

Contact



Provincial Newsletter of the Anglican Women's Fellowship

United in Prayer, Service & Love

Blessed Christmas and a Stimulating 2012 !



AWF Provincial Executive members at a Cave in Modderpoort.

It usually feels as if someone throws a switch and then out comes the tinsel, the obligatory Father Christmas and the shopping malls are filled with music about white Christmases and reindeer that can fly. Occasionally we hear words beckoning the faithful to come and adore Christ the Lord. We are cajoled, lambasted, harassed to get into the Christmas spirit and to enjoy the season to be jolly and, above all, to part with hard-earned cash!

We cannot escape the glitz and glam of the Christmas wrappings. The way Christmas is "packaged" is in your face commercialism. Despite what I said earlier, Christmas music can be moving and inspirational. But, as I sit writing, my mind is drawn, not to a Christmas Carol for inspiration, but to a hymn which is more fitting for Passiontide. Walsham How's hymn seems to knock the nail on the head:

*It is a thing most wonderful, Almost too wonderful to be,
That God's own Son should come from heaven,
And die to save a child like me.*

That's it! Christmas is all about celebrating love in action. It is about love so wonderful that is almost beyond our understanding. It is about God taking on human form and coming amongst us with the definite purpose of securing our salvation; to bring us back to himself no matter the cost.

This profound message is so easily lost as it is deeply embedded and nicely wrapped up in the usual Christmas packaging. It's there, but securely vacu-sealed in strong and attractive "Christmas cellophane!" We have to remove the neat packaging, peel away the wrapping in order to see this "thing most wonderful".

Now wrapping is important. Fruit properly wrapped up will be better preserved. A suit brought back from the dry cleaners will remain clean until it is ready for use. A fragile article will reach its destination safely if correctly boxed. A nicely wrapped present is an indication of the care that has gone into the selection. Yes, the wrapping is important but it is only the means to the end. The danger with the Christmas wrapping is that the true gift of Christmas, the real message, lies undiscovered under all the wrapping.

To help us get down to the real goodies of Christmas let us explore the concept of wrappings and packaging a little further. When I get to the cashier at the supermarket she always dutifully puts the question: "Would you like a bag?" Even when it is a single article the choice is there for the bag. We sometimes opt for the unnecessary packaging. Much of Christmas - and so much of our religion - is wrapped in unnecessary packaging. It becomes the end and not the means to the end and we feel we need to put in time and energy to "do the right thing".

Modern technology has given us material and packaging that is almost impenetrable. I enjoy Formula One racing and it is incredible to see people walk away from a horrendous

smash. The compound materials they use for those cars appear to be indestructible. These modern materials make for packaging which require strong arm tactics to penetrate. Alas, so it is with our religious wrappings too. The message that God is with us cannot break through and people are left empty, unfulfilled. All the partying and festivities of the season to be jolly do not bring happiness. People still feel lost and alone and they cannot hear that God's own Son has come from heaven to assure us of God's unfailing love.

I was watching the old soapies the other day. Friends had come together to do a tea party for one of their circle who was getting married. Part of the fun was for the bride-to-be to guess what the presents were. It seems that the wrappings had to disguise the presents.

I thought of the many deceptive wrappings. The beef patties looked so appetising on the box but proved such a let down not nice and just disintegrating!

Needless to say it is also easy for us to be deceptive in the way we practice our religion and live out our faith. Jesus has a word for it - hypocrisy.

My prayer for this Christmas is that we are not being deceived by the wrappings; that we do not get caught up with the unnecessary wrappings; and that the true message of Christmas will break through in a new, fresh and exciting way leading to new discoveries of this thing almost to wonderful to be. That we will really understand what God did when he sent his own Son to be with us and him with us thus showing God's love in a real and dynamic way.

Happy Christmas, God is with us.

**Liaison Bishop,
The Rt Revd Oswald Swartz**



Christmas message from the President of the AWF

Dear Sisters in Christ...Another year has gone by and God has been good to us. He has sustained us and kept us from evil and harm. Revive, Relate, Rejoice Women of God.

As we prepare to celebrate the birth of His son, Jesus Christ, let us not lose focus and concentrate on the coming festivities and forget WHY we are celebrating. It is because "God so loved the world, that He gave us His only son, so that all who believe in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life" John 3: 16.

Thank you all for the wonderful work you do for the AWF in your respective Diocese. Continue to love others as God loves you, always forgiving and compassionate to the needs of others. By this you will be living the significance of our moto "United in Prayer, Service and Love". We remember

with love all our dear sisters who were laid to rest this year, with particular reference to Mrs Matilda Mogale and Ms Maria Mathews who have served in various positions of the Provincial Executive Committee - "Grant eternal rest unto them, O Lord and let light perpetual shine upon them".

I sincerely wish to thank my hard working Provincial Executive Members for their love and dedication to their roles in ensuring that we have goal oriented programmes. To our Dear Bishop Ossie, thank you for your guidance and support.

The year 2012 will be very busy and I wish to request all Diocese to send us their annual programmes, so that they may be included in the Provincial calendar. We also hope to include them in the web-calendar, so that you are always updated of what where, when it will be happening. Our

next Provincial Executive Meeting will be hosted by the Diocese of Swaziland in May 2012 and the 23rd Provincial Council Meeting will be hosted by the Diocese of Christ the King in October 2012. Details of these will be sent to you in due course.

To all of you, I wish you a blessed and most joyful Christmas season. Spend it wisely with those near and dear to you. Do not forget to share with those less fortunate than you. May we meet again in 2012, revived both spiritually and physically, so that we may serve Him more.

Till then, I say Rejoice women of God Rejoice.

Pumla Titus
- Provincial President



Internal Auditor of the Year Award 2011



Internal Auditor of the Year, Kokela Siquendu, is on a mission to change the negative perceptions that Auditors have.

Kokela Siquendu scooped a coveted Internal Auditor of the Year Award 2011 for the best contribution to the internal audit profession. She is on a mission to change the negative perceptions. Siquendu is just what the Eastern Cape needs to alter the per-

ceptions in the market place but it has not been an easy journey for the 47-year old. She had to trudge through all the hefty odds stacked against her growing up in rural poverty stricken Umthentu outside Mthatha, contend with challenges of polio and a lingering reminder that auditing is a profession for male and a "lily-white sector"

She has traversed all these odds effortlessly, propelled by her drive to succeed and be the best at what she does. Etched on her face is determination and she is excellence incarnate. Siquendu is not only a bubbly, but has developed permanent amnesia on her physical challenges and is quick to shrug the "polio" factor off.

Siquendu has been in the employed by the Eastern Cape's Department of Public Works since 2009, says that she walked into what is best described by Nigerian author Chinua Achebe as Things Fall Apart.

Unfazed, her first task was put systems into place. Well, for all those who are inspired by Siquendu, look no further than the Provincial Growth and Development Plan, "Across the length and breadth of our beautiful Provinces from the plains of the Camdebo to the sweeping stretches of golden beaches of the coast line to the peaks of the mountains of Ukhahlamba, the Eastern Cape is awakening to its full potential.

Diocese of Free State hosts AWF Executive Meeting



"If God Is For Us, Who Can Be Against Us? Romans 8: 31".

It was an honour for us as the Diocese of the Free State to be given the opportunity to host the Provincial Executive Meeting from the 8th -11th September 2011.

We knew that we would host such a meeting at one time or another, but it never occurred to us that God will present this challenge at the time it happened hence we are saying "If God Is For Us, Who Can Be Against Us? Romans 8: 31".

"When the Past President and member of the Provincial Executive, Monica Thaele, gave us the message that the Provincial Executive committee is faced with the challenge of finding an alternative venue for the meeting and How about us grab-

bing the opportunity, we felt that this is our chance to expose members of the Provincial Executive Committee to the rich history of Modderpoort during the Heritage month.

What could be a better place to host the meeting except at Our Modderpoort, Your Modderpoort and God's Modderpoort and we hope they enjoyed their stay there. Although, the notice was short, this could not have been possible without the assistance of our Chaplain Rev Mary Lebetsi, Diocesan Education Officer Fr David Mills, Rector of St James Parish in Ladybrand Fr Rory Middlecote, Care takers of St Augustine's Priory Johan and Marlene and the staff at Modderpoort, Church Council of St Augustine's Parish in Thaba-Nchu for allowing us to use the parish vehicle to transport our guests



from Bloemfontein Airport to Modderpoort and back. Our heartfelt appreciation goes to this team.

For us hosting Provincial Executive Committee meeting for the first time left enjoyable memories. The experience was awesome, exciting and inspiring. The visit was also graced by the delegation from the Diocese of Lesotho who attended an open meeting where we could interact with our leaders and share our experiences and challenges.

Thank you Pumla and your team and we wish you all the best. **God bless**

Gertrude Thongi Segwe
Free State Diocesan President

The Editor's Note

Christmas is here! What a joyous time this is for us as Christians, as we await the birth of our Saviour. Hark the herald Angel sing Glory to the new born King. Being editor for the last two years has been a wonderful experience, not always an easy task, but it has been one of learning and much excitement. I would like to thank all who so willingly sent info for publication also a big thank you to the Liaison Bishop, the Provincial President and the Provincial Executive for their support and prayers. I would also like to thank Rebecca Malambo, my dear friend for her help with the Contact. My dear sisters, its been a wonderful year filled with much excitement, challenges, witness and blessings. May we continue to keep up the communication within the Anglican Women's Fellowship.

Have a blessed Christmas and may the New Year hold much promise for you and your loved ones.

May we all experience the joy with our loved ones this Christmas

Yours in Christ, Lucille

Namibia is abuzz of activity!

The AWF Branch in St. George's Cathedral Parish in Windhoek, Namibia, has had quite a busy year. These were our main activities:-

We hosted a Diocesan meeting with delegates coming from as far away as Swakopmund, Walvis Bay and Luderitz. New office bearers were appointed, we all made new friends and enjoyed the weekend together.

We hosted a lunch for senior citizens of the parish. Those of us who are members of AWF and also senior citizens sat back and were waited on while the younger members did all the work! We were happy to have with us the oldest living member of the Cathedral Parish. Helen Penderis is 88 years old, can hardly walk and lives in a wheelchair most of the time. It was a great effort for her to

attend and we all applauded her. We've had some fund raising events - home produce sales (home produce consists of food, knitting, needlework, and sundry items which make attractive gifts), a street market where we sold second hand clothing, and a potjiekos evening. This last event was great fun. Everybody dressed as cowboys/girls, we had a lovely meal prepared by AWF members and helpers, and vied with each other in groups in a singing competition. The singing was not a very high standard but we all enjoyed it.

Altogether our fund raising amounted to nearly 13,000 Namibian dollars. We have already sponsored school fees for two students who come from poor families and would not otherwise have the opportunity to continue their education. The rest of the money raised will be

distributed to charities at the end of the year.

Sadly, we have to say goodbye to our President as she is returning to South Africa in December. Margaret has been an excellent president, she has good ideas, is good at organising, works hard and inspires the rest of us. She will certainly be greatly missed, but at the same time we would like to wish her all the very best for the future.

As this news is going to be in the Christmas issue of Contact, we would like to take the opportunity to wish all AWF members everywhere a very blessed Christmas and good luck, good health and happiness in the new year.

Enid Milton

St Phillip's Vryburg heads Project Kerk kombuis



This project was established in December 2009 in the Arch-deaconry of Vryburg and Ganyesa.

The aim of starting this kind of project was to revive the Sunday school in our parishes and to attract more children to the church. When we started the project we focused on children but usually give fruit and sweets to the senior members of the congregation. Due distance between our

parishes, each parish chose its own way of doing the project. At St. Phillips church each member contributes an amount of R50.00 monthly to buy fruit, sweets, cool drinks and popcorn for the children. Our intention is to buy them toothpaste, toothbrushes, soap and toilet soap once a year in order to teach them the importance of oral hygiene and general cleanliness. We intend giving them a lunch once a year in December. We started with plus minus 50 children in December, 2009 but the number has increased to plus minus 150 this year. This increase in numbers has made it very difficult for us to cater for all these kids due to lack of funds. Among us there are members who are employed and are unable to contribute as agreed.

We hope that through the grace of God we will keep on trying to sustain our project. Keep us in your prayers.

Diocesan President
Kimberley and Kuruman

Holy Nativity in the Diocese of Cape Town celebrates 30th Anniversary

The AWF of the Church of the Holy Nativity in the Diocese of Cape Town, celebrated their 30th anniversary on the 21 April 2011 with the celebration which had been held on 07 May 2011 in the Church's hall at 2 Jonathon Road, Hazendal. The speaker, Mrs. Sylvia Adams, a past Provincial President of the AWF, spoke about the colours in the AWF banner, namely white, which symbolizes peace; blue, which is for loyalty and obedience; gold for wealth and green for growth. She



encouraged us to create opportunities which breakdown barriers and build relationships, to be peacemakers, loyal servants and our resources to build the church of God. - From left to right standing: Mrs Pamela Paulsen (AWF alternate vice-president, Cape Town diocese) & Mrs Carol Charles (AWF President, Cape Town diocese) Seated: The late Mrs Dora Snyders, who celebrated her 103rd birthday in February 2011

Hidden Wounds

Don't curse the wound, nor the circumstances that caused it.
Don't nurse it,
Don't rehearse it or the experience - This keeps it alive.
Don't talk about it - forget it,
Immerse it - Drown it in a life of noble service.
Reverse it - turn the negative into a positive.
You do that when you allow your word to turn you into a more sensitive, compassionate, considerate, thoughtful, merciful, gracious person.
Only share it with God.
He will heal your hidden wound.

Poem sent in Ruby Whitehead

Competition Time

Who in the Anglican Church celebrated his 80th birthday recently?

The first correct entry to be drawn will receive an AWF T-shirt and Cap. Answers can be sent to the Editor via SMS or Email, your name and address as well as your Diocese.

Cell: 084 254 9962
E-mail: Lucille.henniker@capetown.gov.za

Closing date End of March 2012
(Competition not for Provincial Executive Members)

"When you get into a tight place and everything goes against you it will seem as though you could not hold on longer, never give up, for that is when the tide will turn."

- Harriet Stowe

Women of God are called upon in joy and prayer

The AWF in the Diocese of Swaziland conducted a wonderful new-year service, at Holy Trinity Church at Nhlanguano 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



AWF working in the community of Lenasia



AWF working in the community of Lenasia. We get together once a month and go out to the informal settlement to feed the children and spent some time with them. We pray with them, sing some choruses and feed them and let them all go safely home before we leave.

The smiles they have on their faces when they see us arriving and they automatically form a line and cant wait to eat, some sit right their and eat their sandwiches. We feel so good by putting a smile on these children's faces.

Thank You Lord for your provision.

This is our Time - Anglican Church Lenasia



The AWF from Christ the Saviour, in Lenasia got together with other interfaith groups and celebrated Women's Day with 300 women from the community, various religious groups, different race groups, and from all backgrounds, Reverend Maureen Simons opened the celebration in a special prayer.

The theme of this event was "This Is Our Time" There were special awards given to special women that give their time and support to the community. The AWF cooked and served hot meals to all the women that were there.

Charmaine Sigaban

"Music washes away from the soul the dust of everyday life." - Berthold Auerbach

The Rt Revd Dr Katharine Jefferts Schori, the Presiding Bishop of The Episcopal Church, visited our Province in late September

Before meeting with the Synod of Bishops in Johannesburg, she spent several days in Cape Town. During her CT stay she took part in a pilgrimage to Robben Island, was hosted at a dinner at Bishopscourt, had dinner with women clergy, attended a HOPE Africa award presentation in Khayelitsha, preached at St. George's Cathedral and visited the District Six Museum. After meeting with the Synod of Bishops, she visited Soweto with the Very Revd Charles May and the Ven Vicentia Kgabe.



Peace icon Archbishop Desmond celebrates 80th birthday

Archbishop Desmond Tutu, born 7 October 1931 was an outspoken opponent of apartheid and the first black archbishop of Cape Town. He received the Nobel Peace Prize on 16 October 1984. He is one of the fathers of the "Rainbow Nation" of South Africa.

A celebration service featuring two church choirs and the Soweto Gospel Choir was held in St George's Cathedral on 7 October 2011 to mark Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu's 80th birthday. The service was led by Archbishop of Cape Town Dr Thabo Makgoba, with the sermon delivered by Archbishop Tutu's old friend and colleague, Bishop Charles Albertyn. In the congregation were Deputy President of South Africa Kgalema Motlanthe, head of the Inkatha Freedom Party Mr Mangosuthu Buthelezi, the wife of former President Nelson Mandela Mrs Graca Machel, former World Bank head Ms Ramphele Mamphela, and rock star, Bono.



The Anglican Church Supports Change At Cop 17

About climate change in Africa
Within a few weeks, world leaders will be gathering in Durban, South Africa to hold climate change negotiations (COP 17).

It is fitting that this gathering takes place on African soil, because although Africans are responsible for a tiny proportion of global emissions (with the noted exception of South Africa), Southern Africa is warming at about twice the global average rate. Africa will be amongst the world's most affected nations, threatened by unprecedented droughts, floods, extreme weather, diminishing food security, poverty, forced migration and increased conflict.

Despite 17 years of negotiations to cut warming emissions, current global pledges to cut emissions leave Earth on track for between 2.5-4 degrees of warming, widely agreed to be catastrophic.

There is little sign that the world's nations are truly serious about making the emissions cuts that are so urgently needed. Short-term economic growth is threatening the prospects for global long-term human development.

Faith leaders will be gathering at a

mass rally in Durban on Sunday 27th of November to pray for the success of the Climate Change negotiations. Archbishop Emeritus Tutu will hand over petitions to the leader of the COP 17 gathering.

The petition requests the following:
A commitment to a fair, ambitious and legally binding agreement and to a second commitment period for the Kyoto Protocol to ensure the survival of coming generations.

To set clear short and long term targets for carbon emission reductions that keep average global temperature increases well below 1.5 degrees centigrade, and to support solutions that contribute to healing the earth.

To ensure there is adequate finance for adaptation in Africa. Such finance should come from historically polluting nations in recognition of their ecological debt and be additional to existing development aid, governed inclusively and equitably under the United Nations.

We call on our negotiators to treat the Earth with respect, resist disorder and live in peace with each other, including embracing a legally binding climate treaty.

Africa must unite, and with one voice speak out for the justice of the poor in Africa and beyond!

Please visit www.wehavefaithactnow.org and join with them in signing the petition

For more information contact Revd Canon Rachel Mash: Environmental Coordinator: Anglican Church of Southern Africa



Archbishop Thabo Makgoba has recently been appointed as the convenor of the Anglican Environmental Network. He is seen here signing the petition with visitors from the Diocese of York who are also celebrating 2011 as the year of the Environment.

**Executive Members
Contact Information:**

Provincial President - Pumla Titus
P.O. Box 15, Mthatha. 5099
Cell: 082 876 7786

Secretary - Mpumie Saunders
22 Tyamzashe Street,
Kwezi Township, Mthatha, 5099
Cell: 079 272 0400
E-mail: secretary@anglicanwomens
fellowship.co.za

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

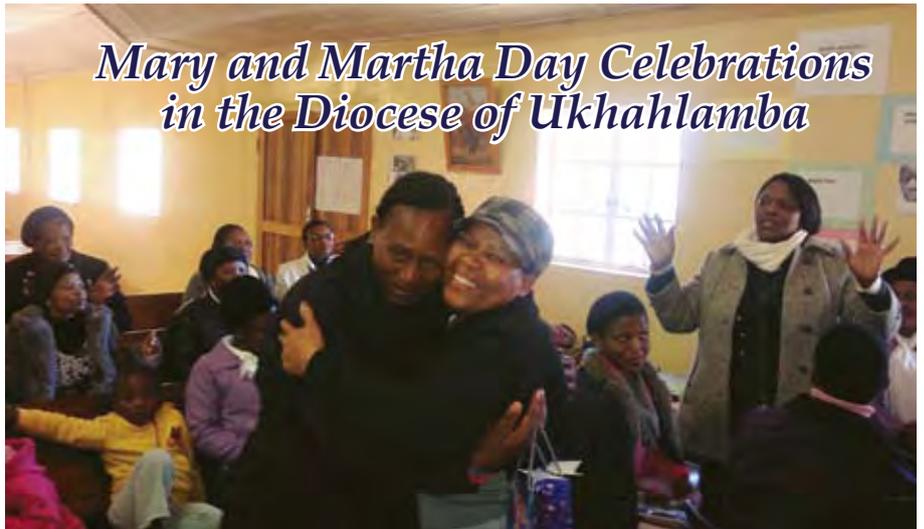
Stock Controller - Ruby Whitehead
8 Barbet Street, Cotswold
Port Elizabeth, 6045
Cell: 083 339 3116 or 041 364-1359

**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



**Mary and Martha Day Celebrations
in the Diocese of Ukhahlamba**



*Left to Right: Chaplain the Revd L Nyangintsimbi and Chairperson Mimi Petros
St Peters from the Diocese of Ukhahlamba*

The celebrations of Mary and Martha Day were held at St Mary's in Sterkspruit. The Celebrant was the Revd.V Sono, Priest in Charge and the keynote address was delivered by our new Chaplain, the Rev L Nyangintsimi. During Bible Study, members were divided into groups and each group had to respond to these questions:

- What does the word church mean to you?
- What gifts do you have to offer to the AWF?
- How can we have shared leadership?
- How can we grow the quality and size of AWF?

Each group was then given an opportunity to give report. Almost all the branches were represented. We thank all who made the day a success.

PSALM 119V105

TO WALK IN HIS LIGHT IN FAITH

NOW LET US

“REJOICE, REVIVE, RELATE
WOMEN OF GOD”

WE HAVE ARISEN AND SHONE,
WE WALKED IN THE LIGHT
NOW TOGETHER WE MUST
REJOICE, REVIVE, RELATE TO ALL

“REJOICE IN THE LORD ALWAYS”

REVIVE US LORD ALWAYS
AND AGAIN I SAY REVIVE (REPEAT)
REVIVE,REVIVE, AND AGAIN I SAY REVIVE (REPEAT)

RELATE TO EACH OTHER ALWAYS
AND AGAIN I SAY RELATE (REPEAT)
RELATE, RELATE, AND AGAIN I SAY RELATE
(REPEAT)

REJOICE IN THE LORD ALWAYS
AND AGAIN I SAY REJOICE (REPEAT)
REJOICE, REJOICE, AND AGAIN I SAY REJOICE
(REPEAT)

