

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

# The Weave

Vol. 1, No.4 ~ ECW ~ Diocese of Arkansas ~ Summer/Fall 2009

## Women's Institute

Episcopal Church Women at this year's Women's Institute received yet another joyful, enriching mountain-top experience.

Rev. Anne Carriere led Quiet Day, sharing the story behind her heavy mosaic cross. Celtic prayers and moments for reflection and silence graced the morning and afternoon.

But we all know the silence doesn't last long at Institute! Bonfire, bishops and a baby, oh my! Nothing speaks more to the diversity of the weekend than pictures. Unfortunately, we cannot capture all the skits from Cabin Fun.



Rt. Rev. Larry Maze, 12<sup>th</sup> Bishop of the Diocese of Arkansas, at his presentation, the title of which inspired the artwork of our T-shirts, modeled by our fellow ECW.

(More photos from Institute on p. 3)

**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 outflowing 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.



## Fall Gathering

Your ECW Board does its best to keep things interesting, listen to your requests, and help you grow. With all this in mind, our annual meeting took place at Camp Mitchell alongside Women of Vision, offered by Sandy Smith. *Appreciation is extended to all* who attended the beautiful autumn weekend, especially to our ECW delegates who shared their Triennial experience!



Locally handmade pottery bowls, blessed by Rev. Marti Dalby, were given to all in attendance in memory of the late Rev. Peggy Bosmyer in the closing service.



Sandy Smith, Sylvia Ross, MaryAnn Arnold and Ginny Ellison enjoy some free evening time. Ginny was one of the participants in Women of Vision.

**Contacts:**

President  
*Sylvia Ross*

Vice-President  
*Susan Carter*

Secretary  
*Betsy Biega*

Treasurer  
*MaryAnn Arnold*

UTO Director &  
Liturgy and Music Director  
*The Rev. Marti Dalby*

Church Periodical Club  
*Wanda Dunwoody*

Altar Guild Director  
*Juddie Wachtel*

Daughters of the King  
*Ginnie Ellison*

Prov. VII Rep. to Nat'l Board,  
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*Sandra Powers*

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*Terri Crawford*

National ECW Past President  
*Harriet Neer*

Women of Vision Representatives  
*Sandy Smith & Jenny Jackson*

Time for JOY Representative  
*Shellie Bailey*

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*Millie Hillard*

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*Anne Fulk*

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*Sara Milford*

**Grow in Grace****President Syliva offers a reflection from Triennial**

In July, Susan, Betsy, Marti and I had the privilege of representing ECW in Arkansas at Triennial in Anaheim, California. The theme of the meeting was "Grow in Grace," and as Phyllis Tickle commented, "Grace is a tough subject not only for me but for a lot of theologians." None of us knew what to expect during the meeting with a theme seeming so illusive and vague. We wondered what ideas, if any, we would be able to share with our ECW back home.

As the ten days progressed, we were overwhelmed with outstanding and inspirational speakers. ECW gathered for prayer every morning and attended Holy Eucharist at noon every day with General Convention delegates. Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori visited with us and blessed gold crosses given to each delegate, and the Archbishop of Canterbury, Rowan Williams, was one of our featured speakers. Many other Church luminaries spoke to us about various church programs including Episcopal Relief and Development and the National Cathedral.

California Assistant Bishop Steven Charleston, addressed our theme, saying that grace sustained the Virgin Mary, a woman of unbelievable courage and dignity, throughout her life. He said that grace is something that "moves into you as silently, as still, and as beautiful as the breath of God herself, and this is the same grace that moved Mary." He asked each woman to receive the gift of grace and allow grace and love to be at work in the world.

Looking back, certainly grace has been with us all along. We can see that in the gracious enthusiasm and generous support that ECWs from all over have given to such worthy projects as Jericho Road, the Social Justice Committee, UTO, and CPC, providing funds to enable these groups to assist those in need.



*Rev. Marti Dalby stands beside the ECW banner which includes three photos from our Arkansas ECW. She's pointing to one of them.*

At the UTO Dinner, The Rt. Rev. Michael Curry, Bishop of North Carolina, summed up our mission for the future, describing the ministries of UTO and ECW as "a mission of witness" sorely needed in "a time of absolute and unprecedented change," challenging us not just to talk about what needs to be done but to heed Jesus' command to get up and "Go."

We thank you for giving us the opportunity to experience new and exciting ways to go about the mission of the church in Arkansas. ECW will, with the help of God, continue to "Grow in Grace" as we face change and challenges in the future. There are many needs throughout our Diocese, and we will continue to offer support where it is needed. The women of the Episcopal Church have always maintained the flexibility and strength to grow and thrive. It's a wonderful time for us to be a part of doing God's work, because it is from God that we receive this incredible gift of grace. We cannot earn it, but as we share it with others, we cannot help but grow in grace.

*-Sylvia Ross, ECW pres.*

## Looking for a New Read?

### Recommendations from Susan Carter ECW Vice-President

*Mary Called Magdalene* by Margaret George is excellent. George specializes in well-researched, believable fictional biographies. The story of Mary tells about her background in the Galilean countryside, the calling of the Apostles, and her relationship with Jesus. No, they don't get married, have children and hide them in France. The passage that tells about the preparation of the Passover meal made my mouth water. Ms. George tells the story in such a way that you really connect to their humanity and spirituality. If you liked *The Red Tent*, you will like *Mary Called Magdalene*.

*South of Broad* is Pat Conroy's newest novel. It's not quite as good as *The Prince of Tides* but is still a very good read. Conroy has included the usual cast of odd-ball characters that are connected through the protagonist, Leopold Bloom King (Leo). Throughout the story Leo struggles with his devotion to Roman Catholicism, his relationship with his emotionally fragile wife, and his mother. The story climaxes with the group huddled in a mansion south of Broad (Charleston, SC) waiting for hurricane Hugo to arrive. My favorite passages are the prayer of Grace at their pre-hurricane dinner and the story of Sheba he tells the children. They are Conroy at his most eloquent.

If you've read something lately that you'd like to share with your fellow ECW, let us know! Spiritual themes are always nice, but any genre is welcome. If we don't like it, we don't have to read it!

Send Sara an e-mail:  
Sara@everydaysimple.org

## Institute . . .

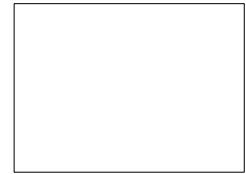


**Many thanks to everyone who made the weekend such a success. We hope you all will be able to join us in 2010!**





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 Diocese of Arkansas  
 P.O. Box 1462  
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*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:**

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 Beckie Duer  
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 Mena, AR 71953**

### **Upcoming Events:**

**February 19-20, 2010  
 General  
 Convention  
 St. Paul's  
 Fayetteville, AR**

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**April 23-25, 2010  
 Time for J.O.Y.  
 Camp Mitchell  
 Morrilton, AR**

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**June 4-6, 2010  
 Women's Institute  
 Camp Mitchell  
 Morrilton, AR**