

The Diocese of Florida Annual Meeting
of the Episcopal Church Women, October 25, 2007

The 117th Annual Meeting of the Episcopal Church Women of the Diocese of Florida was held on October 25, 2007, at the Camp Weed and Cerveny Conference Center in Live Oak. It was hosted by St. Margaret's Church in Hibernia who handled the registration, coffee hour treats, meeting room decorations and many other related host duties. During an inspiring Eucharist, ECW Sisters who have gone before and lit our paths were recognized during Prayers of the People and candles were lit in their memory. The Rt. Rev. Charles Keyser celebrated the Eucharist assisted by the Rev. Canon Gay Silver, our ECW Chaplain and Province IV Chair of Commission on Ministry, the Rev. Kammy Young and the Rev. Canon Ken Herzog of St. Margaret's Hibernia as well as Deacon Pat Nahikian. Sue Carmichael brought her harp and the music as always was conducive to our worship on this day of remembrance.

Following the Eucharist, the Meeting convened in the Varn Dining Hall. We heard from Bishop Keyser and our featured speaker was Dr. Marcie Cherau, our Province IV, Representative to the National ECW. Marcie came early and had the "Live Oak Florida" shrimp dinner and shared fellowship with those ECW Board members who were able to come the evening before. During the meeting, she spoke about the national ECW and how we as Diocesan ECW members related to the ECW at the Province and the National level and the many opportunities we have to stay connected in our visions and activities, through leadership and training programs and through our national ECW magazine, The Communique as well as the national and Province IV websites. She also shared with us planning for the upcoming Triennial in 2009 and the theme just recently selected, "Grow in Grace." Later, Marcie wrote to the women the following: " I was impressed that eleven of your clergy were in attendance and were so supportive of the work of the Women of the Church. Having Bishop Keyser in attendance and giving the homily at the Holy Eucharist was special. You are blessed that your clergy are so warm and attentive and so actively involved. You really are "Family" and exemplify what it means to be "brothers and sisters in Christ!"

A highlight of the meeting was the receipt of the long awaited Spring Retreat Form. Next year's Spring Retreat on April 4-6, featuring the Rev. Dr. Jo Bailey Wells head of Anglican Studies at Duke Divinity School. Additionally, during the Eucharist, a generous offering of \$400.00 was made and will be donated to the rebuilding of St. Patrick's Church in Mississippi. The 120 plus who attended this meeting were thanked for their continued support of the Episcopal Church Women in the Diocese of Florida and their many daily ministries "...Building the Kingdom of God."