



Dear ECW Presidents,

It is with great pleasure that the women of St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Houston, invite you and the women of your parish to attend the 108<sup>th</sup> Diocese of Texas Annual Meeting and Retreat which will be held at Camp Allen in Navasota on October 16 and 17, 2009.

The theme for this year's retreat is "**Stepping Up, Answering the Call.**" Please join us for a weekend of spiritual growth and renewal. Your weekend will be filled with stimulating workshops, wonderful fellowship and time for your "early" holiday shopping with a variety of vendors.

The outreach project for this year will benefit **St. Vincent's House** located in Galveston. St. Vincent's House is a non-profit social service agency designed to serve the working poor of the greater Galveston community. They meet the real and immediate needs of their community by providing food, shelter, healthcare and childcare. St. Vincent's House was formed in 1954 and has become an urban mission of the Episcopal Diocese of Texas and a recognized Jubilee Ministry. Some of the tangible needs of this ministry include nonperishable foods, pop top canned food that does not require cooking, small toiletry items (hotel/travel size) for women and men, new or "gently used" pre-school books, and educational toys for ages 2 – 5.

Please **step up and answer the call** with donations to benefit St. Vincent's House. Your gift of these items will enhance the lives of the people served by this ministry. Baskets to receive donations will be in the registration area.

Enclosed you will find the Registration Form, Schedule of Activities, and Workshop Summaries. Please share all this information with the women of your church and encourage all to attend. Additional forms are available at [epicenter.org](http://epicenter.org) and [stmarks-houston.org](http://stmarks-houston.org). Form can be completed on-line and then printed for mailing. Registration forms and payment should be mailed to Lynn Stevens, registrar, at the address provided. If your group is interested in reserving a cabin, please call Lynn for details.

We look forward to seeing you at Camp Allen in October for worship, rejuvenation and inspiration to "Step Up and Answer the Call!"

Cheryl Rowland, 2009 Annual Meeting Chair  
St. Mark's Episcopal Church