



The conference center of the Episcopal Diocese of Southwest Florida

DaySpring DAY

APRIL 2008



DaySpring Says Goodbye and God Bless

There were tears and laughs and lots of hugs and kisses as friends and coworkers came together on March 27th to say goodbye to DaySpring Executive Director Rosemary Benoit. Rosemary leaves DaySpring after eight years of service. Her connections to DaySpring go back well over 25 years. She and her family came with other volunteers to help clear the land for what would become the Episcopal Conference Center. She also served as a member of the first DaySpring Board of Directors. Rosemary leaves DaySpring a much bigger, better and financially stronger place. This year, DaySpring expects to serve over 35,000 guests and produce earnings of \$2.3 million. When she took over the Director's job, earnings were \$890,000. During her tenure, the Youth Camping area was constructed. This nearly doubled the number of overnight accommodations, which now totals 315 beds. Reservations and revenue are just two indicators of what Rosemary did for DaySpring. Bishop Dabney Smith and a host of others offered remarks honoring Rosemary at her retirement party. Canon Michael Durning beautifully captured what Rosemary had accomplished at DaySpring when he told of visiting St. Paul's Cathedral in London and seeing the memorial to its architect, Christopher Wren. The inscription read, "If you would seek his monument, look around you." Rosemary credits much of DaySpring's success to her staff. "Once or twice in a lifetime you get the privilege of working with a group of people who enjoy what they do and work so well with each other. This is passed on to our guests who feel the love. That's what the ministry of hospitality is all about and it's what makes DaySpring such a special place." The staff presented Rosemary with several gifts including a DaySpring hat filled with the pins she gave out to staff members each time they went "above and beyond" what was expected. The pins say, "I Make A Difference - DaySpring." It was the staff's way of telling Rosemary how much she meant to them and how much of a difference she made in the success of DaySpring. Rosemary is joining husband Ray in the family business, Benoit Woodcrafters, in St. Petersburg. The company builds high-end custom furniture for commercial and residential properties. Rosemary said she looks forward to the new challenge of building the family business but she will miss DaySpring very much. Dr. Charles Wallace has been appointed as the interim director for one year beginning May 1. Rosemary says he is an excellent choice and will be a great help in finding a permanent replacement. Her advice to her successors is, "Continue the ministry of hospitality, love God, love DaySpring, love the Diocese, love all people and love your staff."

New Interim Director Named



Dr. Charles Wallace long and extensive background in conference center management. He is Dean of the professional certification program of the International Association of Conference Center Administrators. For twenty-five years, he served as President and CEO of the West Coast Cooperative United Camps, Conferences and Retreats. His most recent position was as Interim Director of the Seabeck Conference Center near Seattle, Washington.

Comfort Quilts

Quilters from St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Venice have donated over 100 quilts to DaySpring. The special "Comfort Quilts" were lovingly created over the past year. They will be given to special needs children who will be attending various camps at DaySpring this summer. Thank you for your beautiful creations, and thank you for your even more beautiful love for the children





“Grace Upon Grace” Summer Camp



The theme of this year’s diocesan summer camp is “Grace Upon Grace.” The camp, as it has been for several years, is a mutual ministry of the Diocese of Southwest and Southeast Florida. Camp Director, the Rev. Kit Tate, says the camp is designed to “help build, nurture and live in an intentionally Christ-centered community.” New this year is the addition of theater professionals who will provide drama options as well as visitors from the Mote Marine Institute in Sarasota and students from the Ringling College of Art and Design who will lead art workshops. Elementary Camp, for youth in grades 3-6, is June 15-20. Youth Camp, for youth in grades 7-12, is June 22-27. The deadline for registration is June 1. The cost is \$360. For more information and registration, visit the Youth section of the Diocesan web site at www.episcopalswfl.org.



DaySpring Detour

For about ten days in March, road and sewer construction and the installation of a new lift station along the main road leading to DaySpring required guests make a several mile detour. The work was completed on March 29. The alternate route gave travelers the opportunity to see the extensive residential development that has grown up to the east of DaySpring during the past ten years.



Camp Able Coming Back

Camp Able, a camp for youth ages 12-21 with special needs, will be back at DaySpring for its second year July 27-31. The theme of this year’s camp is “Curious George Goes To the Holy Land.” The cost is \$350 and the deadline for registration is April 15. Camp Director, The Rev.

Kyle Bennett, rector of St. Mark’s Marco Island, describes the camp as “A vacation, Christmas morning and family reunion all rolled up together and spread out over five days.” For more information, call Father Bennett at 239-394-7242 or visit the Camp Able web site at www.campable.org.

Camp Erin

The Hospice of the Florida Suncoast, based in St. Petersburg, will be holding Camp Erin at DaySpring April 25-27. The camp, formally called Camp Triple L, is for children and teens that have recently lost a loved one and are in the bereavement process.

Buddhists Find DaySpring Beautiful

One hundred seventy-five Buddhists from southwest Florida met at DaySpring March 28-30 for a weekend retreat focused on a meditation technique designed for rejuvenation and purification. The retreat was organized by the Kadampa Meditation Center in Sarasota. A representative from the group said the peace and tranquility of DaySpring makes it a perfect place for meditation. DaySpring welcomes people of all faith traditions, as well as educational and not-for-profit organizations as part of its ministry of hospitality.

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