
MINUTES* OF BOARD MEETING
JANUARY 9 & 10, 2009
AT CAMP McDOWELL**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dee Buzby, Gethryn Giles, Marilyn Atkins, Carolyn Woodson, Anne Kimzey, Fiona Watts, Nancy Thompson, Sallie Lowe, Tora Johnson, Frances Lowe, Bea Strong, Valerie Burnes, Alleen Cater, Cheri Blair, Alyce Smith, Cathy Blackney, Sally Sinclair, Lisa Taylor, and Brenda Mayhall.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Barbara Carpenter, Lisa Gruner, Linda George, Tana Branch, Jane Dickson, Andi Silberman, Liz Ensey, Joan East, The Rev. Deacon Katy Smith and the Rt. Rev. Henry N. Parsley, Jr., Ex Officio.

GUESTS: The Rt. Rev. and Mrs. John McKee Sloan (Tina), and the Rev. and Mrs. Mark Johnston (Maggie).

Friday, January 9th:

On Friday evening, Mark and Maggie Johnston invited the Board for dinner in their home. Special guests were Bishop Kee Sloan and his wife, Tina.

BOARD MEETING, Saturday, January 10, 2009

Dee Buzby, Diocesan ECW President, called the Board meeting to order at 9:08 a.m. giving a special welcome to Lisa Taylor, who will serve as Montgomery Convocation Coordinator replacing Lisa Parrish who resigned after taking a full time job. Dee thanked everyone for coming. She reiterated the ECW goals and requested that pictures of ECW events be sent to her for a presentation at Diocesan Convention.

Anne Kimsey's devotional included listening to an essay, *The Long Road to Forgiveness* by Kim Phuc who is best known as "the girl in the picture," the provocative photo of a Vietnam War napalm attack. Anne offered prayers for healing and also the meeting.

Treasurer's Report: Carolyn Woodson stated that there will be some changes in the Treasurer's Report due to her just receiving a deposit slip with checks from 2008. She reported that the Operating Fund has an ending balance of \$6,834.88. The ACTS2 account has \$45,063.42. This report is available at www.alabamaecw.org. There was discussion, from several board members, expressing concern that money pertaining to convocation alms, Fall Conference, and Women's Weekend needs to be taken care of in a timely manner. Alleen Cater suggested that periodically a friendly reminder be sent to all Convocation Coordinators and Treasurers stating their responsibilities. Deposits should be made within seven days of receipt and reimbursement checks should be cashed promptly. Gethryn Giles will address this at the PLTE meeting March 28.

Minutes: Gethryn Giles moved the minutes of the October 9, 2008 Board meeting be accepted as corrected. The motion carried. Fiona Watts moved the minutes of the 119th Annual Conference October 9 & 10, 2008, be accepted. The motion carried. The minutes are posted on the ECW website www.alabamaecw.org.

Assistant Treasurer: Sallie Lowe - No report. Alleen Cater thanked Sallie for the great job she is doing with the new forms.

Calendar Handbooks: Gethryn Giles handed out bookmarks with the 2009 theme, *St. Anne, Grandmother of our Savior*. One thousand were printed for distribution at Diocesan Convention in February and throughout the year. She also handed out St. Anne medals. Gethryn said the 2010 Calendar format will vary only slightly; the spaces for the days of the month will be larger. The 2010 Calendar theme will be *Missions and Ministries of the Parish ECW in the Diocese of Alabama*. Ten months of the year will feature parish outreach projects that are linked to the Millennium Goals and the other two months will feature Haiti and Sawyerville. It was suggested that an ECW Calendar be added to the packet given to incoming clergy. It was also suggested that the two Calendars printed for all inactive parish ECW be held and if not requested, then given or sold to someone who needs them.

UTO: In the absence of Barbara Carpenter, Dee Buzby reported that the total UTO ingathering for 2008 was \$45,884.05 and for 2007 was approximately \$41,000.00. Two grant applications have been submitted for

consideration for 2009. One is from Renaissance, Inc. from Montgomery requesting \$14,500.00 to assist with the convict reentry program. The second application is from Good Shepherd of Decatur for \$20,800.00 to purchase a van to be used by the parish and the Boys and Girls Clubs of Morgan and Lawrence Counties. Barbara's committee will meet and pass their recommendation on to the Bishops. Only one application from the Diocese of Alabama and one from a companion diocese may be submitted to the National UTO in 2009. The UTO Blue Box was passed around the board for a thank offering.

Gethryn Giles noted that January 9 was "Julia Chester Emery" Day on the Calendar. Julia was instrumental in enabling women's ministries and she initiated the United Thank Offering. Julia Chester Emery's many efforts were noted with thanksgiving.

Corresponding Secretary: In the absence of Lisa Gruner, Dee Buzby reported that Lisa is assembling the data from the parish President's Information sheets.

Consultant: Alleen Cater noted that St. Claire's Needle Arts Guild is now on the website.

Archivist: Valerie Burnes stated that the diocesan records have been safely moved to her new home in Livingston, AL. They will eventually be stored in the Birmingham Public Library archives. This report is online.

CPC: Brenda Mayhall reported that \$2,555.09 was collected for the Church Periodical Club during 2008. This amount came from 11 parishes which are slightly over 10% of the parishes in our diocese. In 2008, nine seminarians each received \$246.14 for a total of \$2,215.00. Other disbursements were \$20.00 dues to National CPC and @25.00 to Province IV. The year ended with \$357.88. CPC Sunday is May 3rd and Brenda will prepare packets for Convocation Coordinators to hand out to the parishes. Grant requests come from all over the world and there is a lack of funds to fill the great need. To raise money a quilt is being given away. Each Convocation Coordinator is being asked to sell 11 tickets at \$1.00 each and return the money and stubs to Brenda by April 21. The drawing will be at

Triennial in Anaheim, CA. Brenda will write an article for the *Apostle* to increase awareness of the need for CPC money. This report is attached.

Daughters of the King: Andi Silberman's DOK report is on the website.

Devotions: Anne Kimsey shared prayer requests. Bishop Sloan asked that we pray for the whole catholic and apostolic Church as it is facing a challenging time now and also for the people suffering from the economic downturn. Anne listed the concerns of the board: Gethryn and Gene, Barbara Carpenter, Bill McLemore, Liz and Tom Ensey, and Linda George. Anne reported on her mission trip to Haiti in November. More trips are planned as more help is needed.

Events Coordinator: Tora Johnson - No report.

Hospitality: Alyce Smith prepared and served a delicious lunch for the Board. She thanked Tora for assisting her with the food.

Missions and Ministries: Fran Lowe said presidents need to be reminded to get the 'Mission and Ministries' sheet in by April if they want to be featured in the Calendar. Those parishes with projects that meet the Millennium Goals will be especially encouraged to submit a form. The form will be updated on the website.

Publicity: Fiona Watts reminded everyone to send information to publicity@alabamaecw.org. All information should be channeled through Fiona and she will send it to *The Apostle*. A general rule for deadlines is to have the information in by the first of the month preceding the issue or six to eight weeks ahead if it is something that you know will be coming up. Pictures are encouraged.

Scholarship: Nancy Thompson outlined the work of the committee and has submitted an article to *The Apostle*. In January, Scholarship applications begin coming in, the committee meets in May to evaluate them and by June 1, Nancy is informing the winners and requesting they send their college addresses to the Treasurer, Carolyn Woodson, so she can mail a check to the school. Carolyn noted the importance of using a student identification number as some students have the same name. Sally Sinclair will work with

Nancy to begin submitting Scholarship applications online. Only the current forms on the website will be accepted. Sally said she could put a button on the Scholarship page that would invite people to donate to the Scholarship Fund through Paypal. Discussion led to a review of the policy that one-half of the money designated for the general Scholarship Fund will go to principal only with the other one-half being used for scholarships. In 2008, \$900.00 was given to each of the 15 applicants. This report is online.

BREAK: The Rev. Mark Johnston arrived at 11:07 a.m. to celebrate the Holy Eucharist. He talked informally with board members over lunch.

The Board meeting resumed following lunch with President Dee Buzby calling the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m.

Webmaster: Sally Sinclair has updated the website with content and pictures from the 2009 theme on St. Anne and with the 2009 Calendar Handbook. She asked each convocation coordinator and committee chairperson to review their webpage for accuracy. She is available to help anyone who has trouble with any aspect of the website. The complete six page website report is available online at www.alabamaecw.org.

Women's Weekend (WW): Cathy Blackney said she will do all she can to encourage online reservations and payment for Women's Weekend. Consideration is being given to doing a mass mailing via USPS. Camp McDowell's room rates have increased slightly although food costs remain the same. The next planning session will focus on workshops for the weekend. There was discussion on publicizing WW at the Diocesan Convention, February 19-21 in Montgomery. This report is online.

CONVOCATION REPORTS

Birmingham: In the absence of Liz Ensey, Sallie Lowe reported the Fall Convocation meeting was held at St. Luke's on November 3, 2008. The Spring Convocation meeting will be held at St. Andrew's-Montevallo. The Birmingham Convocation enjoyed hosting the Fall Conference at St. Stephen's and appreciate the good attendance. Report is attached.

Blackbelt: Bea Strong is planning a late January meeting at Christ Church to replace the missed fall meeting and a late spring meeting (May or early

June) date and place to be announced. This report is on the website.

Cheaha: Linda George - Report attached.

East Alabama: Tana Branch - No report.

Montgomery: Lisa Taylor - No report.

Mountain: Cheri Blair thanked Gethryn Giles for handling the fall meeting in Menton, September 17. She announced the Spring Convocation meeting will be at St. Phillips in Fort Payne, April 29, 2009. Their rector will be speaking on her experiences in South Africa.

Tennessee Valley: Joan East held a Fall Convocation meeting at St. Barnabas' in Hartsell on November 15. She has begun work on the Fall Conference. The full report is on the website at www.alabamaecw.org.

ON GOING BUSINESS

ACTS2: Dee noted the ACTS2 donations are over \$45,000.00. She and Lisa Taylor have talked about Montgomery Convocation holding a fundraiser this year. Lisa will check with Lisa Parrish to see if anything has been started.

UTO Face to Face Meeting: Gethryn Giles announced that Face to Face is a National UTO training meeting that is held once a year and this year will be held at Camp McDowell February 13 - 15, 2009. To date, only eight people have registered. The deadline is January 15. Zona Tounsley, Province IV, UTO Representative said 20 people must register to avoid cancellation.

Parish Leadership Training Event (PLTE): The PLTE will be held at St. Luke's, Birmingham on March 28, 10:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Gethryn Giles asked Board members to talk about various topics: Organizational structure, Review of ECW Budget, UTO, CPC, Missions and Ministries, Scholarship, Program Ideas, Project Ideas and Holding a Parish ECW Meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Diocesan Convention: Lisa Gruner will update the Clergy Pictorial Directory.

Province IV ECW Conference: Will be held at Kanuga, June 1 - 3, 2009.

Spring Board Meeting: April 21, 2009 at Carpenter House, at 10:00 a.m.

Gethryn is appointing Board positions for 2010-2011. She is considering having an Events Coordinator who would be over Fall Conference, Women's Weekend and help with fundraising events. Women's Weekend Coordinator would not be a separate board position. This will be under review by the parliamentarian and the president to report at the April 21st Board meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 2:15 p.m. with a prayer for travelers by Anne Kimsey, followed by all reciting the Closing ECW Prayer in the Handbook.

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 .

Treasurer's Report (1-1-08 to 12-31-08) - Carolyn Woodson
Archivist - Valerie Burnes
CPC - Brenda Mayhall
DOK - Andi Silberman
Scholarship Report - Nancy Thompson
Webmaster's Report - Sally Sinclair
Women's Weekend - Cathy Blackney
Birmingham Convocation Report - Liz Ensey
Blackbelt Convocation Report - Bea Strong
Cheaha Convocation Report - Linda George
Tennessee Valley Convocation Report - Joan East

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