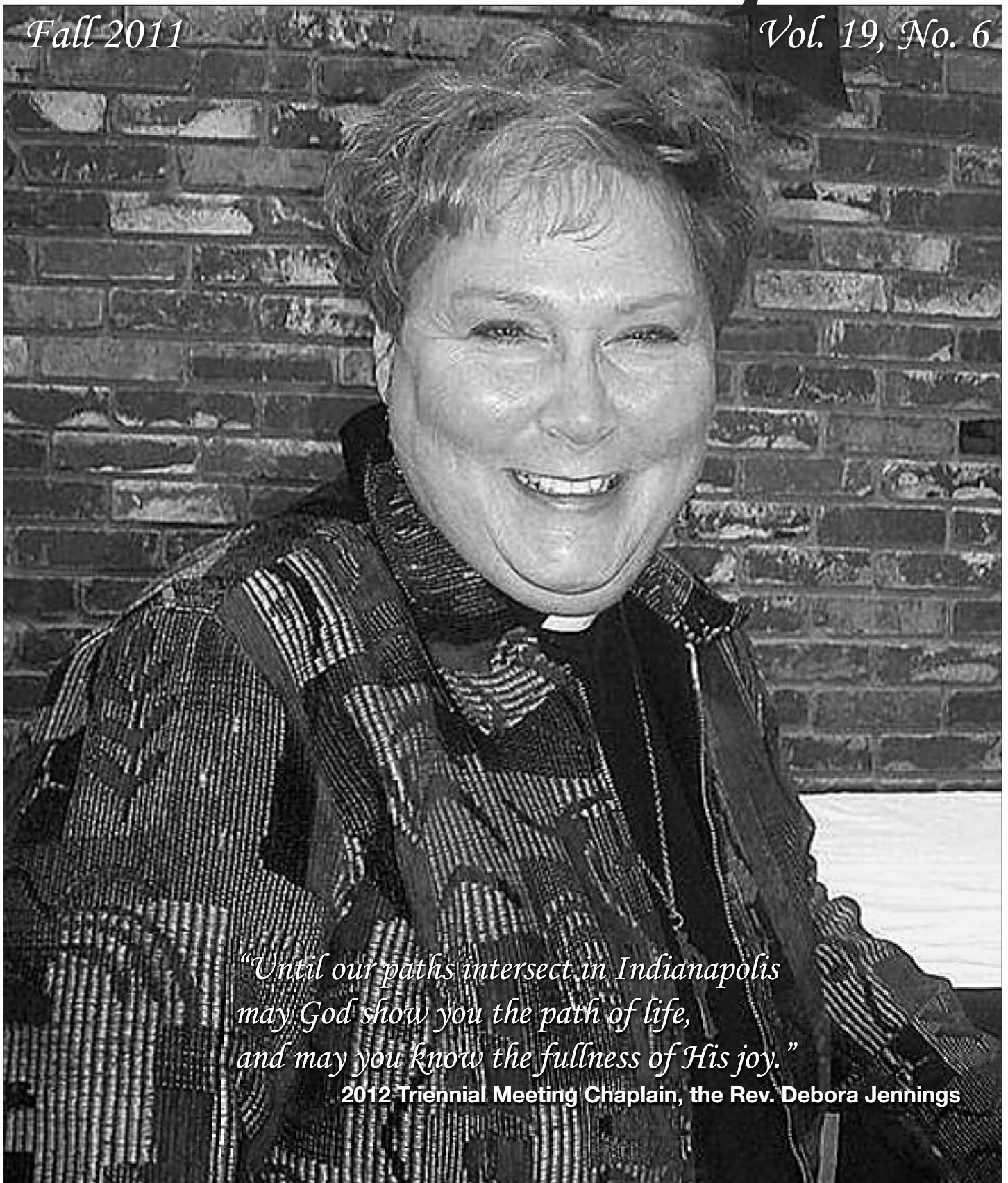


Communiqué

Fall 2011

Vol. 19, No. 6



*“Until our paths intersect in Indianapolis
may God show you the path of life,
and may you know the fullness of His joy.”*

2012 Triennial Meeting Chaplain, the Rev. Debora Jennings

Communiqué

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**Deadline for the next
edition of *Communiqué*
is Oct. 15.**

From the President's Desk

Streams of water feed our bodies, our souls

Most of the country has had record heat this summer. Keeping cool and safe in those circumstances is important. One of the best ways to keep cool in the high temperatures is with water.

In July, the National ECW Board met at a Franciscan retreat center in Colorado Springs, Colo. Many deer live on the grounds of the center, which is in the foothills very near the Garden of the Gods. Check out our facebook page – facebook.com/ecwnational – for photos. You will even find there a photo with a plaque from the garden that quotes Psalm 42:1, “As the deer longs for streams of water, so I long for you, O God.”

Also in July, my husband and I moved our daughter-in-law and the grandchildren from Texas to Arkansas. The day we loaded in Texas, the temperature was 113. Unloading in Arkansas was just as hot, but more humid.

Living in the high desert of Wyoming, temperatures sometime get into the low but the average relative humidity in July is 36 percent. Working in temperatures of more than 100 degrees with the humidity of 80 percent or higher was a challenge. Even putting shelf paper in the cupboards in the kitchen was hot. Talking about the heat on the way home, my husband said he

now has a new appreciation for water.

As the deer longs for water, I, too, found myself longing for streams of water; cold water to drink, to rinse my face or even water a little warmer for a nice shower. It was after I got home and was reflecting on both the move and the meeting that I began to wonder do I long for God as I thirst for water?

Sometimes when we are thirsty, we drink something else besides water. We try soda, tea, energy drinks or lemonade. In most cases, those drinks don't do the job. They are full of sugar, caffeine and other things that can act as a dehydrator.

Our bodies crave water for a reason: It does the best job.

The same can be said of “thirsting for God.” Trying to fill that craving with work, hobbies, food, television or the internet may satisfy the longing for a time, but in the long run, the craving comes back. There is One who is perfect for satisfying that thirst or longing.

I am trying to drink more water, whether it is hot or not. I know that it is good for me, on the inside and out. It keeps my organs working correctly, and is good for my hair and skin.

Similarly, God is good for me inside and out. He keeps my insides in their best working order and my outside show His love to others.

Water and God, I'm seeking more of both.

*God's peace to you,
Marcia Himes*



**Marcia Himes
ECW National
President**

As you read this *Communiqué*, we will be hard at work on the next issue, which will focus on women's health ministries. Oct. 15 is the deadline for that edition. Nurse Ginny Wagenseller from the Diocese of Connecticut has titled her article “What is health ministry and what does it have to do with the Episcopal Church?” The rector and nurse of Grace Church in the Diocese of Rhode Island will provide information on the many programs and workshops they offer. I am sure many of you have similar ministries in your parish, diocese or province. Please share this with all Episcopal Church Women. Send us your articles.

Board announces musician, chaplain

By Patsy Duncan
Province VII Representative

We've had wonderful meetings with our Triennial Meeting chaplain and musician. Both are joyful and energetic people. We are confident you will enjoy them in Indianapolis and we are so excited for you to get to know them.

Adam Graham, our Triennial Meeting musician, is 25 years old and is organist and minister of music at Trinity Church, Washington, D.C. You will be delighted with his youthful exuberance as he leads us in singing gathering music and provides music for our worship services at our Triennial Meeting.

The Rev. Debora L. Jennings will serve us as Triennial Meeting chaplain. She is vicar of St. Basil's in Tahlequah, Okla., and serves as spiritual director for the diocesan ECW board. She is overflowing with creative ideas for our worship celebrations. She is already brainstorming about a path for the meditations she will present to us at the Triennial Meeting.

Adam has held positions as an accompanist, choral and chil-



Adam Graham



The Rev. Debora Jennings

dren's choir director, organist and director of handbell ensembles. He has worked with professional and volunteer choirs as well as several gospel recording artists. For the past eight years, he has been the concert conductor for "Jubilate," a non-profit choir which performs concerts in churches and senior living facilities. Adam has performed numerous concerts as an organist and pianist, and is in high demand as a conductor. Active in the Diocese of Washington, he has volunteered for diocesan events including leading Choral Evensong for the Bishop John T. Walker School for Boys. In addition to his church ministry, he teaches piano, theory and voice. Adam is also a figure skater, and has taught group lessons.

Mother Debora is an experienced retreat author and facilitator. She brings to her ministry a passion and gifts for liturgy and music. She received training as a spiritual director at The Shalem Institute. College chaplaincy is near and dear to her heart and she has served as chaplain of Arizona State University and been an adjunct faculty at Southern Utah University, Yakima Valley Community College and Northeastern State University in Oklahoma. She is dedicated to supporting women's education.

Debora has a wide variety of interests including writing, photography, hiking, and needlework. Five of her poems are part of the text of *Lifting Women's Voices*, published by Church Publishing.

Adam said he thinks "the role of church music is spiritually meeting the needs of people and forming a caring community where all are invited to share and grow in the love of God."

Mother Debora said she loves "to see people smile and laugh. I believe God wants us to be joyful in our worship and everyday life."

Plan to be part of the excitement at Triennial Meeting 2012 in Indianapolis.

Networking at Noon: A Triennial Meeting addition

Submitted By Christine Budzowski
Member at Large, Multi Media

Do you have questions about communicating through Facebook, low-cost web sites, digital photography or how to be safer with your online computing?

With a shortened Triennial Meeting schedule for 2012, we don't have much time to cover all the topics that might be of interest to ECW members.

But, Networking at Noon will offer a way to connect with others who share your interests and create an ongoing group to support one another after we leave Indianapolis and return home.

On four days during the hour break for lunch, Networking at Noon will offer those who have questions about all aspects

of working in an online environment the chance for about 40 minutes of quick answers and introductions, resources to help you get answers and connect with others and a permanent online meeting environment through the ECW web site and/or Facebook private groups.

Those interested in taking advantage of Networking at Noon will meet in the Plenary Room so you won't miss a thing and you'll be ready for the start of the afternoon session when the lunch break ends.

Four meetings are scheduled to give you ample opportunity to also visit the Exhibit Hall or other venues during the lunch breaks as well.

Potential topics include Using Facebook to Share the Good News, Facebook and Youth, Free Wordpress web sites for

local ECW and How to do Digital Photography.

Each session will be facilitated by a knowledgeable person who can answer your questions on the spot or find the answers for you and supply them to the group.

We do plan to expand this offering, and it is still in the planning stages. We are REALLY excited about the possibilities though and could not wait to let you know what we have in store for you.

If you have a suggestion for a topic that holds special interest for you, or you would like to offer your expertise for one or more topics, please email ecwwebmaster@ecwnational.org.

I'm already looking forward to meeting you in Indianapolis next summer.

Triennial Meeting needs perfect for Westin space

Submitted by Cordelia Burt
National Vice President-Programs

One big question keeps being asked at ECW gatherings: “Why are we meeting at the Westin and not in the Convention Center for Triennial Meeting 2012?”

Here are a few reasons for that choice:

- If the Triennial Meeting space were located in the convention center in Indianapolis, we would be meeting in a room as large as the House of Deputies with cement floors and a vast expanse of unused space. We are quite a bit smaller than the House of Deputies and we would be lost in all that space.
- We would also have been away from the meeting space of the House of Bishops and the House of Deputies with the Exhibit Hall between us and the House of Deputies.
- By meeting in the Westin Hotel, we

have a ballroom with carpet and a smaller square footage that better suits our space needs of a family-like setting for meetings and for offices of the Secretariat, national board and UTO board right around the corner from the plenary room and the reporters right across the hall.

How convenient for everyone to have everything on the same floor. I believe we will be the only people on this floor for the whole time. We are the only house meeting at the Westin and we will have the individual attention of the hotel staff.

I would like everyone to understand that General Convention did not remove us from the convention center and did not ask us to go to a hotel. This decision came after ECW National President Marcia Himes and I visited the space in the convention center and the hotel and made the decision to hold our meeting at the Westin. By doing so, we are also saving General

SAVE THE DATE

The 47th
Episcopal Church Women
Triennial Meeting
Many Paths,
One Journey
July 5-12, 2012
Westin Hotel,
Indianapolis, Indiana

Convention a few dollars.

Remember the convention center is only a walk across the street by a covered walk or down one flight of stairs to the ground floor and out the side door.

The House of Bishops is sad we won't be next door to serenade them throughout the convention, but I have assured them that they are welcome to come over anytime they need a song and we would stop and sing for them.

DWA nominees sought

Submitted by Margaret A. Cash
Province II Representative

The Distinguished Woman Award, formerly the Honored Woman Award, will be presented to a deserving woman from each diocese in a special celebration July 7 at the 47th ECW Triennial Meeting in Indianapolis. In a mailing sent in March, diocesan presidents or contact persons were asked to give careful thought to identify a woman who deserves the name Distinguished Woman in your diocese. We also asked you to share why you believe she is worthy of this honor. Please make your decision and send the information to us by Dec. 31 so we can complete the program booklet in early 2012. Members of the current National ECW Board are not eligible to receive the award.

The nomination form, along with a 4x5 photograph, in color if possible, must also be sent by Dec. 31. The biography and the picture will be included in the booklet. Please send the completed form and photograph to: Margaret A. Cash, 3923 Amundson Avenue, Bronx, New York, 10466. You may send the photo as a jpeg file to nancycrawford@comcast.net.

If you did not receive the DWA mailing or need further information, please contact me at 718-994-1946 or by email at: macash401@aol.com.

We look forward to honoring all of our Distinguished Women as we recognize the many paths they have traveled on their one journey.

Run a new path at Triennial Meeting

We have a surprise for you.

The National ECW Board will host a 5K Run/Walk as part of the 2012 Triennial Meeting in Indianapolis – the first ever in the history of Triennial Meetings.

The run is scheduled for Sunday, July 8, beginning at 6:30 a.m. You will have plenty of time to run or walk and still make it to the first meeting of the day's schedule.

The race will follow the canal route at the White River State Park, which is only minutes away from the convention site. We will be asking for sponsors and, of course, runners. All proceeds from the race will be donated to our Community Connection recipient, the Craine House.

Become a volunteer or, better yet, a runner/walker, and receive a beautiful shirt which will become a treasured piece of memorabilia.

We hope to see many bishops and deputies running alongside Episcopal Church Women for this event.

You will be hearing more on this new exciting adventure in future issues of *Communiqué*.



**Episcopal Church Women
47th Triennial Meeting (Tentative)
Indianapolis, Indiana**

TIME ↓	Mon 7/2	Tues 7/3	Wed 7/4	Thurs 7/5	Fri 7/6	Sat 7/7	Sun 7/8	Mon 7/9	Tues 7/10	Wed 7/11	Thurs 7/12
7:00							6:30 am First Tri-annual ECW 5K Run/Walk 6:30				
8:00				Committee's Orientation 8:00 - 9:00	By-law and Resolution Hearing 7:30	UTO Special Task Force Study Committee INC055 8:00 - 9:00		Many Faith's Conversation 8:00 - 9:00	ECW Province Breakfast Meeting 7:00 - 9:00		
9:00				GC OPENS 9:30-10:45	Eucharist 9:30-10:45	Eucharist 9:30-10:45	UTO Ingathering Eucharist	Eucharist 9:30-10:45	Eucharist 9:30-10:45	Eucharist 9:30-10:45	
10:00											
11:00				Delegate Orientation 11:00 - 11:45	Keynote Speaker 11:00 - 12:00	Plenary IV Distinguished Women Ceremony 11:00 - 1:00		UTO Hearings and Granting 11:00 - 1:00	Plenary VI Ministry Fair 11:00 - 1:00	Closing Celebration and Commissioning 2012-2015 ECW /UTO Boards 11:00 - 1:00	
NOON				LUNCH 12:00 - 1:00	Plenary II Nominations 12:00 - 1:00						
1:00					LUNCH 1:00 - 2:00	LUNCH 1:00 - 2:00		LUNCH 1:00 - 2:00	LUNCH 1:00 - 2:00		
2:00				Triennial Meeting Opening Celebration and Distribution of Crosses 1:00 - 2:30	Plenary III Nomination Speeches 2:00 - 3:30	Pick up ballot 1:30 Plenary V Officers Election Social Justice 2:00 - 3:30 Communication Awards 3:30 - 4:30	Diocese of Indianapolis Event	Workshops 2:00-3:30, 4:00-5:30	Workshops 2:00-3:30, 4:00-5:30	Sine Die	
3:00					UTO Presentation 3:30 - 4:30		Work Shop 2:30-4:30	Workshops 2:00-3:30, 4:00-5:30			
4:00					Finance 4:30 - 5:00	Resolutions By - Law's 4:30 - 5:30					
5:00					Meet the Nominees			Bishop's Dinner 6:30-8:00			
6:00							Province Reception	ECW Event	Seminary Reception		
7:00					ECW/UTO Combined Gala Dinner 7:00 - 9:00						
8:00											
9:00											General Convention Closing

■ = Tentative ■ = Fixed by GC

7/22/11

TRIENNIAL MEETING **SHARE FAIR**

Tuesday, July 10, 2012
11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

**What ministry is your diocese
or parish doing?
Would you like to do
something different?
Do you have a project or idea
others would be interested in
knowing about?**

Share your passion for ministries in your diocese or with your local ECW at the 2012 Triennial Meeting Share Fair. Bring a display or items that illustrate the type of work, the people served by that work and how the ECW contributes to making it work.

Bring your ministry ideas and any material you have and share with someone looking for a new idea. There will be tables set up and a short time for sharing. Have your contact information available so when we get home and are ready to start a new project, we will know who to call.

The Share Fair is not meant for fundraising; no items may be sold in the plenary room. Instead share your great ideas for ministry with other ECW members across the country on the special Share Fair display tables.

So you're going to be a delegate?

Submitted by **Connie Skidmore, RP**
ECW National Board Parliamentarian

Are you going to be a first-time delegate to the ECW Triennial Meeting in 2012? Or have you previously been a delegate?

Whatever the case, serving as a delegate to the 2012 Triennial Meeting should be an exciting time for you. So it is important that you begin to learn about what to expect.

This article is the first of three to help orient each of you to your 2012 Triennial Meeting adventure.

First of all, you will be participating in the largest meeting of Episcopal Church Women, held every three years. You will have an opportunity to meet ECW members from all nine provinces in the Episcopal Church, as well as women within the Anglican Communion, ecumenical guests and various speakers and visitors.

Secondly, as an elected person from your diocese you will be an integral part of the entire Triennial Meeting process, from the time of registration through your responsibility of reporting on your experiences as a delegate when you return home.

Prior to attending Triennial Meeting in Indianapolis in July 2012, you will receive several packets of information to review and respond to as requested. There will be a schedule so you will know what is happening on a certain day at a certain time.

All Triennial Meeting delegates are eligible to access not only ECW plenary sessions and events, but also have the opportunity to visit the General Convention Exhibit Hall, attend various informational meetings of General Convention and be part of your diocesan group for activities and/or meals during the General Convention/Triennial Meeting time.

When you arrive at the convention center in Indianapolis you will register and receive your last Triennial Meeting materials packet. You will be able to attend a delegate orientation session in the plenary room where you will be welcomed and hear helpful information to get you started. As a Triennial Meeting delegate, you will be voting on resolutions and motions in the plenary sessions.

A hearing may be held at a certain time to help you understand a resolution or other matter that will be voted on in a later plenary.

In the plenary sessions, you also will be given the opportunity to speak to issues as they are presented and to ask questions. You are always expected to follow the decorum of parliamentary procedure.

One of the best learning times will be attending the ECW workshops offered during the Triennial Meeting. There are so many good choices, it will be difficult to select just a few to attend during the time available.

One suggestion is to have each delegate in your diocese attend something different so you can each take home your experience to share with those in your diocese.

The entire ECW National Board's goal is to make this Triennial Meeting in Indianapolis a wonderful experience for each and every ECW delegate.

NETS for LIFE: A Unified Gift

Submitted by The Rev. Irene Miller Radcliff
Member at Large, Social Justice

"Casting a net," Matthew 4:18

"Let down the nets," Luke 5:4

We are casting a wide net and asking for your help in supporting Nets for Life, a program that prevents the untimely death of millions of people.

Nets for Life is a program established to prevent and eradicate malaria. Belief in scripture, our mission and the Millennium Development Goals proved reason enough for the National ECW Board to select Nets for Life as the 2009-2012 Triennial Meeting Unified Gift.

Malaria is a deadly disease that is treatable and preventable. With the right tools in place, malaria also may be eradicated.

Malaria is caused by a parasite transmitted by mosquitoes. Mosquitoes usually attack people at night as they sleep. A large portion of the world's population currently lives in malaria-affected areas. Each year, one million people die from malaria; 75 percent of those deaths are children under the age of 5.

Healing a hurting world is a major goal of the Nets for Life program and is accomplished by distributing long-lasting insecticide-treated nets and educating communities in prevention and treatment methodologies. The program also empowers the community by providing lifesaving prevention training.

The goal for the 2009-2012 Triennial Meeting Unified Gift is to purchase 1,000 nets. Because the need is great, it would be a blessing if we could exceed the goal of 1,000 nets.

We are letting down the nets in hopes of catching others to join us in this unifying gift.

Please join us in this effort to save lives. With the help of God and his people, we can make this happen.

For more information, please visit our website: www.ecwnational.org or contact me by email at socialjustice@ecwnational.org

Please send contributions to:

Sandra Powers
3 Adoracion Circle
Hot Springs, AR 71909

Please make checks payable to DFMS and specify Unified Gift in the memo line on your check.

A personal story about malaria

By Meigan Chan
Province III Representative

I grew up in Guyana, then known as British Guiana, where there are mosquitoes and malaria. As a small child, my aunt took me on vacation to Essequibo, the most beautiful part of the country. We have cousins whose property lies between the sea and the river and close to one of nature's wonders, The Hot and Cold Lake. I was no more than about 6 years old, but I still remember the excitement of being in a boat and putting my hands into the water on one side hot and then on the other side quite cold.

Some time after returning to the city of Georgetown where we lived, I started to have intermittent fevers. To everyone's horror it was obvious I had been bitten by an Anopheles mosquito, the female of which carries the disease from one person to the other, and had contracted malaria. In the city, the mosquitoes had been irradiated and malaria wiped out. We no longer slept with the white cotton mosquito nets spread over the bed and well tucked in after you were settled, that had been previously part of every household. Also, mosquitoes do not settle if there is a breeze. Since we were so close to the Atlantic Ocean, there were lots of sea breezes.

For me luckily, my uncle was the chief chemist and druggist at Booker's, the major chain of drug stores in the city and my father was part of the City Inspection Team with Dr. Gigiolli, the then-malaria expert from Italy. I remember the bitter-tasting quinine I had to drink and being kept in bed for what seemed to be the longest time during the Easter holidays when I was expecting to go on another trip. After I was deemed cured and allowed my freedom came the specific tonics to "build me back." All were nasty tasting, but the malaria never recurred.

This would be the end of the story if I had not – many years later, when I had my first child at Columbia Presbyterian Hospital in New York – run into an elderly doctor who did not know anything about the tropics and made assumptions. After Paul's birth, my tests showed what the doctor decided was syphilis. Every one in our family had to be tested, including my husband and baby – all negative. The doctor decided it must be dormant in my system. As far as I knew, that was impossible. I was young, naïve and thoroughly embarrassed. I was given weekly or bi-weekly penicillin injections for six weeks to no avail. All the tests continued to be the same. Finally he gave up.

Sometime after that, I was speaking with a nurse, who was a friend of our family. I was still very puzzled and learned from the nurse that once you have had malaria, even when cured, one certain blood test can show something that can be mistaken for this disease. What should have been done was to give me another test, especially as nothing was changing, which shows the correct result.

Further, as a regular blood donor to the Red Cross I realized that I had forgotten all about malaria so never thought to declare it. When I did so, my blood went to make plasma.

Only with the protection of sleeping under nets and knowing how to use them properly, can we see the eradication of malaria, a lifetime disease that attacks the weakest – especially women and children.



Meigan Chan

Chaplain's message:**Triennial Meeting theme has meaning for all**

As a child, I was gifted with grandparents and parents who loved to travel. I learned at a very early age the joy of visiting our national parks, of meeting people from all walks of life and of learning about our nation's history. Even as a small child, I never ceased to be awed and amazed by the beauty and diversity of the land and seascapes of our country.

By the time I was 18, I had visited 46 of our nation's 50 states, and had spent many, many hours being spiritually fed by God's marvelous creation.



During my high school years, summer vacation meant sunny summer fun in Florida – along with some pretty bad sunburns since those were the days before sunscreen. But what I remember most about those yearly Florida vacations were the various roads we would take to and from our destination. You see, we knew where our journey began; we knew where it would end. But the path we took each year was different.

On one trip we would travel on roads which followed the mighty Mississippi River, and then travel coastal roads over to Florida. On the way home, we might go up the Atlantic coast, and then head west through Ohio and Indiana. Still another path would take us through Kentucky and Tennessee, Mississippi and Georgia. Each path we traveled provided a new experience: new sights, sounds, people and opportunities for learning about life and what it means to live with a sense of awe and wonder.

In my mind there was not just one path or road that was the

only one, or right one. Each had its own integrity, its own uniqueness, its own offering to the journey.

So it was with my Florida vacations; so it is with life as a Christian. Each of us lives a journey beginning with a physical birth as well as our spiritual birth at baptism. Each of us will end our journey as Christians with our physical bodies returning to the dust, and the hope of eternal life given to our souls in Christ Jesus.

But each of us will live life's journey very differently than everyone else; each of us has our own path to take: our own hills and valleys to walk, and our own mountains and seas to cross. Many paths, one journey – that is life as Christians.

At our Triennial Meeting in July 2012, many of us will have the opportunity for our paths to intersect with those of other women from near and far. And we will have an opportunity to get to know each other and to hear the stories of the paths others have taken in their lives. Yes, there will be a little work involved throughout the week – OK, maybe A LOT of work. But my prayer is this: through our worship, our morning meditations, our workshops, our work, and especially through opportunities to hear each other's stories may our spirits be strengthened and fed, our souls uplifted and our journey enriched. Until our paths intersect in Indianapolis – may God show you the path of life, and may you know the fullness of His joy.

*Blessing to all –
Mother Debora+*

Quilt travels to provide backdrop for all types of ECW gatherings

Submitted by Cordelia Burt
National VP-Programs

Our beautiful quilt is on the road again, visiting women in Arkansas, Colorado and New Jersey.

Its first stop in Arkansas was for display at the funeral of Nita Shelby. Nita was the designer and had the large job of completing the quilt. The quilt is still in Little Rock on display at Christ Church.

In September, the quilt will travel its own special path to the annual gathering of the women of Colorado, from Sept. 16-18.

The women there will lovingly pack the quilt in its travel container and ship it to Deb Anderson in New Jersey for that diocese's Distinguished Woman program on Oct. 16. I hope that Deb will ship the quilt back to me so that it might be on display at the annual convention of the Diocese of Hawaii the last

week of October.

We are adding a new twist to the travels of our quilt by including a journal to the container. We are asking that you tell the story of the quilt while she is with you so we'll have more history to pass on to those who come after us. We will have stories to include for all to read in *Communiqué* and we can all feel part of the journey.

After the quilt is displayed at the 2012 Triennial Meeting, it will go to the National Cathedral for storage. While there it will be displayed on occasion and several of the women of the cathedral have agreed to ship her when she is requested. The quilt will be better cared for at the cathedral while waiting to travel a new path than stored in someone's spare room or garage.

We hope you will get on board and add many new paths to our traveling quilt and enjoy writing stories in her journal.

Salt Lake City to host 2015 Triennial Meeting

The Salt Palace Convention Center in Salt Lake City, Utah has been chosen as the meeting venue for the joint meeting of General Convention/Triennial Meeting in 2015.

At the time of this writing, the Convention Center is undergoing a major upgrade of its communication networks.

There are many hotels surrounding the convention center and the city has a light rail system that is free at this time.

We are looking forward to the 48th Triennial Meeting in Salt Lake City.

Submitted by Cordelia Burt
National VP-Programs

Path becomes lifetime of God's Love

Submitted by The Rt. Rev. Laura Ahrens
Diocese of Connecticut

Today as I sit at my desk the ceiling fan overhead keeping me cool and the birds outside connecting me to creation, I feel very honored to be sharing some thoughts about my spiritual journey with the Episcopal Church Women. I am grateful for the witness of the ECW in years past and as it continues to be a witness for women's voices in our church and in the world. I find that anything I want to write for the ECW *Communiqué* must begin with a thank you to the ECW leadership past and present and a word of gratitude to ECW everywhere. What a blessing the ECW is to the church and to the world.

My spiritual journey is a web of stories about God's love for me and the ways I have known that love and sought to share it through the years. I feel very blessed to serve God now as a bishop in the Episcopal Church. While I never dreamed of ever being a bishop, I believe God has always called me to ordained ministry. Serving as a bishop now is an extraordinary gift and a calling I seek to fulfill faithfully.

Ever since I was very young, I have had a relationship with Jesus. Someone somewhere along the way must have said to me, "Jesus is your best friend;" and that made perfect sense to me. As a child I remember sitting in the magnificent willow tree in our yard thinking about Jesus and sharing my day with Him. I remember walking to school and saying my prayers. I remember saying the Lord's Prayer every night before I went to bed. If I couldn't sleep, I would explain to myself what each line of the prayer meant to me.

I can also remember that ever since I was very young, I felt called to the ordained ministry. I can recall being in church when I was about 10 years old and saying to my mother, "I want to do that when I grow up." As a child, I used to hold services of Morning Prayer for my stuffed animals. As they sat all lined up in the church created in my bedroom, I would read carefully selected prayers and offer a sermon. Occasionally, there would be hymn singing.

When I was a teen, I read *Franny and Zooey* by J.D. Salinger, a book that was exciting to me in many ways. One of the most powerful aspects of the book was Franny's experience of the Jesus Prayer. I, like Franny, wanted to pray without ceasing; to feel close to Jesus all the time. I read *The Way of the Pilgrim* to learn more about Jesus, the Jesus Prayer and the faithful quest to pray without ceasing.

My faith and love for the Lord grew during my high school years. I was active in my home church, St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Wellesley, Mass. I sang in the choir, was an acolyte and occasionally taught Sunday School.

Two significant events shaped my faith during my college years. The first was the academic challenge of studying the Bible in college. Here it was studied not as a sacred text, but as a literary book that could be dissected and analyzed using historical and literary analysis. With this study, I found my understanding and love for God grew much stronger. I would go from library to chapel and offer my studies, wrestlings and prayers to God.

The second event was a personal tragedy when my friend Nancy died in a drowning accident the summer between my sophomore and junior years. This tragedy and the comfort that I found in my prayer time had a significant impact on my understanding of the resurrection. I had this deep inner sense in that time of great grief that Nancy was at home with the risen Lord and that I was being comforted by the same God. The message that God is always with us is an important message that I hope to convey in all aspects of my ministry.

After college I spoke to the Rev. Vincent Warner, the rector of my home parish, about my call to the priesthood. I began our conversation by sharing with him that I believed I was called to the priesthood, but I did not want to say "yes" to that call

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Episcopal Church Women Communicate

The Communications Committee strives to distribute current innovative and instructional information to Episcopal Church Women using the most effective means of printed and electronic communication available.

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quite yet. I was enjoying being an actuarial assistant at a consulting firm in Boston and felt I should work in the corporate world for a while. At that time I also began a relationship with the Society of St. John the Evangelist in Cambridge, Mass. I attended retreats there and one of the monks became my spiritual director. It was during a Tenebrae service at SSJE that I finally stopped putting off what I knew in my heart I was called to do. On that night, I said “yes” to my call. It was my unequivocal “yes.” I felt a joyous flood of relief and happiness as I embraced what I had felt called to do ever since I was a young girl.

My spiritual journey continues to be fed in a variety of ways since I entered ordained ministry. I have maintained my relationship with the Society of St. John the Evangelist. It was SSJE and my field placement parish in seminary, Grace and St. Peter’s, Hamden, Conn., that broadened my understanding of the sacraments. I grew up very low church in a Morning Prayer parish and was very comfortable with that worship style. SSJE and Grace and St. Peter’s introduced me to chasubles, incense and the importance of having a Eucharistic theology. The line in Eucharistic Prayer C is one that constantly informs how I hear the Eucharist. “Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this table for solace only, and not for strength (BCP, p. 372).”

For me the Eucharist is about solace and strength. As I look into the eyes of persons with whom I share the Eucharist, particularly when I know some of their story, I can palpably feel their longing for solace or strength. This physical moment of taking bread and wine is a spiritual moment in our hearts. To be able to share in those moments as a pastor has both overwhelmed me and furthered my understanding of God’s love.

One day when I was distributing the Eucharist, a young girl handed me a picture that she had drawn. The distribution of the Eucharist can be a time of giving, of sharing Christ’s presence with the congregation. To be handed a picture in the midst of this moment startled me. Here I was giving and she took this time to give to me. In that moment she was sharing Christ’s presence, Christ’s love, with me.

The image of sharing the Eucharist rather than giving the Eucharist was made manifest to me in that moment. The Eucharist is an incredible celebration of Christ’s love and gift to us of his life, death and resurrection. It is a moment of solace, strength and joy for me in my own spiritual journey.

My spiritual life is also fed during my sermon preparation or working on materials for teaching. Spending time with the scriptures and in prayer have consistently fed and nurtured me. I read the Daily Office on most days and I practice centering prayer as often as I can. One of my favorite stories about reading the Daily Office occurred when my mother was visiting for a week. In the morning I typically go downstairs to my family room to read the office. The first morning she was there she came in and started talking to me. I said, “Mom, I’m praying.” The next day when she woke up she made a pot of coffee and brought a cup into me and without saying a word placed it next to me. It felt very loving, affirming and respectful of my discipline.

In addition to times of preaching, teaching and taking retreat time, I find that my spiritual journey is fed by my ministry as a pastor, particularly in times of grief or loss. A particular pastoral experience has stayed with me for years. One summer I had just returned from my vacation by hours – my car was not yet unpacked – and I received a phone call from a parishioner that her daughter had fallen from a horse at a riding show and was now in the hospital with severe head injuries. I quickly emptied out my car and drove to the hospital. The girl had been in my confirmation class the year before. I spent the next 14 days walking with this family through various surgeries and tests. On the 14th day, this wonderful little girl, died. Anointing her dying body, as parents, siblings, aunts, uncles and grandparents participated in the Book of Common Prayer’s Litany at the Time of Death (BCP, p. 462-465), was a deeply spiritual experience. As the words of the BCP filled the room, we felt comfort from the Lord our God.

Her death greatly affected me and the community in which I lived. What I experienced, however, was a sense of God’s profound presence and love. It is hard to

imagine that one can feel God’s love in the midst of such tragedy. Yet, God was profoundly present in the love that the community poured out to the family. God’s love was also manifest in the ways the family faced and shared their grief with other family members and friends.

This death taught me a lot about ministry, the challenges of being ordained in such sorrowful times and the importance of feeling connected to God through prayer. It is a challenge to hold onto the resurrection in the midst of the darkness of Good Friday and to preach and witness to that message of hope to a people who have stood in the abyss of darkness. What I found was God did not abandon me in my grief. I found even when I did not have the words to pray or the knowledge of what to pray for I could feel that God was supporting me. This support enabled me to be strong for the family I sought to comfort. As in all ministries, however, I found that the community comforted me as much as I comforted them. We were a people on a shared journey. That time of sorrow and sadness and the grace of God and the community in which I lived have continued to mold and shape the lens by which I see my spiritual journey and the ways I seek to live out my love for the Lord. Prayer and community are not separate in my mind. One nurtures the other, supports the other and informs how we embrace both.

In the summer of 2006 the Rt. Rev. Andrew D. Smith, the Bishop Diocesan of the Diocese of Connecticut, put out a call for a new bishop suffragan for Connecticut. I had been the rector at St. James in Danbury, Conn., for six years. Friends and colleagues asked if I would put my name into the process and I wrestled with the question until the weekend the applications were due. I believe my prayers were calling me to step into the discernment process with the diocese and see what God might be up to with these questions.

While I never imagined my name would move forward, I was excited by the questions and found myself living with the refrain “I love Jesus and I love the Church and I want to share those loves with others, particularly as we see the Church struggling with her identity in the 21st century.”

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Her story, from Craine House

Submitted by **The Rev. Irene Miller Radcliff**
Member at Large, Social Justice

It is my belief everyone at various times is on a journey of one sort or another and these journeys have many paths and stories. This is just one of the many stories from Craine House.

"2006 is when I made the biggest mistake of my life. I hurt my family, the people I have loved my whole life," Leah wrote in her statement for the court before her sentencing on her most recent felony charge. Leah had been through a rough couple of years. She was struggling with unhealthy relationships, substance abuse issues, attaining her General Education Degree and supporting her two children. However, on Dec. 12, 2008, Marion County Superior Court gave Leah an opportunity that, if taken, would change her whole life.

She was sentenced to Craine House.

Leah arrived at Craine House on Dec. 19, 2008 and immediately began her orientation period of assessments, applications and expectations. She was enrolled in GED classes and in job readiness, family preservation and substance abuse treatment. The beginning was not easy. December and January were rough as Leah was struggling to let go of unhealthy habits. Her stay at Craine House was in jeopardy.

In February, Leah began to turn her life around. She found employment at a local restaurant, was active in the family preservation program, in GED class and in her substance abuse treatment. Leah's progress continued and in March, she completed her intensive outpatient substance abuse program. By April, Leah was well into a routine of work, programming and caring for her children. In May, Leah's hard work had not gone unnoticed by the staff and residents of Craine House, and she was voted Resident of the Month in May and June. June also brought additional good news for Leah. She completed the life management portion of the substance abuse treatment and she passed her GED test. Passing the GED test gave Leah a reduction in served time that changed her original out date of Dec. 20, 2009, to Aug. 1, 2009.

Leah left Craine House a completely different person than when she arrived. In planning for her departure, Leah had big plans, beginning with paying back the person who had supported

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I wanted to be part of the conversation that helped the church live into the mission God was inviting us all to see anew.

Since my election in 2007, much has changed in the Diocese of Connecticut and in the church at large. In 2009, the diocese elected the Rt. Rev. Ian Douglas as our new diocesan bishop. With Bishop Douglas' election, we have embraced a new conversation about mission in Connecticut. Everywhere we ask, "What is God up to in Connecticut?" "What is God up to here?" "How are we called to join God's

Mission in this context? In this diocese? In all places?"

Exploring those questions with congregations and inviting congregations to look at new networks and collaborating with neighboring churches and other organizations has been a defining task of my ministry in the past few years. It excites and energizes me as I see new ways of loving Jesus and loving the Church. I see shared ministries emerging that are making our proclamation of God's love stronger and are getting people excited about sharing

Craine House wish list

The 2009-2012 Triennial Community Connection Program is the John P. Craine House, located in Indianapolis, Ind. As the John P. Craine House depends on generous contributions to meet the needs of the women and children served, we are asking for the support of women and women's organizations everywhere to contribute the much needed items from the following wish list.

Disposable Diapers	Alarm Clocks
Baby Wipes	Twin Size Sheet Sets
Antibiotic Ointments	Mattress Covers
Band Aids	Pillows
Rubber Gloves	Umbrella Strollers
Car Seats for Ages NB-8	Dish Towels
Formula	Plastic Dinnerware
Crib and Toddler Bedding	Silverware
Wash Clothes	Bath Towels
Toilet Tissue	Alarm Clocks

The Wish List will be updated regularly until the 2012 Triennial Meeting.

her so much: her dad.

Leah and her family are doing well. Leah is working and providing for her children. Asked if she could be highlighted in Craine House's annual report and if she preferred for her name to be changed in the report, Leah said, "You don't need to change my name. I'm not ashamed I was at Craine House. Craine House did a lot for me and I'm really thankful I was here."

The John P. Craine House is a unique alternative sentencing residential program for non-violent women. This program allows women to serve out their sentences with their pre-school age children. As the only facility in the Midwest that offers this kind of programming for women, Craine House has been there for and helped hundreds of women like Leah.

— *Leah's story and related facts were taken from the John P. Craine House Annual Report of 2009.*

their faith and witnessing to their faith in the world. There are many challenges before us and, as a bishop, I see my role both as encourager and pastor as we look at the hard questions and explore innovative and faithful responses to the questions "What is God up to?" And "How is God calling us to join God's Mission? Locally? Nationally? Internationally?"

God is up to something in Connecticut and in our Church right now. I am honored and humbled to be a part of that conversation.

Secretariat serves big role

Submitted by Marcia Himes
ECW President

Webster's II New Riverside Dictionary defines a secretariat as "the department managed by a governmental secretary." It is also a place to be found at the upcoming Triennial Meeting in Indianapolis. Although it will not be managed by a governmental secretary, it will be the "office" of the delegates and visitors to the Triennial Meeting. It will be the spot where national board members will have their official "desks" during the meeting's run. The Secretariat will be close to the plenary room, and will be the spot where delegates will receive mail – but not mail delivered by the U.S. Postal Service. Found in each delegation's mailbox will be items for the good of the order: items from ministries of the church, like United Thank Offering, Church Periodical Club or Episcopal Relief and Development. Each delegation should select someone to retrieve mail and that person will be given a key.

But it's not just the mail room. The secretariat will also be the place for information. Schedules, copies of meditations, lists of open workshops, and other activities of the session will be found here. Questions can be asked of the staff, and they will try to find the answers for you. A place will be designated in the Secretariat for delegate committees to meet.

So although it is not an official governmental office – or a horse either – it will be the central information hub for the Triennial Meeting and the delegates. Please make a point to stop in while in Indianapolis.



**Amy Mayes heads
the Triennial Meeting
2012 Secretariat.**

As you read this *Communiqué*, you will notice plans for the 47th Triennial Meeting are accelerating. Check the countdown clock on our website to watch the days click away. In addition to the celebrations outlined in these pages, the communication committee wants to honor communicators who spread the word in your parish, diocese or province. On July 7, at 3:30 p.m., we will honor those who excel in communication. We are looking for communicators who consistently produce the best in newsletter, brochures, fliers, magazine or other special projects. Start thinking now of someone you would like to nominate for this special recognition. Details on how to nominate this person will be forthcoming in our future publications.

– Marilyn Rishkofski,
ECW VP Information/
Communication

Triennial Meeting Endowment Fund

The Triennial Meeting Endowment Fund value as of 12/31/10
was \$354,556.

This fund, established in 1984, receives contributions to aid in funding the
Triennial Meeting. Currently income is also being reinvested.

2010 contributions were made by:

St. Andrew's, Staten Island, N.Y.

Diocese of Alabama

Christ Church Cathedral, Lexington, Ky.

Women of St. Mark's, Crystal Falls, Mich.

Diocese of Louisiana

Dana Redd

In Memory of Edna LeFever Norman

Kathy Mank

Diocese of Indianapolis

Diocese of Connecticut

Diocese of Northern Indiana

Christine Jewell

Diocese of Arizona

Calendar of Events

Information for this calendar comes from ECWs throughout the church. If your group or diocese has plans for meetings, special events, special missions or other happenings, please send all pertinent information for inclusion in the next edition of *Communiqué* to: vpinformationcommunication@ecwnational.org

Sept. 23-25: Diocese of Indianapolis Fall Retreat with the Rev. Dr. Jane Tomaine at Waycross Camp and Conference Center.

Sept. 24: Diocese of Michigan Annual Meeting, St. John's Episcopal Church, Howell, Mich. 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Speaker: the Rev. Susan Carter on her experiences in Howell and "Nets for Life."

September: Diocese of Fond du Lac Retreat, "Women by the Water," Camp Tamarack, Waupaca, Wis. Keynote speakers: Cindy Davis from New Mexico and Pastor Mary Trainer.

Oct. 14-15: Diocese of Northern Michigan Convention.

Oct. 21-22: Diocese of Missouri ECW Annual Meeting at St. Martin's Episcopal Church, Ellisville, Mo. Theme: "Rejoice Together."

Nov. 16: Diocese of Southwest Florida Annual Gathering at Day Spring.

Jan. 19-21, 2012: Diocese of Michigan Spiritual Journey.

Jan. 27-29: Diocese of Northern Michigan Respite Retreat at Mary Grove Conference Center.

Feb. 17-19: Diocese of Fond du Lac Women's Winter Retreat at Norbertine Center for Spirituality, DePere, Wis.

TBD: Diocese of Indianapolis Spring Luncheon.

March 16-18: Diocese of Springfield Retreat centered around the theme of "Celtic Spirituality."

May 27-29: Diocese of Northern Indiana Province V Annual Meeting, Ramada Plaza, South Bend, Ind.

July 5-11: 47th ECW TRIENNIAL MEETING, Westin Hotel, Indianapolis, Ind. Many Paths, One Journey

Deadline for the next edition of *Communiqué* is Oct. 15.

Focus: Women's Health Ministries
Marilyn Rishkofski
186 Little River Road
Hampton, NH 03842
603-926-0443
vpinformationcommunication@ecwnational.org

ECW National Board Contribution Form 2009-2012

Copy this form for contributions from individuals, parishes or dioceses.

This form is not used for United Thank Offering or Church Periodical Club donations.

Name of Donor or Organization

Address:

Contribution for:	Amount
<input type="checkbox"/> Annual Pledge	_____
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<input type="checkbox"/> Triennial Meeting	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Endowment	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Women to Women	_____
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<input type="checkbox"/> Institute Center Sudan	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> El Centro Buen Pastor	_____
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<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Communiqué</i>	_____

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Sandra Powers
ECW National Treasurer
3 Adoracion Circle
Hot Springs Village, AR 71909

ECW: Where are we and where are we going?

Submitted by Katerina Whitley

I have been trying to think of the state we are in as Episcopal Church Women. No matter how comfortable most Episcopalians seem to be with the established rituals, structures and even liturgy of the church, we have to recognize the reality that even the idea of what constitutes church is changing. So the women – yes, the very same women who were instrumental in bringing about huge changes in the church in the 20th century – must also find ways to revitalize themselves.

ECW groups, where they do exist, are mostly made up of women who are no longer considered young: they are devoted, energetic, faithful, and hard-working, but, in most parishes and dioceses, they are no longer young. This means unless younger women are attracted to the reality and work of ECW, this particular organization will pass away. Very few parish ECWs make provisions for the younger women who are raising children and working outside the home. Meetings usually take place during the day when the working women cannot attend.

How do we attract them? What must we

do to change?

First: We must make our history known to all women who come to our parishes. It is a history worth knowing: this is the reason I wrote the play, “Yet We Persist.” History gives us identity as Episcopalians and as women. We cannot go forward unless we know where we came from and how long it has taken for us to achieve the present.

Second: We must find ways to make it clear that all women in our parishes are Episcopal Church Women, but it may be necessary to change the name so that the image of “the old, the established, the same-old-thing” must be erased. What if we called the organization something like this: “Women Who Work and Pray;” “Episcopal Women in Ministry and Service?”

Third: I know a parish that has two groups of women – one which meets during the day and one which meets at night. Every now and then they have a dinner together and get to know one another. It seems to work beautifully. What about two different meetings to accommodate all ages?

Fourth: Small groups may work better

than a large, vague organization called ECW. Consider a group that meets for a Bible study – not necessarily programs – and after the study, deals with “business matters.” Women who study, work and organize as a small group might work.

Fifth: Identify a small group of researchers in each diocese who will have the leisure to study the history of each diocesan ECW and be available to go from parish to parish to tell the story of women in the Episcopal church.

Sixth: We have achieved the goals set in the 19th century and achieved in the 20th. Now, we need to focus on our history and on servanthood. We don’t need to be ordained deacons to serve in Christ’s church. Young women as well as the older ones can serve as deacons even without ordination. The ministry of the laity is as vital today as it was in the time of St. Paul. ECW is the best organization to make this known to all women.

It seems to me that if some of these changes were to take place it would still leave room for organizing bazaars and other fundraisers. These are just some thoughts and suggestions. Let me know what you think.

UTO Face to Face reflects Many Paths, One Journey

Submitted by Anne Gordon Curran

UTO Province III Representative

What did participants get out of Face to Face training all about the United Thank Offering at Roslyn Conference Center, Richmond, Virginia, July 29-31?

Great workshops; good information; wonderful “feeling tone;” networking; wonderful food; sharing ideas and stories; materials provided; want to see more participants from more dioceses. There was talk about the laughter; meeting so many beautiful, prayerful, thankful women; wonderful location and peaceful rest; “The View;” loved the priest who did Saturday Eucharist in the New Bishop’s Chapel.

Twenty-two women came together from many parts of the Episcopal church – Columbia, Alabama, Wyoming, Texas, California, Pittsburgh, to name a few – to learn and ask questions about the nuts and bolts of UTO.

They came together from many places and experiences to understand what it means to be united in the ministry of giving thanks prayerfully, giving simple gifts and working to see what the largest number of people possible in the Episcopal church can accomplish in providing their collective gifts for grants in mis-

sion throughout the Anglican Communion.

These attendees were, for the most part, diocesan coordinators who are asked to take this information, with their newly acquired notebooks with personal notes in the margins, back to their respective dioceses and train others as they create opportunities for new paths along the journey to grow UTO in the hearts and minds of so many.

The United Thank Offering through Face to Face is seen as one journey with clearly defined principles and guidelines. It, however, brings together many paths including people, dioceses, ideas, experiences, cultures to carry forward the ministry to lead to new paths through grants – for schools, preschools, feeding programs, community gardens, vehicles, clinics, hospitals, fences, playgrounds, camps, etc.

The center is the United Thank Offering and the board of 12 women who hold it all together. It is work done by volunteers with pride of ownership and enthusiasm in seeing their work spread to the people in the pew who create new ideas and activities which stimulate more energy to grow.

These diocesan coordinators are the key people for training others and decision-making in the diocesan granting process.

Please continue reading on page 15



Women from throughout Province VI gathered in Colorado Springs for a summer meeting which coincided with a meeting of the National ECW Board. Shown are scenes from that meeting.

Province VI meeting includes time with national board

This summer's Province VI meeting of the ECW Board was in Colorado Springs.

During part of the meeting, ECW Province VI members and officers had a chance to meet with the National ECW Board. We learned about the upcoming Triennial meeting in Indianapolis and some of the board activities related to mission and social justice issues. After that representatives of each of the dioceses represented in our province meeting told a little about its activities. Here's a short synopsis:

- **Colorado ECW** has been working on both its web site and its bylaws. They will have the Rev. Barbara Crafton as the speaker at their fall retreat.

- **Nebraska** Episcopal women are making altar cloths for churches in the Dominican Republic. They are also sending a small group to the Dominican Republic during the fall to do training in altar care.

- **South Dakota** awarded three scholar-

ships and provided a new foundation/electric service for a mission, a roof for a rural mission in the Diocese of East Tennessee, and a gift for the building of a school in the Sudan.

- **Wyoming** had Phyllis Tickle as a speaker at their spring conference.

New province officers are: Dr. Sandra Squires, Nebraska, president; Elizabeth Campbell, South Dakota, secretary; provincial representative to the ECW Board 2012-2015 Mari-Lou Triebenbach, Minnesota; and UTO Chair, 2012-2015, Robin Summers, Colorado.

Shirley White, Nebraska, continues as treasurer. Many thanks to Charlotte Cox, Colorado, our outgoing president.

There were three women attending the meeting who represent much of the living history of Province VI.

Inez Harris of Yankton, S.D., is 92 years old and has been a part of ECW in Province VI for decades. Shirley White



from Nebraska is 80 years old, has served on the National ECW Board and helped create the idea of Women's Ministries as an umbrella organization in Nebraska.

Elizabeth Campbell, also from South Dakota, is making a shadow box of crosses from past Triennial meetings. She, too, served on the National ECW Board and is advocating that women collect stories about women in their diocesan history.

Face to Face, continued from page 14

They are good people on a journey to make UTO happen.

Was Face to Face all good?

The challenges stated were that the weekend ended too soon, needed longer breaks, taxing for brains and bottoms.

Ultimately, the participants felt "blessed to be here" among people who showed good camaraderie, a friendly and helpful board, discovery of differences in dioceses and heard stories opening new approaches and respect for each other.

Many paths, one journey could easily have been the theme for Face to Face.

It was a good example of how journeys happen, both coming together and going away with new perspectives and enlightened minds and spirits to begin anew.

Make one of the many paths on your journey a trip to the 47th ECW Triennial Meeting July 5-12, 2012 Westin Hotel, Indianapolis, Indiana

Arkansas WOV changes lives

Submitted by Sandra Smith
Diocese of Arkansas

About five years ago, we conducted our first Women of Vision retreat for our board members at our diocesan camp in Arkansas. The leaders of the retreat were trained at the same time by two WOV trainers from Oklahoma. There were four of us then and it turned out to be one of those life-changing events. One young woman realized after the spiritual gifts session that she was in the wrong line of work and changed her job shortly thereafter.

We went on to do another weekend retreat the next fall. We invited some potential leaders to this session and one of them went on to become our parish ECW president and is now on our diocesan board. In preparation for the second retreat, we created a workbook for participants that included an outline of each session and all the handouts.

As it became obvious that lots of women could not devote the money and time for weekend retreats, we decided to experiment with other options. Our first was a six-week Lenten series at my parish. We invited women from other parishes in our city. This again worked well. In preparation for these sessions we generated our information on the computer in large colorful print and attached it to easel sheets.

Next we presented the WOV in conjunction with our annual meeting. Participants were able to attend all the functions at the annual meeting because we scheduled the sessions around those functions. They came early and stayed late. What we found was that WOV is effective with even a very small group.

This year we did two sessions using only the Spiritual Gifts module. One was for a young adult church school class for both men and women. We needed two Sundays and the men liked it as well. The second was a two-hour workshop at our annual women's retreat at our camp. Some comments from the evaluations: "Very interesting and I found out surprising things about myself. Confirming and enlightening."

From a skeptic to a believer...

When I first heard about the Women of Vision program during my first term on the National ECW Board, I did not take it too seriously. I thought after all these years it must surely be out of date and most likely was one more program created by and for women that was vital when first introduced, but now had passed its usefulness. I admit to tuning out discussions on the possible revitalization and reenergizing of WOV at board meetings. Why bother to spend our energy on this. We had *Communiqués* to publish... a Triennial Meeting to organize.

A new National ECW Board was formed in 2010, and once again the Woman of Vision program was brought before the board for discussion. Two board members who believed in the program offered to present different modules so we could experience firsthand what this program had to offer. I was not pleased.

The dreaded day came and I joined my fellow board members with fists clenched, arms crossed and a scowl on my face. I inwardly dared the presenters to make this session meaningful.

They did just that. Within minutes the simplicity, the purposefulness of the material and the honesty of the presentation smacked me right in the heart and I found myself to be one of the most engaged participants in that room.

I have heard from others how important this program was and continues to be for women all through the provinces. I encourage you all to consider using this program at your meetings. You do not need to look far for a program that has reached so many women and been so beneficial.

Become a believer. Become a Woman of Vision.

– Submitted by *Marilyn Rishkofski*

All Saints sponsors Native American ministry

Submitted by Melinda Weisser-Lee
Diocese of Arizona

The joy of giving, holiday spirit and hugs are among the many rewards members of All Saints, Safford, receive from the annual holiday food drive to benefit the people of Bylas. Bylas is a small community on the eastern edge of the San Carlos Apache Reservation. Unemployment on this reservation is extremely high and many people there struggle to get by.

The project has its roots from two members of All Saints who worked together in

Please continue reading on page 17

Ken Lee, Mindy Weisser-Lee, Dottie Gutwein and the Rev. Dr. Eugenia Durham pose with the food gathered during the last Thanksgiving drive. All Saints joins with other congregations to gather more resources to help people.





In the left photo, the Rev. Becky Leply, left, spiritual adviser, and the Rev. Philip Duncan, national chaplain, present one another with the Cross of St. Benedict. At right, during the Affirmation of Vows celebration, new members affirm their vows and receive a cross from Elizabeth Hart, co-convenor.

Episcopal Community debuts at 2012 gathering

Submitted by Bev Ruebeck
Diocese of Indianapolis

The Episcopal Community plans its debut and first national gathering in Indianapolis at the time of General Convention and Triennial Meeting in July 2012.

Keeping our purpose in mind, during General Convention, we have chosen to offer our time, talent and service by hosting a Prayer Garden to serve the church by providing a quiet and holy space in the midst of convention busyness. We invite members of ECW to join us in the Prayer Garden to rest and reflect during the day and to stop by to worship in the beautiful traditions of morning, noonday and

evening prayer. We would like to participate in your meetings and be of service to you, our sisters. We look forward to conversations about how we can get to know each other, share our love for the Episcopal church, the women of the church and work together serving the church.

In February 2010, a small group of Episcopal women from across the country gathered at the Cathedral of St. Philip in Atlanta, Ga., to begin formation of a community for Episcopal women and share in a retreat led by Caroline Westerhoff. The purpose of The Episcopal Community is to be an authentic Christian community of Episcopal women, who share their spiritual journeys and are mutually encouraged

by each other's faith and support. Members take lifetime vows as a response to God's call into the Baptismal Covenant more fully and deeply and to live intentionally that we may be more effective disciples in our personal lives, our church and the world.

Members promise to follow the Rule of the Community:

- Grow: deepen and strengthen our relationship with God;
- Connect: nourish our relationships with others;
- Support: nurture fellow members and The Episcopal Community;
- Serve: to serve others and the whole of God's Creation.

Native American ministry, continued from page 16

Bylas for a number of years. It was obvious to these women there is a great deal of need in the community. Through contacts in the community, these women identify Bylas families in need. The food drive is able to serve 40 families at Thanksgiving and 40 different families at Christmas. Families receive a turkey, stuffing, potatoes and staples to help them through the rest of the month.

The congregation gets involved by packing the food boxes and delivering the boxes to the families. Prior to gathering for the sorting and packing, some members do the shopping and sorting of the food. We use a standard list, paying attention to the high incidence of diabetes in the Native American population. The congregation has a dinner on food-packing night and everyone has an enjoyable time.

All Saints, Safford, is a small congre-

gation of approximately 40 members. We have received assistance from the Native Ministries Program Group, St. Stephen's, Sierra Vista, and St. John's, Bisbee. From time to time, we had also received food from two congregations in Tucson. St. Stephen's and St. John's have assisted both with money and blankets to give out with the food.

However, in these difficult economic times, people are less able to provide support while the need for service continues to grow. All Saints is in need of support from both congregations and individuals to keep the program going.

In addition to the food drive, the congregation maintains an ongoing ministry of providing baby blankets and warm infant hats to the young mothers of Bylas. Many Bylas families live in substandard homes that can be quite cold in winter, and

many young mothers are not very well prepared for their new babies. Some of the items we give out are knitted or crocheted by congregation members. Other women of the church quilt and quilted blankets are distributed as well. The blankets and hats are given to the public health nurse, and he distributes them when he makes his home visits with the new mothers. All donations are welcome, including those from outside of All Saints.

Our congregation also supports the Bylas Head Start preschool by donating bar codes from Campbell's soups and other products labeled Labels for Education. The school earns points for the bar codes, and the points are used to obtain free classroom supplies and equipment.

If you would like to support any of these ministries, please contact me at kenmindy@aol.com.

Back to our roots:**ECW re-forms during the 1980s**

Submitted by Elizabeth Campbell

THE SCENE: The 37th Triennial Meeting, 1982, New Orleans: Betty Thomas Baker, Kansas, presiding officer; Scott Evans chaired the Triennial Committee. Theme: "Go Forth Into the World."

"The logo for this theme showed a map of the world with a cross superimposed. ... The logo was enameled on stickpins which were given to delegates. The summer issue of *Forward Day by Day*, also had the logo on the front cover. Dorothy Johnson of the Triennial Committee had edited the daily devotions."

This is the first mention of a cross given to all delegates in *A Short History of the Triennial Meetings of the Women of the Episcopal Church* written by Anne Bass Fulk in 1985. The gift of this precious outward and visible sign seems to have become a sentinel event for the women of the church. Their rich developmental strengths under the banner of the cross brought about a renewal of the mission and ministry of the women of the church in the 1980s. It is interesting to note a gift cross has been given to delegates at each Triennial Meeting since then. In many ways, the crosses tell the story of how women have survived and thrived under its banner.

Representatives from the organizations which drew their membership from women in the Episcopal Church were seated at the 1982 Triennial Meeting and invited to address the delegates. Lauren Gough, wearing a t-shirt which read, "A Woman's Place is in the House of Bishops," affirmed the women by saying the most vigorous and vital doers were churchwomen, that the Women's Caucus hoped to make an impact in the areas of women's issues, affirm women in all their ministries and assure that their voices were heard. She complained the presiding officer was not introduced in joint sessions. "We can sustain diversity," she said, "and we are the church no more, no less than those (the House of Deputies) across the street."

A helpful action of the Triennial Meeting Committee was to assure the chair and

presiding officer a place on the national General Convention Planning and Arrangements Committee in the future. Also, the structure and function of the United Thank Offering Committee was approved, and a new UTO trust fund was established to help defray costs of the committee, limited to \$20,000 a year.

The national Women's Auxiliary had essentially become dismantled in the previous decade, but the women kept meeting and did not give up. With little money, leaders asked for support from Episcopal women around the country. The Executive Council deleted the ECW Triennial Meeting from the budget, then restored \$15,000 for 1983, \$10,000 for 1984, and \$5,000 for 1985. Over this triennium, the diocesan branches donated \$52,000 toward Triennial Meeting expenses, plus paid the cost of their own delegates and provided assistance for overseas delegates. The Triennial Committee was authorized to consider setting up a trust fund for its needs.

The 1985 Triennial Meeting Committee began life in an orphaned state. Seabury House had been sold, so there was no place to meet, and the staff liaison and her secretary left. The women had to learn to manage on their own. The spartan and utilitarian Seaman's Institute provided space. Eleanor Smith, chair of the Action/Strategy Committee moved "that... a meeting be held as soon as the new coordinator for women's ministries is hired, participants to be representative members from several women's organizations in the church." They would share resources and use the newsletter as a forum, become involved in each others' programs, and find commonalities to establish ongoing relationships. It was a leap of faith. Ann Smith was hired as coordinator for women's ministries and in April, 1983, a small group assembled at the Alma Matthews House in Greenwich Village to explore the possibility of an expanded Triennial Meeting. A momentous step forward had been taken.

With members of the Triennial Committee and Task Force shaping the design, the first meeting of what was to be the Council for Women's Ministries was called for June 1983. It was an instant success.

Salome Breck had insisted the 1982 Triennial Meeting restore a Triennial newspaper and, as its editor, worked out the logistics. The original convention paper (Vol. 1, No. 1 of *Triennial Daily* was published in 1943) had grown into the *Convention Daily* with little room for Triennial Meeting news. Salome would also be the editor of the 1985 *Triennial Today*.

Within six weeks of the first meeting of the 1985 Triennial Meeting Committee in March, 1983, the Triennial Committee was offered the option of managing the national Women's Auxiliary trust funds and accrued income. Additional funds and legacies, mostly from women for the work of the women, came to light when the finances of the church were placed on the new computer. With less than 24 hours to make this decision – but time for much prayer – the committee said, yes.

The question of having the women meet at the same time and place as General Convention was raised. A survey was commissioned to look into the matter, but the matter was suddenly and politely laid to rest when the General Convention discovered that rates for General Convention were considerably lower with the Triennial Meeting and its participants included.

The other issue that needed to be addressed was how to structure the committee to solve the problem of who spoke for the women of the church on the national level. This led to the decision that Sylvia Corey, chair of the 1985 Triennial Committee, would act as the nominal president of the women of the Episcopal church and spokeswoman for the committee. A biannual newsletter for the Episcopal Church Women constituency was edited by Beverly Faucett. After much definition and struggle with the issue, and in consultation with province representatives and their constituencies, it was decided to write new, simple bylaws. They were to provide for the election of a president, two vice presidents, secretary and treasurer to replace the committee. They also identified the tasks to be done rather than hope that the five members-at-large would have needed skills.

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ECW re-forms in the '80s, continued from page 18

Several important precedents were established, resulting in the UTO and Triennial committees making a joint recommendation about the distribution of the Wright Legacy and an agreement to continue their link through regular joint meetings of the two executive committees. The decision to fund Sylvia Corey to represent the women of the Episcopal church at the World Council of Churches' End-of-the-Decade Conference for Women in Nairobi set a precedent with the hope women would be included in all future church representations. Two things lacking that surfaced were the size and shape of the ECW constituency and an updated history of the women and their work. The 1985 Committee made the decision to gather this information.

The 38th Triennial Meeting, 1985, Anaheim: Sylvia Corey, chair/president and Marylyn Adams, presiding officer/VP for Triennial Meeting, shared presiding duties. The theme: "One Body, One Spirit." The logo, the Lily Nimbus cross made by Native Americans of red pipestone from a quarry near Pipestone, Minn., was designed by Eleanor Smith.

New bylaws were adopted during the first few days of the meeting, creating a National Board of the Episcopal Church Women, Episcopal Church, USA. A short history was prepared by Anne Fulk to explain how the organization got to this point and why bylaws were needed. The Triennial Meeting reflected the work accomplished by previous committees and planned a Christ-centered meeting to provide an open forum for issues and concerns to encourage, enable, and support delegates in their ministries. Thirty-six workshops at three different times were held for training, information, and education. A template for future Triennial Meetings was being formed.

The United Thank Offering was gathered at the Opening Service of the General Convention into a beaded deerskin basket, a gift from the Lakota of South Dakota, held by Presiding Bishop John Maury Allin. The offering was the largest to date, \$25,818.02. Celebrant was the Rev. Sandra Wilson, and the daily services following were led by ethnic women from the Los Angeles area. Intentional inclusion was reflected throughout the whole meet-

ing. An Inclusion Reception was held immediately after the opening session, and all organizations were given an opportunity to hand out material and answer questions. Fifteen Episcopal groups accepted the invitation to be seated at the Triennial Meeting with voice. All bishops' wives were asked to participate in all programs and many served as volunteers. For the first time, the evening Gathering Place was sponsored by the Triennial Meeting. Joint sessions were of great interest. The Triennial Meeting joined deputies three times: to hear nominations for presiding bishop, election results and the Program Budget and Finance Report. *Triennial Today*, with Salome Breck as editor, was published for the second time, serving as an important communication tool.

Handling change was the central focus for the 1985 committee. It was a challenge and opportunity for growth, met with much enthusiasm. With the responsibility for finances, the ECW would budget for and authorize all expenditures from allocated funds. The Episcopal Church Center continued to hold the money, trust funds, income, and actually write checks.

However, the Triennial Meeting was threatened with the possibility of moving its meeting time. The women were told the concurrent meetings were too unwieldy. Again a survey looked at just how much more money concurrent meetings cost the church. Again, the women were found to be essential and needed, not only for the spiritual and educational impact, but for the increased bargaining power afforded General Convention in negotiations for future facilities. In 1874, the women meeting for the first time had been considered to be a part of the church family. Finally they had come full circle in 1985.

But the Church Center had many new staff members. The women were told there would no longer be staff for them and they were to have a new working relationship. They were now to be responsible for their own mailings, both the newsletter and devotional guide; also their own profile forms and registration. ECW negotiated for their own facilities and offered space to the National Altar Guild and Church Periodical Club as well as the United Thank Offering committee. Finally the Episcopal Church Women were gathered under one

roof as "One Body, One Spirit."

The 39th Triennial Meeting, 1988, Detroit: President Marcy Walsh, presiding. "Behold! New Life, New Vision!" This theme expressed the spirit of excitement and expectation in which the newly formed national board worked during the 1985-1988 triennium. The logo chosen was designed by Sylvia Slayton of the Diocese of Massachusetts.

Province representatives on the board worked for increased communication with the women in the provinces and dioceses. A resource booklet with ideas for programs, and a pamphlet, *Who We Are, What We Are*, were widely distributed. The Strategy Committee gathered information from all Episcopal women's organizations in an effort to open the Triennial Meeting to more participation. Communication with the ECW network was greatly enhanced with the regular publication of *Communiqué*, a newsletter edited by Marge Burke. In collaboration with Ann Smith and the Office of Women in Mission and Ministry, a leadership training program for women called Women of Vision was developed. Using a grant from the Episcopal Church Foundation, the program was first offered to dioceses in 1987.

The Theme and Logo Committee offered the church an opportunity for creativity by asking for help in designing an ECW logo to be used as an ongoing emblem and in composing an ECW hymn. The logo chosen was designed by Sylvia Slayton of the Diocese of Massachusetts and continues on all ECW materials, usually in burgundy and ivory. The Woman's Prayer, written by Kay Joyce Snodgrass with music by Bobbylyn George Mitchell, was chosen as the ECW hymn. The Worship Committee prepared *A Daily Devotional Guide* containing 50 meditations written by women around the church which was sent to delegates for two months of preparation before the meeting. A Triennial quilt, consisting of 92 squares from diocesan ECW and other groups formed the display behind the podium at the 1988 Triennial Meeting. It beautifully illustrating the oneness made from many parts, both unity and diversity. This quilt was designed and hand made by Nita Shelby of the Diocese of Arkansas.

To be continued in the next Communiqué



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