

## What's In This Issue?

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## Mission Lexington Medical Clinic Prepares to Open

### *Fully Funded UTO Grant Makes It Possible*

**A** challenge is accepted ... four churches come together in mission ... affordable space becomes available ... lay volunteers come forward ... office and medical equipment is donated ... a United Thank Offering grant is fully funded ... Mission Lexington Medical Clinic prepares to open its doors in September.

"Over and over it was apparent to everyone involved that God was at work in this special ministry," says The Rev. Robert L. Sessum, a founder of the Mission Lexington Medical Clinic, "because things just kept falling into place."

Father Sessum, who is the rector of The Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd, Lexington, had worked with the homeless for many years, but he still worried about the ones who "fall through the cracks."

**"Over and over it was apparent to everyone involved that God was at work in this special ministry."**

*Father Sessum*

"When you are barely making it, trying to keep a job and provide for your family, a medical problem can cause you to miss work and even lose a job. I thought if only these folks had free access to primary health care, they could keep their jobs and thereby avoid homelessness."

### **Congregation is challenged**

"In the summer of 2005, I issued five challenges to



Province IV UTO Representative Zona Tounsley (second from left) presents UTO grant certificate to a beaming Father Sessum (second from right) at the Province IV Women's Conference at Kanuga in June. Also pictured are Bishop Stacy Sauls (on left) and Diocesan UTO Coordinator Fran Bennett (on right).

the congregation of Good Shepherd in a sermon," Father Sessum remembers. "One of those challenges was to develop a free adult medical clinic for the working poor in Fayette County.

"Sitting in the congregation was Dr. Christopher Newell, attending physician at the University of Kentucky Medical Center, who had independently recognized a need to assist uninsured working adults living at or below the poverty level."

The two men joined forces and began visiting other clinics in Lexington and across Kentucky. After researching various locations, a site was selected. Unfortunately, negotiations with the owner of the property fell through.

## Annual Meeting and Luncheon

Mark your calendars! The annual meeting of the Diocesan ECW will be held on Saturday, November 1 at Trinity Church, Covington.

We will begin with Holy Eucharist at 10:30 a.m. with the Rev. Joseph Pennington and the Rev. Anisa Cottrell-Willis celebrating.

The service will be followed by lunch provided by the women of Trinity.

After lunch Rev. Cottrell-Willis will present a program entitled "Women and the Millennium Development Goals."

"The needs of children (and their mothers) here and globally is really where my heart and ministry are now," Rev. Cottrell-Willis said. "It may not be the most edgy thing, but it resonates with me."

Last there will be a brief business meeting and election of officers.

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**- Rev. Anisa Cottrell-Willis**

### Come get acquainted with us!

This is your opportunity to get acquainted with your Diocesan sisters and learn more about what the ECW is doing.

### Babysitting provided

Reservations are not required, but would be helpful to the cooks! If you have questions, contact Susan Baird at 859-299-6949. Babysitting will be provided at the church. ❖

### Important Dates

October 5	Bishops' Funds Sunday
November 1	Fall Luncheon/Annual Meeting
November 2	UTO Fall In-Gathering
May 14-17, 2009	Women's Weekend



## Another Successful ECW Weekend

By Lisa Hawkins

The 2008 ECW Weekend, May 16-18, was a great success. There were 37 women registered, representing 16 churches of the Diocese of Lexington.

### Insights from women mystics

Bishop Stacy Sauls arrived on Friday evening to open the weekend with a Eucharist and Healing Service in St. Mary's Chapel. The Rev. Canon Audrey Miskelley gave the ladies lots to think about with her insightful meditations on the teachings of Julian of Norwich and Teresa of Avila.

Rev. Marcia Hunter served as the Chaplain for the weekend with her usual joy and grace, and she has some marvelous ideas for next year's weekend.

### Touching surprise offering

And the music? The remarkable musician, Candace Armstrong, wowed the group again with her incredible talent on the keyboard, and the ladies were blessed with a touching surprise offering from Kasi Gooch on her flute.

There was plenty of time for fellowship and fun, and everyone seemed to have a wonderful time.

A prayer from Teresa of Avila: "Let nothing disturb you, nothing cause you fear; all things pass. God is unchanging. Patience obtains all: Whoever has God need nothing else. God alone suffices." (from *Saints for All Seasons*, p. 128). ❖

### What Does the Bible Say About Women?

Women are ...

*Heard in prayer* *Matthew 15:28*

*Successful in evangelism* *John 4:39*

*Beloved, befriended by Jesus* *John 11:5*

*Powerful in prayer* *Acts 1:14*

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Another blow came when Father Sessum was diagnosed with cancer and forced to undergo surgery. The project had to be placed on hold.

### Work begins again

In the fall of 2007, with a successful surgery behind him, Father Sessum was ready to pick up the pieces of his dream, and he and Dr. Newell began working on the project again.

### Partnering with Mission Lexington

Things really began moving when Patsey Jacobs, who coordinates Mission Lexington, a coalition of three Lexington churches, contacted Father Sessum with a proposal. Mission Lexington, which already had a free dental clinic, was hoping to expand their ministry with a free medical clinic.

The happy result was that Good Shepherd and the original three churches of Mission Lexington (Calvary Baptist, Faith Lutheran, and Maxwell Street Presbyterian) decided to join forces in an effort to make the dream of a free medical clinic a reality.

### Four churches stronger than one

"It seemed to be God's plan because things began falling into place," Father Sessum says. "The four congregations were stronger than one congregation, and lay volunteers multiplied."

The space issue was suddenly resolved when the possibility of renting affordable space at St. Martha's Place emerged.

More doors opened. A local hospital came on board as a corporate sponsor. The University of Kentucky donated office and medical equipment.

**"It seemed to be God's plan because things began falling into place."**

*Father Sessum*

Then on May 23, Father Sessum received word that the medical clinic had been awarded a grant of \$27,264 by the United Thank Offering (UTO) of the Episcopal Church Women.

### UTO grant a blessing

"This was absolutely a blessing," Father Sessum says, "as it was the full amount requested. It



enabled us to do the needed renovation of the building, such as lighting, dry walling, plumbing, painting, and tiling as well as providing for electronic equipment, such as computers, networking, faxes, and telephones.

"Without this grant, there is no way the clinic could be opening in September, even with volunteers donating most of the work."

### Open House introduces clinic to community

An Open House was held at the new clinic on August 24. Members of the sponsoring churches as well as the local community were invited. "It was a wonderful time with lots of people and many Episcopalians," Father Sessum says.

### Clinic to provide treatment, health education, pharmacy services

The clinic is expected to open by the end of September with hours on Saturdays and Monday evenings. Additional hours may be added in the future.

Mission Lexington Medical Clinic will offer primary health care services for a wide variety of medical conditions, such as high blood pressure, diabetes, asthma, emphysema, and viral and bacterial infections.

Father Sessum also anticipates the clinic will offer health education, nutritional counseling, and assistance with smoking cessation and weight loss. In addition, the clinic will operate a pharmacy to provide free generic and trade medications to clinic patrons.

"It is truly a spiritual dream come true," Father Sessum says. ❖



Examination Room at Mission Lexington Medical Clinic

Photo: Elizabeth J. Leppman



Laboratory at Mission Lexington Medical Clinic

Photo: Elizabeth J. Leppman

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