



# The Link

Spring 2008

Episcopal Church Women of the Diocese of Lexington

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## Relax, Reflect, and Renew at the Annual Women's Weekend

**D**uring the long, cold winter sometimes you wonder if it will ever come. But the wait is almost over ...

Spring is on its way and that means it will soon be time to pack an overnight bag and head for the Domain for the annual Women's Weekend!

The weekend begins on Friday, May 16 with check-in and social time at 4:00 p.m. and dinner at 6:00 p.m. and ends with lunch on Sunday, May 18.

### Optional free day

Don't forget the optional free day on Thursday, May 15—yours to meditate, hike, knit, or nap.

No meals will be served until Friday evening, so you will need to bring snacks if you decide to take advantage of the free day.

Or ... you can participate in an ECW tradition and have breakfast at The Purple Cow and then go on a shopping excursion at Beattyville's only department store. No one ever comes home empty-handed from Rose Brothers.

We are pleased that Rev. Marcia Hunter will be returning as chaplain. Bishop Sauls will celebrate the Opening Eucharist and Healing Service on Friday evening. Then on Saturday Rev. Audrey Miskelley, Canon Evangelist, Christ Church Cathedral, Lexington, will bring us a series of meditations.

### Back by popular demand

The condensed Cathedral bookstore will be returning. Everyone missed browsing and buying last year when the bookstore was tied up with inventory issues.

### "Silent" lodging is available

If you prefer a quiet retreat, your privacy will be respected. There will be areas set aside for silence.

The annual Women's Weekend is your chance to

relax, reflect, and renew. As Lisa Hawkins, our talented and enthusiastic Women's Weekend coordinator says, "Do yourself a favor and allow your spirit to be replenished in this wonderful weekend of learning, sharing, fellowship, and soaking in the beauty and serenity of God's holy mountain." ❖

## Welcome Back, Candace!

We pleased to announce that the incomparable Candace Armstrong will return as our Music Director.

The Women's Weekend will again be blessed with her impressive musical ability, versatility, and sense of fun.

Karen McKim, Trinity Covington, who attended the Women's

Weekend for the first time last spring, has pleasant memories of singing with Candace. "Whether her keyboard was in the Cathedral of St. George, Mary's Chapel, or the hospitality room, Candace led us in 'joyful songs unto the Lord.' She made us sound terrific, and she made us laugh a lot."

Lisa Hawkins agrees. "She'll play anything from classical high church to jazzy nigh club riffs. We are so fortunate to have a musician of her caliber with us for the weekend!"

Candace is Assistant Professor of Music and Director of Choirs at Lincoln Memorial University in Harrogate, Tennessee. Previously she was the organist/choirmaster at St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Middlesboro, Kentucky, and has served as music leader at the 2003 ECW Triennial in Minneapolis, Minnesota, and pianist for the Diocese of Lexington Annual Convention in 2001 and 2002. ❖



Candace at the keyboard.

## Message from the President

As I write this message it is almost Easter. Like many others, this is my favorite holiday. Not only because it is the celebration of the Risen Christ, but also because it usually means that winter is over. Although I like cold weather, I am ready for spring and all that it brings. It is a happy time.



We women have done a lot in the last year, and yet we have more to do. The Women's Weekend at the Domain in May is so much fun. I am looking forward to seeing you there for a wonderful experience of sharing the time we have together. I appreciate all the people we have been with for a few days and the talks we have heard and the sharing of fun and prayer with my Episcopal Sisters. It is a mini-vacation for me as I come home refreshed. My hope is that you come home refreshed, too.

I am so proud of our women in the Diocese. In the past few years we have begun *The Link*, our diocesan-wide newsletter for the Episcopal Women. We are always interested in what you are doing, so let us know so that we can share it with the other women of the Diocese.

We have awarded grants from the Hosea Fund and have been awarded a grant from the United Thank Offering grants program. We have also started a Matching Grant program and we have already awarded first grant to Ascension's ECW. If your ECW is trying to do something and is low on funds apply for a Matching Grant.

I hope you all will be at the Domain for the Women's Weekend. We would love to get to know each and every one of you.

Faithfully yours,  
*Susan*

You are receiving this newsletter because you have been identified as a contact for your ECW. If you know of others in your ECW or in your parish who would like to receive this newsletter, please contact Diane Gabbard (dianegabbard@fuse.net).

## Annual Meeting Celebrates Women

Celebrating the ministries and gifts of women was clearly the theme of the Annual Meeting at the Church of the Resurrection, Jessamine County, on Saturday, October 27.

The service celebrated the life of St. Margaret of Scotland with the Collect and Lessons appointed for the Feast of St. Margaret and in place of the usual homily a dramatic dialogue between the Rev. Dr. Janet M. Dunnavant and Dr. Kay Collier McLaughlin with Kay taking the role of St. Margaret. The liturgy, *A Litany for Women's Ministries*, was adapted from a Litany by Ann Heidkamp.

The anthem, sung by Kristi Lazur, was *Live in the Light!* which was composed by Horace Clarence Boyer especially for the Forty-Fifth Triennial Meeting of the ECW in 2006.

A delicious luncheon prepared by the Women of Resurrection was followed by a thoughtful and insightful talk by Kay on the topic of "Women in Workplace and the World."

A brief business meeting followed. Participants approved the 2008 budget and passed a resolution to forward the day's offering to the Diocese of San Diego for the wild fire victims. ❖

### ECW Aids Wild Fire Victims

Women attending the Annual Meeting on October 27 passed a resolution to send the day's offering of \$215.50 to the Diocese of San Diego to help victims of the wild fires. A thank-you note was received from Teresa Mathes, wife of the Rt. Rev. James Mathes, Bishop of the Diocese of San Diego.

In her note, Mrs. Mathes emphasized how welcome the gift would be for families who are waiting for insurance payments or who have no insurance. Not only was our monetary gift appreciated, but even more the "thoughts and prayers of our sisters in Kentucky." ❖



### Important Dates

May 4	Church Periodical Club Sunday
May 4	UTO Spring In-Gathering
May 16-18	Women's Weekend at Domain
March 15	Daughters of the King Assembly
June 2-4	Province IV ECW Conference
October 5	Bishops' Funds Sunday

## Make a Difference

### Message from St. Agnes House Director

St. Agnes House has provided hospitality in the Diocese of Lexington since the Sisters of St. Margaret opened their home to cancer patients in 1975. This ministry has provided housing and other kinds of support for thousands of patients and family members of patients staying in Lexington for treatment of cancer and other serious medical conditions.

Most guests come from the counties of Eastern Kentucky, although in recent years, we have also provided hospitality for people from many other regions of the country and even from as far away as Central America. The people who come appreciate a comfortable, affordable home environment where they can experience some stability during difficult times in their lives. Shared meals and conversation provide the opportunity to form a friendly, mutually-supportive community.

The heart and hands of this special ministry are provided by volunteers. The public service projects of church youth groups, UK and other students supplement the ongoing, sustaining work of the regular care of St. Agnes House volunteers.

I believe that the dedicated workers in this place would agree that we are continually recreated by the spirit of kindness and community that is developed here by those who come. We are transformed as we help provide hospitality.

There are many opportunities to serve at St. Agnes House on an occasional or an ongoing basis. There are jobs for many levels of skill and energy. Volunteers do office and reception work, assist guests, make beds, do laundry and light housework. Or sometimes volunteers paint, re-decorate rooms, garden, and do heavy cleaning. Volunteers also help with fundraising, outreach, and other ongoing work of this ministry.

If you have an interest in assisting with the ongoing work of this special place, please contact St. Agnes House or the director, Margaret Shanks. The phone number is 859-254-1241. My e-mail address is [mshanks@diolox.org](mailto:mshanks@diolox.org).

### UTO 's New Vision Statement Emphasizes Millennium Development Goals

*We will significantly impact the lives of women and children because of Christ's love.*

- UTO Vision Statement for 2009



The United Thank Offering (UTO) committee has presented a new vision statement for 2009.

To achieve this vision, the committee will focus particularly on projects that help alleviate the profound human suffering that the Millennium Development Goals address. As a result, the work of UTO will directly impact the lives of women and children.

UTO's new vision will be reflected in the UTO grant criteria and awards for 2009. ❖

### Reminder

The Spring Ingathering for church Blue Boxes is May 4 or any Sunday close to that date which will fit your church schedule. Please mail collections to me as soon as possible.

You may get grant information and order your UTO supplies on the Website [www.episcopalchurch.org/uto](http://www.episcopalchurch.org/uto).

You may also contact me anytime by e-mail at [fbennett05@Alltel.net](mailto:fbennett05@Alltel.net) or by telephone 859-272-5778.

Fran Bennett, Diocesan UTO Coordinator

### Collect

O God, you called your servant Margaret to an earthly throne that she might advance your heavenly kingdom, and gave her zeal for your Church and love for your people: Mercifully grant that we who commemorate her may be fruitful in good works, and attain to the glorious crown of your saints; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen

- from Holy Eucharist Rite II, October 27, celebrant, the Rev. Dr. Janet M. Dunnavant

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