

THE EAST TENNESSEE EPISCOPALIAN

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Church women enjoy annual fall gathering

• **By Sharon Rasmussen**
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A service of Holy Eucharist celebrated by Bishop Charles von Rosenberg launched the annual meeting of the diocesan Episcopal Church Women on Sept. 5 at Resurrection, Loudon.

The Rev. Claire Keene, Resurrection's rector, preached on the subject of relationships, saying in part, "We all have these stories ... women who've weathered all kinds of crises and hardships. Somehow every one of these women has made a difference in our lives; they've shaped the lives of our mothers and grandmothers." She reminded those attending that, "By God's grace, as it works through the motley mix of us, we all will make a difference."

In the official meeting following the service, the credentials report identified 15 parishes represented at the annual meeting, with 63 present. A number of reports were made.

The Mollie Tucker scholarship chair, Cheryl Jones, introduced Yasameen Hoffman Shahin of St. James, Knoxville, who was selected this year's recipient of a \$1,500 scholarship. She is a music major at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, and shared her gifts by playing the guitar and singing for the assembly.

In a report of the United Thank Offering chair, Elizabeth Stiefel of St. John Cathedral, Knoxville, said that 12 East Tennessee parishes had contributed more than \$10,000 during the past year. Churchwide, UTO awarded 104 grants totaling \$2.4 million, half within the United States and half beyond our borders. There were no East Tennessee applicants.

The outgoing president, Arline Caliger of St. Francis of Assisi, Ooltewah, gave gifts to members of her board. The bishop installed Nancy Bosson of Ascension,



Nancy Gideon and Betsy Oglesby of St. Paul, Kingsport, visit in the Resurrection, Loudon, parish hall during the registration time prior to the annual meeting of the diocesan Episcopal Church Women.



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*The Rev. Canon Mary Lee Bergeron,
who suggested focus on an image
as an aid to meditation*



Photos by Sharon Rasmussen

Cheryl Jones introduces Yasameen Hoffman Shahin of St. James, Knoxville, 2007 recipient of the Mollie Tucker scholarship, as ECW diocesan President Arline Caliger observes.

Knoxville, as president of the diocesan ECW for one year. Other new board members were to be installed at a later meeting, including Cathy Varner as secretary, Georgia Nelson as Christian missions chair and Katie Piper as nominations chair.

The Rev. Canon Mary Lee Bergeron of St. John Cathedral, Knoxville, led a workshop after lunch.

"All of you already know how to meditate, because it's a form of prayer," she told those gathered. "Meditation is one way to go deeper into your spiritual journey."

She held up a plaque depicting

the biblical story of Jonah and the whale and said, "Scriptural meditation is the easiest for me: Scripture has so many wonderful images."

She suggested repeating a phrase like "God's peace" when other thoughts became distracting. Or focus on music, one's breathing or on an object, such as a candle flame or icon: "Eventually you'll learn to trust yourself and your ability to be still," she said.

Bergeron's CD of meditative music with harpist Elizabeth Farr, titled "God's Healing Light," is available at the cathedral or through Chapter and Verse Bookshop in the Diocesan House.