

**THE MINUTES OF THE 121<sup>st</sup> ANNUAL CONFERENCE  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN-DIOCESE OF ALABAMA  
THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS  
ANNISTON, ALABAMA  
OCTOBER 7-8, 2010**

The Cheaha Convocation hosted the 121st Annual Conference of the Episcopal Church Women of the Diocese of Alabama at The Church of St. Michael and All Angels on October 7–8, 2010. The ECW theme was “Serving Others in Christ: Mission and Ministries in the Diocese of Alabama.” The speaker was The Reverend Margaret Rose, Co-Director of Mission for The Episcopal Church. Other guest speakers included Jackie Robe, ECW President of Province IV, Barbara Owens, Province IV Representative of the National ECW Board and Zona Tounsley, Member At-Large and Secretary of the National UTO Committee. The Conference began with Noon Day Prayers led by The Reverend Bruce White, Rector of St. Michael and All Angels. Following Noon Day Prayers a light lunch was served in the Parish Hall.

Diocesan ECW President Gethryn Giles, St Joseph’s, called the opening session to order at 12:55 p.m., October 7, 2010 by introducing herself and welcoming those in attendance. Gethryn recognized and invited Jane Wood, Coordinator for the Cheaha Convocation, to greet the Conference. Jane Wood welcomed everyone to Anniston and to the Cheaha Convocation. Jane announced the Cheaha Convocation’s plans for exciting programs to be held at the architecturally beautiful and historical churches of St. Michael and All Angels and Grace Church.

President Giles thanked each parish of the Cheaha Convocation on the excellent job they did in providing the wonderful welcome bags for each conference participant. Gethryn recognized clergy participants: The Rev. Bruce White, The Rev. Judith Comer, The Rev. Fletcher Comer, The Rev. Richard Cobbs, The Rev. Allison Carmody, The Rev. Marianne Aiken, The Rev. Lee Shafer, The Rev. Ray Waldon, The Venerable Louise Thibodaux, Diocesan Archdeacon and Lauren Wainwright, Youth Director at the Church of the Epiphany, Guntersville.

President Giles introduced past ECW Presidents, Lucy Ware, Alleen Cater, Betty Potts Woodruff, Dee Buzby and Olivia Weingarten. She introduced and thanked all 52 Episcopal Church Women who serve on either the ECW Board or as committee members. She commended them for the hard work they had done this year. Gethryn invited anyone who has an interest in serving on the ECW Board or on a Diocesan Board Committee to please inquire.

**Minutes:** The minutes of the 121<sup>st</sup> Annual Conference, were approved as presented on a motion by Bea Strong. The minutes are on the ECW website [www.alabamaecw.org](http://www.alabamaecw.org).

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer, Jill Whitten, presented the ECW financial statement showing actual and budgeted expenses for 2009 and 2010, and a proposed budget for 2011. After prayerful consideration, the ECW Board recommended the approval of the proposed 2011 budget. The budget was approved. All financial statements are available on the ECW website [www.alabamaecw.org](http://www.alabamaecw.org).

**Calendar:** President Giles recognized President Elect, Fiona Watts, and thanked her for producing the 2011 ECW Calendar Handbook. The theme of the calendar is "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands: Our Mission and Ministry in the World." Each parish receives 2 calendars handbooks. Additional handbooks cost \$5.00 each.

**Corporate Gift:** It was the ECW Board's recommendation to continue its commitment of \$2,000 as its Corporate Gift to ACTS2. This gift will go toward the sacristy of the Chapel of St. Francis at Camp McDowell. The ECW has given a total of \$57,000 of their \$65,000 pledge. President Giles said that 2011 will be the 5<sup>th</sup> and final year of this pledge. After no questions or further discussion, the recommendation by the board to continue the Corporate Gift to ACTS2 was ratified.

**Raffle Items:** President Giles described the three items being raffled off to raise funds for our ECW ACTS2 pledge. Each of the raffle items were hand-made by an ECW member of the Cheaha Convocation: 1) an icon of St. Francis by Jane Wood, of Grace Church, Anniston; 2) a quilt by Linda Cortes, St. Michael and All Angels and; 3) a sculpted wine chiller with stand by Cindy Burch, St. Luke's, Jacksonville. Gethryn encouraged ECW members to visit the raffle display and buy tickets. All monies raised from the raffle will go toward fulfilling our pledge to ACTS2.

## **REPORTS**

**Scholarships:** Bethe Ensey and her committee awarded \$9,600 in scholarships to 20-21 recipients. The scholarships ranged from \$100 to \$1000. Gethryn encouraged all ECW members to consider who may be qualified to receive a scholarship from their parish. She reminded members to consider giving to the ECW Scholarship Fund by memorials or honorariums. This is an important way to grow the fund and give more to the scholarship recipients.

**CHURCH PERIODICAL CLUB (CPC):** President Giles recognized this year's CPC Chairman, Linda George. The CPC grants are given to seminarians from our Diocese to help them purchase books. This year Linda George and her committee raised \$2,483.75. This amount allowed individual grants of \$275.00 to nine seminarians.

**Nominations:** President Giles recognized Nominations Chairman, Marilyn Atkins, and thanked her and her committee (Alleen Cater, Bea Strong, Nancy Boston, Tana Branch, Lisa Gruner, Pudden McArthur and Hope Skelton) for a strong slate of nominees. These nominees represent convocations from across the diocese. Chairman Marilyn Atkins presented the following slate of officers:

- i. Brenda Mayhall, President Elect -Mountain
- ii. Jolai Jenkins, Secretary – East Alabama
- iii. Paula Bird, Treasurer- Black Belt
- iv. Linda Kennedy, UTO chair, Birmingham

Each nominee was presented individually for vote. Without additional nominees from the floor, each nominee was elected to serve for the years 2012-2013.

**UNITED THANK OFFERING (UTO): Committee:** Brenda Mayhall asked Zona Tounsley, Member At-Large and Secretary of the National UTO Committee, and her committee to join her in presenting two grant certificates from UTO. Two grant certificates, one domestic and one foreign were awarded. The domestic grant certificate went to St. Peter’s Episcopal Church and Day School in Talladega to help with playground construction to allow physically challenged children full access to playground activities. The Reverend Ray Waldon accepted the grant certificates of \$17,750 on behalf of St. Peter’s, Talladega. The foreign grant went to the rebuilding of St. Albans’s Church and School in Crochu, Haiti. Judy Quick, Chairman of the Department of Mission and Outreach of the Diocese of Alabama and a member of the Companion Diocesan Commission accepted the grant of \$40,000 on behalf of the Commission.

**Appointment of Alms Committee:** President Giles appointed Fran Lowe, Sally Sinclair and Jolai Jenkins to the Alms Committee. Please give them your suggestions for the Alms offering. Their selection will be announced at the same time the raffle tickets are drawn.

**Parish Sharing:** Barbara Carpenter is in charge of Parish Sharing to be held on Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 9:15 p.m. You must sign up to participate in the session and each parish will be allowed 2 minutes. A written report, summarizing the activities in your parish should be turned in to the secretary and will be attached to the 2010 Annual Conference minutes.

**Website:** Gethryn introduced, Sally Sinclair, our ECW Web-Master. Gethryn stated how proud we are to have such a wonderful website that has won many awards. Gethryn encouraged all members to use our website, [www.alabamaecw.org](http://www.alabamaecw.org) for information and happenings of the ECW and other parishes and to advertise your own fundraisers on “marketplace.” If you want to get emails, go to the homepage of website and type your email address in the top left hand corner. Please send the names of the officers of your ECW. If you don’t have an ECW, please send the names, email addresses and/or contact numbers of your parish. This information will help the convocation coordinator send your parish information. You will also find a page on the website listing all parishes and their contributions and donations. All contributions should be sent to the Carpenter House address marked ECW. Jill Whitten handed out sheets listing contributions made by each parish. The goal is for each parish to participate in all categories listed, such as the annual ECW

contribution, CPC, UTO, Scholarship, and ACTS2. This list is maintained on the website and is a good way to see how your parish has contributed.

**Announcements:** Gethryn encouraged everyone to visit Cindy Funderburk who has brought many books and items from the Episcopal Bookstore.

The wine and cheese party will be at Grace Church beginning at 4:45 p.m. with a dinner following.

**GUEST SPEAKERS:** Gethryn introduced special guests, Barbara Owens, Zona Townsley and Jackie Robe. They each spoke for 5 minutes on their role as a national ECW leader.

**Barbara Owens, Province IV Representative to the National ECW,** is one of 17 officers voted at Triennial to represent us in Province IV. She serves on the Women of Vision and the Worship Committee. The Outreach Committee chooses projects that will be meaningful to us in Province IV. The projects that will be highlighted at this Triennial must be beneficial to women and children while enriching their families and communities. Three Women-to-Women Grants that were chosen for this Triennial include: 1) the Sudan Peace Initiative that promotes civic education and trauma relief for women and children in the Sudan; 2) a school and clinic in the Dominican Republic led by the Sisters of the Transfiguration and; 3) Blackfoot Lily and Valley School on the Fort Hawk Reservation in Blackfoot, Idaho.

The one large project called The Unified Project, was Jericho Road, which will end in November. The new Unified Project will be Nets-for-Life in Africa. Malaria is a serious problem and having a mosquito net at night saves many lives. Please send a donation through the ECW. The Episcopal Relief and Development Board (ERD) has an ongoing Nets-for-Life program and you may contribute through that. Nets are \$12.00 each. Please visit the National ECW website at [www.nationalecw.org](http://www.nationalecw.org).

**Zona Tounsley, Member At-Large and Secretary of the National UTO Board,** is in charge of grants representing Latin America. This includes the Caribbean, Spain, Portugal, Central and South America with the exception of those countries represented by Province IX. The UTO was able to award five grants to Latin America and one to Spain. Zona challenged us to show our thankfulness for Bishop Parsley and for his service to this Diocese. She would like us to give extra coins and dollars in appreciation for all he's done so that it will be reflected in the next two year's UTO Ingatherings.

Online granting began this year. You may fill out a grant online and send it by email or you may download it, fill it out by hand and mail. Claudia Connor is the new coordinator in the New York office and Paul Thorson is the new UTO Grants Associate. Either one will be happy to help you with information on granting. Zona thanked everyone for all they do for the UTO and reminded us that UTO is not a fundraiser but a gift from the heart that benefits many, domestically and overseas.

**Jackie Robe, ECW Province IV President**, stated that Province IV is the most active province in the Episcopal Church. Jackie encouraged everyone to attend the Province IV ECW Conference at Kanuga scheduled for June 6, 7, and 8<sup>th</sup>. New officers will be elected at the conference for the Triennial of 2012 -2015. Dee Buzby is the new Nominating Chair for Province IV. Katerina Whitley will be the speaker at the conference this year. Tuesday of the conference will be dedicated to “Believe in a Miracle” with the theme this year of “Telling Your Story.”

Following a brief break, The Rev. Margaret Rose, Co-Director of Mission for The Episcopal Church gave her first talk on this year’s ECW theme, “Mission and Ministries in the Episcopal Church. “

A Wine and Cheese Social was held at 4:45 p.m. in the garden of Grace Church followed by dinner in the parish hall. After dinner, the ECW enjoyed a special program by The Jacksonville State University Gospel Choir in the nave. The evening closed with An Order For Compline with The Rev. Lee Shafer, Officant.

## **THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN’S ANNUAL FALL CONFERENCE CONTINUED- OCTOBER 8, 2010**

**Diocesan President Gethryn Giles** called the meeting to order at 8:10 a.m.

**Parish Sharing Session:** The following parish representatives shared the highlights of their ECW activities. Barbara Carpenter was the time keeper; each was given two minutes. Each representative gave a written copy to the secretary.

### **Birmingham Convocation**

Carolynn Moore – St. Andrew’s, Birmingham  
Alleen Cater – Cathedral Church of the Advent, Birmingham  
Fiona Watts- St. Stephen’s, Birmingham  
Bethe Ensey – Grace, Birmingham  
Julia Wilcox – St. Luke’s, Birmingham  
Helen Bunn – St. Andrew’s, Montevallo

### **East Alabama Convocation**

Bobbie Avsharian– St. Stephen’s, Smith Station  
Andrea Peacock – St. James, Alexander City  
Laura M. Chappell – Holy Trinity, Auburn  
Jolai Jenkins – St. Andrew’s, Tuskegee

### **Black Belt Convocation**

Bettie Anne Cleino, Christ Church, Tuscaloosa  
Maggie Noland - St. James, Livingston

### **Mountain Convocation**

Cheri Blair – Church of the Epiphany, Guntersville  
Ann Cummings– The Church of the Resurrection, Rainbow City  
Zona Tounsley – St. Luke’s, Scottsboro

### **Tennessee Valley Convocation**

Betty Ahrens – St. Bartholomew’s, Florence  
Joan East – St. Matthew’s, Huntsville  
Lucy Ware – Trinity, Florence

### **Cheaha Convocation**

Judith Keat – Grace, Anniston  
Audrey Vander Yacht – St. Michael and All Angels, Anniston  
Marilyn Atkins – St. Peter’s Pond House, Talladega

### **Montgomery Convocation**

Mitzi Waldo – St. Michael and All Angels, Millbrook  
Fiona Watts – Trinity, Wetumpka  
Betty Smith – Holy Comforter, Montgomery

President-Elect Fiona Watts announced that the Parish Leadership Training Event would be held April 2, 2011 at All Saints in Birmingham. It’s another opportunity to enjoy parish sharing. She invited everyone to attend. President Giles thanked everyone for their participation in the parish sharing. The meeting took a small break and planned to resume promptly at 9:30 a.m.

The session resumed with Gethryn Giles welcoming Bishop Parsley and his wife, Becky. Becky expressed gratitude on behalf of all clergy spouses for the ECW’s support of Krik! Krak! She gave an update on the work that the clergy spouses had done in Crochu, Haiti. An informational video on Krik! Krak! will be available soon, if anyone is interested in having a program at their parish. Bishop Parsley thanked Gethryn and the ECW Board for all they have done on behalf of God’s missions and the “minding of the world.” He recognized guest speaker, The Rev. Margaret Rose and her contributions to the Missions and Ministries of the Episcopal Church. Gethryn introduced Margaret Rose, who started her second talk on “Missions and Ministries” by telling listeners that their ministry is to “Start Sweeping at Your Feet”. Her talk included a video and discussion of the revitalization of Jubilee Park in Dallas, Texas. Following her talk Rev. Rose was presented with a ceramic wine cooler, handmade by Cindy Burch, St. Luke’s, Jacksonville, Alabama.

**The Alms Committee** announced that the alms offering would be divided equally between Krik! Krak! and the ECW Scholarship Fund. The Alms offering was \$836.00.

Dee Buzby announced that the raffle had raised \$878.00. She called on Jane Wood to draw the names of the raffle winners. Amy Maria Thomas won the quilt; Kathryn Mitchell won the wine chiller and stand; and Lark Howell won the Icon painted by Jane Wood.

In adjourning the meeting, Gethryn expressed thanks to everyone in the parishes of the Cheaha Convocation for an excellent job on hosting the conference:

Jane Wood, Cheaha Coordinator and Chair of Fall Conference  
St. Michael and All Angels, Rev. Bruce White – hosting Fall Conference  
Grace Church, Rev Lee Shafer –wine and cheese reception, catered dinner  
Jon Coley –printing  
Jacksonville State University Gospel Choir  
St. Luke’s – Thursday lunch  
St. Simon Peter – Friday breakfast  
Messiah- Friday lunch  
Cindy Burch – gift for speaker  
Sally Sinclair- webmaster  
Leigh Hulsey – table arrangements  
Grace Church and Louise Lokey – altar flowers  
St. Michael’s, Marilyn Aiken’s – registrar and name tags

Gethryn invited everyone to attend the 2011 Fall Conference on October 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> at St. John’s in Montgomery.  
The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

The 121<sup>st</sup> annual Conference closed with the Celebration of the Holy Eucharist.

**The participants in the Holy Eucharist Service were:**

The Rt. Reverend Henry N. Parsley, Jr., Preacher  
The Reverend Bruce A. White, Celebrant  
The Reverend Deacon Mary Groff, Deacon  
Dr. Claire Keel, Organist/Choirmaster  
Lenn Costner, Jr. and Jim McDaniel, Ushers  
Florence Cuneo, Caroline Haberer, Charlotte McDaniel, Kim Beckett – Acolytes  
Gethryn Giles, Prayers of the People  
Jane Wood and Fiona Watts, Lectors  
Florence Cuneo and Charlotte McDaniel, Altar Guild

Following the Eucharist Service, a light lunch was available in the Parish Hall.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Nancy S. Thompson, Secretary

APPROVED BY:

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Gethryn Giles, President

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Fiona Watts, President Elect

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Jill Whitten, Treasurer

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Brenda Mayhall, UTO Coordinator

ATTACHMENTS:

Treasurer's Report; Proposed 2011 Budget – Jill Whitten

