

# Contact



Provincial Newsletter of the Anglican Women's Fellowship

United in Prayer, Service & Love

## *Hosting a Provincial Council Meeting is hard work but creates wonderful memories*



*Provincial Executive and  
Diocese of Natal Executive*

It took us hours and hours of preparation. We were organising for an event which we regarded as very important. We were eagerly looking forward to hosting our Provincial Executive Council.

That, to us was not a simple task. It was not easy because we did not know exactly what to expect and what was expected of us. Finally, the day came. What a relief! All the ladies happened to be very cheerful and pleasant people. Even the Bishop was just as easy to host. What a lovely time we shared.

We witnessed how hard the executive is working, ensuring that the aims and objectives of the AWF are being realized. Yes, like our Patron Saints, we were the Marthas of the day, busy with all the preparations that had to be made, but we also found time to be Marys - sat at the Lord's feet, listening to what he said.

The meeting is now over but we are left with very fond memories. Thank you for affording us this wonderful opportunity. We are now looking forward to meeting some of you again in the near future, to be united in prayer, service and love.

First published in 1968  
2nd Quarter 2013  
Volume 08 - No. 1



## Farewell Message from our Liaison Bishop

*I once read a notice with words to the following effect. All our guests bring us greater joy, some when they arrive, and some when they leave. As I was reflecting on what I would say in a farewell message to the AWF, I had these words going through my mind. It was such a warm reception I got as Liaison Bishop – it is still so fresh in my mind. It feels like yesterday and here I have to sit down to compose a farewell message.*

*How I wish this journey could have gone on for much longer because it was such a natural "marriage" and it all felt so right and I really prepared myself for the long haul with this exciting bunch of super women! Such a short journey of just on twenty-four months – so much joy and love and laughter we experienced!*

*They say that there are only two things in life that are certain – tax and death. Well, we all know that change is also one of the inevitable features of life. And we are so afraid of change, aren't we? The problem is that whether we are afraid of it or not, change is taking place all around us – in our families, in society, in our bodies, in the world – all around us.*

*It is not easy to find the right words on occasions like this and, as I was thinking about knuckling down to this task, a dear friend came to mind. This nun has a wonderful teaching ministry and always likes to play around with words (in a positive way, of course) She would look at the word "Joy" and would say that in order to understand the concept of joy, you must realise that Jesus comes first in all things. Then you consider*

*other people and lastly yourself. This formula makes joy a reality and not just a concept. There is another friend who, when he welcomed the birth of his long-expected first born, he called Gail - GAIL. For him she was a constant reminder that God Always Is Love.*

*So what about change? I wondered whether I could be creative in the same way and eventually start this article that I'm dreading so much! I'm afraid I couldn't think of something very exciting other than Change Happens Anyway, Now Get Excited (about it and the prospects of new beginnings). In other words, let us embrace it get excited about the accompanying challenges and get on with life.*

*It is difficult to be buffeted by the effects of every wind of change around us. I recall a clergy meeting in the days before I was a Bishop when one of the clergy got up and exclaimed: "Bishop, where is it all going to end? We are stumbling from one new thing to another. We have hardly learnt to deal with something and then another new thing crops up!"*

*Of course, we live at a time when change is THE buzz word and we have been conditioned to accept the word 'new' as an accolade conferring every kind of benefit. It is meant to suggest 'better', 'truer', 'more useful', 'more satisfying', and 'more beautiful'. On the other hand 'old' has come to imply 'inferior', 'worn out', 'shabby', 'unreliable', 'useless'.*

*The reality of our experience, however, is that sometimes the new is better and sometimes it is not. I am not talking here about*

*that type of change that is bent on substituting new things for old, but rather suggesting that, as we face the prospects of having to move on yet again after such a short time and having to deal with the dynamics of getting used to new people we ask our God to assist us to embrace the process not as a nuisance or problem, but as a challenge.*

*It is easier said than done because we can rightly describe change as a little death. As such, we should allow ourselves a period of bereavement. I can assure you that I am going through a definite bereavement process as I say good-bye to the Anglican Women's Fellowship. But don't we remember also that after death awaits resurrection? There will be a resurrection even after this little death that comes with our parting.*

*Personally I look forward to a new understanding of what is happening in my body and the grace to embrace it all and to move on with new strength and zeal in the task the Church has assigned to me.*

*There will be a new beginning on that level too. I know I can keep relying on your prayers and support and I know the new Liaison Bishop will enjoy that support as well.*

*I assure you of my love and prayers for your new beginning and wish you well and much joy with the new shepherd. I shall try not to be to jealous.*

*Thank you for so much.....  
- The Rt Revd Oswald Swartz*

## Reflections on Provincial Council Meeting from the Dioceses of St Mark the Evangelist and Christ the King

The whole event was very well organized. Well done Pumla and your council. The objective and actual work was well covered within the period planned for, pleasure mixed with business. The highlight for me was the Priest AWF member Father Dlamini from Swaziland. He has very good listening skills, matured, organized and very professional. I wanted to put him in my suitcase and bring him to my parish. Pumla you are taking us to the heights and we will fly with you! Thank you!  
- Matsatsi Shabalala, Diocese of St Mark the Evangelist

Fourteen years ago the AWF gathered at Christ the King Diocese for their Council meeting. We used flip charts and kokkie pens. Come 2012

*we were back at Christ the King Diocese, but this time the standard had drastically improved, out with flip chart in with IT. Father Dlamini, oh! what a man of God, a true leader. To top it all up the speakers for this conference hit the same mark, displaying the level of Spirituality and Discipleship that is exemplary to all attendees. We were challenged to emulate the life of Christ and display the fruit of the Holy Spirit, in line with the AWF motto of being united in prayer, service and love. There was so much vibrancy and life throughout the duration of the conference.*

*Well done Pumla, well done EXCO. We came out of the council invigorated and challenged to live the word of God. St Mark the Evangelist ladies were so impressed with the report from the conference.*

## From the President's Desk

### *Revive, Relate, Rejoice, Women of God!*

Again I say Rejoice, because it is not through our might, but His love and unending mercies, that we are still alive today. So many things are happening around us, so many people are losing their lives in circumstances beyond their control, but to us, God is still good and His mercies will endure forever. Let us praise Him for what He has done for us and continue to worship Him for who He is. He alone is worthy!

It is midyear and the winter season is upon us. We know the challenges that people less fortunate than us go through during the cold and bitter season of the year.

The fires that destroy so many homes in the informal settlements; the floods that displace so many people in the Western Cape; some have no homes or food; all other situations affecting people at this time. I wish to appeal to those of us who are fortunate and have something to spare, please share and make a difference to those at your reach. Remember Mandela Day in July and in Tata Madiba's name, take some

time and do good. Do keep him and his family in your prayers during this difficult time in Tata's life. Let us continue to fight the Goliath of "Violence against women and children" as daily through the media we hear or read of new incidents happening around us.

They are not getting any better, instead worse, but our trust is in the Lord, who is able to turn any situation around. So, let us stay firm in our belief that God can work miracles, for us and through us. Yes, we can turn this situation around.

Let us work with the men, so that those against this can declare "Not in my Name!" Let us encourage sessions with the boys, to teach them respect and how to care for the women.

I hope that you have been able to pick-up some valuable initiatives from our linkages with Restored through their website, [www.restoredrelationships.org](http://www.restoredrelationships.org) as our aim is not to separate families, but to restore them.

Remember our joint resolution with the Mother's Union encourages us to work with all other women's organisations in our Dioceses and Parishes.

Through your reports we are able to see the wonderful work you are doing. We thank those who have invited us to come and share with them and celebrate with them earlier in the year. We urge you to continue to work hard to achieve the objectives of our Provincial resolution and to build a vibrant and active AWF in your Diocese and Parishes.

The Provincial Executive and all Diocesan Presidents will be meeting in September to establish systems on how best we can ensure that all Dioceses understand and implement the objectives and programmes of the AWF.

As the Provincial Executive, we are looking forward to this inaugural meeting, where we will be sharing and learning from one another on how we can make a difference through the AWF.

I encourage each one of you to "Be bright in the corner, where you are..." If you continue singing along with me, I am sure you will be REVIVED.

May God bless you as we remain united in Prayer, Service and Love.

- *Pumla Titus*

## Diocese of Port Elizabeth Indaba: Women in Action

An Anglican Women Fellowship Leadership Workshop was held on 16 February at NMMU Missionvale Campus. Lungsi Ntlokwanale led the first section and focused on emotional intelligence, which includes self-control, zeal, persistence, and the ability to motivate oneself. This section was mostly interactive and experiential with more activities.

The second section led by Ruby Zauka, assistant priest at St Stephen's, focused on leadership qualities with emphasis on character - modern age good leaders as an enabling force, helping people and organizations to perform and

develop, which implies that a sophisticated alignment be achieved of people's needs and the aims of the organization. The group then participated in a discussion about the various ideas that had come up in relation to leadership qualities, practices and skills. Part of this discussion involved participants identifying ways in which AWF could foster the development of leadership within the organisation.

### **Women in action ...**

**AWF branches very active**  
Reports from the various branches of the Anglican Women's Fellowship which were given at their

AGM on Saturday 13 April told of the women being very involved in many aspects of parish life And with social concern projects.

Some of these include supporting the Haven, indigent mothers and their babies in hospitals, the Pregnancy Crisis Centre, old age, youth and child centres and crèches with clothing, food packs and parties. Members are also encouraged to use their talents and the winner of the 'visual display' prize was Sylvia Frans who not only got first prize for her two beautiful paintings but also got prizes for her embroidered tray cloth and

bead necklace. During the opening Eucharist, the AWF chaplain Sharon Nell made her point very clear when she produced a tube of toothpaste and demonstrated what happens once the tube is squeezed and the paste cannot just go back into it. She likened it to words spoken that cannot be taken back.

Also represented at the AGM were the Mothers' Union Christian Family Life President, Mazoe Nopece, and members of the Diocesan Youth and St Mary Magdalene Guild.

- *Nomalungelo Ntlokwana & Spokazi Gxoyiya*



## *Launch of new parishes (Resurrection & Holy Trinity): 17 February 2013 in the Diocese of Grahamstown*

AWF executive launched AWF at FortBeaufort. The Diocesan executive urged members to listen to God and be involved in outreach programs.

### **LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP: 13 APRIL 2013**

AWF conducted workshop on AWF manual and on financial policies. Members are seeking ways and means of marketing the guild in the Diocese. Issues that were dealt with are introductory service to new members and how to keep members motivated. Other issues that will be dealt with are non-commitment and disappearance of members. A committee was elected to take the process forward.

### **DONATION OF SCHOOL UNIFORM TO SINOMONDE PRIMARY SCHOOL SCHOLARS: 17 MARCH 2013**

AWF donated school uniform to scholars of Sinomonde Primary School. AWF adopted Simonde Primary School in November 2012. The event took place at All Saints

church in East London on 17 March 2013.

**DIOCESAN SYNOD: 17-20 APRIL 2013**  
AWF was represented and the report on its activities. Motion on domestic violence against women and girls was motivated by AWF and was passed. An appreciation letter was received from Bishop's office on the manner AWF contributed on the Synod proceedings.

### **ST JOSEPH'S DAY: 01 MAY 2013**

AWF of the Diocese celebrated St Joseph's day on 01 May 2013 at the Cathedral of St George's in Grahamstown.

This was attended by majority of Diocesan Youth Guild and few members of Bernard Mizeki. Bishop Ebenezer gave a message and emphasised the spirit of togetherness and love for one another and respect each other's views. Canon Magxwalisa celebrated.

This was a 3 in 1 service. Bishop Ebenezer and Canon Magxwalisa presented lifetime

membership certificates to AWF members of the Cathedral who started AWF in 1986 and were the first to launch AWF. They are old ladies. Mrs Nomonde Mankahla appreciated their unselfish service and asked them to continue to serve God until the last hour.

Bishop Ebenezer also spoke on their service at the Cathedral. Mrs Magxwalisa (wife of AWF Chaplain) handed over the life time membership certificates to them. Bishop Ebenezer inducted AWF executive and commissioned all of them to go to the world and serve God.

AWF fundraising took over after the church service and contributed R22 151.44 What a joy of serving God with the Youth Generation, a church of today and the future Priests.

AWF conference will be held on 27-29 September 2013 in Kingwilliam's Town at Dale College.



**Top Left:** AWF Donating Uniform to Sinomonde Scholars with AWF President and Executive members

**Top Right:** AWF members at their AGM

**Bottom Left:** Newly inducted Alice Archdeaconry AWF with Revd Twantwa and AWF executive

## Diocese of Khahlamba launches a new branch and welcomes new members



*Diocese of Khahlamba - Growing the Church  
The AWF EXCO members and AWF members assembled at St James, Sterkstroom for induction of 10 new members and a Launch of anew branch on the 20th of January 2013.*

*We thank thank uSOMBAWO BISHOP MAZWI for all the support. May God richly bless you 'tata'. On the day before this (19th) a Leadership Workshop was held at the Cathedral in Queenstown.*

*The Revd Nandi Mehlomakhulu (AWF member) delivered an inspiring message and inducted new Executive members. Arch-deacon Makalima equipped the Branch Executive members with skills of leading the Fellowship at Branch level. We thank the Almighty God who helps us in many ways.*

AWAFI AMAKHOSIKAZI

- Mazoe Fini (Diocesan President)

## AWF in Botswana celebrates its 20th anniversary

The Diocese of Botswana is the only one with the AWF in the Anglican Province of Central Africa. It was started with assistance from members of the Diocese of Johannesburg.

To celebrate this milestone they invited the Provincial Presidents as well as members from the surrounding dioceses (Johannesburg; Pretoria; Christ the King and Matlosane) to Gaborone on the 05 to 07 April 2013. What a wonderful celebration, with Matlosane who had brought a bus-load of 57 members ensuring that the Mjikelo is live.

Ms Florence Bogopa and the entire Diocese of Botswana were very happy for the support. They hope that the AWF will spread into other diocese in their Province.

Mrs Vanqa Mandisa, who is Archbishop Njongo Ndungane's sister is one of the founding members of the AWF in Botswana. Seen here with Pat Diergaardt, Pumla Titus and Sebe Mabuza. (see insert photograph)



## The United Nations Commission on the Status of Women

The Provincial President, Pumla Titus, who is also the Provincial Link to the International Anglican Women's Network attended the 57th Session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women in New York from the 01 to 15 March 2013.

The Theme was this year was "The elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls.

The group statement of the Anglican delegation urges member of the Anglican Communion:

1. To build on the positive work already being undertaken by Religious Communities, Civil Society Organisations and Governments Structures towards the eradication of violence against women and girls;
2. Where silence and inaction persist, to end it. Speak out and begin the work.
3. To include men and boys as an integral part of seeking solutions to eradicating violence against women and girls
4. To implement the Anglican Consultative Council Resolutions 15.07 on gender-based and domestic violence and 15.10 on the trafficking of persons.
5. To encourage churches at parish level to become places of



*Pumla with all the other Provincial Links in New York*

refuge and safety and participate actively in addressing violence against women and girls

6. To create awareness and provide training for clergy and the laity to recognise violence and to address it effectively.

As part of her networking,

refuge and safety and participate actively in addressing violence against women and girls

6. To create awareness and provide training for clergy and the laity to recognise violence and to address it effectively.

As part of her networking,

Pumla also established links for the AWF with two well-established international organisations, i.e. the Anglican Women Empowerment ([www.awe.org](http://www.awe.org)), which is based in the United States and Restored Relationships, which is based in the United Kingdom ([www.restoredrelationships.org](http://www.restoredrelationships.org)).

The intention is for the AWF to benefit from the resources and information provided by these two organisations. This will assist the AWF to explore and grow and all information can be found on their websites.

We are all urged to put our faith in action and ensure that all forms of violence against women and girls, be it physical, emotional or economical are eliminated in our homes, our churches and our communities.

See reports and more information on the IAWN website ([www.iawn.org](http://www.iawn.org))

## The Anglican Women in Australia



*I was invited to attend the Provincial Triennial Conference of the Anglican Women of Australia in the Diocese of Canberra and Goulburn, Australia on the 16 to 19 April 2013. The link between these two similar organisations was established by Dr Pat Gorralla in 1986, during her term as the AWF Provincial President. This has resulted in each Provincial President getting a chance to attend this conference once during their 4 year term. Several members from Australia have also attended the AWF Provincial Council Meetings over the years, with a few exceptions.*

*The theme for their Conference was "The living Waters" and I was really privileged*

*to be requested to address these wonderful women at a special dinner arranged to acknowledge our relationship. As a gesture of love and sisterhood, AWA has donated an amount of \$2000 Australian Dollars, for us to donate to a worthy cause in our Province. The provincial Executive has decided to utilize these funds to donate supplies to the St James Hospital, which is ACSAs only Anglican mission hospital in the Diocese of Lesotho. We hope to see several members of AWA at our Provincial Council Meeting in 2014. United in Prayer, Service and Love.*

**Right: Pumla with Mrs Janice Peate, the AWA National President**

## Honouring Remarkable Women in the AWF through the years

### In loving memory of Mama Lucas with much thanksgiving for her life and the role she played within MU and AWF

We as the AWF would like to pay tribute to Late Eunice Lucas. Grateful for the contribution she made not only to MU but to AWF as well. Thankful for the leadership and encouragement she extended to AWF. As Provincial AWF President I had the privilege of working with Mama Lucas for 4 years out of her 6 years as Provincial MU President. Four years I will always treasure. It was indeed an honour and privilege to have worked closely with such a remarkable woman as Mama Lucas. We shared Provincial Conferences, Synods and many other celebrations and services together, sometimes ending up as roommates. Those are the times I value most, she was like a mother hen protecting her chicks. An icon I could look up to, a mother who understood her children and knew when to comfort and when to encourage persevering. She had the Wisdom of Solomon with a strong spiritual influence which transcended and inspired all in MU and AWF as we served side by side.

Her dream was to have a strong bond of womanhood between AWF and MU that's the reason why she always emphasized that the two organizations should work together at Provincial, Diocesan and Branch level. She trusted God immensely in all situations, worship and praised Him with her whole being. What a remarkable legacy she left behind. One of humility, God fearing, perseverance and the boldness to speak out and address issues affecting women especially those who served in MU and AWF. Long live your memory - Mama Lucas.

- By Past Provincial President: Ray Overmeyer

**Pictured: Mrs Eunice Lucas handing over the Provincial Presidency to Mrs Thembsie Mchumu at the last MU Provincial Council Meeting in Johannesburg in December 2012.**



### Mary Todd Langa: a woman who lived a life of love

*A greater present than the life Todd shared with all members of the Anglican Women's Fellowship cannot be asked for. Todd Langa lived a life of love, living truthfully to all the aims of the AWF and the motto of being "united in prayer, service and love".*



*On the 4th May 2013, the AWF in the Diocese of St Mark the Evangelist bid farewell to a God-fearing and great woman, a woman who lived a life of love.*

*Mary Todd was a teacher, not only by profession but in her heart too. Her teaching career saw her travel from South Africa to places like Nigeria and Zambia, and back to South Africa. Everywhere she worked she left an unforgettable mark on all the lives she touched. She did not only touch lives in the communities she served in, she touched many, many lives in the Anglican Church, particularly in the Parish of Seshego and Diocese of St Mark the Evangelist. Her leadership in both the church and the AWF (both branch and Diocesan levels) cannot be matched.*

*A stern woman with integrity, she always stuck to the truth. She was strong in character, a prayerful Christian, a formidable lady, committed, generous, caring and sharing, a strong leader and forward looking. Mary Todd lived and shared her gifts just as is said in Romans 12:6-16. She served, taught, encouraged, shared generously, led diligently, loved, had zeal, joyful, faithful in prayer and caring towards everybody without prejudice.*

*She practiced what it means to be united in prayer, service and love. Lessons from Mary Todd will always remain with us and will enrich the AWF always. This is not good bye to aunt Todd, but your lessons will always be here with us.*

*The AWF loves you Mary Todd.*

*The legacy of living a life you left will remain alive and active with us.*

**From: Kgabo Ledwaba  
AWF St Matthew's, Parish of Seshego**

**Executive Members  
Contact Information:**

**Provincial President - Pumla Titus**  
P.O. Box 15, Mthatha. 5099  
Cell: 082 876 7786  
Email: president@anglicanwomens  
fellowship.co.za

v v v v v v

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

v v v v v v

**Treasurer - Frances Dickson**  
22 United street, Westering  
Port Elizabeth, 6025  
Cell: 082 843 2490  
Email: admin@afrishade.co.za

v v v v v v

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

v v v v v v

**Stories & information for publication  
can be submitted to:**

**The Editor - Lucille Henniker**  
8 Tenby Road, Wynberg, 7800  
Cell: 084 254 9962  
Fax: 086 588 5996  
Email:  
lucille.henniker@capetown.gov.za



## Diocese of Free State: Working together for an AIDS free generation



The AWF African Martyrs Parish celebrated World Aids day on the 09-12-2012. The theme is " Working together for an AIDS free generation".

We had Ms. Sebina Mosella (Social Worker and UNAIDS coordinator in the Free State) who addressed the congregation on Domestic Violence as well as HIV/AIDS. She emphasised that people must be careful about chain of transmission of HIV.

The day also commemorated both the infected and affected by candlelighting which represented FAITH, HOPE and LOVE.

The yellow candle represented FAITH- as Christians we should have Faith in Christ and acknowledge the fact that Christ died for us and through His death we were reconciled with God.

Jesus also rose from the dead and we too will rise with him and have a new life. The white candle represented HOPE - There

is HOPE. Our sincere belief that Jesus saved us through His death,gives us HOPE in this angry and violent world.

The red candle represented LOVE:- A person who is anchored in Jesus's love has Hope and Joy in his heart. Such a person can truly give Love set another person's interest above his/her own unconditionally.

Finally volunteers from the congregations signed a pledge to commit themselves to physically, pastorally and emotionally support the affected and infected by establishing a support group.

Thank you and God bless you.  
- Monica

**"And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord."  
Luke 1:45**