

For all our works and stories are bound together in . . .

The Weave

Vol. 1, No.3 ~ Episcopal Church Women ~ Diocese of Arkansas ~ Spring 2009

Fifth Annual Time for J.O.Y. Retreat an Authentic Success

By Terry Ramer

co-founder Arkansas Time for JOY

This is the Fifth anniversary of calling young women – who are the heart and future of our church – to the Holy in their lives. This is the Fifth Anniversary of Time for J.O.Y. – Jesus, Others, Yourself.

Since the first retreat in 2005, God has taken our mistakes and formed them into miracles, as in the days of Jesus. God takes the tedious plans we make and says, “you cannot plan for Me.” God works in ways to show just who is really in charge, and the team's only job is to provide the place, the time, the “food” . . . it is up to each retreatant if they want to “eat.”

God shows us again and again – God will show up. God will do it in a unique way. Each person will be offered an experience to take back home. And where is that home? Where do they come from?

The women come from all over the Diocese of Arkansas, and at least one a year comes from out of state. A relative, an Arkansan moved away, an interested young woman. We have often included a young woman not of any faith or of another faith, someone who needed to be pampered and have quiet time that is supported by her sisters in Christ, time that has been made Holy by the simplicity of it all.

This is our purpose – to show up, to show hospitality, to show our love of each other even as strangers.

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Retreatants and team gather at the edge of the mountain at the Time for JOY 2009 retreat at Camp Mitchell. The focus of the retreat, “Birthing the Woman Within,” encouraged all to live authentically, guided by Spirit.

Our logo: *The Cross represents Christ and our service to Him in the world. The Circle stands for our hope for wholeness in our lives. The out flowing lines from the center depict the many works of the Episcopal Church Women, going out into the world. The intertwined lines represent our lives centered in Christ.*



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Sara Milford**Jericho Road –****Episcopal Housing Initiative Receives ECW Focus***

“The Jericho Road Episcopal Housing Initiative is a catalyst that will help return (New Orleans) people home by providing high quality, affordable permanent housing opportunities. This initiative is an investment in families and will plant the seeds for long term housing collaborations throughout the city. (The) community based approach collaborates with CCRA (Central City Renaissance Alliance) and ACT (All Congregations Together) to foster a



spirit of neighbor-helping-neighbor among the residents with the goal of improving the quality of life in Central City.

“Jericho Road was formed in March 2006 and is a partnership of the Episcopal Diocese of Louisiana and Episcopal Relief & Development. Episcopal Relief & Development, the international relief and development agency of the Episcopal Church, focuses on three program areas— emergency relief and rebuilding, food security and primary health. Episcopal Relief & Development is providing technical support to Jericho Road and supplied the initial funding totaling \$2.3 million. The funding from Episcopal Relief & Development combined with planned financing from various community development corporations will result in an investment in the New Orleans Central City neighborhood of over \$20 million.

“You can donate your money or your time to help rebuild Central City. Both are needed and both are appreciated. Your contributions go directly to homebuyers to help them meet the financial qualifications necessary to purchase a home.”

For more information: www.jerichohousing.org

**Written material and photo of Jericho house for sale courtesy of jerichohousing.org.*

Trinity, Van Buren, Hosts Women's Day**By Janet Graige**

I am a Licensed Massage Therapist with a tiny part-time home business. The idea of a Women's Day was born when I saw how hard all the lay women of our small Parish worked at almost every event. I wanted to treat them to a day to honor women.

I wanted us to enjoy a day without having to clean, cook, organize, etc.

I designed the whole day and funded it the first year, and it was very well received.

This year, I asked for helpers and had some wonderful ladies help - with the problem being they did not get to enjoy the day.

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JOYful Weekend for All

We carry the retreatants' bags, feed them all weekend, provide an incredible speaker each year, give them gifts, and take them to the mountain – many for the first time. We provide them a retreat from the distraction of everyday life, away from responsibilities of work, home life, children, spouses. We provide them time to consider options.

Many young women come to discern what to do at this particular phase in their lives. All are different from each other, but each one is offered the same thing – God's abiding love, God's unconditional gift of Grace, God's Presence on the mountain.

As we all age we must see that we are all going to leave the Church as we move to another plane with the Community of Saints. How are we leaving the future of the Episcopal Church? Look around and stop and think who will take your place? Who will bring the Good News to the next generation in your own church and town?

Talk to the young women; share with them. They hunger for spirituality amidst their incredible schedules that they execute each day. Learn of their lives. Compare it to your own at that age. You watch them with their calendars when invited to join yet another "something." They have to have a reason to be there – they can't afford their most luxurious item in their own young lives that eludes them – time alone. They must have a reason to pour out this precious commodity. Give them the reason. Show them what you did and what you do in your busiest of days. Tell them why. Tell them how. Show them the way.

(cont. on page 4)



Team member Christy Thomas and retreatants Susan Pittman and Holly Aaron (both of St. Paul's, Fayetteville), linger on the breezy cliffside.



L-R: Millie Hillard, Terry Ramer, Rev. Suzanne Stoner, Marge Doyle, and Shellie Bailey post-Eucharist on Sunday morning in the Chapel.



L-R: Speaker Sara Milford, retreatant Christine Toberman Knox (from Chicago), team member Diane Hobson and co-founder Shellie Bailey Friday night at the opening cocktail party in Grace Lodge, where retreatants and team stayed.

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Do you work or live with or know a young woman who is struggling in her life? A young woman who is just busy? A young woman who has already begun her spiritual life or one who is not affiliated or attached to a spiritual practice? All of these young women are eligible for the Time for JOY retreat.

This year was a time of poverty but much love. Of less abundance but fulfilling need. Everyone had enough. Everyone who asked was given a place at our table, and that is all God asks. God just wants us to take the time to ask. God provides the rest – and that was provided for a Fifth time this spring. We rely solely on church or member sponsorship and the charity of Episcopal Arkansans for donations of money, time and items to give to retreatants. If you would like to help with JOY in the future – with your time, your monetary support, your gifts, and your prayers – we welcome all or any part of this.

If you would like us to contact a special young woman in your church- roughly ages 19 to 40 – or, if you have an older member in need of respite – let us know. Tell us her email address or physical address. We will happily send Time for JOY 2010 info to her. Believe me, she must schedule it now; she is so busy. But God wants her to just take a moment . . . and ask.

Post-Retreat Prayer for Time for J.O.Y.

O Lord, who brought the Time for JOY retreatants to a place of joy and love, guide and protect them as they return to the daily routine of their lives. Be with them as they continue their spiritual journey of life in Christ. Amen.

(Prayers for the retreat were written by Mountain Home's *Winnie Healey*, a member of the Daughters of the King, in preparation for the original 2005 retreat.)

For more information, photos and ways to participate, please visit

www.arkansastimeforjoy.com

Save the date

**Time for J.O.Y. 2010
April 23-25**

**Time for J.O.Y. 2011
April 29-May1**

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*For Triennial and national ECW
information, visit
www.nationalecw.org .*

*For newsletter questions, comments
and calendar events, please contact
Sara Milford
sara@everydaysimple.org .*

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Women's Day Well Worth the Work

Our Vestry funded the Women's Day this year. We gently asked for donations (and received many) to fund the next one.

I organized the day around the contacts I have through the church, community and through massage therapy. We had a massage therapy session, a journaling session, a Healing Touch session (with St. Paul's, F'ville, help), another energy worker (trained in Reiki), a chance to walk the labyrinth, a nice lunch, and a morning yoga session. The small massage school I attended brings their students to give free practice massage, and it counts as part of their training. We had door prizes donated. I closed the day with a meditation from Thomas Keating. We transformed our small church for the day with many colorful flowers and a peace-filled atmosphere.

I would be happy to talk to any group that is interested in planning a day to honor women at their church. It is fun to be allowed to be creative and host a day for nurturing, healing and sharing with each other.

I felt, last year and this, that it was a very spiritual endeavor and that our women benefit greatly from being held in a close spiritual community setting designed just for them.

Q: How can I get "The Weave" sent directly to my home?

A: Send an e-mail request to Sara@everydaysimple.org, mail a note to Sara Milford, PO Box 1462, Fayetteville, AR 72702, or give her a call at 479-587-8481.

Does your church have a day care center?

Ann Filiatreau, coordinator of the Early Childhood Education center at The Cathedral School in Little Rock is interested in developing a network of those Episcopal churches in our state who currently have centers. She hopes to put together a list of contacts and perhaps start a listserv to exchange resources and ideas.

If your church would be interested in being part of this network, contact Ann at afiliatreau@thecathedralschool.org or call (501) 375-7997 ext. 252.

Trinity, Pine Bluff, Shares CPC Idea

Trinity, Pine Bluff's Church Periodical Club's chairman, Jacquelyn Stuart, has come up with a unique way to collect CPC donations throughout the year. Every November Trinity holds its annual luncheon and bazaar, *Taste of Trinity*. Besides the usual bazaar booths -- crafts, white elephants, baked goods and frozen casseroles -- they have a used book room. This room enjoys a brisk business, but so many books are brought in that hundreds are left over, which does require extra storage space.

After the bazaar Stuart stores the leftover books and most Sundays arranges an attractive basket of books to be placed in the Parish Hall for parishioners to peruse during coffee hour. Each Sunday she features books by a popular author, or subject, such as cookbooks, biographies, or inspirational. They are priced very reasonably (.25 pb, \$1 hb), on the honor system, with a sign signifying profits to be added to Trinity's annual CPC donation. Since January 1st, almost \$200 has been raised.



Episcopal Church Women
 Diocese of Arkansas
 P.O. Box 1462
 Fayetteville, AR 72702
Return Service Requested



Mission:

The mission of the Episcopal Church Women (ECW) is to bring together all the women of the Diocese of Arkansas by strengthening their spiritual lives, providing learning opportunities and supporting their Christ-centered service and ministry.

We continue to see, and offer, new models of women's groups and ministries developing in response to the changing roles and needs of women in our culture. Through our life and work together, woman to woman, we have a unique opportunity to experience the Divine Feminine in our midst.

Connect on facebook



**Find your fellow
 Arkansas ECW and
 share photos and stories.**

**Join the Group:
 Arkansas Episcopal Church Women**

**Or connect face to face at your local
 parish and send your pictures to:**

**ECWMenaBeckie@aol.com
 Beckie Duer
 372 Polk Rd., 412
 Mena, AR 71953**

Upcoming Events:

June 5-7, 2009
Women's Institute
 Camp Mitchell

July 8-17, 2009
Triennial
 Anaheim, CA

October 23, 2009
**Fall Gathering/
 Women of Vision**
 Camp Mitchell

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*Tell us about your
 planned events to
 include on the calendar!*

*Send us photos if you'd like
 to share the
 experience. We'd love
 to see them!*