

2006 Diocesan Executive Board

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ECW WORKS AROUND THE DIOCESE

Winston-Salem Convocation

A Lenten Discipline: Making Prayer Shawls for Battered Women

"With a prayer shawl ministry, care and the love of knitting have been combined into a prayerful ministry that reaches out to those in need of comfort and solace. Many blessings are knitted into every shawl. The knitter begins each shawl with prayers for the recipient. Intentions are continued throughout the creation of the shawl. When the shawl is completed it is offered a final ritual before being sent along its way with both the giver and receiver feeling the unconditional embrace of a sheltering, mothering God!"
(www.shawlministry.com)

The roots of the Prayer Shawl Ministry throughout the Winston-Salem Convocation extend deep into the community to The Faith Leader Training Program (FLTP) of the Domestic Violence Community Council of Winston-Salem and Forsyth County, North Carolina. FLTP was established in 2001 by a group of local community members and faith leaders to build and sustain bridges between community systems and clergy and lay leaders in area churches, synagogues, and mosques and to improve the lives of county residents affected by domestic violence.

Representing their respective churches, Anne Butler of St. Paul's in Winston-Salem (who's also a member of the Diocesan ECW Executive Board), and Linda Winikoff of St. Anne's in Winston-Salem have been active members of the FLTP since it began. The following initiatives have resulted from their work with this program:

In 2004, two resolutions were presented and passed at the Annual Diocesan Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina:

- On the Pledge of Nonviolence, and
- On Clergy and Laity Training on Intimate Partner Violence.

In 2005, the Episcopal Church Women's Harris-Evans Conference focused on domestic violence. In discussing action steps for responding to this critical issue, the idea of knitting prayer shawls for residents of battered women shelters was raised up and embraced.

In 2006, Anne and Linda developed the idea of a Prayer Shawl Ministry for the *entire* Winston-Salem Convocation where it was presented as a Lenten discipline. The plan is that every Tuesday night during Lent, knitters and crocheters of all skill levels will meet to make the shawls. Those unable to attend the meetings will be given instructions about how to proceed on their own. Before the shawls are delivered, they will be blessed by a priest.

At press time, some 40 people – male and female - had expressed interest in the program. The Winston-Salem Convocation's Prayer Shawl information packet, which includes a variety of prayers, can be found on the ECW's web site, www.ecw-nc.org. We'll let you know how things turned out.

St. Titus' Call to Action

The ECW of St. Titus' in Durham continues a long tradition of commitment to education in the community. In order to provide a lifelong impact for young children and volunteers, the women have elected to participate in the March Madness project as a way to answer the **ECW National Call to Action challenge for literacy**. Volunteers will read to seven classes of preschoolers every other week. Each of the children will be given books to keep as part of the year-

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Meet Jessica Bennett, Raleigh Convocation Chairwoman



Jessica Bennett was appointed chairwoman of the Raleigh Convocation ECW in January of 2006 by the president of the Diocesan ECW. She is a longtime member of The Church of the Good Shepherd in Raleigh, where she serves on the parish's outreach committee and is a member of the St. Clare's ECW chapter. She also serves on the executive board of Hope Elementary, a downtown charter school that works exclusively with underprivileged children. Jessica is a former executive board member of the Episcopal Farmworker Ministry and has also served as its executive director. She owns JB Specialty Foods, a wholesale dessert and personal chef service.

Jessica is a graduate of Barton College in Wilson, and has completed post-baccalaureate work at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and North Carolina State University. She is married to the Rev. William D. Bennett, Jr., associate rector of The Church of the Good Shepherd. They live in Raleigh's Cameron Park neighborhood with their two cats, Red and Fluff, and a Dachshund, Peanut.

She enjoys home remodeling projects, walks and baking.