



DaySpring TODAY

News from the conference center of the Episcopal Diocese of Southwest Florida

WINTER 2009

Coping With New Realities

“The new economy!” ... that’s what DaySpring Director Dr. Charles Wallace calls the economic slump affecting almost everyone. “Our center is taking positive action to be able to serve our constituency in a world of changed economics. Our goal is to continue to provide a high quality experience to all who come to DaySpring while making ourselves lean and flexible in our operation.” Wallace added, “We are not waiting and wondering if an economic tsunami is about to wash over us. Instead, we are building strength by learning to operate in a financial climate that may be with us for quite some time.”



*DaySpring Director
Dr. Charles Wallace*

DaySpring has reduced expenses by adopting a new staffing structure. The Guest Services, Building and Grounds Maintenance and Housekeeping Departments have been consolidated into a single Operations Department under the direction of Ken Provost. Reservations and the Front Desk are now a single department directed by Angela Green. A new Food Service Director, Thomas Gottschalk, has been able to increase quality while cutting cost through more “from scratch” cooking and careful inventory control.

Increased awareness about the care and conservation of resources has resulted in a “greening” of the center’s operation. Energy saving practices and devices are reducing costs while demonstrating environmental integrity.

With an anticipated 30% reduction in use and the subsequent revenue decline, some layoffs have been necessary. But, as many employees as possible have been retained through more efficient staffing and some hour reductions. This is critical in that much of the personality of DaySpring is created by the staff.

Speaking about the changes, Wallace noted “We continue to produce the same high level of service for our guests and, in fact, it is likely that, with more focused energy on the part of all of us, those we serve will actually see us improve as we cope with the new realities.”

Presiding Bishop On Conference Centers



*Presiding Bishop Katharine
Jefferts Schori*

The Most Rev. Dr. Katharine Jefferts Schori spoke to Episcopal Camp and Conference Center Directors (ECCC) at their annual meeting in Mississippi in January. She called the present time a “time of great anxiety” and said it is now more important than ever for groups to come together and form deeper relationships. She said Episcopal Conference Centers, like DaySpring, can and should play a key role in this. She also stressed the importance of Conference Centers in Youth Ministry. She said Christian formation is greatly enhanced by what young people experience while attending camps and retreats.

International Vocare Conference Coming In March

DaySpring will host the International Conference of Vocare March 26-29. Vocare is a ministry for young adults aged 18-30. Its mission is to provide young adults with opportunities for spiritual renewal and discovery. For more information about the conference and registration go to the Vocare section of the Diocese of Southwest Florida web site at www.episcopalswfl.org/vocare.

Asian-American Ministries Conference

DaySpring will play host to the international conference of Episcopal Asian-American Ministries in June. An estimated 150 delegates will attend the five day conference beginning on June 17. For more information about the conference or this ministry you may contact Archdeacon Dennis McManis, Diocese of Southwest Florida Canon for Mission and Outreach, at 941-555-0315, ext. 249.

DaySpring At General Convention

DaySpring is making a concerted effort to attract more national conventions and part of that effort involves having a booth at this summer’s General Convention of the Episcopal Church. The 76th General Convention will be held July 8-17 in Anaheim, California.

Summer Availability

DaySpring still has space available this summer especially during the mid-week. This is a great time for small groups and families to spend time together. All meals and recreational areas are available at no additional cost. Contact the Reservations Department for more information at 1-888-314-5744.

DaySpring-Pathfinder Partnership

DaySpring and Pathfinder Outdoor Education of St. Petersburg have deepened their long standing relationship in an agreement in which DaySpring agrees to use Pathfinder facilitators whenever a group asks for program assistance. Pathfinders offers a number of facilitated programs for youth and adults including the Ropes Course designed to teach team building and problem solving. Pathfinder's Executive Director Betsy McFarland and DaySpring Executive Director Dr. Charles Wallace formalized the agreement in a recent signing ceremony.



DaySpring takes delivery of new safety boat. (left to right) Ken Provost, George McLaughlin, Dr. Charles Wallace, Al Getz, Carla Odell, Judy Stark

New Safety Boat for the Canoe Basin

A grant from the Diocese of Southwest Florida made it possible to purchase a new motor boat and trailer. The boat will be used as a safety boat at the canoe basin. It will also be used for maintenance activities along the river and pond. The boat was presented to DaySpring by representatives of the diocese in November.

DaySpring and the Deep Freeze

A generous gift of \$3,600 from the Episcopal Church Women of St. Michaels and All Angels on Sanibel Island made it possible for DaySpring to purchase a much needed commercial freezer. Storage in DaySpring's relatively small kitchen is at a premium. The new unit will be a big help in reducing costs by enabling us to be able to purchase in greater bulk. DaySpring serves over 100,000 meals per year.

Flag Retires



David Roberts and Patrick Nugent from "The Gathering" presented DaySpring with a new American Flag for our youth camping area. Students from St. Andrews Episcopal School in Boca Raton volunteered to lead the retirement and raise the new flag. The old flag was given to Boy Scout Troop 811 for disposal in a formal flag burning ceremony.

Annual Fund

The uncertain economy is having an adverse impact on charitable giving. Contributions are needed more than ever and that includes the DaySpring Annual Fund. The Fund is used to help support the conference center and assist individuals and groups that would otherwise be unable to afford to attend programs at DaySpring. Contributions should be made out to the DaySpring Annual Fund and sent directly to DaySpring at P.O. Box 661, Ellenton, Florida 34222.

Contact information:

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