

Contact



Provincial Newsletter of the Anglican Women's Fellowship

United in Prayer, Service & Love

Provincial Executive Meeting Held in the Diocese of Port Elizabeth

The Provincial Executive meeting was held at Rivers Edge Guest House in the Diocese of Port Elizabeth on the 5th – 8th May 2011. This was the first meeting under the new leadership of our newly

elected Provincial President Pumla Titus. Also present at this meeting was the Past Provincial President Ray Overmeyer who did the official handing over. We were able to confirm the Cluster Co-ordinators for all the Diocese and they will keep in contact with their respective Dioceses and ensure that we get regular feedback from them. Also our 2nd addition of the AWF Handbook will be available by the end of June. Our next Provincial Executive Meeting will be in the Diocese of Namibia from 8th – 11th September, 2011. Please pray for us as we prepare for this executive meeting.



Back Row: L-R; Past Provincial President Ray Overmeyer, Executive members: Ruby Whitehead Mpumie Saunders, Sylvia Sebogodi, Monice Thaele, Kokela Siqendu, Sylvia Frans, Lucille Henniker, Sebenzile Mabuza, Frances Dickson and Sandi Williams.

Front Row: L-R; Outgoing Liaison Bp Bethlehem Nopece, Vice President - Nana Khoza, Provincial President - Pumla Titus, Alt. Vice President - Pat Diergaardt and Liaison Bp Oswald Swartz.

From the Port Elizabeth Diocesan President - Jean Lerotholi

The visit of the Executive of the Province. We did it once more! It was such joy for us as P.E. Diocese to have been able to host the Executive members from the Province again.

As we have done so in 2002 during the Presidency of Mrs Lillian Daniels, while our President, Pumla Titus was president of her Diocese Mthatha then. We are so proud of her being our Provincial President now. This visit took place in a short time after the Provincial Council Meeting, but because we are blessed with a wonderful Chaplain Rev Sharon Nel.



Pictured: L-R: Provincial President Pumla Titus, Liaison Bishop Oswald Swartz and the Revod Tukululu at the Provincial Executive meeting in Port Elizabeth.

She just graced us by assisting us; she was all over looking for a suitable venue for our visitors. She eventually got us a lovely place, which we hope our guest will enjoy.

Their visit also brought us a lot of rain as we, were in need of rain. We were also excited to have an open meeting where we could interact with our leaders.

Thank you Pumla and all the Executive Members.

God Bless



From The Liaison Bishop's Desk

Bishop Ossie Swartz

Some of my clever friends say that if the Bible had been written by African theologians it would have started with: "In the beginning was Hospitality."

I cannot disagree with them because hospitality is at the heart of our faith; it defines us. Our faith calls us to have an authentic relationship with our creator God, but we live out that faith in love which overflows to our neighbours. That love for neighbour enables us to pray for those who are not as loving as we expect them to be; to share our resources and even lend without expecting to be repaid; and, yes, to pray for those who wish our downfall.

By its very nature (name) our beloved Anglican Women's Fellowship states that we are an all-embracing and inclusive group of people who want to live out the gospel of our Saviour to its fullest extent. We are saying that our membership of this group expects us to go the extra mile especially in those situations where it is not deserved: that we will embrace those who find themselves in tricky situations because of their own negligence and stupidity. Our membership of this group places the onus on us not to judge but to love as our Lord loves – unconditionally. Our programmes and projects will demonstrate that we understand God's bias towards the underdog and

the vulnerable. We know how easy it is to pay lip service to the efforts of empowering and emancipating those still shackled because of historic, economic and political reasons. We say that there is freedom of movement while the reality is that women and children can't move about as freely as they wish.

I urge us to not to fall into the temptation of seeking grandiose ways of making a contribution and impression, but to look at realistic and down to earth ways of making a difference in those place where he has planted us. Doing things on a grand scale and spectacular level is always attractive but then we are in danger of losing focus and ultimately missing the mark and being ineffective. I remember an incident many years ago in a parish where I served. As we were preparing for the church bazaar one lady came to volunteer her assistance. She said, "I am prepared to help with the bazaar, but please don't ask me to do something that everybody can do!"

I thought that the success of the bazaar would rest on the ability of everybody doing everything together; for us to be prepared to do those little chores, those small things that will eventually result in a successful big thing.

As we plan future events let us ensure that we seek to make a difference in uplifting those who feel crushed by other people's

expectations of them so that we place ourselves in a position to help people regain their dignity, to once again believe in themselves and to seize opportunities for improving themselves.

As bishop in the church I often find myself in the uncomfortable position in a pincer movement. There is the pressure from those who genuinely believe that we are not doing enough to empower the historically disenfranchised sector of our church and then there is the opposite force which is often seen in the inability of people to seize opportunities.

We have much to do in the area of empowering our people. And, as I said, we are not required to engage on a grand scale but on those levels where we can comfortably make a contribution. Let me point you to my favourite saint whom we commemorated on June 11. In a very simple gesture – taking someone by the hand and introducing him to the band of apostles – Barnabas gives the Church of God a great gift. He takes Paul by the hand and brings him into the fellowship of the Church and we know what an impact that simple action had!

It is my prayer that our blessed Lord will bless all the efforts of the Anglican Women's Fellowship to make a difference in those communities where God has planted us.

Bishop Bethlehem Farewell Speech To Anglican Women's Fellowship Executive in Port Elizabeth

My dear sisters and brother in Christ, liaison Bishop Ossie, Greetings!

Today is one of those that leave me with mixed feelings of both joy and sadness. Sadness, because we have come to the parting of ways. Joy, because you are still well cared for, left in capable hands and pastoral oversight of Bishop Ossie Swartz. It has been a long time together almost twelve years in all. We give praise to the Lord of the kingdom for this!

We have shared times of joy together, which cause me not to remember any ugly occurrences we may have had. Surely

when people work together there is bound to be days of misunderstandings. These I believe we have handling with care, like adults in the Lord. When the previous Metropolitan, the Most Revd Njongonkulu Ndungane assigned me to women and men's organisations it was a bit hectic in that this 'over and above' pastoral oversight demanded more time out of the diocese. It was a great relief when men were taken away and assigned to the Bishop of Umzimvubu.

I found it a great challenge to minister to women of our church provincially. The greatest delight was your readiness to receive my counsel given to you in many respects. *Continue on pg 7*

Brenda Mnqayi - Best Police Woman in Kwazulu-Natal 2010

Brenda Mnqayi initiated the under-listed projects after sponsorship from local business sector i.e. RU_CHI foundation, Taiwanese Community, Old Mutual, Metropolitan Road Accident Fund, Clover Dairies and Amajuba District Municipality.

She cares for Police Child Headed families, invites them for Christmas Lunch and gives them food parcels. She started with three families and now the families have gone to thirty five. She and the other ladies (AWF) donate groceries to Kwa-Hilda Ongowele HIV/AIDS Centres which is at Osizweni and was founded by the Anglican Church at Osizweni. They also bring along non-perishable items and second-hand clothes whenever they celebrate the "Mary and Martha" day and they donate it to the hosting parish to give to and charity organisation around the parish.

She secured sponsors and did the Take-a-Girl/Boy child work campaign and targeted school with learners who are living with disabilities. She also did awareness campaigns about Child Abuse, Rape, and Domestic Violence etc. This she did because these learners with disabilities are soft targets for criminals because of their condition. People living with Albinism alerted, that people are killing them for Muthi (African medicine) She secured sponsors and reached out to children's homes (i.e.) Clouds of Hope, St. Anthony's Ithembehihle. The collected second-hand clothes, toys, tinned stuff and donated to the homes mentioned supra. As a member of PDWN (Purpose Driven Women's Network) they nourished girls and boys whom they call PDYN (Purpose Driven Youth Network). They also collected tinned stuff and second-hand clothes which they take along to the children's home. This is a way of instilling the values of UBUNTU to our children. She is a Moral Regeneration Movement (MRM) activist and is instilling the charter of positive values to our youth.

They then started the "Parent Support Network" as AWF members. They fetch children from St. Antony's Children Home during weekends to their place so as to expose her/him to homely environment and not the procedural style kind of living of the Childrens Home. She has initiated the adoption of St. Antony's Home, Kwa-Hilda Ongowele HIV/AIDS Centre by the AWF members and SAP Women's Network. She got a cheque of R5000, 00 from "God Never Fails Crusade" and donated it to St. Antony's Children Home. She has negotiated with SUTH Millinmg who donates 80kg mealie meal, 25kg beans, 25kg samp to St. Antony's Home and Kwa-Hilda Ongowele on monthly basis.

She organised a seminar for Police Widows' and Widowers. Veterans were called in to talk to them and the positive way forward after being widowed. The theme was "You are not



alone; God is on your side" She has now joined the children's ministry, where she has started the Human/Drug Trafficking Awareness Campaign in her region (Northern Natal) and is now selling it right through the Diocese through Mrs Rose Phillip (Bishop's wife). She has organised a mini rally in the Ingagane Arch deaconry and is rolling out the Human/Drug Trafficking Campaign and has organised the film publication board (FPB) to come and address youth on pornography, the dangers of "face book and mix-it" etc. A board member of Kwa Hilda Ongowele, she has identified a family of seventeen people who stays in one room tinned house. She consulted Mr Koos Swart who is also a board member of Kwa-Hilda. He raised funds and asked for more sponsors. A five roomed house will be built in January by Waterval inmates, free of charge.

- *As a result of the projects mentioned supra, Brenda won the under listed awards:*
- *Provincial SAPS Prestige Award winner in 2009.*
- *National SAPS Prestige Award winner in 2009.*
- *Best Police Woman in KZN in 2009 and the money, she won nationally, she spend R2500 for Christmas lunch for Police Child Headed Families.*
- *R1 000 donated to St. Antony's Children Home.*
- *R1 000 donated to Kwa_Hilda Ongowele HIV/AIDS Centre.*
- *R1 000 donated to Clouds of Hope Children's Home.*
- *R1 000 donated to Fika & Afika Nqetho twins which were adopted by an AWF member.*



Working Together out of Poverty

The Diocese Anglican Women's Fellowship (DAWF) decided to host an event celebration in October month in line with Diocesan 3 Year Plan "Mission and Ministry" Equipping and Strengthening Families - Turning Houses into Homes. We then approached the Department of Social Development (DSD) for research regarding the International Day of Eradication of Poverty and for partnership. The two organizations met in March 2010, the purpose being "Reaching out to the Community. Mrs Sadi Luka: Chief Director Community Development explained further that the DSD has three pillars namely:

- I. Integrated - is further divided into 3 phases:
 - (a) Community D
 - (b) HIV/AIDS and
 - (c) Non-profit Organisations
- II. Social Support
- III. Well Fare (from Social Work)

A Task Team was formed as follows: 5 DAWF Executive Members and 5 DSD Members who will meet often to decide

the way forward. This was a success. The THEME of the event was identified as "Working together Out of Poverty" and the event to be celebrated on the 16 October 2010. Parish branches were tasked to identify 10 Needy Families of which on the day of the event only 2 family members were to attend.

The DAWF project suggested that each Parish will donate an amount of R450.00 towards food parcels. Executive committee members collected and coordinated old /new clothes from Parishes for distribution to the needy families on the day of the event. We approached other companies for sponsorship and for transport to ferry the needy families to and from the venue. The DSD received food parcels from other companies. These companies donated Maize meal, Tea, Coffee Milk, Samp, Soap, etc. Good quality clothing was distributed to the needy families identified by AWF members from the 22 Parish Branches, including surrounding needy white communities identified by the DSD. AWF members from Parishes with their identified needy families as

well as the white communities were provided with buses to ferry them to and from the event at MEDUNSA Campus Sports Ground on the 16 October 2010. This project is on-going and the members of all Parishes will monitor the situation accordingly and give progress report back at Diocesan Council meetings. The main objective is to strive to eradicate poverty from these families and will communicate with DSD for assistance. The event was honoured by the presence of the Mayor of Tshwane, Mrs Gwen Ramokgopa, the then Minister of Department of Social Development Mrs Edna Molewa, the Vice Chancellor of Medunsa Dr Moja and the honourable Mr Mushwana, representing the Bishop of Pretoria, the Rt Rev Dr J T Seoka and other distinguished guests from sponsoring companies.

Prepared by:

1. MsHaggard Motlogeloa(PRO)
2. Ms Nancy Poole(Executive Member)
3. Ms Pinky Madiehe
(Diocesan President)



The Editor's Note

Dear Sisters in Christ, Here we are again; half of the year has passed by and winter is upon us, Let us be mindful of those who don't have warm clothing or blankets to keep warm.

Allow me to welcome our new AWF Liaison Bishop, Bishop Oswald Swart from Kimberley and Kuruman Diocese welcome Bishop, and to Bishop Bethlehem Nopece. Thank you Bishop for the wonderful leadership you shared with us as AWF. I want to thank all who so diligently responded to my call for information. Thank you my dear sisters.

For us to publish a meaningful newsletter we are all responsible for it.

Be Blessed Yours in Christ.

Lucille

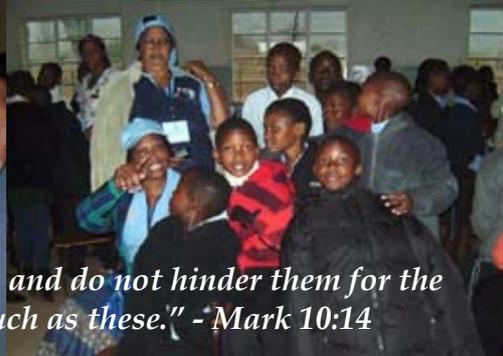
Provincial AWF supports a school in Lesotho

Provincial Executive and members of the Council were asked to bring stationery and books for a needy school in Lesotho. On Saturday the 23rd October, 2010 the delegation was taken by bus to the school where we met teachers and children of the school. This school had the bare necessities. The kids here go to school in very harsh conditions. The classroom we were in was bare and had nothing in it, not even a picture on the wall. We in South Africa are truly blessed to have our educational needs met. Luxuries were given out to all the children. The Provincial Executive would like to thank everyone for their generous support in this project.



Pictured: Top Left: Lesotho School building.

Top Right: Mrs Titus Senior with children in Lesotho.



Bottom Left: Mrs Lilian Daniels past Provincial President with a scholar.

Bottom Right: Port Elizabeth ladies with children.

"Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them for the Kingdom of God belongs to such as these." - Mark 10:14

Message from the President of the AWF - Pumla Titus

My Dear Sisters in Christ Greetings in the wonderful name of our Saviour. Winter is once again here, as we snuggle into the warmth of our homes, let us be mindful of those less fortunate than us and do what we can to ease their plight of homelessness, hunger and lack of warm clothes, by creating opportunities to share what we have whenever possible.

Thank you to the Diocese of Port Elizabeth, our first Provincial Executive Meeting was very productive and the new executive members fitted in very well and soon showed us the new talents they bring. It was also very lovely to meet and interact with our new Liaison Bishop who fully understands women's issues, of course what do you expect from a son of an AWF founder member. We are looking forward to our next meeting in September, which will be held at the Diocese of Namibia.

We were able to confirm the Cluster Co-ordinators for all the Diocese and they will keep in contact with their respective Diocese and ensure that we get regular feedback from them. I also wish to urge all Diocese to deposit the stipulated Provincial contributions as soon as they can as all contributions are due

before the end of June. I hope the 2nd addition of the AWF Handbook will be available by the end of June. Once again your comments and contributions will be highly appreciated. The website is work in progress and in future I hope it will also assisting you to source out valuable information about the fellowship. Remember, one of our resolutions is to grow the church, we must therefore joyfully relate what God has done for us, as Psalm 105:1-2 puts it " Give thanks to the Lord, call on His name; make known among the nations what He has done. Sing to Him, sing praises to Him; tell of all His wonderful acts."

Stay blessed and "Be bright in the corner where you are" and don't forget to share it with us so that we may appreciate your contribution and learn from what you do.

Yours in prayer, service and love.

Pumla Titus - Provincial President



New President for Diocese of Saldanha Bay

I quote the chorus from my favourite song:

*"Here I am Lord it is I Lord, I have heard
You calling in the night. I will go Lord
if you lead me. I will hold Your people to
my heart."*

My membership to the AWF has always been a sacred calling as was all other areas that I, by the grace of God, could serve my brothers and sisters.

In 1993 I was encouraged by my priest, the late Rev Devirash Laban, to join the AWF of St Andrews Northpine. A decision I have never regretted. It afforded me a platform to grow in the Lord, establish wonderful relation-

ships and I learned a few embroidery stitches. I came onto the Diocese of Cape Town's executive at the time of Sylvia Adams' Presidency.

Born and bred in Paarl I had to find my way around Cape Town very fast. Therefore I attended as many gatherings, getting to know as many of our sisters as possible and from all of them I could learn something. All enriched me tremendously.

So, as president of the Diocese of Saldanha Bay, I am being carried by God, and I believe on the wings of the angels that surround me in the AWF.

Ida Stoffels



Saldanha Bay AGM - Welcomes New Leadership

The Dioceses of Saldanha Bay had their Annual General Meeting at St. Stephens in Paarl on 21st May, 2011

Mrs Ida Stoffels was elected the new Diocesan President, Nerian Gouws – Vice President and Jacoba Kleinsmith Alt Vice President for the next two years. Past Provincial Presidents who attended the occasion were - Dr Pat Gorvalla, Sylvia Adams and, Ray Overmeyer.



Pictured: Far Left:
Dr Pat Gorvalla -
Past Provincial President.

Top Right:
Past Provincial President -
Mrs Ray Overmeyer.

Bottom Right:
Past Provincial President -
Mrs Sylvia Adams.



"If Christ lives in us, controlling our personalities, we will leave glorious marks on the lives we touch. Not because of us but because of Him."

- Eugenia Price

From on pg 2: Bishop Bethlehem Farewell Speech:

Your respect, love, fellowship and respect, especially for my own space, will be greatly missed. You have been a fellowship I always look forward to, though sometimes with reluctance as a result of duty calls in the diocese of Port Elizabeth.

Your cooperation and eagerness to learn cannot be forgotten in shaping up the vision of Christ at the centre of all your engagements. Sometimes good Anglicans like ourselves tend to forget that the business we are about is of Christ, not ourselves (2 Cor.4:7ff) which is why 'we do not lose heart'. We meet with criticism and ridicule, but we continue to 'shine in the corner' where we are, both as individuals or groups in our dioceses as well. It is noted with sadness that some clerics want to hold portfolios of leadership in the AWF and take control to the frustration of leadership, lording over them. This is regrettable and ought not to be the case. The Bishops will continue to give guidance to such clerics, and remind them that they can only be chaplains to the AWF at the appointment of the given Bishop, and leave the decision making and leadership to lay people themselves in the lay organisations. Clergy have a canonical mandate and duty from the Bishop and cannot hold membership of the organisations. I hope this addresses your concerns to the glory of God.

You have also been generous to us in many various ways bringing us to great humility, yet fulfilling our call and making it worthwhile. There is nothing that makes us feel good in life and in all our doings than being appreciated. This you have done, particularly your farewell appreciations which were least expected. May God bless you richly and increase your resources. In this, like the followers of the example set by the girls of Bethany, Mary and Martha, you continue to excel.

They were sisters, yet different even in their action and choices. But all this was done to promote prayer and worship, mission and witness, fellowship and study, service and stewardship in the presence of the Lord, to be precise, at his feet (Lk.10:38-42; Jn.11; 12:2). Therefore we need not fear when the Lord is in us and dwells in our hearts. Even in the midst of threatening death, he brings life and wonderful calm and peace. Continue to be resolute to pursue the afore mentioned objectives, always remembering 'AWaFi' (lit. = 'they do not die', i.e. AWF ladies). Keep up the burner and shine in your little corners!

In conclusion, my dear ladies in the Lord, Bishop Ossie requires no introduction. I commend him with delight to your good hands of fellowship. He will surely be happy among you. He is not me, but my dear brother and fellow worker in the Lord. I am very delighted to leave you in his pastoral oversight. I wish to thank him for accepting this responsibility the Metropolitan has assigned him. My best wishes and blessings go to him and Yasmin for a rewarding and fulfilling ministry both with you and the Diocese of Kimberly and Kuruman.

I have been greatly delighted to see your past President Ray Overmeyer. May she continue to promote the objectives and the cause of Christ. To Pumla and the current Executive members we say 'shine for the Lord, and continue the good work among women. May you grow from strength to strength like the Mighty Lion'.

Dear sisters pray for us as we pray for you. May God add his blessings in all your doings,

**+Bethlehem, Port Elizabeth. Ascension Tide May, 2011AD.
(outgoing liaison Bishop).**

News from the Diocese of Johannesburg



Thanksgiving festival held at St. Andrews Church, Pimville on 6th November 2010. The Celebrant and Preacher: The Right Revd. Dr Brian Germond. The Bishop's special message to AWF members.

God does not promote wealth, Jesus was not rich, and He did not have a decent place to live. God has a plan and purpose for creation - He created the world for us to live and the world is a gift from God. We need to love and serve Him; we should maintain good relation with each other and always give thanks to God. Let us help people who are less fortunate than us, we will get more blessings, Glorify Him for His mercy endures forever. The AWF Diocesan President Ms Sebenzile Mabuz'a message to the

women. This is a beautiful day indeed, let's all rejoice and be glad in it. Do not say to yourself, "my power and the might of my own hand has gotten me this wealth." But remember the Lord your God, for it is He who gives you power to get wealth, so that He may confirm His covenant that He swore to your ancestors, and as He is swearing to you today." Also in attendance was Provincial Vice-president Mrs Nan Khoza.



Executive Members Contact information:

Provincial President -
Pumla Titus

P.O. Box 15, Mthatha. 5099
Cell: 082 876 7786

Secretary - Mrs Mpumie Saunders
(Diocese of Mthatha)

Treasurer - Frances Dickson
22 United street, Westering
Port Elizabeth, 6025
Cell: 082 843 2490

Stock Controller - Ruby Whitehead
12 Klesal Flats, Smart Street
Sydenham, Port Elizabeth,
6001
Cell: 083 339 3116

AWF website:

www.anglicanwomensfellowship.co.za

Stories & information for
publication can be submitted to:

The Editor - Lucille Henniker
8 Tenby Road, Wynberg, 7800

Cell: 084 254 9962 - Fax: 0865885996

Email:

lucille.henniker@capetown.gov.za



New AWF Branch Launched at St Banarbas - Chaluma



*Diocesan President (Kokela Siquendu) doing a presentation
on AWF at Babarbas - Chaluma.*

Members of AWF conducted service at St.Banarbas-Chaluma in East London on 13 March 2011, 1st Sunday in lent. It was a joyous service, praise and worship with excitement Revd S.Nokweni delivered the sermon, and Ms Nomonde Mankahla led the service. In her message on overcoming temptations, Revd. Njokweni said, there is no temptation that the follower of Jesus cannot overcome by God's grace...But the Christian must not be afraid of temptation. If it comes upon him in spite of watching and praying (see Matthew 26.41), then he should know that he can conquer every temptation. There is no temptation which cannot be conquered.

God knows our abilities, and he will not let us be tempted beyond our power... God allots to every man that portion which he can bear. That is certain (131). She said "Praise the Lord that He will help us stand up and be strong when the urge to sin is powerful". Members of the St.Banarbas Church were overwhelmed with this visit because there is non-existent AWF branch at St.Banarbas. After church few ladies showed interest in joining AWF. Revd.Silwana and Church Wardens appreciated the visit and thank God for the fellowship that they experienced. Members proceeded to visiting the sick after the service continuing with Jesus's Ministry of caring for the sick and the needy.

News from the Diocese of Swaziland

Women of God are called upon to joy and prayerfulness. It was in this regard that, in January, the AWF conducted a wonderful new- year service, at Holy Trinity Church at Nhlngano in the Shiselweni District of Swaziland. The venue was selected to support the only newly recruited AWF member in that Parish.

To help inculcate spiritual growth within members, in April, a Bible Study was conducted by the Chaplain, the Right Reverent Advent Dlamini, under the theme "The Price is Right". Luke 9:51-11:13 and in May the AWF donated an assortment of goods to a 5 member family after their one-room flat was set on fire by arsonists.

Presently, the family is accommodated by relatives pending police investigations, after which their flat will be renovated. - *Mrs Maria B. Mbelu*

