

Contact



Provincial Newsletter of the Anglican Women's Fellowship

United in Prayer, Service & Love

Lenten and Easter greetings to my sisters in the ministry from your Provincial President



"Now that we've started the Season of Lent, may we all be reminded to be committed stewards of God's Creation for which Christ lived and died; and which Christ will restore in God's Holy time. Until then we live in between creation itself and the gathering together of all things, in Christ. And as we live between our own human birth and death, we are free to live responsibly and act ethically, especially concerning our engagement with God's Creation".

Lenten Tide is a period of reflecting on what we have been doing, also it is a time of repentance for the things we have not done according to God's command.

During this Lenten Season, let us all enter into a special fast and spiritual sobriety; and come before our Saviour with humility. And as we remember our Lord Jesus Christ's long walk towards Calvary, and as we reflect and share our thanks for this time, we honour and thank God for the greatest sacrifice of his Son".

When we embarked on the new chapter of

our lives as the new leadership of the AWF, the Season of Spring was about to start marking new beginnings, the breaking of a new dawn, springing back into action, being rejuvenated, renewed and recharged.

And as Women Destined for God's Purpose, the past months have given the women an opportunity of injecting a spirit of zeal and enthusiasm to participate in community projects and have also become more active and visible in the life of the Church and in all its structures.

Life in God's service is to use our different gifts in accordance with the grace that God has given us. If our gift is to speak God's message, we should do it according to the faith that we have; if it is to serve, we should serve; if it is to teach, we should teach; if it is to encourage others, we should do so. Whoever shares with others should do it generously; whoever has authority should work hard, and whoever shows kindness to others should do it cheerfully (Romans 12:6-9).

And for us to succeed as Women Destined for God's Purpose would be to have passion for unity in the Church. So often we think that if we just come together and love God we will get along; it takes effort. It takes a willingness to be patient with one another, diffuse our selfish ambitions and cast them on the Lord so as to sustain unity and peace.

During the 16 Days Activism information relating to the above topic including a video titled 16 Days of Activism - Anglican men speak out! This video was posted on the Anglican Communion Network Services and it featured ten men from different parts of the Anglican Communion. They released a statement which read as follows:

"As men of faith, we can take responsibility to speak out and end violence against women and girls". During the campaign there were prayers for each day of the 16 Days. All this information was forwarded to dioceses to enable them to share with other guilds within their parishes as well as their communities. We trust dioceses will reflect participation in their reports. The Link is iawnlinks@epicom.org

Further we have been receiving invaluable information from our sisters across the globe, the IAWN relating to Domestic Violence against women and children. The information has been forwarded to our Dioceses as a means of sharing this information about the scourge that sees no class or status, race or culture. They provided information that includes pictures and video clips. In case of wanting to source this information please go to iawnlinks@epicom.org

We have also been receiving invaluable information from the IAWN regarding child trafficking. The information also includes pictures, true stories and real people. The website is: www.anglican.com/articles/conference-targets-ugly-reality-of-human-trafficking.

The Anglican Women of Australia (AWA) have extended an invitation to the Provincial President to their Annual Conference to be held at Orange, Sydney on 13-17 April 2015. The main reason is to share and exchange ideas between our organizations. This Link was started back in the eighties by the Past Provincial President, the late Dr Pat Gorralla and has ever since continued. It will be accompanied by the Vice President, Ms Lucille Henniker.

to be continued on page 2



Lenten and Easter greetings by the President continued from page 1

The very first meeting of the Provincial Executive Committee (PEXCO) will be hosted by the Diocese of Johannesburg from Thursday 21 to Sunday 24 May 2015; and we will be joined for the first time by our new Liaison Bishop and Chaplain.

During this Lenten Season may we all pray for one another in the Provincial Executive; we all experience different challenges in our lives, it may be with our spouses, partners, children or other members of our families, or even at the workplace, finances or health. During these forty days as Sisters in Christ, let us remember one another in prayer, and in so doing God will strengthen us, grant us wisdom to deal with our issues, and will also give us a compassionate heart when dealing with those less fortunate than us.

We all have to find time to sit at the feet of Jesus and listen to his teachings like our Patron Saint, Mary of Bethany. Everyone needs to take timeout to recharge, in that way we shall be at peace with ourselves and all those around us.

It is important to remember that as Women Destined for God's Purpose, good friends are a wonderful gift, but fellowship among believers in Jesus (such as the

kind of fellowship you find at church or in small-group ministries) is unique because it invites the living God into your midst. Christians have a common perspective on life because they know their sins have been forgiven, they have experienced the joy of salvation, and they know they have a future together in heaven. Christian fellowship provides a place for honest sharing about things that really matter in life. It provides encouragement to stay strong in the face of temptation and persecution, and it offers supernatural help in dealing with problems. Christian leaders need Christian fellowship so they can stand strong in their conviction, lead with integrity, and be encouraged that their desire for truth will be rewarded by God.

Life in God's Service is for us to use our different gifts with the grace that God has given us. If our gift is to speak God's message, we should do it according to the faith that we have; if it is to serve, we should serve; if it is to teach, we should teach; if it is to encourage others, we should do so. Whoever shares with others should do it generously; whoever has authority should work hard; whoever shows kindness to others should do it cheerfully. (Romans 12:6-9).

During this Lenten Tide, may we always remain a Family of Scripture reading as it is the framework of a Home. We need to live, breathe, memorize the Word of God. That means telling the great stories of the

Bible, familiarizing our children with the central doctrines of the Christian Faith, and actively reaching others.

*Heavenly Father,
As your Word says, we are burdened by things that hinder us spiritually and emotionally, and we too become easily entangled with sin. These encumbrances keep us from having a joyful, unbroken relationship with You and our families, friends, co-workers, and others. We ask You to enable us to have a true understanding of who we are in Your Son, Jesus Christ. Help us to clear away each of the hindrances in our lives so we can live freely as your children, and so we can pray in harmony with your will and purposes for the world. We ask this in the name of Jesus, who is our Burden-Bearer, who has carried our sins and sorrows, who has healed us by His own wounds, and whose suffering on our behalf has brought us peace with You. Amen.*
(Prayer quote by the late Dr Myles Munroe).

We remain,

United in Prayer, Service and Love

Nana Khoza
Provincial President



Easter greetings from the liaison bishop, The Rt Revd Dr Daniel Kgomosotho

*Christ has been raised from the dead,
the first fruits of those who have fallen
asleep (1 Corinthians 15:20).*

Alleluia the Lord is risen! He is risen indeed alleluia! Dear friends in Christ, once more the church celebrates the holy season of Easter. Of all feasts Easter is the greatest celebration of the church. It is the culmination of God's plan for the salvation of humankind. We are reminded at this time that our Lord Jesus rose from the dead thus assuring us of victory over sin and death.

The message of Easter is that through the waters of baptism we have died to an

old way of life and risen to new life with Christ. We have been born again through the waters of baptism and were adopted as sons and daughters of God. It is my prayer at this time that Jesus' death and resurrection should be the centre of our lives.

Jesus' resurrection reminds us that there is life beyond the grave. The Easter event attests to the fact that although the human body will at the end of its life on earth return to dust, our soul will live forever with God.

Dear friends, we have to take cognizance at all times of our being an Easter or res-

urrection people. We are called in the manner of Jesus to be a people of hope in a hopeless world. It is our duty to lighten the darkness of the world by the truth of the gospel. The church is called at this time to proclaim the message that goodness is better than evil and light stronger than darkness.

At Eastertide we are challenged to answer questions about human life and mortality, questions such as the following: What is the purpose of life and what is my goal in life? Am I ready for my own resurrection in the life to come?

continued on page 3

Bishop Daniel's Easter message from page 2

The Easter message is that we too like Jesus will be resurrected. We will share in the glorious future which belongs to all believers. The saying is true that: "Your real life is Christ and when he appears, then you too will appear with him and share his glory" (Col 3:4). In the same vein, "For us, our homeland is in heaven, and from heaven comes the Savior we are waiting for, the Lord Jesus Christ, and he will transfigure these wretched bodies of ours into copies of his glorious body." (Phil 3:20)

I would like to pay tribute to the women of the church, our mothers, sisters and daughters in the Lord. The church acknowledges and affirms your role in the mission and witness of the ACSA. Remember that according to Mark's resurrection narrative the risen Lord first ap-

peared to women. After the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices to go and anoint the body of Jesus (Mark 16:1). On the way to the tomb the women said to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb". In our time women in various communities are burdened by all sorts of societal ills and other concerns relating to family life. These hinder them from encountering the risen Lord Jesus. However, remember the stone at the entrance of the tomb has been removed by Christ. It is this Jesus who says; "Don't be alarmed, I know you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He is not here, he is risen! Look, here is the place where he was placed". (Mark 16:6)

In conclusion, may I use the words of Pope Francis, uttered during a homily at one Easter vigil, to encourage you on the journey.

"Let the risen Jesus enter your life, welcome him as a friend, with trust he is life. If up till now you have kept him at a distance, step forward. He will receive you with open arms. If you have been indifferent take a risk: you won't be disappointed.

If following Him seems difficult, don't be afraid, trust Him, be confident that he is close to you, He is with you and He will give you the peace you are looking for and the strength to live as He would have you do".

May the grace of the Lord Jesus be with you.

Grace and peace

Yours in the service of our Lord Jesus,

Bishop Daniel Kgomosotho

Ladies of St Mark's the Evangelist "Destined for God's Purpose"

Right on the heels of the Provincial Council Meeting was our Diocesan Conference, held at the Mary Todd Memorial. The first order of business was the unpacking of the new Provincial Theme, "Women Destined for God's Purpose". Rev. Julia Mothudi did such an amazing and inspiring work on the theme.

She reminded us of the creation and that we are all called according to God's purpose. She took us through the story of creation, the fall of man and God's plan to save mankind. We were reminded that we are heirs of the Kingdom of God.

She also cited women from the Bible whom God put in various situations for a purpose, such as: Esther, Dorcas, Abigail, the Samaritan Woman, and many others. We were encouraged to compile our "never" lists: never again shall I confess "I can't", because I can (Phil 4:13); never again confess fear (2 Tim 1:7 and Acts 1:8); never again confess lack, etc.

She referred us to the book "You were born for this" by Bruce Wilkinson. It opens one up to paying attention to God's nudges in the direction of His purpose.

A great read indeed!

- Kgabo Ledwaba

Western Cape Anglican Ablaze Conference



Western Cape Regional Conference
1st - 2nd May 2015
Bishops Diocesan College
 Campground Road, Rondebosch

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from the beautiful shores and the Majestic mountains of False Bay



Senior Citizens enjoyed an afternoon of laughter, music, good company, good food, goodie bags and lucky draws. Even a red carpet was rolled out for these stunning beauties! Smiling faces, shining eyes, with so much flair and beauty, they gracefully made their way down the red carpet.

They were greeted with more smiles and warm embraces. So much love, so much love... Make no mistake... they're not just beautiful but an inspiration for the younger generation. These beauties laid the foundation for us, the younger generation of the Anglican Women's Fellowship. How could we ever "Thank" our seniors, show that we remember and appreciate their teachings and contributions?

The Tea Party surely highlighted the importance of these ladies in our lives. The oldest member present was 93 years old. They were also serenaded with music from the 70's, while our sisters in Christ enjoyed lovely eatables and refreshments. Some even joined in with the dancing to show us, the "younger generation" a move or two, forgetting their aches and pains for a while. It was heart-warming to see our seniors enjoying themselves and made all the hard work.....worthwhile. They surely are "Phenomenal Women".

Our Annual Thanksgiving Service was held at St James The Great, Worcester and as always a beautiful way to end the year. It was well attended by members from across the diocese, many having to travel long distances. The new theme, "Women Destined for God's Purpose" was launched

by Bonita Flink, a delegate to Provincial Council meeting (2014). The members were gracious in their giving of food parcels and donating of baby clothes and toiletries which in turn was donated to the diocesan food bank and the Department of Social Development who would distribute it to the needy in the diocese. The members of the host parish rendered a liturgical dance as can be seen in the photo..

There is no better way to start the year, than with a Quiet Day at The Church of The Holy Trinity, Kalk Bay - on the one side the beautiful sounds of the crashing waves of the sea and on the other side, the majestic mountains. The service was extremely well attended by every archdeaconry within the Diocese - the church was almost too small to accommodate everyone.

Jenny Frye, Past Provincial President facilitated the Quiet Day, leading us through scripture. She stressed the importance that "God loves me as I am". She directed our reflection to the following:

- Who am I?
- What do I do for the AWF?
- Why do I do it?
- Am I training new members?
- Am I succession planning?
- How do I cope with change and
- When my task/role comes to an end, do I stop "attending"?

We were asked to reflect on these thought provoking questions during our quiet time alone in the beautiful garden. Diocesan workshop was conducted by a group of ladies with a wealth of knowledge and greatlove for the AWF - Sylvia Adams, Ray

Overmeyer, Lucille Henniker and Jacoba Kleinsmith. The theme for the workshop was "Bloom and Grow" - Scripture John 15:1-7. The question was posed, "What effect should we, as AWF members have in the church and in the community".

The analogy of a tree was used:

- **Tap root** anchors the tree and our anchor in life should be Jesus Christ.
- **Side roots** to build up the tree - priests, bishops, lay ministers, etc who provide us with spiritual food but is also dependent on the tap root.
- **Trunk** to keep tree upright - branch chairperson chosen by God to see that aims of AWF are carried out and should be obedient to the teachings of the church.
- **Bark** covers the trunk - executive members who too are subjected to the tap and side roots and should be obedient to the rector of the parish.
- **Branches** stems from trunk and aims to bear leaves, flowers and fruit - the more effective you are as an AWF member, the more fruit you will bear and the greener your leaves.
- **Water** and compost needed for growth - God's spirit and God's word.

The roles and responsibilities of the various executive members were discussed and highlighted. We need to be instruments of God's hands in order for our branches to grow. This was indeed a reminder of who we are and what is expected of us as AWF members in God's vineyard.

- Sandy Williams

A brief synopsis of a Thesis: South African Anglican clergy women emerging ministry and motherhood: Exploring Presence, Praxis and Power

*By Rev'd Eliza Getman,
Priest in the Diocese of Natal*

I have recently completed a PhD thesis on ministry and motherhood. The research was based on in-depth interviews with seven South African Anglican clergywomen in positions of authority in three provinces. These interviews were respectful (and hilarious and moving) instructive and inspirational conversations.

Nelle Morton speaks of "hearing each other into speech" - this means that we sometimes don't even know our own deep wisdom until people take the time to truly listen and encourage us to articulate it. These interview conversations helped to shift and redirect my professional and my personal direction. The alternative experience and perspective of clergywomen helped me to see the church in a new light and with new eyes. Frustration and pain were voiced. And there was extensive discussion about sacrifice. We were trying to figure out what we had sacrificed by engaging in ministry (and in motherhood).

And we were trying to discern what an acceptable sacrifice might look like. We were all clear that our children ought not to be the sacrificial lambs. The presence of children should never be a liability to our ministry or to the church at large.

The journey of my thesis took me to terrifying places of self-doubt and loneliness. At one stage I was convinced that only celibate childless men ought to be priests. For a season I no longer wished to carry the heavy responsibility of priesthood - and I felt overwhelmed by the demands of motherhood. But by the time I submitted my completed thesis I was convinced that my children are my greatest resource and that mothering is a most appropriate metaphor for ministry.

St Augustine of Hippo wrote: "Hope has two beautiful daughters. Their names are anger and courage; anger at the way things are, and courage to see that they do not remain the way they are."¹The inter-



view conversations were brimming with both anger and courage. Clergywomen are moving the conversations about power and justice and equity forward. But this activism takes its toll on our bodies and families and lives.

It is so important that we begin to talk about the underlying reasons for the frustration with the institution to which we are committed. It is so important that we articulate what sacrifices we are (and what sacrifices we are not) prepared to make. This is how we will hear "new horizons of hopefulness" into speech.

Too often, the myth of the happy family rides on the mother sacrificing herself and her own identity at the altar of the needs and identities of her husband and children. Obviously, this imbalance implicates institutions beyond the nuclear family. The church sometimes takes advantage of

the sacrificial status quo. This can impact on hiring and relocating practices. As one of the research participants clearly stated: the church does not know how to deal with singleness (or single-motherhood). Clergy family for the church still means "male priest and supportive wife and [not more than two] obedient children." Far too often the real needs of clergywomen and our complex families are ignored.

I am convinced that self-sacrifice contributes to "mother depression" as well as clergy burnout. Mothers and clergy both are expected to bury the secret, angry, discontent aspects of ourselves to present a serene (or holy) exterior. The pressure to take care of others and be selfless and contained can build up to a point of desperation or destructiveness.

Clergywomen and men, because of the maternal work that we all practice through ministry, can all benefit from a clear-sighted, truth telling, feminist consciousness. Mothers and clergy (and fathers and laity) all need role models and companions on the journey who help us to discover our strengths and our vulnerabilities, - and to hold us accountable. This will prepare us for the time when we are left on our own to pick up the mantle of authority and to (in Gandhi's words) "be the change we wish to see in the world" - and in the Church.

*As quoted by Robert McAfee Brown in
Spirituality and Liberation: Overcoming
the Great Fallacy. Louisville:
Westminster John Knox Press
(1988), 136.*



Highlights from the Diocese of Port Elizabeth

New AWF Chaplain

On the 7th of November 2014 at the AWF Thanksgiving Fellowship Dinner, we bid farewell to our outgoing Chaplain, Provost Sharon Nell and welcomed the new AWF Chaplain, Jogra Gallant.



Leadership Training

On the 17th of January 2015 we had the leadership training, trying to unpack our 2014-2016 AWF Theme, "Women Destined for God's Purpose". The group participated in discussions about the various ideas in trying to unpack the theme and what we will try and focus on for this year. Discussions included ways to encourage members to apply the objectives of the AWF and ways in which AWF could foster the development of leadership within the organisation.

Facilitators, Siphokazi Gxoyiya and Thembele Sixaba did their best to deliver the workshop objectives and to meet the expectations.

Retreat

The Retreat was planned for the beginning of the year for AWF members to surrender to God, so that as "Women Destined for God's Purpose", we may journey with God, allowing Him to use us as instruments to fulfil His purpose. Millicent Prince conducted the Retreat.



First Address

Our speaker Millicent Prince reminded us about the "giants" we entertain in our lives, and the need to release us from them. We were given Acts 13:52 to reflect on.

Session of free prayer

What an experience! The Holy Spirit was moving amongst us. We could let go of and release all bitterness, worries, concerns, and just being set free.



Feedback/Reflection time

This session was led by our Prayer and Spirituality Coordinator, Barbara Booyesen.

We had so many different interpretations which reminded us of how unique we really are; "and the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit".

Second Address

Acronym AWF was unpacked in a profound way.

AWF: Always Willing Father. She encouraged us to be always willing for God's work.

Lessons learnt

1. God has a purpose for all of us.
2. Clothe yourself with God's full Armour.
3. Be humble.
4. Be patient.
5. Live up to your calling.
6. Everything is possible with God.

The way forward

There is a need for regular interceding for one another and the need for more Retreats/Quiet Days.

We give thanks to our Lord, who blesses us and guides us as we try to serve Him.

- Mrs Nomalungelo Ntlokwana : Diocesan President



Statement from the Synod of Bishops February 2015 To the People of God



When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought Jesus up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (Luke 2:22)

As your bishops we met at the Glenmore Pastoral Centre in Durban from 2nd to 5th February 2015. As always, our time together was characterised by a rhythm of worship and prayer, word and sacrament, formal meetings and informal fellowship, wrestling with issues, and receiving ongoing training for leadership and ministry.

In our opening Eucharist we commemorated the presentation of Jesus in the temple (Luke 2:22-40), when Simeon recognized and blessed him as the promised Messiah and the prophetess Anna praised God for this child who would bring about the redemption of God's people.

We are deeply aware of our high calling from God as well as our human frailty. We shared the joys and pains of seeking to live, with our families and in our communities, as disciples of Christ in these challenging times. Our time together was enriched by reflections on Paul's theology of the body, led by Canon Janet Trisk. This teaching has deep implications for the way we see and relate to one another and how we understand the church. Mr John Brand introduced us to a process of conflict resolution through mediation and began to train us for this ministry.

We recognise that our society, and often the church as well, needs to learn more creative, life-giving ways to resolve conflicts - rather than the destructive, violent and litigious approaches we often experience. We call on all the people of our nations to turn away from violence, abuse and destruction, and to seek constructive ways to address our differences and challenges. We also reject the rampant evil in many parts

of the world that kidnaps, massacres and persecutes defenceless people in the name of religion.

Dr Isaias Chachine presented a paper on ethical considerations around death and dying. We reflected in particular on the excessive amount of money spent on funerals, and the exclusion of some people from funeral services in church are a great concern. We learned of, and condemned, the practices of a funeral parlour that allegedly kidnaps bodies and releases them for burial at prices which are exorbitant for poor families.

We also heard accounts of the suffering as a result of the floods in Mozambique, and each of us committed money from our Dioceses towards relief work there. We invite our people, parishes and organisations to work with Hope Africa or the ACSA Disaster Relief Fund.* We were saddened to hear of renewed conflict and shootings in Lesotho and have written a letter of support and concern to King Letsie III.

Turning to internal church matters, members of the Liturgical Committee led us in a creative and energising workshop to take forward the process of revising the Anglican Prayer Book. We were excited by the working title, *Under Southern Skies: In an African Voice*. We commended a planned consultation with Diocesan representatives in June this year and the ongoing process in regions. We look forward to the publication of an experimental resource for Sunday worship in the near future.

We also agreed on a way forward for the pastoral guidelines regarding Civil Unions in ACSA, which we now have in draft form. All Dioceses are asked to consider these issues of mission and ministry during 2015 and the first part of 2016. The aim is to present a resolution on them to Provincial Synod in 2016.

We welcomed the arrival of Dr Vicentia Kgabe as Rector of the College of the Transfiguration. We affirmed Theological Education Sunday on 23rd August this

year, and encourage all our people to give generously to "the Great Collection" for theological education. As bishops we noted with joy the progress being made by the Anglican Board of Education and the appointment of Mr Roger Cameron as Chief Executive Officer.

We also heard about progress in the training of "Pioneer Ministers" for Mission Shaped Ministry and the development of Fresh Expressions of Church. We will continue to monitor our progress and reflect on our experiences.

We bade farewell to the Bishop of Namibia and confirmed elective assemblies to elect new bishops for the dioceses of the Highveld, Namibia, Natal and Pretoria. We sent our congratulations to Bishop Libby Lane of the Church of England on her consecration as a bishop in the church of God.

Finally, we noted and give thanks for the 25th anniversary of Madiba's release from prison.

We pledged to be God's instruments, as God equips and empowers the Church to be a source of life and healing for the people and nations of Southern Africa.

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Dioceses are asked to note these important dates in order to participate in whatever way they choose

In our AWF PRAYER we ask God to strengthen us to serve
in the world. Let us all demonstrate that we are destined for
God's purpose by being responsible citizens.



ANGLICAN WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

ACTION, OUTREACH AND SOCIAL ISSUES DIARY 2015

DATE	EVENT/ACTIVITY
FEBRUARY 2015	
04	World Cancer Day
10 – 15	STI/Condom week
MARCH	
8	International Women's Day
15	Mothering Sunday
MAY	
10	Mother's Day
17	International Candlelight Memorial Day
27-05 to 02 -06	Child Protection Week
JUNE	
28	International Day of Action for Women's Health
01	International Children's Day
02	International Cancer Survivors' Day
04	International Day of Innocent Children (Victims Of Aggression)
05	World Environmental Day
15	World Elder Abuse Awareness Day
JULY	
18	International Mandela Day
26	Mary & Martha Day
AUGUST	
09	National Women's Day (South Africa)
SEPTEMBER	
26	World Environmental Health Day
OCTOBER	
01	International Day for older Persons
17	International Day for Eradication of Poverty
31	Dorcas Today
NOVEMBER	
2 - 6	SADC Malaria week
25	International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against women
25 – 10/12	16 Days of Activism on NO violence against women and children
DECEMBER	
01	World AIDS Day
10	International Human Rights Day

Compiled by: Thaele Monica & Qhobela Mamello (Action Outreach and Social Issues coordinators)