

**SPECIAL  
POINTS OF  
INTEREST:**

- **Someone I Know Needs Help ...**
- **Prayers for the Voiceless**
- **Healing Wounds**
- **Who We Are**
- **We Will Travel**

## Family Violence: How Churches Can Help Victims Heal

Battering is the single major cause of injury to women, exceeding auto accidents, rapes, and muggings.

Domestic violence occurs in approximately 50% of all American families. Domestic violence occurs among families in every race, ethnic group, and socioeconomic level.

Children who grow up in violent families often become victims or abusers in their adult relationships.

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Domestic abuse, family violence, partner violence, battery and spousal abuse are some of the many names for violence in intimate relationships. Whatever the name, it is always about control of the victim through physical, spiritual, or emotional violence. And it is always wrong.

Because domestic violence occurs at home, we often don't realize that it happens in fifty percent of American families. We are not aware that we worship, go to church suppers and attend Bible study with women and children who go home to fear and abuse.

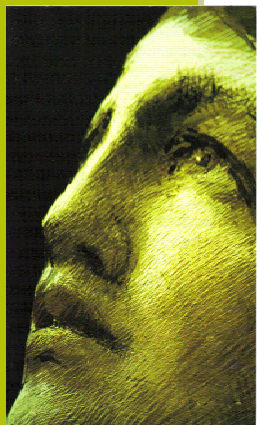
Formed late last year, *Healing A Woman's Soul* will equip par-

ishes with the tools to identify and support women victims of domestic violence, past and present, through parish education, training, coordination, and healing prayer.

Unlike other organizations, we have a Christian spiritual focus and will offer in-parish or local training and support so that Christian communities can be knowledgeable about domestic violence and safer refuges for victims. We will also coordinate healing prayer classes which benefit us all, but are especially comforting to victims who may have been blamed for the abuse or told that the Bible approves of such abuse.

*Healing A Woman's Soul* is currently planting this ministry in a rural area, Christ Church in Coxsackie, NY. We have offered a domestic violence training program for pastors which was well received. As HWS grows, we are looking forward to reaching out beyond our current location to reach more individuals in need. Already we anticipate establishing the ministry in suburban and inner city churches to meet the needs of those communities, along with those turning to the church for help and healing. Please keep this ministry in your prayers and offer your support.

In Christ's service,  
Mother Anne Curtin



Learning to trust  
God

*I am convinced that nothing can separate us from God's love that is revealed in Christ"*

Romans 8:38/39



Mother Anne

# Healing Wounds: Learning To Trust

The wounds of domestic violence go deep. The persons who were supposed to protect and honor us broke bodies and souls. To heal, women need to learn to trust.

The Rev. Nigel Mumford, Episcopal priest and the author of The Forgotten Touch, has learned how to trust again. He was wounded in combat. His scars from that experience were physical, emotional and long lasting. He struggled with his faith and questioned God. Yet God healed those memories.

That same faith struggle faces domestic violence victims, and the same opportunity for heal-

ing exists. Rev. Mumford describes it this way. "Anger at both the perpetrator and at God often pours out ... Many emotions are exposed during inner healing. When we pray for healing of memories we affirm that Jesus is with us now ... Just as he witnessed the crime, he is now witnessing the healing ... Inner healing is rather like taking the memory that is stored on a computer disk out of the brain, allowing Christ to lay his hands on it and heal the memory and then returning it to the brain healed ... the physical reaction and inner torment has gone."

At the Christ the King Spiritual Life Center

in Greenwich, New York, where Rev. Mumford is Director of the Healing Ministry, there are opportunities for and classes in healing of memories. These are some of the healing resources which the *Healing A Woman's Soul* ministry believes will benefit both churches and survivors of domestic violence.

"Wouldn't it be wonderful if as people person drove past a church they thought, "That's a place of healing" says Rev. Mumford. *Healing A Woman's Soul* agrees.

Rev. Mumford will be a contributing author for this newsletter.

## Who We Are

*Healing a Woman's Soul* is an outgrowth of Mother Anne Curtin's outreach to women in need. She was a high school teacher, an attorney and is now an Episcopal priest. She helped start the Albany Episcopal Dio-

cese's Survivors of Abuse Service and oversaw their program, "Godly Boundaries" that addressed abuse and prevention issues. Formerly the pastor of Holy Cross Church in Troy, New York, she coordinates

*Healing A Woman's Soul* from Christ Church in Coxsackie, New York as the missionary for ministries outside parish boundaries. She and her husband Dan enjoy their family, dog Casey, and the Yankees.

# Someone I Know Needs Help ...

## DO:

ASK.  
EXPRESS CONCERN.  
LISTEN AND VALIDATE.  
OFFER HELP.  
SUPPORT HER DECISIONS.

## DON'T:

WAIT FOR HER TO COME TO YOU.  
JUDGE OR BLAME.  
PRESSURE HER.  
GIVE ADVICE.  
PLACE CONDITIONS ON YOUR SUPPORT.

"Quicklist" is reprinted with permission by  
NYS Office of the Prevention of Domestic Violence.

*"One out of  
three  
women  
worldwide  
has been  
beaten,  
coerced  
into sex, or  
otherwise  
abused in  
her  
lifetime."  
YWAM*

# Prayers for the Voiceless

To end gender bias crimes such as domestic violence, Youth With a Mission (YWAM) wants to mobilize 100,000 Christians to pray for five minutes for thirty days using

pictures, stories and pleas for God's intervention and release of His churches for action against these sins. The prayer guide is called "Thirty Days of Prayer for

the Voiceless." It is published by YWAM and is available from *WorldChristian.com* for \$4.00 each or less for orders of 10 or more.

# Grace In Giving

Episcopal Charities of Albany, New York has seeded \$8,500 for partial support of our operational expenses. Christ Church, Coxsackie, New York is the current home for *Heal-*

*ing A Woman's Soul.* They assist in all aspects of this ministry, including the printing in-house of this newsletter in color. Others have generously defrayed mailing costs;

knitted prayer shawls and donated partial scholarships for women victims to retreat and meditation days. Thank you for all you have done and all you will do.

# Sole Reality

Whether its spelled 'soul' or 'sole', our heart is helping you lead women domestic violence victims to healing. To do that, we believe that Jesus Christ is our soul's sole foundation and likes meaningful puns.

# Knitted In Love

To knit prayer shawls for abuse victims, please contact us at:  
518-731-9883,  
*motheranne@berk.com*, or  
Christ Church  
70 Mansion St.  
Coxsackie, NY 12051

# Will Travel ...

We are ready to spread the news. Please invite us to give a presentation to your parish or organization. Mother Anne is also available to lead healing retreats or meditation days. For more information, please call 518-755-3325 or email her at *motheranne@berk.com*.

**Healing A Woman's Soul**  
Learning To Trust  
Mother Anne Curtin  
Christ Episcopal Church  
70 Mansion Street  
Coxsackie, NY 12051

## *Ministry Partners: Healing A Woman's Soul*

*Healing A Woman's Soul* is a new parish-based Christian ministry to women victims of domestic violence. Through parish education, training and support, we want to eliminate the physical, sexual, emotional, spiritual and child abuse, often suffered by these women and their families.

To grow this ministry, we need your help. Please join us as we pray daily for women and children victims.

Donating is simple. Here are just a few examples of how you can help now!

**Parish Sponsor (\$200)**  
**Retreat scholarships (\$25-75);**  
**Newsletter (\$100);**  
**Program Material for Parish Training (\$200).**

All donations are tax deductible and checks should be made out to *Healing A Woman's Soul*.

We realize that giving is a very personal choice, and we hope that you will thoughtfully consider what you can offer to this growing ministry of hope for those who need to heal from the wounds of domestic violence. You can be confident

that your gift will make a difference, and we are grateful for the opportunity to reach out to you.

For more information, to donate or volunteer your expertise, please contact *Healing A Woman's Soul* at:

518 - 731 - 9883 or  
[motheranne@berk.com](mailto:motheranne@berk.com), or  
**Healing A Woman's Soul  
Christ Church  
70 Mansion St.  
Coxsackie, NY 12051.**

Thank you. You can be certain that we are holding you in our prayers.