



Sisters in Mission

**You are cordially invited
to the 126th annual gathering
of the Episcopal Church Women
of the Diocese of North Carolina**

**Hosted by the women
of the Winston-Salem Convocation**

Who: All—women and men, laity and clergy—are welcome (You may register at the door, but advance registration is preferred)

What: A business meeting, but so much more. Fellowship. Worship. Learning. And all in keeping with the theme and keynote address—**Sisters in Mission: Old & New, Me & You.** We'll look at how and why it's so important Episcopal Church Women are part of a global community of faith, as well as the ways in which women through the ages have contributed to the mission of the Church.

When: November 7-8, 2008

Where: St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Winston-Salem, NC.

Meet the Keynote: The Reverend Katharine "Kitty" Babson

The Reverend Katharine Babson serves as the official missionary of The Episcopal Church USA to the Church of the Anglican Province of Myanmar (Burma). She travels to Myanmar twice a year to lead retreats, consult with church leaders about grants applications, preach, teach, encourage, meet with Myanmar-based non-governmental organizations, and in all ways possible to assist the Myanmar people and nurture the relationship between the Church at home and the Church in Myanmar. She returned in early March from her 29th month-long mission trip, and is planning her next trip for October when she will deliver the annual all-provincial Mothers' Union's Leadership Retreat.



Reverend Babson is seen here in Sittwe, western Myanmar.

Kitty's active work with the Christian community in Myanmar began in early 1994 when she traveled from Bangkok, where she and her husband were living, to Myanmar for the first time to participate in the service of consecration of a Virginia Seminary friend who had been elected Bishop of Toungoo Diocese, one of the six dioceses of the Anglican Church of the Province of the Myanmar.

Now, when at home in Brunswick, Maine, Kitty Babson continues her relational mission work for the Church in the United States and abroad by seeking and nurturing grants awards that will enrich the lives and ministry of the Myanmar Church and people; consulting to individuals and groups about Myanmar's Church and predominantly Buddhist culture, history, socio-economic and political situation; and seeking educational placements and scholarships in the U.S. for worthy Myanmar students who seek advanced educational opportunities in theological studies and non-religious fields that will assist the redevelopment of their society.

Kitty sits on the Episcopal Church's Standing Commission for World Mission, and is the founder of a small mission agency - Christ-Myitta Myanmar/Burma - which is a member of Episcopal Partnerships for Global Mission (EPGM). EPGM is the primary consortium of mission agencies of the Episcopal Church, and she currently serves as its Convener. She is an adjunct faculty member in the Department of Mission and Global Christianity at her alma mater,

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Agenda

126th Annual Meeting

Episcopal Church Women—Diocese of North Carolina
November 7 & 8, 2008 • **“Sisters in Mission”**

Location: St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, 520 Summit Street, Winston-Salem, NC 27101

Schedule of Events:

Note: All activities, except worship, will take place on the 3rd floor of the new Parish Center, located directly behind the church.

Friday, November 7

Lunch on your own. There are many dining options in the area of the hotel and church.

Noon-2:00 p.m.:	Registration. Exhibits & bookstore open
2:10-2:30 p.m.:	Welcome and introductions
2:30-3:30 p.m.:	Business session I
3:35-3:45 p.m.:	Break
3:50-4:50 p.m.:	Business session II
4:50-5:00 p.m.:	United Thank Offering presenters meet for instructions
5:00-6:30 p.m.:	Holy Eucharist. Preacher, the Rt. Rev. Michael B. Curry, Bishop of North Carolina
6:40-7:10 p.m.:	Reception
7:15-8:15 p.m.:	Dinner (RSVP required) & entertainment

Saturday, November 8

8:00-8:45 a.m.:	Exhibits open. Breakfast. (Complimentary full breakfast is offered at our hotel. Muffins and coffee available at St. Paul’s.)
8:30 a.m.:	Morning Prayer
8:50-9:00 a.m.:	Announcements
9:00-9:45 a.m.:	Program, part I: Keynote address by the Rev. Katharine Babson, the Episcopal Church’s missionary to Myanmar (Burma): “Sisters in Mission: Old & New, Me & You”
9:50-10:10 a.m.:	Break & exhibit visits
10:15-11:15 a.m.:	Program, part II: “Botswana & Beyond”
11:20 a.m.-12:10 p.m.:	Convocation meetings
12:10-12:20 p.m.:	Break
12:25-12:45 p.m.:	Program, part III: More thoughts from Reverend Babson: “A Woman’s Call to Mission”
12:50-1:00 p.m.:	Closing. Invitation to the 127 th Annual Meeting. Blessing and adjournment. Boxed lunches available (pre-order required)
1:30-3:00 p.m.:	Diocesan ECW Executive Board meeting

Lodging and Driving Instructions

Lodging: Each person is responsible for securing their lodging. A block of rooms has been reserved for the ECW on Thursday, November 6th (for those who want a more leisurely arrival) and Friday, November 7th at the Holiday Inn Express-Downtown West in Winston-Salem. The ECW rate is good through October 30th. The hotel is located at 110 Miller Street, off Business 40 (see “Driving Directions” in this newsletter.)

Rooms with double beds, a queen size bed or king size bed will all cost \$80.99 per night plus tax (the total per room comes to \$91.31). To ensure this rate, **reservations must be made by October 30, 2008**. To reserve a room, call 336-721-0220. Make sure to mention you’re with ECW or Episcopal Church Women.

Note: All special rate rooms are no-smoking and guaranteed for late arrival.

Hospitality: There will be a hospitality room for Episcopal Church Women at the hotel. Look for the ECW sign.

Food: Lunch is on your own on November 7th. Remember, registration and exhibits open at noon. The meeting begins at 2:10 p.m.

The hotel offers a complimentary hot breakfast as well as many Continental breakfast items. A limited Continental breakfast will also be offered at St. Paul's Church on Saturday, November 8th.

Meeting venue: St. Paul's is located at 520 Summit Street in Winston-Salem. Phone number: 336-723-4391. The church property will be prominently marked and hosts will also be on hand to direct you to designated parking.

Driving directions to St. Paul's coming from the East or West:

- Take Business 40 into Winston-Salem. Do not follow I-40 which bypasses Winston-Salem.
- Take the Broad Street exit / exit 5B.
- At the top of the ramp, turn right.
- Go through four stoplights. The fourth light is at Fifth Street.
- Turn left at the next street – Pilot View.
- Drive down one long block and stop at the sign at Summit Street. St. Paul's is at that intersection.
- Cross Summit Street and continue straight down the hill on Pilot View.
- You may park either behind the church in the lot on the right (handicapped parking is there) or in the bigger lot on the left.
- Walk behind the church to the west entrance of the new Parish Center at the glass double doors.
- Take the elevator on the left at the entrance up to the third floor.

The registration table will be in front of you as you exit the elevator.

Directions to the Holiday Inn Express from Business 40:

- Come into Winston-Salem via Business 40.
- Take the Cloverdale Avenue exit / exit 4A.
- Take a right at the bottom of the ramp.
- Travel to the second stoplight and take a right on Miller Street.

The Holiday Inn Express is at the top of the hill just past the strip shopping center with Harris Teeter and Panera Bread. Holiday Inn Express: (336) 721-0220 /110 Miller Street

Directions to St. Paul's from the Holiday Inn Express:

- Turn left on Miller Street as you leave the Holiday Inn.
- Go under the highway and over the railroad tracks to the first stoplight at the Five Points intersection.
- Turn right onto First Street.
- At the first stoplight, turn left onto Northwest Blvd.
- Travel down the hill through one stoplight and turn right at the stoplight at Reynolda Road.
- Follow the road around a left curve and immediately turn right going up the hill onto Summit Street at Alex's Restaurant.
- At the top of that hill, make a left turn onto Summit Street proper.
- Continue up the hill, pass St. Paul's on the right, and turn right on Pilot View Street.
- You may park either behind the church in the lot on the right (handicapped parking is there) or in the bigger lot on the left.
- Walk behind the church to the west entrance of the new Parish Center at the glass double doors.
- Take the elevator on the left to the third floor.

The registration table will be in front of you as you exit the elevator.

Directions to the Holiday Inn Express from St. Paul's:

- When leaving the parking lot, travel down the hill on Pilot View Street. Pilot View dead ends into West End Blvd.
- Turn right on West End and go one block to the stop sign at Reynolda Road.
- Continue straight on Reynolda Road to the first stoplight.
- Turn left at the light onto Northwest Blvd.
- Travel through one stoplight to the top of the hill.
- Turn right on First Street.
- At the first stoplight at Five Points, turn left on Miller Street.

The Holiday Inn will be on the right just after the highway underpass.

Directions to Business 40 East or West from St. Paul's:

- When leaving either parking lot, take Pilot View Street up the hill to Summit Street. Cross Summit and go one block to Broad Street.
- Turn right on Broad and travel through four stoplights.
- Turn left onto either Business 40 West or Business 40 East.



**Parish of the Widows, Mogaung, Kachin State
in northern Myanmar.**

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Virginia Seminary, where she teaches an intensive immersion course in Myanmar every other January, with the next course to run in January 2009. She authored the article on Myanmar liturgical use published in the *Oxford Guide to the Book of Common Prayer*, (Oxford, 2005). She also addresses civic community gatherings on the complex issues that trouble Myanmar. At home, she serves the Episcopal Diocese of Maine as an interim rector, supply priest, and consultant to the parish search process.

Kitty understands "mission" broadly, not according to old colonialist perspectives as a one-way process of converting another to one's own values, practices, and belief systems about God, Christ, and world, but instead as a way of right life and action rooted in the mutual search for full relationship with God and all others which she believes is both challenged and clarified within dimensions of difference. She holds that this way is actually founded in the Biblical record, and that it has always been within dimensions of difference and meetings with alien

others in their own strange contexts that the people of faith have been stretched to comprehend expansive possibilities of meaning, faith, and action in a complex relational world, and then to return to serve God's mission with greater wonder and respect.

Ordained to the priesthood in 1992, Kitty is a graduate of Williams College and Virginia Theological Seminary. She is currently at work on her Doctorate in Ministry at Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington D.C.

With her husband, Bradley, a consultant in development economics, she enjoys two grown children who are also faithful internationalists. Oliver works in policy planning at The Gates Foundation in Seattle; and Augusta, is a program planner at The Academy for Educational Development in Washington D.C., where she is organizing educational exchange programs between American and Saudi Arabian universities.

She and her husband live in an 18th century farmhouse from which they pursue their mission and consulting work, and garden, write, walk, and revel in the restful sea, fields and forests of Maine.

More About Myanmar...

A member church of the Anglican Communion, the Myanmar Church was born of the Church of England when the English brought their traditions to the new colony in South Asia that they named "Burma" after its majority ethnic group, the Bamar or Burmans. Besides the Burmans, there are 130 other ethnic groups in the territory that was traditionally called Myanmar or "Golden Land." Approximately four percent of Myanmar's 55 million people are Christian.



A new and hopeful economic development effort in Myanmar has been the nurture of a cottage industry in Christian communities where women sew beautiful women's jackets of hand woven native fabrics. Profits from sales support construction of pre-schools in poor communities where the people cannot reach or afford costly government schooling.

Collect for ECW Annual Meeting 2008

Eternal God, our Creator, from you we come and to you we return. You are the source of our life and that of the world. So teach us the way of the disciple, following in the footsteps of Jesus. Teach us to give and not to count the cost. Teach us to serve without preoccupation with self. And teach to witness, not by words alone, but by deeds done which testify to your steadfast love for your human family, and for the whole of the creation you have made. This we asked in the Name of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. *(By the Right Reverend Michael B. Curry)*