



The conference center of the Episcopal Diocese of Southwest Florida

DaySpring DAY

FEBRUARY 2008

ROSEMARY BENOIT MOVING ON

In early January, DaySpring Executive Director Rosemary Benoit made one of those “really hard decisions.” After eight years as DaySpring’s Executive Director, she decided it was time to move on in order to help her husband Ray run the family business, Benoit Woodcrafters, in St. Petersburg. There was also the desire to be closer to children and grandchildren. Rosemary came to DaySpring on a one-year contract. Her assignment was to resolve some major building and maintenance issues. It quickly became apparent she had much more to offer than her expertise in construction and project management. Rosemary’s history with DaySpring goes well beyond her current position. Many years before she served on the DaySpring Board of Directors. “DaySpring was just getting started. It was so exciting to be a part of helping the conference center take shape and grow,” she said. She was offered the Executive Director’s position after a national search could find no one more qualified or more passionate about the mission and ministry of DaySpring. Under her leadership, DaySpring has grown and prospered and today is one of the top Episcopal Conference Centers in the country. DaySpring serves over 25,000 overnight guests each year and plays an integral part in the outreach ministry of the Diocese. Rosemary plans to leave at the end March. “It’s sad to leave but the time is right for me, my family, our family business and DaySpring,” she said. No plans have been announced for a replacement. An interim will likely be appointed until a full time replacement can be named.



*Rosemary Benoit
DaySpring Executive Director*

2008 SHAPING UP TO BE A GREAT YEAR

One indicator of DaySpring’s success is reservations. On January 25, reservations for 2008 passed the \$2-million mark. As of that date, we had reservations for \$2,002,315 in retreats, camps and conferences. Barring some kind of unexpected emergency, we are on track to have our best year ever.

HOLY DAYS

The season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday, February 6. Palm Sunday is March 6, Good Friday is March 15, and Easter Sunday is March 23. During the Holy season of Lent, consider spending some quiet time at DaySpring. This is a great time of year to walk DaySpring’s beautiful Stations of the Cross, try out the new labyrinth, meditate in St. Thomas Chapel or sit in the outdoor Chapel. You can also come for a meal. Please call us to make a reservation.



DIOCESAN WIDE VESTRY RETREAT



The Rt. Rev. Dabney Smith

The Second Annual Diocesan-wide Vestry Retreat will be held at DaySpring February 29-March 1, 2008. Well over 300 congregational leaders and clergy have registered to attend the free event. Bishop Dabney Smith will keynote the retreat. He will discuss how Vestry persons can live out the terms of the Baptismal Covenant in the context of their lay ministry. Other presenters include: Chancellor Ted Tripp who will talk about Canon and civil law; and Canon Michael Durning who will discuss

resources available from the National Church. Attendees will also celebrate the Eucharist in the outdoor chapel and take part in the blessing of the new labyrinth.

LABYRINTH BLESSING

Bishop Dabney Smith will bless the new labyrinth at DaySpring on March 1, 2008. The service will take place at 3 PM at the conclusion of the Vestry Retreat. Labyrinth builder Mike Rivera will be honored at the ceremony. Rivera donated his time and expertise to the project, which was funded by the Episcopal Church Women of the Diocese. Everyone is welcome to attend the service, especially those who contributed to the project. The labyrinth is adjacent to St. Thomas Chapel.

ANNUAL FUND

Please consider making a donations to the DaySpring Annual Fund. Our goal this year is to raise \$90,000. Proceeds are used to provide financial assistance to individuals and organizations who would otherwise be unable to attend retreats and camps at DaySpring. Gifts are tax deductible.



CURSILLO COINCIDENCE

Cursillo #113 will take place at DaySpring February 14-17. It will be almost 24 years to the day of the first Cursillo Weekend held at DaySpring. That weekend was Men's Cursillo #13 held on February 16-19, 1984. It was the very first overnight retreat held at DaySpring.



GET READY FOR SUMMER CAMP

Plans are underway for the 2008 Diocesan Summer Camps. Elementary Camp, for children in grades 3-6, will be held June 15-20. Youth Camp, for children in grades 7-12, will be held June 22-27. The cost is \$360 per camper. Several other

Summer Camps will be held at DaySpring including Camp New Horizons for children aged 7-12. The children have a parent in prison. New Horizons will be held July 20-25. Camp Able will be back on July 27-31. Camp Able is for handicapped youth aged 12-21.

RECOVERY GROUPS LOVE DAYSPRING

DaySpring plays a special role in the lives of persons in recovery. Each year, Diocesan Recovery Ministries holds two open 12-Step retreats at DaySpring. Their next retreat is March 14-16. Matt Talbot Ministries is another recovery group that comes to DaySpring several times a year. The organization, which has its roots in the Roman Catholic Church, will be holding a retreat at DaySpring February 22-24.

CLERGY SPOUSE RETREAT

The Episcopal Clergy Spouse Association of the Diocese will be on retreat at DaySpring March 28-29. The annual event gives spouses of clergy a chance to get away for a quiet weekend and reconnect with old friends and make new ones. Its a chance to share experiences and support one another.

HOPE COMES TO DAYSPRING

DaySpring welcomes Camp Hope back to DaySpring on February 15-17. The camp is sponsored by the Hospice of the Florida Suncoast. It is for children going through the grieving process following the death of a loved one.

BUDDHIST RETREAT

The Kadampa Meditation Center in Sarasota will be holding a Buddhist retreat at DaySpring March 28-30. DaySpring welcomes persons of all faith traditions, as well as not-for-profit and educational organizations, as part of our ministry of hospitality.



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