

ECW Retreats Annual Report Fall 2014
Diocese of Central Pennsylvania
Province III



The Reverend Elaine Ellis Thomas leading Eucharist on the Beach.

On September 26th through the 28th, 2014 the Episcopal Church Women's Cape May Retreat entitled "Healing Waters" was presented by The Rev. Elaine Ellis Thomas from St. Edwards in Lancaster.

Jesus said to them, 'Come away with me. Let us go alone to a quiet place and rest for a while.' (Mark 6:31)

Thirty-five women ranging in age from early forties to mid-eighty learned there are 719 references of water in the Bible. Over a span of three days the women connected with each other in small group discussions, while exploring water's power to cleanse, heal and refresh. Each woman had an opportunity to share their deep faith in community and in the love of God.

Again the #1 highlight of the weekend - was *Morning Eucharist* on the beach after breakfast Saturday morning. The unique setting that Cape May provides allowed the use of water for a renewal of faith and a rebirth in baptism during Eucharist which was breathtaking and inspirational.

Saturday afternoon the group gathered to assemble forty "office supply boxes" for St. Peter's Church, Medford, NJ as part of the "Heart of the Home" project by the Diocesan ECW. This is a follow-up project with the church who organizes volunteers to distribute the home office supplies to families moving into new homes this fall, families who lost everything in Super Storm Sandy.

The Episcopal Church of the Advent welcomed us to their Sunday morning service. Fellowship abounded during the entire weekend, as we enjoyed a time of learning, reflecting, and fun in beautiful Cape May New Jersey.

Next fall's retreat will be September 25th to 27th, 2015, with the leader/speaker and topic to be determined. Look for brochures on the Diocesan website, Diocesan Digest, and in your email next year.

Blessings,
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