

The *Ripple*

Expanding the Circle of SC Women of the ELCA

*Published by South Carolina Women of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)*



Summer 2011

Convention Highlights



South Carolina Women of the ELCA 24th Annual Convention June 25-26, 2011 in Charleston, SC

Inside This Issue

Doodles from Donna	pg 2	Newly-elected Board	pg 7	Mission: Action	pg 12
Vice President's Corner	pg 3	Renew, Respond, Rejoice!	pg 8/9	Mission: Growth	pg 13
Treasurer's Report	pg 4	First Timer Guests	pg 10	Mission: Community	pg 14
Churchwide Rep	pg 5	Young Women Guests	pg 10	Lucinda Pin Report	pg 10
Secretary's Notes	pg 6	Workshop Presenters	pg 11	Board Members	pg 15
Election Results	pg 6	Keynote Speaker	pg 11	Be Still and Know	Pg 16



Donna Fulmer
President of the
SC Women of ELCA

Doodles from Donna

Dear Sisters in Christ,

The twenty-fourth annual Convention was a wonderful time. It has been a true honor and blessing to serve as your President for the past year. I feel so much more relieved that the first Convention is behind me, as acting President. I want to serve God, as well as all of you, to the best of my ability.

It was also a true honor to have Beth Wrenn, Churchwide President, as our representative. Beth is a shining sister in Christ in her leadership. At our closing Board meeting, Beth expressed kind words about how well our overall Convention was. She also gave the Officers and Board members some ideas on how to look at our voting process. This was very helpful. Again, thank you Beth for all you did for us and for being with us.

Our keynote speaker was Beverly Taylor from Leesville, South Carolina. Her message in testimony and song was uplifting in that we are truly never alone. Her powerful words of strength of how Beverly used many times of distress, tragedy and injury to draw her closer and more completely into Christ's loving grace will always be remembered.

Our Saturday evening banquet was a bountiful feast and the entertainment, well . . . WOW. . . amazing! The Plantation Singers brought great joy and revival to old hymns.

I want to thank the Trident Conference, Convention Chairs and the Officers and Board members for their encouragement, their devotion, and using their gifts in making our Convention a success. To Marsha Mikell and Dot Farley, many, many thanks for all each of you did.

I look forward to serving you in the upcoming year. I pray for a safe journey for our delegates and visitors to Spokane for the Triennial!

In Christ's Love,
Donna Fulmer

Sympathy expressed to our President, Donna Fulmer

upon the death of her father on April 28, 2011 *Charlie Mitchell Hite, Jr.*

BATESBURG - Charlie Mitchell Hite Jr., 79, passed away Thursday, April 28, 2011. Funeral services will be at 4:00 P.M. Saturday, April 30, at Sardis Baptist Church with interment in Ridge Crest Memorial Park Cemetery with Rev. Dennis Campbell and Rev. Earl Hartley officiating. Active pallbearers are Randy Hall, Russell Frazier, Todd Hall, Johnny Riddle, Hoyt Matthews, Red Padgett and Tony Hall. Honorary pallbearers are the Adult Men's Sunday School Class of Sardis Baptist Church.

Mr. Hite was born in Batesburg, SC son of the late Charlie M. Hite Sr and Marzee Matthews Hite. He was a member of Sardis Baptist Church. He was a member of Saluda Masonic Lodge #103 and the Liars Fishing Club. He served 11 years in the Saluda National Guard as a cook. He is survived by his wife, Doris R. Hite; daughters and sons-in-law, Deborah (Gehrig) Minick of Saluda; Donna (Kevin) Fulmer of Prosperity; grandchildren: Sarah Minick, Jesse(Andrea) Minick, Jenny Fulmer and Ryan Fulmer; great-grandchildren: Gracie Minick, Brenna Minick, Wyatt Minick and Noah Minick; brother-in-law, Ralph Frazier; and special cousin, Danny Matthews. He was predeceased by a sister, Sarah Hite Frazier.

Published in The State on April 29, 2011

Vice President's Corner



Christie Gardner
Newly-elected
Vice President
of the
SC Women of
ELCA

Renew, Respond, Rejoice! What a wonderful Convention we had in Charleston! I hope everyone had a renewing and refreshing time as we joined in fellowship with our sisters in Christ! It was especially a responding time for me as you elected me to serve you as Vice President! I sat back and accepted the journey God set in front of me. I feel honored that you have confidence in me, but am also a little scared of a new adventure! I ask each of you for your patience as I go through this learning process. I am excited and I know we will all have a fun journey together!

I want to introduce you to my family as well! I am married to a wonderful man, Scott, and have two wonderful boys, Payton and Austin. Payton is eight and loves anything sports related. Austin is seven and is my "social bug." They both play basketball, baseball, soccer, and are on a local swim team. We have a great time together!

Sharon Ganis did a wonderful job as Vice President and I thank her for her service! Her number is on my speed dial! If any of you ever need anything, please let me know!

With love,
Christie Gardner



Sharon Ganis
Out-going
Vice President
of the
SC Women of
ELCA



Survey Says....

There were 228 people in attendance at the Convention, including 132 delegates, 45 visitors, 13 Board-sponsored Young Women Guests and First Timers, 12 Board members, and 26 others. Of those, 144 had voting power. Convention evaluations were completed by 116 (51%). Following is a summary of those evaluations.

- ☞ **Biggest complaint—Election process.** This item has been a concern in the past. The Board will address the process and to make it easier.
- ☞ **Most enjoyed—The Plantation Singers and Beverly Taylor,** our keynote speaker.
- ☞ **2nd most enjoyed—Fellowship...**meeting new and old friends and worship.
- ☞ **Workshops—Well attended and appreciated.** We received many suggestions for future workshops. The top one was "Ideas for reviving local units, program resources, and organizing a unit." Nutrition and good health habits were second. Christie has a list of all the comments, and I am sure she will use it as a resource for upcoming Conventions.
- ☞ **First time holding Convention at a hotel/Convention Center—Majority of comments made about location were positive.** Ladies enjoyed the hotel and Convention facility.
- ☞ **Biggest complaint about facility—The walking.** In reality, we did not walk as much as we would have at Newberry; and it was all indoor with air conditioning, if you were staying at the Embassy Suites.
- ☞ **Next complaint about facility—Separation of Fair Trade and church booths from Convention Hall.** The location was originally planned to be closer, however, the hotel moved the location thinking we would have more room at the new one. This will be kept in mind in the future.

There were many suggestions for improving traffic flow, registration and business meetings. The Board will review these. Thank you for your feedback. This is the main source for improving and changing as we go along.



SC Women of the ELCA Treasurer's Report

Virginia Herlong
Treasurer of the SC Women of ELCA

Wonderful memories are still vivid from our Convention in Charleston. Thank you to all who helped to make it such a success!



At the Convention we voted to adopt the fiscal year 2012-2013 proposed budget found on page 36 of your Bulletin of Reports (BOR). Our actual receipts of Regular Offering for this past fiscal year (FYRD 2010-2011) was \$12,000 under budget. So we dropped our proposed budget for Regular Offering by \$8,000 (from \$53,000 to \$45,000). This is still a 10% increase over our FYRD 2010-2011 receipts, so we have room to grow. To offset this drop in projected receipts we decreased the amount of Regular Offering we send to Churchwide from 70% (of Regular Offering receipts) to 65%, which is still 15% over the required amount by Churchwide for their operating budget.

The Thankoffering Resolution passed with an overwhelming majority.

From now on, our "gratitude" offering (called Joy Offering) shall be designated. The Board has designated our



Joy Offering to go to the ELCA Good Gifts program. A packet of information explaining Joy Offering, the Good Gifts program, and the new remittance form was either given out or mailed to each Congregational Unit in South Carolina.

According to the fourth resolve in the Resolution, please strike the word "Thankoffering" under both Receipts and Disbursements on page 36 of your BOR and replace it with "Joy Offering." We will no longer track Thankoffering. "Thankoffering," as defined by Churchwide, can still be sent directly to Churchwide on their Offering Transmittal Form B. It will be used in their operating budget along with the Regular Offering we send them.

If, at any time, you have questions about your receipt, remittance form, or anything regarding our finances, please contact me. Thank you for all you're doing in the work of our Women of the ELCA!

Together in Christ,
Virginia Herlong



Offerings received as of this writing (July 2) are as follows:

Convention Offering

\$3,935.15

Half of this amount, plus other donations, was sent to
Low Country
American Red Cross
(\$2,263.58)

Convention Thankoffering

\$4,556.10

All of this, plus Thankoffering received since last transmittal (\$5,089.20) to take to Triennial Convention

Triennial Offering

\$1,524.00

To be taken to Triennial Convention

Joy Offering

\$667.98

Received before the Convention began

Worship Offering

(including some memorials)

\$1,123.28

A check for this amount has been sent to the SC Synod for Japan Evangelical Lutheran Church

What a wonderful outpouring of love and support in serving God's mission!

Beth Wrenn

Churchwide Representative

2008-2011 Women of the ELCA Churchwide President
2005-2008 Executive Board Member

What an honor, privilege and joy it was for the SC Women of the ELCA to have our Churchwide President, Beth Wrenn, among us to bring greetings, share news and latest resources, present a workshop, attend Board meetings, and communicate with delegates and participants by sharing her stories and listening to the joys and concerns of South Carolina women. Being a "CAROLINA" girl, she felt right at home. We are delighted that Beth's daughter, Anna, was also in attendance to share this time together with us.

Beth expressed appreciation to the South Carolina Women of the ELCA for all that we have done. Highlighting our Convention theme to *Renew, Respond and Rejoice*, she encouraged and challenged us to find our BOLD, whatever that might be; to step out of our comfort zone and stretch ourselves, and to go out with bold courage knowing that God is always with us. Promoting the Women of the ELCA health initiative, she also encouraged us to choose one lifestyle change to make our lives healthier.

Beth officiated over the Installation Service and presented all Board members with a beautiful seashell with a commemorative attachment noting that we should Act Boldly and Remember Our Baptism.

We appreciate Beth's enthusiasm, energy and unwavering commitment to the Women of the ELCA.

—Bunny Wessinger



*Beth conducted a workshop,
"God Colors Outside the Lines: Diversity
and God's Church"*

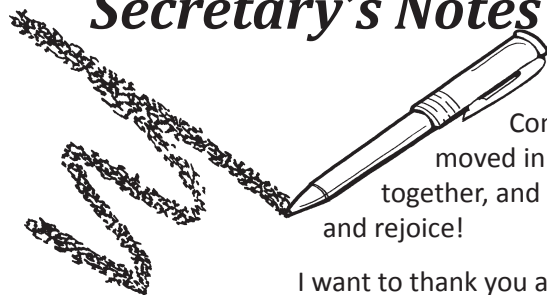


Beth met with the Board on Friday as well as on Sunday afternoon. Pictured: Louise Chapman (L), Jan Long (foreground), Beth Wrenn (R)



Beth and her daughter, Anna, joined the Board and others on Friday night for dinner at a local restaurant for some of Charleston's fresh seafood

Secretary's Notes



Hello, ladies! I hope everyone had a safe trip home after our wonderful Convention in Charleston! The Spirit moved in some amazing ways during our time together, and it was indeed a time to renew, respond, and rejoice!

I want to thank you all for electing me your Secretary and giving me an opportunity to be of service to the SC Women of the ELCA and to each of you. Louise has done a marvelous job over the past years that she has filled this position, and I have some big shoes to fill. With God's help, I will do my best to serve you in this new role. Please do not hesitate to contact me if there is anything that I can do for any of you.

God bless you all until we meet again!

Martha Koeller



Martha Koeller
Newly-elected
Secretary of the SC
Women of ELCA

Election Results



A big thanks for the hard work of the tellers and the Committee on Conduct of Elections during the Convention. We also appreciate the hard work of the Nominating Committee in preparation for elections.

Officers and Board members are elected to conduct the business of the South Carolina Women of the

ELCA throughout the year, as well as to support and encourage each Congregational Unit in the Synod. Board members are willing to help you with programming and organization. Contact information is listed in each issue of the *Ripple*.

Remember to keep these willing servants and the entire group of Officers and Board in prayer this year as they go about their work representing South Carolina Women of the ELCA.

Louise Chapman
Out-going Secretary

Vice President. Christie Gardner of St. Luke's, Prosperity, was elected Vice President for a two-year term.

Secretary. Martha Koeller of Sandy Run, Swansea, was elected Secretary for a two-year term.

Six Board members.

Two of the six newly-elected Board members will fill the unexpired terms of Board members Christie and Martha and the other four will serve two-year terms. These ladies are Tracey Arthur of St. John's, Walhalla; Carolyn Berry of St. Luke's, Summerville; Brenda Deal of St. James, Leesville; Nancy Fulmer of St. Michael, Greenville; Sandie Wanto of Immanuel, Greenwood; and Donna Shealy of St. Peter's, Lexington.



Donna Biser Shealy

I am looking forward to serving on the Board of SC Women of the ELCA because of all the fantastically fun and faithful ladies I have met through this organization. When God called me to serve, I could think of no better place. I am a lifelong Lutheran, with a little bit of Baptist and Methodist exposure. I currently live on Lake Murray in

Leesville, but was born and raised in Lexington, SC. My current church membership is at St. Peters, Lexington. I was raised in Pilgrim, also in Lexington. I am married to Carl Shealy, a family physician with Lexington Family Practice.

My profession is Interior Designer. I have a BS degree in this field from Winthrop, as well as a professional membership in the American Society of Interior Designers (ASID). I currently serve as a consultant in this profession, working out of my home.

I have previously served as a leader at the circle and congregational levels in Women of the ELCA in both churches. I enjoy traveling, light gardening, nature, arts and crafts and singing. One of my strengths is the invitation and encouragement to become involved in this organization. I look forward to meeting more of you who are actively involved in SC Women of the ELCA.



Carolyn Berry

I am a member at St. Luke's, Summerville. I have been a member of the Women of the ELCA for many years. I most recently served as President of St. Luke's five circles. I have served on the church Council and currently serve on the Altar Guild.

I am a retired medical office manager, having worked in this capacity for more than 20 years. I enjoy volunteer work with the American Cancer Society Relay for Life. I am married; we have two sons.



Sandie Wanto

I look forward to continuing to serve with and for you on the SC Women of the ELCA Board over the next two years. I have learned a lot in my first term and will put new knowledge to use. I have recently retired from Wal-Mart after 21 years and will have more time to devote to our organization.

When I'm not involved in church work at Immanuel, Greenwood, I enjoy spending time with my family, including my five grandchildren and three great-grandchildren, all of whom in live South Carolina.



Nancy Fulmer

I was raised in the Baptist Church. In 1990, at the urging of our 14-year-old daughter, my husband and I visited the Lutheran Church in our area and immediately felt "at home." Currently my husband, Chip, and I are members of St. Michael in Greenville. We have two grown daughters and two granddaughters.

I have been active in Women of the ELCA since first joining in 1990, serving as delegate to the State Convention many times and also serving as Treasurer of my Congregational Unit. I have taught Sunday School, been co-chair of the Fellowship Committee, and been the "Snack Lady" for VBS.

I work full-time as an insurance agent with the R. Carl Byars Agency in Easley, SC. In my spare time I treasure time spent with my family and friends (church family included). I also enjoy making greeting cards (stamping); going for long walks; doing yoga and step aerobics at the YMCA; and watching the birds at our feeders.

I look forward to serving on the Board and to meeting more of you.



Tracey Arthur

I am a native of James Island, SC. I have been a lifelong Lutheran, first at Martin Luther in Charleston and then at St. John's in Walhalla, SC. After graduating from James Island High School, I attended USC in Columbia majoring in Spanish. I began teaching at Walhalla High School in 1996.

I have traveled extensively during my high school and college years as part of my studies and on mission trips, and I now chaperone students on trips as a teacher. I have been to Mexico, Dominican Republic, Colombia, South America, Spain, France, Italy, and Switzerland. I am planning my next trip to Germany for the summer of 2012.



Brenda Deal

I would like to thank everyone for their confidence in reelecting me as your Board member. I have enjoyed working with the Board and I'm looking forward to the next two years. The Women of the ELCA continue to do great work and I am proud to be a part of this wonderful organization. I truly enjoyed this year's Convention and

want to thank Sharon Ganis and Marsha Mikell for all their hard work. It was great seeing everyone and I look forward to next year's Convention. Please continue to keep your Board in your prayers. Thanks again, and if there is ever anything I can do for you, don't hesitate to call or email.

Twenty-Fourth Annual Convention

South Carolina Synodical Women's Organization
Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

June 25-26, 2011 at the North Charleston Convention Center
in the beautiful, historic Charleston, SC



Meeting of the Donna(s)
Counts...Fulmer...Hinton

RENEW

Friendship



Dot Wise



Carol Sease
Barbara Locklear



Marie Kleckley



Registration



Peach Fralick



Sue Yates
Virginia Herlong



Hilda West, Rebecca Koch and
Kay Mills in Business Session



Marsha Mikell and Dot Farley



Linda Wilkerson
Diane Trantham



Business Session

Twenty-Fourth Annual Convention

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Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

June 25-26, 2011 at the North Charleston Convention Center
in the beautiful, historic Charleston, SC



Convention Chaplain
Rev. Melinda Jones



Holy Communion at
Sunday morning worship

RESPOND
Faith



Fair Trade Market



Multi-tasking during
Business Session



A little post-concert
impromptu sing-along

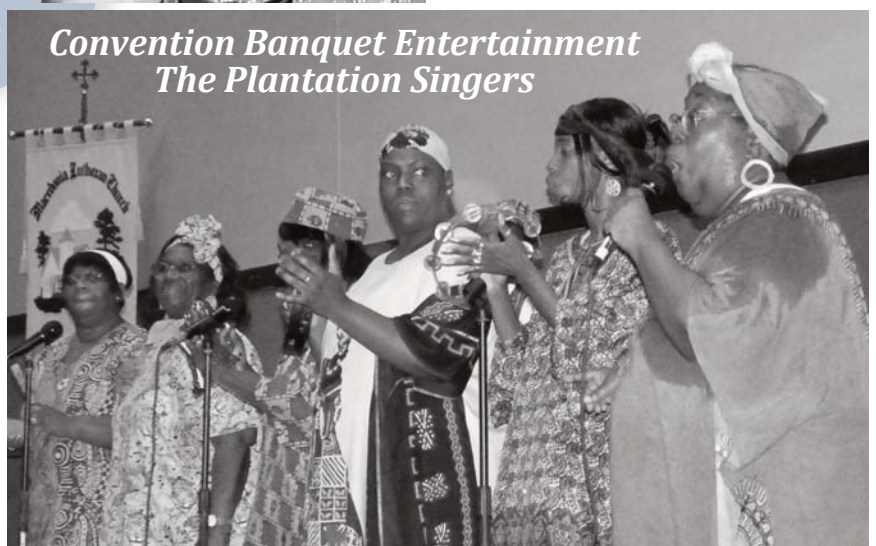


Holy Communion at
Sunday morning worship

Fellowship
REJOICE



Convention Worship Leaders
Weezy Kimbrell & Jani Williams



Convention Banquet Entertainment
The Plantation Singers



Convention First Timers

Last year, the Synodical Board introduced a program called *First Timers* to encourage more women to attend the Convention. The Board would pay for a woman from each of the nine Conferences, and each Conference could pay to send a *First Timer*. This would bring 18 women to the Convention who had never attended. I have had the privilege to be the hostess for the seven women to take advantage of this program this year.

Ladies, lets do better next year. When the nomination form comes in the *Ripple* next year, fill it out and get it to your Conference Coordinator. Let's fill all 18 slots in 2012. Don't use the excuse that you don't have time. We had a young woman who left four little boys (including two-year-old twins) with daddy. Yes, she needed two nights out, and we are happy she chose us.

We know that some Congregational Units sent delegates who had never attended a Convention. Please continue to do this because the more involved, the more we learn about Women of the ELCA.

I'll be looking for YOU next year.

— Carolyn Torrence

Young Women Guests

Six *Young Women Guests*, women between the ages of 18 and 35 who had not attended a SC Women of the ELCA Convention before, were hosted by Becky Koeller. Each of the nine Conferences were given the option to send a young woman at the expense of the Board. In addition to the regular Convention activities, Becky planned some time for the women to get to know each other; they entertained with a skit on Sunday, and assisted the Board with Convention Hall duties.



Betty Jo Amick
Lucinda Pin Coordinator
 abjamick72@att.net
 803-345-5060

Lucinda Pin Report

It was delightful to see all you ladies at Convention. As our Convention theme stated, "Renew, Respond, Rejoice", you came to renew your spirits, respond by the purchasing of the beautiful Lucinda pins, and we rejoice in your support of our charity, "The Lydia Project." There were 103 pins purchased at Convention; total sales amounted to \$1,545.00.

Thanks ladies for all your support. I'll see you at the Fall Conference meetings. Peace be with you!

Sharing God's Love,
 Betty Jo Amick

Workshops... Inspiring & Informative

A special thanks to the men and women who took the time to conduct our workshops on Saturday afternoon, as well as to those who attended. A wealth of information and experience was shared in the one-hour sessions. In addition to Beth Wrenn, we welcomed the following workshop presenters.

1. *Cindy Greenwood; "Darkness to Light...End Child Sexual Abuse"*
2. *Christy Fossum; "Sunday by Sunday"*
3. *Diane Wicker; "Now That You've Been Elected"*
4. *Tim Langfitt with Thrivent Financial; "My Life, My Plan"*
5. *Beth Stewart Ozark; "A Voyage to Value...Quilt Trunk Show"*
6. *Prisca Jean Denton; "The Zumba Experience"*



Those who spent the workshop time on a bus tour of Charleston had a wonderful time.



Cindy Greenwood



Christy Fossum



Diane Wicker



Tim Langfitt



Beth Stewart Ozark



Prisca Dean Denton



Beverly Taylor Keynote Speaker

What an inspiration Beverly Taylor was to each of us in the room on Saturday at the Convention. Beverly shared her message of trying to retire from singing at a time when God was trying to convince her that He wasn't done with her yet. After years of unknowingly wrestling with God about the will for her life, and the many times that God rescued her from near death and tragedy, she came to a point where she yielded her will to God's will. Her message was a powerful reminder that God has a plan for each of us and that His plan is sovereign.

Beverly uses her beautiful singing voice for God's glory to enhance her message that "it's all about following God's will."

Says Beverly, "If you have a pulse, you have a purpose...to serve God; to love people."

— Carol W. Sease



Beverly brought along her husband/sound technician to help with book and CD sales. Items can also be purchased through beverlytaylorministries.com.

Mission: Action Convention Project



American Red Cross Disaster Comfort Kits

Good morning, Sandie,

I just spoke to Pat Bos who picked up the comfort kits from you this past Saturday. What a wonderful donation! I would like to gather more information so I can write a press release and attach a picture. Would you mind telling me how this all happened! We'd like to let the community know of your generosity.

Thank you,

Nancy Olson, Marketing & Communications Manager
American Red Cross, Charleston, SC Region
8085 Rivers Avenue, Suite F, North Charleston, SC 29406
(843) 764-2323 Ext. 321, www.lowcountryredcross.org



**1876 disaster
comfort kits were
collected at Convention**



Right: Connie Gibson and
Brenda Burke

Below: Sandie Wanto (R)
receives comfort kit donations



Above: Beverly Tollison and
Jean Bozardt

Right: Almost 1900 comfort
kits and hundreds of extra
items were piled into the
Convention Hall until pick-up
on Sunday



**Checks from
Convention
offerings and
donations totaling
almost \$2,300
were sent to the
American Red
Cross
Low Country
Region**

Nancy,

We are the South Carolina Women of the ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church of America). We had our annual Convention in Charleston June 25-26. We have a Convention every year and we chose Charleston this year because the Trident Conference was our sponsoring Conference. We have nine Conferences in South Carolina and they each take turns hosting the Convention. It has been my privilege to head up the Action Committee for our state Board this year. Our Action Committee chooses a non-profit in the area of the Conference to help. I looked into a number of organizations in the Charleston area and the Board voted to have the Low Country Red Cross be our non-profit to help this year.

I checked with my local Red Cross here in Greenwood, S.C. and they told me the comfort kits were something needed and they gave me the list of things to include. All of the ELCA churches in South Carolina asked their women to support the project and you are seeing the result. We were worried about getting the doors of the truck shut.

Needless to say I am extremely proud of my fellow sisters of the ELCA. They always exceed my expectations. More good news, we take up a collection at our Convention and the Low Country Red Cross will be receiving a check from our Treasurer in the near future.

If I can be of further help, please don't hesitate to ask.

Sandie Wanto

Mission: Growth



Hello, Ladies! Well, I'm just getting back from our 24th Women of the ELCA Convention in Charleston and am trying to settle back into my normal daily life. The Convention was another chance for me to Renew (my friendships and my faith), Respond (to my calling and to the needs of my neighbors) and Rejoice (with our entertainers, election results and our worship service). It's difficult to focus back on my daily routine with all the Faith, Fellowship and Friendship still overflowing in my heart!

The purpose of the Mission: Growth Committee is to provide a variety of learning and growth experiences that strengthen each woman as a disciple, develop her sense of call as a child of God, and equip her for further ministry in God's world. As a committee we did our best to do exactly that. We had directions and forms for subscribing to any/all of the publications that are offered through the Women of the ELCA. There are many other resources available for free at: hotdog://www.Elia.org/Growing-In-Faith/Ministry/Women-of-the-ELCA.aspx. When you get a chance, check them out!

At the Mission: Growth display, we also offered you a copy of "The Five Finger Prayer" and some other

common prayers from the Lutheran Book of Worship. And to encourage you to pray more often, we provided everyone with a few little Prayer Dots. These are self-adhesive dots that you can place in any conspicuous place to remind you to pray; any time you see a dot, say a prayer. We distributed over 400 of these Prayer Dot packets. Imagine the number of prayers these little dots will remind all of us to pray.



Jan Long (seated), Susan Yount (c) and Rhonda Douglas (r) enjoy a time of worship and praise.

It has been my pleasure to have served on the SC Women of the ELCA Board for the past two years. I have enjoyed writing the skits, designing the Prayer Dot packets, and many other duties that were behind the scenes. Although I am no longer serving on the Board, I do

intend to remain a big part of the SC Women of the ELCA. Perhaps you will see me lead a workshop or help out in another capacity next Convention. In any case, I want to thank you all for allowing me the privilege of serving you as a SC Women of the ELCA Board member.

May you continue to grow in your faith in our Loving God and may He bless you with all the blessings you deserve.

Your Sister in Christ,
Jan Long, *Mission: Growth Committee Out-going Chair*


Save the dates
...2012 Retreats

For retreat details, contact Agnes Folk at 843-662-1210 or aebfolk@yahoo.com



Act BOLDLY
Sow Your
Wild Flowers
VI Moses

February 24-25, 2012
Camp Kinard



What not to wear

April 13-15, 2012
Island of Palms
Retreat Center

Spend the weekend discussing what not to wear, getting rid of the burdens God never meant for us to put on. Are you "wearing" an outfit of criticism, pride or self-reliance? Do you dress yourself in a suit of worry or joylessness? In the fifth Chapter of Ephesians, Paul reminds us to put off our old selves and put on the new self, but how many of us are still walking around in old clothes? Come join us and let's spend the weekend together studying God's plan for our lives...and our wardrobes.



Mission: Community Conference Corner

Over the past year, the Mission Community Committee consisted of Diane Trantham, Conference Coordinator; Bunny Wessinger, Conference Liaison; Carol Sease, *Ripple* Editor; and Sue Yates, *Ripple* Circulation Manager.

Communication is our key component. You can get current information from the SC Women of the ELCA by subscribing to the *Ripple*. We have a lot of online resources such as *Cafe*. The *Lutheran Women Today* and our Women of the ELCA website have resources for Bible studies.

It has been a great year and we have such a wonderful Board to work with! On behalf of the Mission Community Committee, we have enjoyed serving you this past year!

— Christie Gardner



Bunny Wessinger receives a plaque of appreciation for her daughter, Lisa Wessinger, for Lisa's years of service as the Ripple editor. President Donna Fulmer made the presentation.

Editor's Note:

Some of you have sent me pictures and information from your Congregational Units to share in the Ripple. Due to the dedication of this issue to Convention Highlights, please look for those in upcoming issues. And as always, thanks for sharing. —Carol Whittle Sease

Diane Trantham completes her Convention survey



Fall Conference Gathering Dates

All nine Conferences of the SC Women of the ELCA will meet in the Fall of the year for fellowship, planning and service projects. Below is the list of scheduled Fall Conference Gatherings as we have it now. If there are any corrections or additions, please let us know by contacting someone on the Board.

Make plans now to attend the Conference Gathering in your area. It's a great time to connect with your fellow sisters in Christ who serve and worship in other churches, as well as share ideas for projects and programs. SC Women of the ELCA Board members visit to give updates. An offering is collected and donated to a charity or cause that the Conference chooses. There is time for sharing, fun and laughter!

Fall 2011 Conference Gatherings

#1	Foothills	Sunday (to be announced)	Our Saviour, Greenville
#2	Upstate	Sunday, October 9; 3 PM	Reformation, Lancaster
#3	Epiphany	Saturday (to be announced)	To be announced
#4	Amelia	Saturday, September 17; 12 PM	St. John, Beaufort
#5	Heartland	Sunday, September 11; 3 pm	St. Peter, Chapin
#6	Midland	Saturday, October 8; 10 AM	St. Timothy, Camden
#7	Trident	Saturday (to be announced)	To be announced
#8	Saxe Gotha	Sunday, September 18; 3 PM	Pisgah, Lexington
#9	Western	Sunday, October 16; 3PM	To be announced

South Carolina Women of the ELCA

Executive Board 2011-2012

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The Ripple

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Remind Me Again

Now listen, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money." Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow... Instead, you ought to say, "If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that."

James 4:13-15

If there is one thing in life that is certain, it is uncertainty. My family has been reminded of this over the past month. What was to be a three-month trip for my parents ended the day it began when my mother was knocked down and run over by her rolling car. A day on the lake for my son-in-law, his nephew and sister, and my granddaughter with plans to "do it again soon" ended with near tragedy. As the boat was being pulled from the ramp, the truck sank to the bottom of the lake with the nephew inside and my son-in-law in 15-ft water. Financial plans were changed in an instant by salary and job cuts for my husband and my nephew. The sudden deaths of sisters of two friends in one week were the ultimate reminder that we are but *a mist that appears for a little while*.

All of our best perceived plans can be changed in an instant. There is no promise or certainty that those plans will play-out the way we anticipate. We are only promised that God is in control; that His plan will be completed in each of us. We can only trust.

With the help of surgery and rehabilitation, my Mother is expected to have a full recovery. My son-in-law and his nephew are safe, but it may be a while before they get back on the lake. Though often afraid, we are confident that the career changes ahead are all part of God's plan. And my friends...they have the promise that they will see their sisters again. We know that God is in control. The words are easy to say, but sometimes hard to remember. Maybe someone you know needs to be reminded in the midst of life's uncertainty. I often need to be reminded again.

—Carol Whittle Sease, *Ripple* Editor

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