

Eastern Panhandle Women's Ministries: Women's Healing Service

In the fall of 2004, a group of Eastern Panhandle women came together for community and ministry development. Out of this a sub-group was formed to discuss Susan MacDonald's proposal for a monthly non-denomination healing service for those seeking spiritual, physical or emotional healing for grief, illness or abuse. Canon Debbie Short joined Susan, Mary Ann Hammann, Carline Shaw, Sr. Miriam, Marilyn Bartoes, Sr. Mary Martha and the Rev's. Sr. Julian, Laurie Moyer & Georgia Dubose to develop this project.

When asked why this particular ministry, Susan (pictured, left, with the Rev. Laurie Moyer) explains, "I have spent many years working with women in crisis, and am keenly aware of the healing power of safety and solace. Our team decided to put the words 'the Episcopal Church welcomes you,' regardless of your faith affiliation, into action by offering God's comforting presence through an ongoing communal journey."



The Rev. G.T. Schramm graciously offered Trinity Shepherdstown as the host location and the inaugural service was held on May 12, 2005 with 22 in attendance. There have been fourteen services held since then, supported by the musical gifts of Saundra Moreland and Nancy Marmorella. Celebrant Laurie Moyer says, "This is a meaningful and deeply moving service because women have shared their troubles and brought them to God through the Holy Spirit in hope of solace and peace."