

Communique

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What It Is, Is ECW

By Lisa H. Towle
President, National ECW Board

In “To Bless the Space Between Us: A Book of Blessings,” John O’Donohue began one of his poems with a particularly exquisite turn of phrase: “We seldom notice how each day is a holy place, Where the eucharist of the ordinary happens...”

Savor that for a moment. Savor the imagery invoked by the word “eucharist.” Its use wasn’t accidental. In his too short life, O’Donohue, an Irishman, was not only a poet but an author, philosopher, and for two decades a Catholic priest. He certainly understood the different meanings that can be applied to the word: the act of sharing; the intimate fellowship; the common faith and discipline of a body of Christians; the sacrament that is the Eucharist, capital E.

Naturally, all this leads me to the ministry traditionally known as Episcopal Church Women. Whether ECW or a variation of the name now found in some dioceses - Episcopal Women of..., for example, or Women’s Ministries of... - it’s about making space and time for the eucharist of the ordinary to happen. And in

those acts of sharing and fellowship, study and worship, extraordinary things happen.

Still, I can hear the question that’s been put to me by clergy and laity alike: Yes, but what IS ECW? I think what people really want when they ask about ECW as a ministry is a tidy answer: we raise money for good works, or we’re dedicated to prayer and spiritual growth, or we advocate for peace and justice. As women of The Episcopal Church (collectively and individually) and as members of the sprawling Anglican Communion we do all those things, and more, because, well, one size does not fit all.

God speaks to each of us and touches our hearts in different ways. Though we are certainly one in the Body of Christ, time and again the people of our fabulously diverse Church make it known we are not always of one mind. That reality can be a welcome one for the 16-member National ECW Board because, among other things, it provides an opportunity to think and act creatively about how best to encourage the ministries of Episcopal Church Women in particular and The Episcopal Church in general.

Helping to ensure that things don’t get discombobulated as we go about casting our nets wide are our structural frameworks. Three

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Go! Share the Word:
Every Day, Comunicamos, EveryWhere



In Her Own Words:

Meet Daryl Storey
Winner of Logo Design Contest
for TM 2018

I am a retired graphic artist and now do most of the graphics for my parish, St. Margaret's Episcopal Church in Bellevue, Washington. The pay is bad, but it's very rewarding! Prior to that I worked in advertising for nearly 30 years.

My inspiration for the logo design was to illustrate the sweeping, swirling breadth of the Holy Spirit, which I hope conveys the thought to "go forth, evangelize." The color symbolizes the fire of Pentecost and the birth of the Holy Spirit, which is what I thought of when I read the theme. I want everyone to be able to know God, so this speaks to me on many levels.



I am also involved in music ministries which I decided to revisit after a 30-year hiatus. I play the guitar, sing, and love to lead worship. I don't know why I ever stopped (other than a case of severe stage fright, which the Lord seems to have fixed). I play weekly in our praise band at St. Margaret's and am also involved in Fourth Day Ministries (Cursillo, Walk to Emmaus, Kairos Prison Ministry), retreats, weddings/memorials, and more recently, the ECW community. I am so blessed by the gifts God has given me, and when I use them to further his kingdom it is always a beautiful thing.

2018 TM ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Additional information is in the TM section of our website, www.ecwnational.org.)



Meet the Rev. Catherine "Cathy" Boyd
Chaplain for Triennial Meeting 2018
Associate Rector,
Trinity Episcopal Church, Marble Falls, TX

I am a lifelong Episcopalian who started to sense a call to the priesthood when I was about 12, although it took me another 30 years to start seminary. Until after college, I lived my whole life in beautiful Missouri, and am a proud graduate of the University of Missouri School of Journalism. It was in college that I discovered the joy of coffeehouse performing, and making music with my friends is one of the finest things I know.

My ministry and the life of faith are inseparable to me (it's not just a job), and I am so grateful to have been brought home to this vocation. In addition, my own path to the priesthood is woven tightly with my life as a clergy spouse; my husband David has recently retired after 30 years as a parish priest in Wisconsin, Kentucky, and Texas. Forming the third strand braided into my life is my vocation as a mother of two wonderful human beings, Clare (a 30-year-old graduate student in Shakespeare) and Marc (a 24-year-old student of improv comedy).



Meet Dr. Linda Patterson
Musician for Triennial Meeting 2018
Organist/Music Director,
St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Brenham, TX

Dr. Linda Patterson holds Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Organ Performance from the University of Houston, where she was a member of the Honors College. She received two fellowships from the Belgian Government to study in Mechelen, Belgium, first with organist/composer Flor Peeters, and then for an International Masterclass and Competition in his memory. She completed her doctoral studies (DMA) at the University of Texas in Austin.

At St. Peter's, she leads a comprehensive music program for toddlers through adults including Youth and Adult Choirs and a recital series. Active as a teacher, accompanist and organist, Linda has performed, taught, and accompanied for national and regional gatherings in Texas and in other states, including a recital at the Round Top Festival Institute. She is a member of the Association of Anglican Musicians (AAM) and the American Guild of Organists.

The mother of three, she lives in Round Top, Texas with her husband and youngest daughter.

Save the Date



The 2018 General Convention of the Episcopal Church will be held in the **Live Music Capital of the World, Austin, Texas.**

The Triennial Meeting, in conjunction with General Convention, will take place in **July at the Austin Convention Center.**

The National Episcopal Church Women Board is exploring new and wonderful ways to make your Triennial Meeting a learning and spirit-filled experience.

Our theme: **Go! Share the Word: Every Day, Comunicamos, EveryWhere**, will help us bring God's love to all. We hope you will come to Texas or join us online to help **GO! SHARE the WORD.**

— Linda Guest, 1st Vice President (Program)

The Third Mark of Mission: To Respond to Human Need with Loving Service

*What if you had no place to sleep tonight,
needed soap for a shower or had no diapers for your baby?*

—Lucy Perry, St Veronica's Guild Member
Cathedral of St. Philip, Atlanta, GA
NECW Board Member (1997-2000)

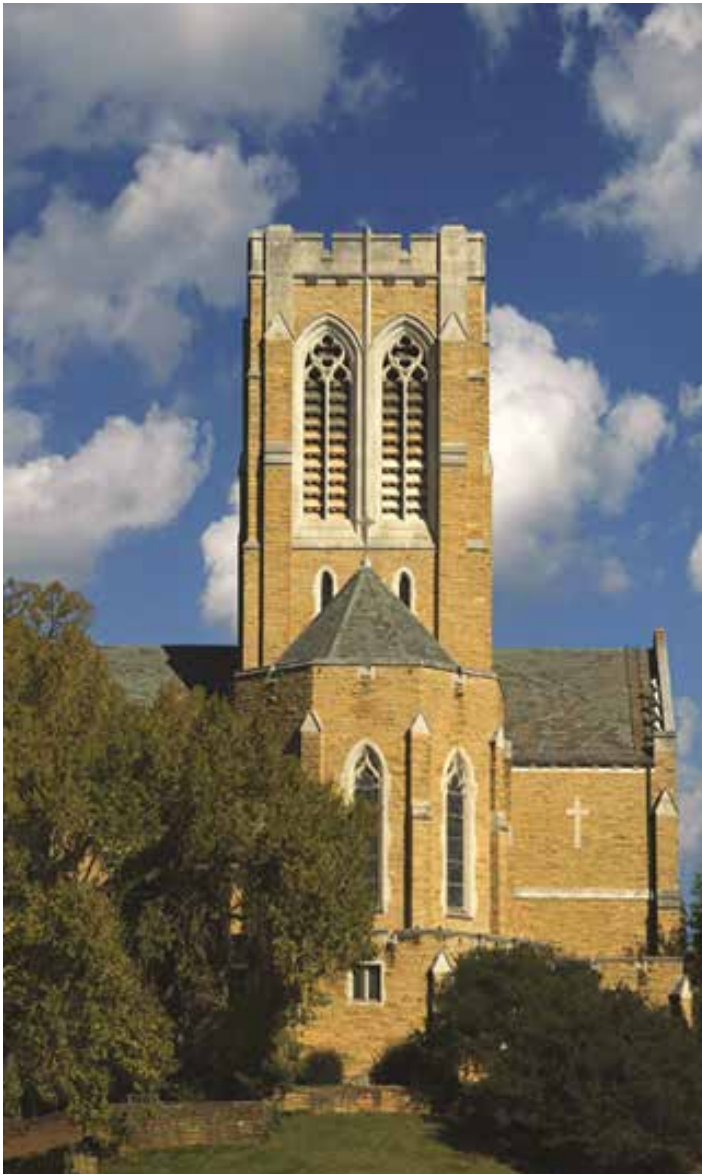
The ministry of St. Veronica's Guild, a group of about 50 women in a very large parish, has evolved since the early '70s. It started simply with members filling plastic bags with personal necessities for a mission housing homeless women and those escaping domestic abuse.

In later years the guild enlisted the help of the parish, the Cathedral of St. Philip, Atlanta, Georgia, with the collection of hotel-sized shampoo, lotion, and soap. To these items the guild added a washcloth, deodorant, toothbrush, and toothpaste for each woman seeking shelter. With the parish's support the project grew immeasurably beyond the early days of filling 20 bags during guild meetings.

Then in 2013 the guild decided to make a change and enlarge the focus of its work. To orchestrate this move, a small committee made site visits to four proposed ministries to learn about each mission; evaluate its effectiveness in meeting its goals; and determine if it had needs that could be met by 50 women. The reports were presented to the guild which voted to take on all four:

1. **Crossroads Community Ministries**, a non-profit organization which offers a wide-range of assistance for homeless men, women, and children.
2. **Church of the Common Ground**, a project of the Diocese of Atlanta which is an open-air church and ministry at a city park.
3. **Emmaus House**, a Jubilee Center of the Episcopal Church that provides advocacy and help for persons fighting poverty.
4. **The Friendship Center of Holy Comforter**, a Jubilee Center of the Episcopal Church which offers programs for folk living in group-homes with mental, emotional, and physical disabilities.

Parish members accustomed to dropping their toiletry samples in the blue plastic tub on Sunday morning adapted well to the guild's four new beneficiaries in Atlanta. This mission change necessitated the guild members bringing white socks, diapers, and feminine hygiene products to meetings, and voting to provide up to \$2,000 from guild funds annually to purchase other items considered vital.



Cathedral of St. Philip, Atlanta, Georgia

Requests of the parish are frequently published in the cathedral newsletter for new, unopened, unexpired toiletries. Lists of needs are printed in bright flyers and left in tract racks, the parish information office, and other gathering spaces. All bags of donations from the tubs are picked up at least once a week and stored.

On alternate months, eight to twelve women meet to fill requests. The collected items are sorted into labeled boxes atop three large tables. A list of the needs of each beneficiary is posted. For example, the Crossroads Community Ministry at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Atlanta, has a standing request for 100 each of soap, shampoo,

conditioner, toothbrush, toothpaste, deodorant, comb, and feminine hygiene products; also 50 each of lotion, washcloths, mouthwash, razors, and emery boards. Shaving cream and sample cosmetics as available are sent. The guild cannot meet all these needs every time, but the motion to fund the purchase of those things in short supply, and the ability to order large quantities at reasonable prices from Amazon helps the guild minister more effectively. The other three ministries have smaller requests—30-40 soaps, etc. Large shopping bags with color-coded labels for each ministry are filled. These are stored at the Cathedral until picked up by each ministry within the week; repeated contact is made to appraise St. Veronica of any changing agency needs.

St. Veronica's Guild is one of six Episcopal Church Women guilds at the Cathedral of St. Philip. During the last 15 years it has shepherded several large projects which have strengthened and built community, but personal care provision has been an on-going focus for literally decades.

Membership in the guild has grown. New members have joined to take part in a vibrant active group of very mature women who have responsibilities in many aspects of the cathedral's life. Fellowship is emphasized, so each packaging session is followed by lunch in a local deli. While the guild does not meet during the summer, members who are able will sort and pack on alternate months; e-mail allows members to remain in contact for news of prayer requests.

Groups starting small and then developing the awareness of need and possibilities of solutions can replicate this mission project. People of all ages and abilities can take a part. We have had fun doing it and work at making it fun.



**Pamela
Chinnis:**
Trailblazer
(1925 – 2011)

40 Years Ago the passage of Resolution 1976-B005 at the 65th General Convention in Minneapolis amended Canon Title III.9.1 giving the right to women for ordination to three of the four orders of ministry - deacons, priests, and bishops.

In 1976 the presiding officer of the 35th ECW Triennial Meeting, held in conjunction with the 65th General Convention, was Pamela Chinnis, a woman in the forefront of the advocacy for the ordination of women as priests and bishops.

In a 1990 interview, when she was contemplating running for Vice President of the House of Deputies, Chinnis reflected upon reaching this point in her journey: “I started 20 or 30 years ago, and I started in my parish, and I certainly had no long-range plan. When I started out, women couldn’t even be seated in the House of Deputies. You start out where you are, and you do Christ’s mission there.”

In July 1991 Chinnis became the first woman president of the House of Deputies by acclamation; subsequently she was elected president for three successive terms. At the end of her last term Presiding Bishop Edmond Browning, speaking at the 2000 General Convention, acclaimed Chinnis as “a model for lay ministry and an inspiration for the ministry of women and men.”

National Board of Episcopal Church Women

Vision and Ministry Statements

Adopted June 29, 2015

VISION STATEMENT

As the eyes, ears, hands, and heart of Christ in the world, we will persist in the work of healing, justice, and peace.

LIVING THE MINISTRY

To live Christ’s ministry we:

Listen to voices of women worldwide;

Promote educational, spiritual, and social programs which minister to women and children;

Provide opportunities and tools to grow relationships with God and others through spirituality, prayer, and worship; and

Encourage the development of women’s leadership by example in stewardship, training, and education.

ECW SISTER MINISTRIES

GIRLS' FRIENDLY SOCIETY, USA

140 YEARS*
www.gfsus.org

MOTHERS' UNION, USA

140 YEARS*
www.mothersunion-usa.org

THE ORDER OF THE DAUGHTERS OF THE KING

130 YEARS
www.doknational.org

CHURCH PERIODICAL CLUB

125 YEARS
www.churchperiodical.com

THE UNITED THANK OFFERING

125 YEARS
www.episcopalchurch.org/uto

NATIONAL ALTAR GUILD ASSOCIATION

99 YEARS
www.nationalaltarguildassociation.org

EPISCOPAL WOMEN'S CAUCUS

45 YEARS
www.ewc-ecusa.com

ANGLICAN WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

13 YEARS
www.anglicanwomensempowerment.org

THE EPISCOPAL COMMUNITY

7 YEARS
www.theepiscopalcommunity.org

*** Founded in England**

ECW NEWS ACROSS THE PROVINCES

Province I

This past April, Province 1 ECW President Delores Alleyne and I attended the two day Diocese of Connecticut Anti-Racism Task Force Retreat. The diocese's ECW annual luncheon was held on May 7 at the Aqua Turf in Plantsville, Connecticut. About 300 women attended, including clergy, bishops, and visiting ECW. The speaker was the Rev. Lindsay Hardin Freeman, author of "Bible Women: All Their Words and Why They Matter," "The Scarlet Cord," and many other works. My role in this event was the selection of the readings and music for the Holy Eucharist. The diocesan ECW end-of-year celebration took place June 9 at the Waters Edge Hotel in Westbrook, Connecticut.

—Submitted by Gloria Rogers
Province I Representative

Province II

Diocese of New York: We hosted the Province II ECW Annual Meeting April 15-16 at Holy Cross Monastery, West Park, New York. Guest speaker Lynnaia Main, Global Relations Officer of the Episcopal Church, discussed the UN's Sustainable Development Goal #5, gender equality. On May 21 the Diocesan ECW Annual Meeting was held at the Chapel of St. John the Divine, Tomkins Cove, New York. The vicar, the Rev. William Dearman, gave the homily and presided at the Holy Eucharist. We sang a medley of beloved hymns which filled the church with the melodious voices of the women. Our luncheon speaker was Vernese Smith, Province

II Representative to the UTO Board. *Submitted by Dianne Roberts, Diocesan ECW President.*

—Submitted by Jennifer Kenna
Province II Representative

Province III

The ECW National Board Meeting was held July 7-12 at the Conference Center at the Maritime Institute, Linthicum, Maryland near Baltimore, for which our province hosted. On the third day of the meeting the Board travelled to Washington D.C to meet Province III members from the Dioceses of Central Pennsylvania, Delaware, Easton, Maryland, and Washington for a tour of the National Cathedral and the noonday Eucharist. Following the service at the Cathedral high altar, we had time for lunch and fellowship at a nearby restaurant.

—Submitted by Margaret H. Gordon
Province III Representative

Province IV

The ECW annual retreat was held June 6-8 at Kanuga, Hendersonville, North Carolina. The highlight of the weekend was having the Rev. Lindsay Hardin Freeman as our speaker. Lindsay travelled with her husband the Rev. Leonard Freeman who treated the group to the "Bible Women Game." This game is played similar to Jeopardy except all of the answers are either in Lindsay's "Bible Women" book or in the Bible. National ECW President Lisa Towle addressed the gathering. NECW Treasurer Karen Patterson also attended the two-day conference.

—Submitted by Mary Beth Welch
Province IV Representative

Province V

Diocese of Chicago: The first ever ECW retreat was held in October at the DeKoven Center in Racine, Wisconsin. There were two days of faith and fellowship with the Rev. Lindsay Hardin Freeman. **Diocese of Indianapolis:** The Diocesan Episcopal Women's Ministries (EWM) have four means of communication including website, Facebook, Twitter, and the Communicator, a three times a year publication sent by e-mail to a large data base. **Diocese of Milwaukee:** The ECW roundtable library used by various parish reading groups continues to expand. **Diocese of Northern Michigan:** The Women's Ministry Council (WMC) conducts a monthly book discussion by phone. This year they are reading "Grounded: Finding God in the World, A Spiritual Revolution" by Diana Butler Bass. **Diocese of Ohio:** At the Diocesan Winter Convocation, ECW sponsored a workshop on human trafficking with the interim US Attorney for the Northern District of Ohio; ECW is also a supporter of a parish-based training program to fight human trafficking. **Diocese of Southern Ohio:** The ECW Book of Remembrance Scholarship program distributed \$7,000 to four women pursuing advanced degrees in church related or helping professions this year. **Diocese of Springfield:** The Magdalene House in St. Louis, Missouri was selected as the ECW 2015-2016 outreach project. The home houses eight women at a time who have been affected by human trafficking. The annual meeting was held April 23 with the Rev. Molly Ward, the ECW Diocesan Board Chaplain. Presenters told the attendees how they could be active with their local hospitals and clinics.

—Submitted by Connie Ott
Province V Representative

Province VI

Diocese of Nebraska: The Women Ministries' annual spring retreat was held April 22-24 at St. Benedict Retreat Center, Schuyler, Nebraska. The presentation of the retreat leader, the Rev. Canon Elizabeth Easton, was "Who Do You Say that I Am?" The summer retreat was held at St. Elizabeth's Church, Holdrege Nebraska at which caregiver Linda Winter discussed her ministry to other caregivers. **Diocese of South Dakota:** ECW's annual project is to support Thunderhead Episcopal Center, the diocesan church camp. At the semi-annual ECW meeting in April, Twila Two Bulls shared her journey to become a priest. **Diocese of Wyoming:** At the diocesan ECW spring retreat workshops on the Altar Guild and the history of the Episcopal Church were given. The group has two main goals as it rebuilds: communication and booking new and relevant speakers. Their 2017 retreat leader will be the Rev. Becca Stevens of Thistle Farms.

—Submitted by Beth Agar
Province VI Representative

Province VII

Diocese of Arkansas: We were blessed to have the Rev. Sara Milford, Curate at St. Luke's Church, Hot Springs, Arkansas, as our ECW Quiet Day speaker. The Rev. Dr. Mitzi Minor, who teaches at Memphis Theological Seminary in Memphis, Tennessee was our featured speaker. *Submitted by Wanda Dunwoody, Diocesan ECW President.* **Diocese of Northwest Texas:** The 2016 Women's Retreat, The Enneagram and Spiritual Growth, was held August 26-28 at Christ the King Retreat Center, San Angelo, Texas. It was led by Kathleen Pittman, Education for Ministry (EFM) coordinator,

Diocese of the Rio Grande. *Submitted by JoAnn Rachele, Diocesan ECW President.* **Diocese of Oklahoma:** The ECW Diocesan Board provided one-third of the travel expenses for Julia Alaya Harris of our diocese to attend the 60th United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (UNCSW), March 14-24 in New York City. Harris served at the two-week long meeting as the Episcopal Church provincial representative to the official Anglican Communion delegation. *Submitted by Debbie Butcher, Diocesan ECW President.* **Diocese of Texas:** The diocesan ECW donated \$500 to St. James' Church, Austin, Texas, in support of Sarah Watkins' attendance at the 60th UNCSW in March as an Episcopal Church delegate. *Submitted by Lisa Martin, Diocesan ECW President.* **Diocese of West Missouri:** ECW continues through Continuing Education Scholarships to assist those women who are furthering their education to become a priest or ordained deacon in our diocese. In the Camdenton area our one-time introduction to human trafficking has grown into an active coalition of members who meet monthly to take action. *Submitted by Judy Turner, Diocesan ECW President.*

—Submitted by Jackie Meeks
Province VII Representative

Province VIII

Diocese of Hawaii: On June 18, the women met at St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Honolulu, Hawaii with the rector, the Rev. Gregory Johnson, who led us in Morning Prayer and then gave a tour of the church facilities. He described the parish ministries from feeding a hot meal the last Thursday of the month to the unsheltered and others in need (numbers go up as high as 103); to sheltering women from domestic violence in the rector's former residence; to assisting veterans; to giving out free bus passes from the City and County of Honolulu. The church

also offers free classes of yoga, tai chi, Zumba, and hula, as well as piano and singing lessons. It was a very inspiring day for many of us. We definitely felt we could somehow do more at our own churches for those in our pews and in service to the wider community. *Submitted by Louise Aloy, Diocesan ECW President.*

—Submitted by Evita Krislock
Province VIII Representative

Province IX

Diócesis de la Republica Dominicana: They held a Lenten retreat on March 7 for those living on the east side and in the center of town. The theme was: Love. On March 8 they had a women's day celebration and visited the shut-ins. A retreat on March 22 took place for those living on the north side. In April, various places and institutes were visited to spread the Word, and complete the collection of the UTO offerings. **Diócesis de Puerto Rico:** The Episcopal Women Society, *Sociedad de Mujeres Episcopales*, is busy trying to get funds to make self-made items and grace offerings, *ofrenda de gracia*, in order to help people who have cancer. **Diócesis de Venezuela:** In March 2016 the priests of Curaçao were invited to a meeting in anticipation of the election of a new bishop in 2017. **Curaçao:** During the Lenten Season we invited members from different churches and prayed for things happening in the world right now: vandalism, terrorism, violence to name a few. On the fourth Sunday of the month the priest has a Papiamento (language having official status in Curaçao) service to encourage the community to attend Mass. We also organize a sports day to which we invite 80 children who have few resources and make sure to have food and drinks. Bible classes are given every Wednesday.

—Submitted by Juditta Ellis
Province IX Representative

continued from page 3

of them are especially vital when it comes to engaging with the world at large, and they're all available on our website as well as in this magazine. Our Vision and Living the Ministry statements are on page 10, and on the back cover are the Five Marks of Mission. In her opening remarks to the Church's General Convention in 2015, then-Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori noted the Five Marks, which were developed by the Anglican Consultative Council between 1984 and 1990, "are summed up in the image of pursuing God's kingdom here on Earth as it is in heaven."

Like pursuit, faith requires action. Pam Chinnis, a trailblazer in The Episcopal Church (see page 10), spoke to this when she said, "You start out where you are, and you do Christ's mission there." Examples of how Episcopal Church Women are living the faith abound in this issue. Hopefully, what's shared here will inspire others to go and do a new thing, because it doesn't necessarily have to be choosing one thing over another, instead it's very much about both/and.

As we get closer to 2018, the year in which the next ECW Triennial Meeting and General Convention take place, there will be a steady uptick in our message to "GO! Share the Word: Every Day, Comunicamos, EveryWhere." The hows and whys of the theme and logo for the 2015-2018 triennium as well as news about how the Triennial Meeting is shaping up are in this issue.

May we all approach each new day of the new year with an understanding of it as a holy place. May we persist in our witness.

(Photo credit, page 3: Canon Anne Vickers, Diocese of Southwest Florida)



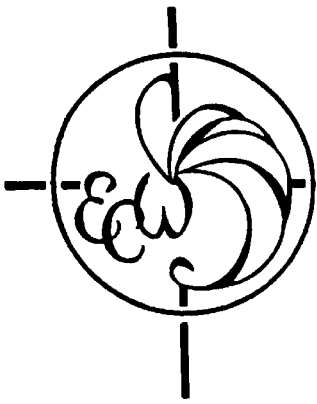
During its meeting in Upstate New York last October, the National ECW Board visited the Women's Rights National Historical Park in Seneca Falls and were reminded how important it is to keep the faith, accept all people as equals, and walk ...boldly into each day.

"We seldom notice how each day is a holy place
Where the eucharist of the ordinary happens,
Transforming our broken fragments
Into an eternal continuity that keeps us.

Somewhere in us a dignity presides
That is more gracious than the smallness
That fuels us with fear and force,
A dignity that trusts the form a day takes.

So at the end of this day, we give thanks
For being betrothed to the unknown
And for the secret work
Through which the mind of the day
And wisdom of the soul become one."

– John O'Donohue, from "The Inner History of A Day"



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Share Your Best Practices

For upcoming issues of the Communiqué we are continuing to look for ECW parish, diocesan, and province mission and ministry stories related to one or more of the Five Marks of Mission.* The stories are intended to inspire and instruct others in starting a new faith-based project or enriching a present one. Articles should be submitted as a 600 to 1,000 word document. (Please see page 2 for additional details regarding submissions.)

* THE FIVE MARKS OF MISSION

- 1) To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom
- 2) To teach, baptize and nurture new believers
- 3) To respond to human need by loving service
- 4) To seek to transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind, and to pursue peace and reconciliation
- 5) To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth

The Province VI ECW Annual Meeting was held August 19-20, 2016. It began Friday evening with Indian tacos served to the attendees by the members of the traditionally Native American St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, Rapid City, South Dakota. After dinner the women had the chance to view the wooden



Niobrara Cross and hear artist Uhl Donovan explain the symbols carved on it. This cross is special to Native American Episcopalians. It was designed by Bishop William Hobart Ware and serves as a symbol of the conversion of Native Americans to Christianity. From 1874–1975 only Native Americans could wear the Niobrara Cross. On Saturday the meeting continued in Rapid City at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church.



—Beth Agar, ECW Province VI Representative

[See **ECW News Across the Provinces**, pp. 12-14, to read of happenings in all nine provinces.]