

CONNECTIONS

VOLUME II, ISSUE 4

OCTOBER, 2011

Special Points of Interest:

- *Letter from our President*
- *Spring 2012 Women's Gathering*
- *Carla's Corner*
- *And a Little Child Shall Lead Them by Catherine Lillibridge*



Episcopal Diocese of West Texas

The mission of this organization shall be to foster active communication, spiritual enrichment and education among the women of the Episcopal Church with Christ as the center.

From the Editor

Here we are, already rushing into the holiday season, and it seems as if we have just begun a new year. I must remind myself daily to stop and reflect on all the things that really matter, and push aside those things that don't. I can hear my Daddy's voice telling me, "Is what you are about to do really going to matter 100 years from now?" Let's push that further out. "Is what you are about to do really going to matter in eternity?" Let's make it count.

LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Dear Sisters in Christ,

As the second year of my term as president of the Commission for Women's Ministries (C4WM) draws to a close, I can't help but reflect on all the women who have been a part of my life through the Commission for Women's Ministries, the Gatherings and other Episcopal Church Women's events. I have been wonderfully blessed. Each of you has been a part of my journey, shared holy wisdom with me and has shown me a piece of the kingdom. We have laughed, cried and prayed together. I thank you for being the women of God.

I am in the process of reworking my Rule of Life therefore I am reading about various Rules of Life and would love to hear about your rule and the things that you have included in your rule. I have lived by a Rule of Life for many years and it has not changed much since I became a Daughter of the King (DOK); however, I am feeling called to include other areas of life into my rule than the ones I included from Cursillo and DOK.

As I reflect on the past two years and rules of life, I have become quiet, thoughtful, and introspective.

It seems I am preparing for Advent and the coming of Christ our King. Just a reminder that The Commission for Women's Ministries realizes that the economic situation of the times may make it difficult for some women to attend the Gatherings. We are available to come to your Convocation or Parish to do a Mini-Gathering. If you are interested in hosting something in your area or Parish, you can contact me at the email provided below to discuss ideas and set dates.

The Commission for Women's Ministries is looking for women who are willing to serve as the point of contact to get the word out about upcoming Gatherings to the women in their communities. We are also looking for Convocation Reps. If you would like more information or are interested in serving in either of these capacities please email me at stillwatersrestoremysoul@gmail.com.

I hope to see you all at the Spring Gathering if not before. We are asking each of you to bring non-perishable items to the Gatherings. Have a blessed Advent.

For His Sake,
Deb

Inside this issue:

Spring Gathering 2012	2
Reflections from our Chaplain	3
A Little Child Shall Lead Them	4
Carla's Corner	5
Fall Gathering 2012	5
About Us	6

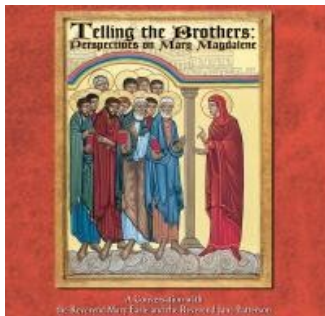
CONNECTIONS

SPRING 2012 GATHERING APRIL 13-15

The Rev. Dr. Jane Patterson is Co-Director of The WorkShop, a ministry devoted to the encouragement of Christians in living out their faith in the events of daily life in the workplace, at home, and in the community. She is also on staff at St. Mark's Episcopal Church in San Antonio, and part of the Associated Faculty at the Seminary of the Southwest in Austin, where she teaches in the areas of Bible and spiritual formation. In her own life of faith, she has been spending time lately with the women Jesus encounters in the Gospel of John, listening to their stories. The spring Women's Gathering will be a time to gather together to listen to their stories and our stories of encounters with Christ, the life-giving wisdom of God in our midst.



The Rev. Dr. Jane Lancaster Patterson



Telling the Brothers: Perspectives on Mary Magdalene

Audio Disc Collection—each audio CD approximately 60 minutes.

Using the scriptural narratives, Mary Earle and Jane Patterson discuss the way in which Mary Magdalene became a spiritual authority for her community and continues to be so for us today.

available at www.theworkshop-sa.org

...FROM OUR PRESIDENT ELECT

Dear Sisters,

Thank You so much for the opportunity to serve all of you as President of the Commission of DWTX, during the 2013-2016 Triennium.

It is an honor and privilege to be a part of this commitment you have all made to this ministry of the Episcopal Church.

I am very excited, have lots of ideas, and I am looking forward to growing and maturing spiritually with all of you as a community of sisters. As a team of women with purpose and focus, much can be achieved collectively.

In Christ,
Your Servant
Wendy Molina

REFLECTIONS FROM OUR CHAPLAIN.....

O God of Wisdom, we come

To your table
you bid us come.
You have set the places,
you have poured the wine,
and there is always room,
you say,
for one more.

And so we come.
From the streets
and from the alleys
we come.

From the deserts
and from the hills
we come.

From the ravages of poverty
and from the palaces of privilege
we come.

Running,
limping,
carried,
we come.

We are bloodied with our wars,
we are wearied with our wounds,
we carry our dead within us,
and we reckon with their ghosts.

We hold the seeds of healing,
we dream of a new creation,
we know the things
that make for peace.
and we struggle
to give them wings.

And yet to your table
we come.
Hungering for your bread,
we come;
thirsting for your wine,
we come;
singing your song
in every language,
speaking your name
in every tongue,
in conflict and in communion
in discord and in desire,
we come,
O God of Wisdom,
we come



*Lera Tyler, Chaplain for
The Commission for Women's Ministries*

By Jan L. Richardson

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CONNECTIONS

AND A LITTLE CHILD WILL LEAD THEM—ISAIAH 11:6



by Catherine Lillibridge

When my daughter Amy was 5 years old she informed me one Sunday morning that she wanted to sit on the front pew next to a man named Kemper. This very tall, thin man came to church alone. His son would drop him off before the service and then he would sit in the narthex after the service waiting for his son to pick him up. Kemper used a walker and was very slow moving but he was there each Sunday. Amy on the other hand was very tiny and fast. She also never missed a beat when it came to someone who was different. She could not help herself; if you were slow moving or in a wheelchair or looked different, she would saddle up beside you and just be with you. This did create interesting dynamics throughout her

Catherine Lillibridge

childhood. She had honed in on Kemper and decided she would sit with him on the front pew so I decided we would all move from the safe, noisy back pew to the front pew that week. As Thomas and Sarah, ages 4 and 7, and I got up for communion, Amy stayed right next to Kemper. I said, “Come on Amy” and she said, “No”. I shot her the ‘we will have a little talk after church look’ and went to communion. After all the able-bodied souls went to the rail to receive the bread and wine, the Priest and the Chalice Bearer came down to Kemper, who sat waiting patiently, to give him communion. As he reached out his long arms to receive, Amy knelt down right beside him and put out her hands to receive communion with him.

Children are often uninhibited to show the love of Christ to others; it is who they truly are. As an adult I often second guess my own nudges to reach out in a way that is uninhibited. I wonder how the Holy Spirit might lead me to show Christ’s unconditional love today? The scripture **“And a little child will lead them.” – Isaiah 11:6** will be my reminder to look to the freshest souls on this earth as true leaders of Christ’s unconditional love.

WE MISS YOU, JUDY

Our dear friend, Judy Nibbelink has decided to move to Colorado to be closer to her children. Judy has attended the Women’s Gatherings for so many years no one remembers, but her, and she will be greatly missed. She always had a smile on her face and a project in her hands. Whenever you needed someone to teach a craft, you could always count on Judy. She has the patience of Job when it comes to clumsy fingers! Her information is below If you would like to drop her a line and let her know how much you miss her.



Judy Nibbelink
1515 West 28th #202
Loveland, CO 80538



CARLA'S CORNER



Carla Pineda
VP Programming

Watch this space for Carla's
reading recommendations.....

Falling Upward: A Spirituality for the Two Halves of Life by Richard Rohr.

"We grow spiritually more by doing it wrong than by doing it right." Franciscan priest and founder of the Center of Action and Contemplation in Albuquerque, NM, Richard Rohr offers us a new way of looking at life and all that happens in it. The two halves of life, the first where we are establishing our identity... climbing, achieving...performing and the second half where the focus is the challenges, mistakes, loss of control, and necessary suffering make sense through the words of this modern day wisdom teacher. "Falling down" is in fact "falling upward"... a paradoxical, counter intuitive message. When we begin to get this

message we grow and mature in our spiritual life. Few teach this lesson as well as Richard Rohr.

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The Monastery of the Heart: An Invitation to a Meaningful Life by Joan Chittister

Using the Rule of St. Benedict and written in poetic prose format, Benedictine sister Joan Chittister guides her readers on a journey to the place where they can learn to live their lives from the inside out, to find their true center, and to be grounded in a world that can be chaotic and overwhelming. Sr. Joan is an internationally known author and lecturer and the Executive Director of Benetivision, a resource and research center for contemporary spirituality. Her words will seep into your heart and soul.

The Artist's Rule: Nurturing Your Creative Soul With Monastic Wisdom: A Twelve-Week Journey by Christine Valters Paintner

This is a rich and lovely book. Christine, a spiritual director and Benedictine oblate, invites her readers to discover their inner monk and artist and to develop their creative gifts in a prayerful and reflective way. As our own wonderful spiritual writer, Mary Earle says in her endorsement, Christine "leads the reader ever more deeply into practices that recover the awareness that contemplation and creativity spring from the same Source." I am currently in a group that is journeying through this book. It has been and is a deep and rich experience.

FALL 2012 GATHERING OCTOBER 12-14

Brother Martin Smith Of the Society of St. John once said that we are each called into ministry for our own salvation (wholeness/wellness), and from a perspective of looking back over time, I know that is true in my journey. So, here are a few mile markers along the way. Born in Mississippi, but raised outside of Houston, Texas, I am a southerner at heart and still feel the deep roots of that upbringing. After graduating from college, I was a public school teacher in San Antonio for 25 years before answering a call to the ordained priesthood. Upon graduation from seminary in 1994 I was assigned to St. John's, McAllen, a congregation that encouraged me and taught me how to serve Christ among them. The last few years I served in the congregation of Holy Spirit, Dripping Springs, and I retired from fulltime ministry in January of 2011.



The Rev. Nancy Coon
Retired Clergy,
The Diocese of West Texas

Over the years, I was blessed to serve as Chaplain to the Board of the Women's Ministries in DWTX and served as Chaplain on one of the weekend Women's Retreats. I look forward to being with you again in a new role as we each continue our walks with Jesus Christ. See you in October!

Chaplin: The Rev. Lisa Mason

CONNECTIONS

COMMISSION FOR WOMEN'S MINISTRIES



Episcopal Diocese of West Texas

Your Commission Members

President	Deborah Gardiner
Advisor	Patricia Brooke
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VP for Communications	Jane Ahuero
Secretary	Linda Hollingsworth
Treasurer	Betty Graham
Chaplain	Lera Tyler
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Eastern Convocation Representative	Rosemarie Stafford
Northern Convocation Representative	
Northeastern Convocation Representative	
Southern Convocation Co representative	
Valley Convocation Representative	
Western Convocation Representative	
Honorary Member	Catherine Lillibridge
Honorary Member	Patti Reed
Media Technician	Dan Hollingsworth

It is not easy to find us on the Diocesan Website, but it can be done!

www.dwtx.org
 Hover over **Diocese**
 Select **Committees and Commissions**
 Select **Commission for Women's Ministries**

The mission of this organization shall be to foster active communication, spiritual enrichment and education among the women of the Episcopal Church with Christ as the center.

REQUIREMENTS FOR MEMBERSHIP

- All members of the Commission shall be communicants in good standing of the Episcopal Church and resident in the Diocese of West Texas
- Membership shall consist of the Board Officers, one representative from each Convocation in the Diocese, and one representative from each of those organizations within the Diocese specifically involved with Women's Concerns.
- There may also be assistants for each Convocational Representative and for each Women's Concerns Representative.
- Ex-officio members of the Commission shall consist of the Bishop of the Diocese of West Texas and an Advisor to the Commission who may be appointed by the Bishop.
- The wives of Bishops, active or retired, of the Diocese shall be invited to serve as honorary members of the Commission.