

2010 Convention Edition

Washed and Forgiven: Called to Serve

Washed & Forgiven: Called to Serve was this year's theme of the VSWO Convention held **July 16—18, 2010** at Roanoke College in Salem, VA.

Confident in our salvation and forgiveness, women came from congregations across the synod to form a convention voting strength of 32 (4 officers, 7 board members & 21 delegates) and 50 others, for a convention total of 82.

Beth Wrenn, Women of the ELCA Churchwide President, was kept busy as she served as our keynote speaker; brought greetings from Women of the ELCA staff and board; and led two awareness sessions. It was wonderful having Beth participating in our convention, as well as our **Churchwide Treasurer, Anjanette Hodges**.

We were blessed with the presence of **The Rev. Katie Gosswein** who served as convention chaplain and kept our worship and devotions centered on our biblical theme, "*And Jesus said, I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you.*" *John 13:15*

Convention highlights

- ◇ We enjoyed uplifting opening and worship music by praise band **Histeria** (Northern Valley). They were joined by sisters Linda Hawks (accompanist) and Lavelva Stevens of Trinity, Pulaski.
- ◇ **Awareness sessions** were offered including Creating a Safe Space for Victims of Violence, Micah's Backpack, Diversity: God's Dream?, Going Green, How does your spiritual garden grow?, Who's missing when you gather?
- ◇ **Officers and board members were elected** including Connie Saunders, vice-president (Highlands); Judy Castele, secretary (Southern Valley); and board members Janice Brown (Germannia);

Lisa Somerville (Tidewater); Carol Bailey (Germannia) and, Ellen Greene (Tidewater).

- ◇ **Olivia Samerdyke of Christ, Wise; Geri Monetti of St. Mark, Roanoke; and Denise Stage, Good Shepherd, Virginia Beach** were recognized as Sophie Wilson Grant recipients for first-time non-delegate attendees.

- ◇ We thanked out going board members **Risse Snelgrove and Christel Williams** for their faithful service. Risse served as our vice president and Christel, as chair of Mission: Community.

◇ We elected **Triennial delegates** to represent us in Spokane in 2011. The delegates Sherrill Miller, Connie Saunders and Ellen Bain will be led by president Jody Smiley.

◇ Women across the synod donated **360 children's books** for distribution to the Roanoke Rescue Mission.

◇ We had an uplifting **Friday evening worship**, bringing our prayers and concerns to the foot of the cross while the chapel was bathed in candlelight.

- ◇ We heard from **Mawine Diggs** from Liberia who spoke eloquently about how our scholarship was critical for her Roanoke College education.

- ◇ We enjoyed a lovely banquet and entertainment by **Fred the Fantastique**—magician, theologian and otherwise known as former Southern Seminary President Dr. Fred Reisz.

- ◇ Kathryn Buchanan shared a DVD about our very own **Joyce Kipps** who was honored by Roanoke College with their highest honor—the **Roanoke College Medal** for her many contributions to her church, community, and Roanoke College. Congratulations, Joyce!

- ◇ **It was a wonderful convention and** we hope to see you all at Roanoke College for VSWO Convention 2011!

“We are called
to love one
another, to walk
humbly with
God.”

More VSWO Convention News

Offerings

VSWO members are indeed generous with offerings of time, talents, and treasures! \$3,977.05 was given for the convention Love Offering. This Love Offering was designated for Woman to Woman Papua New Guinea project. In addition to the love offering received at convention, \$5,501.95 has been received over the past two years for the project, bringing our total thus far to \$9,479! Our Sunday morning offering, given for the ministries of the VSWO, totaled \$816.71 .

Women’s Health Initiative

Mission: Community recognized the top three women who participated in the heart healthy walking challenge: Linda Hawks , 495 miles; Kaarina Modiri, 493 miles; and Wanda Miller, 408 miles. With all the walking sheets turned in, we met our goal of walking to Spokane!

I Can, You Can, We All Can—Go to Spokane!

Ellen Bain, our Triennial Gathering Promoter, gave an enthusiastic presentation -complete with a cheer! —encouraging us to save our money for the 8th Triennial Convention to be held in Spokane, Washington in July 2011. The convention theme is *Renew, Respond, Rejoice*. Early registration will be held from September 15—December 30, 2010 for \$299. (Those who register between September 15—December 15 will be entered into a drawing for prizes including free lodging.) For more information or to register, go to www.womenoftheelca.org. If you’re interested in attending or definitely planning to go, contact Ellen Bain at ellenbain@gmail.com. She’ll keep you updated on Triennial information and make sure you’re connected with your sisters from the Virginia Synod as we travel to Spokane.

Spiritual Growth of a Woman

Mission: Growth committee’s two year project came to fruition with the distribution of their collection of devotions and prayers with entries from women from throughout the Virginia Synod. These original devotional booklets were provided to each convention participant. To obtain an electronic copy of *Spiritual Growth of a Woman*, contact Judy Castele at castele@rockbridge.net. Or to receive hard copies for distribution, fill out the order blank below and send to Connie Saunders.

Spiritual Growth of a Woman: a collection of devotions and prayers

Name: _____

Address: _____

Please send me _____ booklets at \$3.50 each. Total enclosed _____

Checks should be made payable to VSWO (by September 15) & sent to:

Connie Saunders
37 College Drive
Bluefield, VA 24605

grandmag2@cox.net.
number and email address to Genie Brown at
Get Visions for free—electronically! Just send your name, phone

Visions

To receive the weekly prayer requests, send your name and email
address to Judy Casteelle at casteelle@rockbridge.net.

Prayer Chain

saundersem@earthlink.net or 276.322.5743
committee, contact Connie Saunders at
information about how you can be involved in a VSWO
will be held on October 2 in Central Virginia. If you'd like more

VSWO Committee Day



Virginia Synodical Women's Organization
Genie Brown
Visions Circulation Manager
5517 South Village Drive
Roanoke, VA 24018

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