



The Dogwood Diary

A newsletter by the Episcopal Church Women, Diocese of Atlanta,
Volume XI, No. 1 Spring 2011

**“BULLYING IN OUR WORLD –
Why Does It Matter to ME?”
Annual Spring Retreat
April 29 - May 1, 2011
Registration Form and Details on page 7**

CHAPLAIN'S CHAPTER TALK

A CELTIC PRAYER

Lord, You have always given bread for the coming day;
And, although I am poor, today I believe.
Lord, You have always given strength for the coming day;
And though I am weak, today I believe.
Lord, You have always given peace for the coming day;
And though anxious of heart, today I believe.
Lord, You have always kept me safe in trials;
And now, tried as I am, today I believe.
Lord, You have always marked the road for the coming day;
And though it may be hidden, today I believe.
Lord, You have always lightened this darkness of mine;
And though the night is here, today I believe.
Lord, You have always spoken when time was ripe;
And though you be silent now, today I believe.

In this season of Lent, it can be tempting to cover the uncomfortable silence of the season with life's noise. There is so much to distract. Why reflect on our reliance on God when there's the gym, the grocery store, work, the kids, the grand kids, the project, the... and we can do it all by ourselves. We juggle it all on our own, completely reliant on no one. How else can we make sure everything gets done? Isn't it easier just to do it ourselves? And certainly more expeditious. The prayer above serves as a good reminder of just how much we need God in our lives. In what ways are you poor and weak? How tired are you and weary? How often do you allow for silence and wait for God to speak? Have you become a little too confident in your own abilities that you have forgotten how much success is from God working through you? I pray you all allow for some quietness in your Lenten disciplines. Feel uncomfortable, feel helpless, feel vulnerable, and in that space, feel the presence of God. When we cover the silence with activity and noise, we gain a false sense of security. We become too certain of our own abilities and begin to think not only is God unnecessary, but also not present. But that sense of security only comes from resting in the safety of what is known. There is no peace in that constant hum and din. By resting in and working through the silence, we wrestle with the uncomfortable and the fear, and the unknown. We never pass through it but, instead, learn to find God in it. So when we find our lives plunged into darkness, when we are facing life's most difficult times, we need not fear because we know how to



recognize God in that space. May you experience the peace of God in this Lent.

Mary+

The Reverend Mary Demmler is Rector of St. Matthias Episcopal Church in Toccoa, GA and the new Chaplain to the ECW Diocese of Atlanta Board.

FROM YOUR PRESIDENT:

I cannot believe that we are getting the Spring Dogwood Diary together. Where do the weeks go? A lot has happened since our Annual meeting at St. Clement's in Canton, Georgia.



Please join me in welcoming The Reverend Mary Demmler, Rector of St. Matthias Episcopal Church in Toccoa, as Chaplain to the ECW Diocesan Board. Also welcome to our new Board members, Martha Bright, Sonia Francis-Rolle and Phyllis Smith. You can welcome and thank them in person at our Spring Retreat.

The Annual Meeting was appreciated by all who attended and so we give a big THANK YOU to St. Clement's for providing lunch and hospitality. We had talked to them about doing the pillowcase dresses for African children. When we walked into the sanctuary that Saturday morning, we saw that they had hung clotheslines from pillar to pillar and then had hung FINISHED DRESSES on the clothesline, many of us shed a few tears. As we looked up at the dresses, the sunshine came through, putting light on each of the dear little dresses. It was so wonderful knowing that someone so far away would receive a gift of a handmade dress.



Phyllis and Martha at Executive Board Fall Retreat

As we progress through this year, we want to encourage everyone to become part of this wonderful project. (See more info on this later in this newsletter.) St. Anthony's group had a "sew-in" at Gail's house. What a sight to see a bunch of ECW women, each with their sewing machines on Gail's dining table, making dresses! I cannot sew, but I can cook and that I did. Shrimp salad. I went to St. Joseph's in McDonough, and they too have taken up the project. Recently, I met Maggie Griffin, one of our Diocesan missionaries, at the Cathedra and gave her a bunch of dresses to take back with her to Tanzania. to take back with her to Tanzania.

We encourage each of you to see if this project would be something that you could take on. My church in Winder kept saying that funds were low etc., etc., but when we started the project, money came from everywhere. It is no surprise that many people have fabric stashed away, just waiting for a project such as this. One group of ladies at St. Clement's handmade their dresses from tablecloths! How dear is that?

Please let us know if you would like to be part of this project. Some of the dresses have gone to Africa, and some have gone to Haiti. Let us know if you know of other places that could use them. We are looking into other areas for this project.

On this past Monday, I went to St. Aidan's in Alpharetta, as they were doing a class on Ukrainian Easter eggs. I tell you that this project is not easy, but the end results are wonderful. Thank you, Angela and Paula for teaching the class. What a nice group of ladies, but aren't all ECW ladies nice?



Egg dyeing at St. Aidan's

Our next event will be the Spring Retreat at Camp Mikell from April 28th through May 1st. A separate article will be in the Dogwood Diary about this retreat.

Please keep early October open, as we will have our Annual Meeting at St. Joseph's in McDonough, Georgia.

Blessings,

Diane Burrows

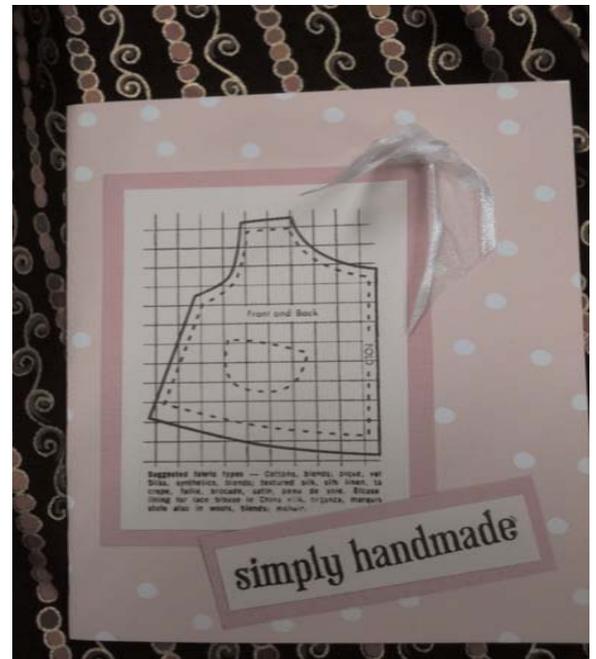
Remember our website: ecw,episcopalatlanta.org

CHANGING LIVES ONE DRESS AT A TIME

Little Dresses for Africa is a nonprofit Christian based organization that provides relief to the children of Africa. Simple dresses, such as those made at the Fall 2010 ECW Annual Meeting, are made out of pillowcases or fabric and distributed through the orphanages, churches and schools in Africa. One of these dresses will become the prized possession for a grateful little girl.

To date, Little Dresses for Africa has received dresses and donations from all 50 states and well over 130,000 little dresses have been distributed in 22 African countries! Dresses have also gone to countries in crisis such as Honduras, Guatemala, the Philippines, Mexico, Haiti and to areas in Appalachia and South Dakota here in the USA. Local church mission teams can take the dresses with them to distribute on their trips.

Please consider taking on this worthwhile project. It can be fun as well as a great humanitarian effort. For more information, go to www.littledressesforafrica.com or contact Diane Burrows, ECW Diocesan President, dburrows1987@windstream.net or 770 601-6042.



BULLYING AND YOU - CAMP MIKELL 2011

WEBSTER'S Dictionary defines a bully as a blustering, quarrelsome, overbearing person who habitually badgers and intimidates smaller or weaker people.

Last summer, I became involved in the production of a movie on bullying that was produced and is owned by my home church, St. Anthony's in Winder. I mentioned this in my President's Column, Fall 2010.

St. Anthony's took on this project because we felt it was so important to our society today. "Five Smooth Stones" is about a young boy who is different, making him the target of local bullies. We watched the movie a couple of times and saw this bullying was subtle, but devastating. It was an obvious choice for a retreat topic.

Bullying occurs today in many ways in our lives that we take for granted or ignore. Many times we accept bullying so that we do not have to deal with confrontation. Is this right? NO! This program will help you to identify the resources you can tap into for yourselves and for those you love and care for who have been bullied. We also need to know if we, in turn, have been a bully to others.

We hope you will come ready and willing to discuss this topic from your personal experiences. Remember our T Shirts say "What Happens at Camp Mikell Stays at Camp Mikell," In order for this retreat to be a success, we need a safe and comfortable environment to speak frankly and openly.

We hope this gives you a little taste of our retreat topic and that you decide to join us this year.

Diane Burrows



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EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN
Diocese of Atlanta
ANNUAL SPRING RETREAT at CAMP MIKELL
April 29th through May 1st, 2011

“Bullying In Our World – Why does it matter to ME?”

The Reverend Mary Demmler, Rector, St. Matthias, Toccoa, GA

Come join the ECW Diocese of Atlanta at Camp Mikell near Toccoa
for a spiritual & fun-filled weekend.

Friday is Tee Shirt Day for our afternoon “Sip and Share” - Proudly sport your ECW Tee Shirt.

- ❖ **Day Rate** includes sessions and lunch on Saturday **ONLY**.
 - ❖ Full weekend Rates includes all meals - Friday dinner through Sunday lunch and two nights lodging. Bed linens, towels and toiletries are **NOT** furnished in dormitory accommodations. You must bring your own.
 - ❖ Groups wishing to room together are encouraged to mail registrations together.
 - ❖ **Questions? Contact Jeanne Condrey at 404-680-6871 or j.condrey@yahoo.com.**
 - ❖ Limited scholarship assistance is available. Contact Jeanne for further information.
- Directions: www.campmikell.com - ECW website ecwepiscopalatlanta.org/index.html.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS APRIL 15, 2011

A Late Fee of \$25.00 will apply to all registrations postmarked after April 15, 2011

✂

2011 ECW SPRING RETREAT REGISTRATION
Only one person per form, please. Reproduce as needed.

Name: _____ Parish: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ Zip Code: _____

Telephone: _____ E-Mail Address: _____

I will attend: _____ Full Weekend Rates: Dormitory (\$105.00) Cabin: (\$160.00) Retreat Village (\$170.00).

Lodging Preference: 1st Choice _____ 2nd Choice _____

Private room: (\$53.00) extra: _____

Saturday ONLY (sessions and lunch - \$35.00) _____

Special Housing, dietary or medical needs: _____

Roommate or group preferences: _____

Optional donation: \$ _____ to Alice Sylvia Child Memorial Scholarship Fund.

TOTAL ENCLOSED & _____ *Please make checks payable to ECW, Diocese of Atlanta.*

- Yes, I am willing to bring an hors d'oeuvre for the Sip and Share on Friday Afternoon.
(Alsie Churchman will contact you by phone or e-mail.)

Please mail Registration to: Jeanne Condrey, 117 Jamey Court, Carrollton, GA 30117.

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reach us by August 2011.**

THE ALICE SYLVIA CHILD SCHOLARSHIP FUND

In the 1980's, Bishop Judson Child (deceased) established a scholarship fund in memory of his beloved mother, Alice Sylvia Child. Both Bishop Child and his mother loved and were great supporters of Camp Mikell and the Episcopal Church Women (he kidingly referred to us as the "EASYWOMEN") and wanted to give as many women as possible the chance to attend our Spring Retreat. The scholarship provides financial aid for women who would like to attend the weekend but may not have the necessary funds to do so. It provides for accommodations in one of the dorms and board. To apply, please include a written request and a note from your parish priest with the application found in this edition of the Dogwood Diary.

Please don't let lack of funds prevent you from enjoying this great weekend in the mountains with your ECW friends.