



# Communiqué

Volume 21, Number 2

Fall 2014

## 40 Years of WOMEN in the Ministry

PAGE 6

# Pilgrimage to the Holy Land



***Pray not for Arab or Jew, for Palestinian or Israeli, but Pray rather for ourselves that we might not divide them in our prayers but keep them both together in our hearts.***

*—Posted on the bulletin board of St. George's Anglican Cathedral, Jerusalem*

*By The Reverend Deacon Nancy R. Crawford*

**I**t was an unsettling summer – not much to celebrate if you look at the evening news and see the fighting that has been going on throughout the Middle East. Christians are among those who are being persecuted for their faith, yet it is our faith that sustains us in times of trouble. We pray for all the people of the Middle East, for they all are children of God.

## **TRAVELING FAITHFULLY, NOT FEARFULLY**

In the midst of this terrifying situation decisions needed to be made about the December 2014 ECW Pilgrimage to the Holy Land. We were encouraged by reports from the pilgrims who were there this summer. Diocese of Oklahoma Bishop Konieczny and his group of 20 traveled throughout the region and encountered no problems. Brothers and sisters in Christ living in the West Bank and in Jerusalem welcomed them and greeted them with loving embrace.

Tour guide and member of the Episcopal Church in Jerusalem, Canon Iyad Qumri, ensured the pilgrims' safety and well-being throughout the journey. The Rev. Scott J. Brown, rector at St. Alban's Church,

Harlingen, Texas shared that it was phone calls from home that made his pilgrimage group aware of the current conflicts. He was on his fourth pilgrimage to the Holy Land, and he "plans to go back to Israel soon with another group of pilgrims, ready to experience the beauty and holiness of God's Holy Land. I pray you too will go, faithfully, not fearfully."

And so, with the rocket attacks ceasing and hopes of peace negotiations continuing, the ECW pilgrimage begins December 1st. Those who needed to cancel their trip did so; we hope and pray that they will be able to visit the Holy Land in the future, when peace prevails. There are 12 of us from around the United States in this group. I think of us as the Easter pilgrims, the time when there were 12 disciples once again, after Judas' betrayal and after the election of Matthias. And what is Easter but the most celebratory season of the liturgical year? Alleluia! At that first Easter new life arose from sadness and death, and now we will go to Nazareth and Jerusalem, to Jericho and the Sea of Galilee, to walk where Jesus walked, to see where Jesus died and rose



again, and to renew our love of Christ as people of the Resurrection.

#### WAYS TO SUPPORT FROM HOME

Events in the Middle East call for more action than American tourists showing support by visiting the region. At our August national ECW board meeting the Social Justice Team proposed, and the board members approved, a gift of \$250 to Episcopal Relief & Development (ERD) and their partner, the Al Ahli Arab Hospital in Gaza. ERD is celebrating their 75th Anniversary, and ECW celebrates with them. It is a

small gift, but if each of us adds to this little gesture by visiting their website at [www.episcopalrelief.org](http://www.episcopalrelief.org), the gift will grow and the hospital can care for those injured during the recent conflict in Gaza.

Please hold the pilgrims in your prayers as we travel to the Holy Land. And we will hold you in our prayers, our beloved sisters in Christ.†

—*The Reverend Deacon Nancy R. Crawford, Eugene, OR, is president of the 2012-2015 National ECW Board. She can be reached at [president@ecwnational.org](mailto:president@ecwnational.org).*

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# Table of Contents

Vol. 21, No. 2 Fall

**From the President's Desk** 2  
**Pilgrimage to the Holy Land**

*By The Reverend Deacon Nancy R. Crawford*

**COVER STORY** 6

**THE PHILADELPHIA ELEVEN:  
A Day of Celebration and Remembrance**

*By Kathy Mank*

**Women in Ministry Celebrate 40 Years** 10

*By Jane Banning*

**40th Anniversary Remembrances** 12

*By Jane Banning*

**Episcopal Women** 14

**Faith in the 21st Century**

*By Cecily Morgan and Esther H. Moon*

**EpiscoMom** 16

**Bridging the Generational Gap**

*By Kristen Pratt Machado*

**Diocesan Discourse** 20

**News from the Provinces**

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Share the details of your ECW chapter's latest activities, or write to a topic you would like to share with other Episcopal women.

If you are interested, or have questions, please contact: [TMEditor@ecwnational.org](mailto:TMEditor@ecwnational.org)

Submissions should be sent as 600- to 1,000-word documents, in Word (.doc) or Rich Text (.rtf) format. Send photos in .jpg or .tif format, at 300 dpi. Include a brief bio (50 words, or less) containing your name, parish, and province (and your email and website address, if desired).

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# THE PHILADELPHIA ELEVEN: A Day of Celebration and Remembrance

*Commemorating an event that mapped a path for change*

By Kathy Mank

Five of the Philadelphia Eleven, one of the Washington Four, Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori, Bishop Barbara Harris, and a host of other women who were the first to be female and ordained at various times and places were celebrated and honored in Philadelphia on Sat., July 26, 2014. The 40 Years of Women's Ordained Ministry and 2000 Years in Ministry Symposium at Temple University provided speakers and panelists the opportunity to share their own history and God's calling to us now. Inspired by Dr. Fredrica Harris Thompsett, who stated that "we study history in order to intervene in it and that we look backward in order to move forward," the 200+ men and women attending were challenged to make more history in the days ahead in ministry that cares for the least, lost, and left out.

The Rt. Rev. Clifton Daniel, Bishop of Pennsylvania, reminded the gathering that Philadelphia was where Bishop White "thought up" the Episcopal Church. The first General Convention of the Episcopal Church was held in Philadelphia at Christ Church. At the end of the Civil War in 1865, General Convention met at St. Luke and The Epiphany church in Philadelphia to lead the church in reconciliation. Forty years ago, Philadelphia hosted the ordination service for the installation of the first 11 women priests in the Episcopal Church at Church of the Advocate. The Bishop had been a priest for only 1 year and decided to lay hands on the ordinands, and go forward—despite the potential cost to his career. In this city, "a greenhouse of Anglicanism and Catholicism," Bishop Daniel illustrated by saying, "what buds in Philadelphia, starts new shoots that take

root and grow throughout Christendom, and celebrates the diversity of God's people." The events in 1974 changed the course of history in the Episcopal Church.

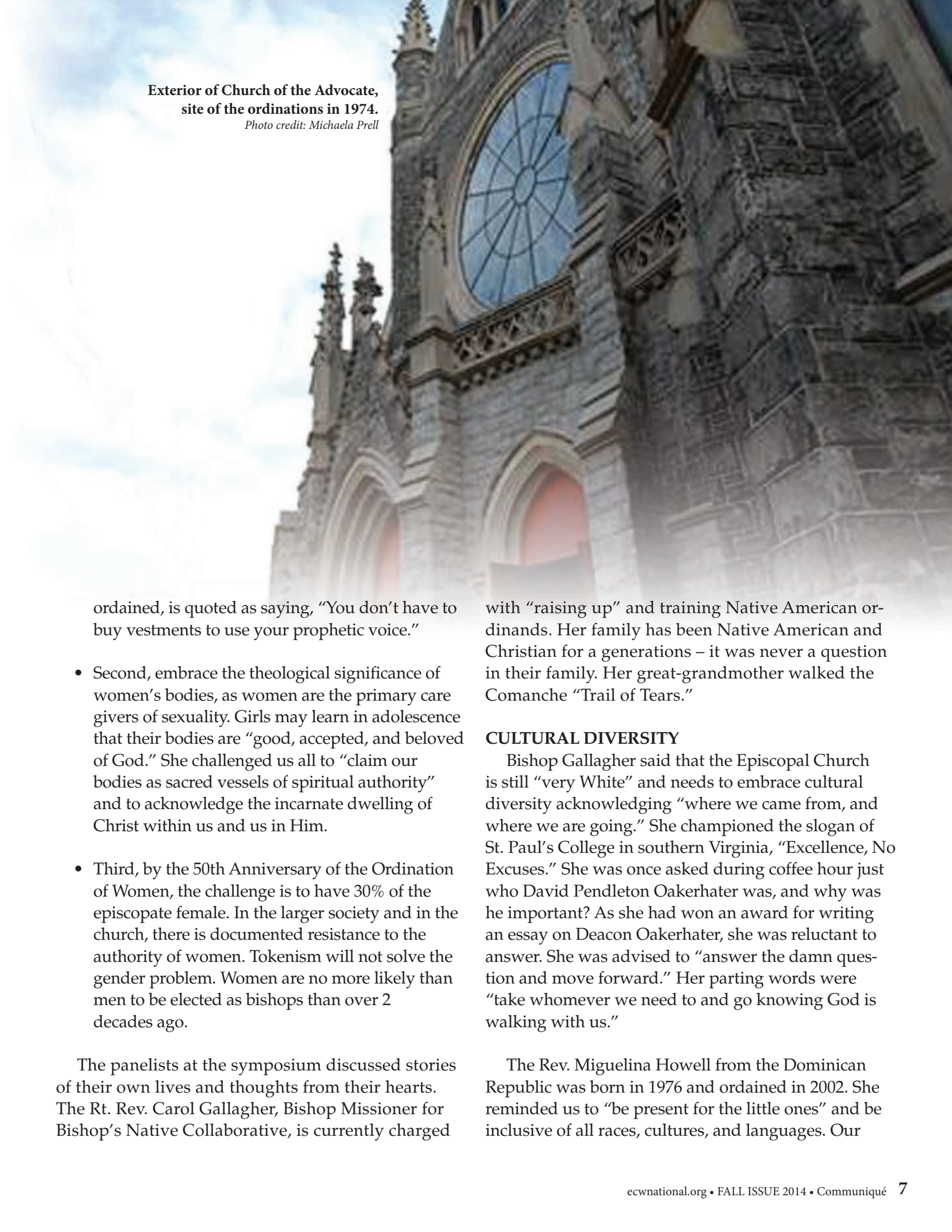
Dr. Harris Thompsett, a historian, professor, and more, stated that "despite 40 years of ordained women in ministry there is still gender insensitivity in the Church." This occurs despite the Church being led by a woman, Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori. She suggested the development of a gender sensitivity program in similar fashion to the existing anti-racism training program delivered by many Dioceses in the Church. The Executive Council Committee on the Status of Women could be a vehicle to impact search committees to increase their focus on women candidates for ministry from all cultures. The committee currently addresses social justice issues such as human trafficking, gender inequality, and poverty. Harris Thompsett wanted to "speed up gender justice."

## **BUMPER STICKER**

There is a bumper sticker, "If you're not going to ordain women, stop baptizing them!" Dr. Harris-Thompsett gave three challenges to the symposium attendees.

- First, recognize the centrality of baptism as chief among all Holy Orders. The radical doctrine of Baptism places all in one order of ministry. There is not a clerical class set apart, but all share in the work of healer, teacher, and prophet where the focus is on being the whole people of God. Pauli Murray, the first African American woman



A photograph of the exterior of the Church of the Advocate, a Gothic Revival style church. The image shows a large, circular stained-glass window with a geometric pattern, set within a stone frame. Below the window are two arched doorways. The architecture is highly detailed with Gothic spires and intricate stonework. The sky is visible in the background, showing some clouds.

**Exterior of Church of the Advocate,  
site of the ordinations in 1974.**

*Photo credit: Michaela Prell*

ordained, is quoted as saying, “You don’t have to buy vestments to use your prophetic voice.”

- Second, embrace the theological significance of women’s bodies, as women are the primary care givers of sexuality. Girls may learn in adolescence that their bodies are “good, accepted, and beloved of God.” She challenged us all to “claim our bodies as sacred vessels of spiritual authority” and to acknowledge the incarnate dwelling of Christ within us and us in Him.
- Third, by the 50th Anniversary of the Ordination of Women, the challenge is to have 30% of the episcopate female. In the larger society and in the church, there is documented resistance to the authority of women. Tokenism will not solve the gender problem. Women are no more likely than men to be elected as bishops than over 2 decades ago.

The panelists at the symposium discussed stories of their own lives and thoughts from their hearts. The Rt. Rev. Carol Gallagher, Bishop Missioner for Bishop’s Native Collaborative, is currently charged

with “raising up” and training Native American ordinands. Her family has been Native American and Christian for a generations – it was never a question in their family. Her great-grandmother walked the Comanche “Trail of Tears.”

#### **CULTURAL DIVERSITY**

Bishop Gallagher said that the Episcopal Church is still “very White” and needs to embrace cultural diversity acknowledging “where we came from, and where we are going.” She championed the slogan of St. Paul’s College in southern Virginia, “Excellence, No Excuses.” She was once asked during coffee hour just who David Pendleton Oakerhater was, and why was he important? As she had won an award for writing an essay on Deacon Oakerhater, she was reluctant to answer. She was advised to “answer the damn question and move forward.” Her parting words were “take whomever we need to and go knowing God is walking with us.”

The Rev. Miguelina Howell from the Dominican Republic was born in 1976 and ordained in 2002. She reminded us to “be present for the little ones” and be inclusive of all races, cultures, and languages. Our



*Photo credit: Michaela Prell*

**The Presiding Bishop, Katharine Jefferts Schori, oversees the procession leading into the church.**



*Photo credit: Michaela Prell*

**The congregation stands to welcome the Gospel Procession.**

church is not just a national church, but includes 17 countries. She honored a fellow-Dominican woman priest, the Rev. Rosa Margarita Santana, first Latina priest in the Diocese of Maryland.

The Rev. Sandye Wilson, the fourth African American woman priest to be ordained (following Barbara Harris, Pauli Murray, and Gayle Harris) was only asked to serve on the panel the week before the Symposium. Graciously, she said to be mindful of omissions, remembering that the first 13 African-American women to be ordained, 12 were left-handed.

In her remarks, the Rev. Wilson reminded those gathered to name injustices, so they are not subject to repeat them. She said that she is a sixth generation Episcopalian, but still believes that it is a very White

church. She expressed that Black women are not counted highly, when Black women and Black men are considered as a group. At one point in her ministry, she helped lead “Mother Thunder in the Village,” where “Hyers” instead of “Hymns” were sung to differentiate women. The Rev. Wilson went on to explain that some groups juggle for position of “the most oppressed.” For example, “Mirror, mirror on the wall, who is the most oppressed of all?” she said. Where there are intersecting oppressions, the Rev. Wilson suggested finding allies to work hand in hand. “There is room to be radically welcoming to everyone as all are created in the image of God. When and where I enter the whole race is with me.”

Nikki Wood, a laywoman, with a career in service to the Diocese of Pennsylvania, spoke about our



*Photo credit: Michaela Prell*

**Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori with acolyte Helen White.**



*Photo credit: Michaela Prell*

**Pictured above are members of the Gospel choir of St. Thomas Episcopal Church.**



calling. Ordained or not, we all are empowered by the Spirit in baptism, and carry that commitment to do God's work. In recalling her work on a search commission, she quipped that the questions asked of candidates were so difficult that even Jesus Christ himself probably could not have answered. "I understand what our Lord wants us to do, I am prepared and I do not need a costume."

At the time the Episcopal Church was just beginning to open a window to talk about equity and racial justice, women's ordination also was advancing. Suzanne Hiatt, an organizer and one of the Philadelphia Eleven, was Ms. Wood's neighbor. She supported her neighbor, but did not have celebratory feelings—having the perspective of an African American woman. The church was doing what the broader society was doing. However, "The Civil Rights movement was being eclipsed by a bunch of feminists." In her estimation, even in 2014, she is not encouraging men and women of color to pursue a vocation in our church unless they want to be poor for the rest of their lives. "The Holy Spirit is still trying to inform followers of Christ that it is a good thing to have a rector of color."

The Rev. Dr. Nancy Wittig, one of the Philadelphia Eleven and currently the priest at St. Peter's, Lakewood, OH, delivered the closing meditation. Through emphasis on righting injustice, she believed it important to ask God to open us for ministry to all people. "Tell the story and free ourselves for the future. Be prophets on issues of justice, but take authority as people of faith." In making reference to the 40 years of ordination, she referenced Suzanne Hiatt, who would speak like "Eeyore," of Winnie the Pooh fame, saying, "Be careful, someone will try to undo this." Hiatt encouraged misbehavior – "if you see a wrong, change it" – speak out on behalf of the least and the lost. Live lives of faith and courage, and compliment the "Justice is Orthodox Theology" slogan. Hiatt also invited others to walk together in revolution knowing that our God travels with us all. Open hearts and minds – to what ministry could look like. "Do not be afraid," she said. "Be of Good Courage." †

—Based in Ohio, author Kathy Mank is treasurer of ECW National Board. She recently attended the 40th Anniversary Observation of the Ordination of Women in the Clergy.



**The Presiding Bishop preaches to a rapt crowd.**

*Photo credit: Michaela Pröll*

# Women in Ministry Celebrate 40 Years in the Pulpit

*Reporter Jane Banning offers her first-hand account of the day's proceedings.*

By Jane Banning

On Saturday, July 26, the 40th anniversary celebration of the ordination of women to the priesthood was observed in Philadelphia, PA, where the first ordinations took place. A morning symposium was held on the Temple University campus, featuring Dr. Frederica Thomsett as the keynote speaker. A panel of diverse clergy included the Very Rev. Katherine Hancock Ragsdale, the Rt. Rev. Dr. Carol Gallagher, the Rev. Miguella Howell, the Ven. Dr. Pamela Nesbit, the Rev. Sandye Wilson, and Ms. Nokomis Wood. Each panelist shared her story and mentioned her challenges before and since her ordination. The meditation was led by the Rev. Dr. Nancy H. Wittig.

Six of the original ordinants from the July 29, 1974, Philadelphia, and Washington, DC (1975), ordinations were in attendance. Merrill Bittner, Alison Cheek, Marie Moorefield Fleischer Carter Heyward, Betty Powell (1975), and Nancy Wittig were present at the morning symposium and the festival Holy Eucharist.

## THE FIRST ORDINATION

The Eucharist, "A Liturgy Celebrating the Ministry of Women," was held at the George W. South Memorial Church of the Advocate, site of the first ordinations. Called irregular at the time, the first ordinations are among the most historical moments in the Church (and, certainly, for its women). The women processed behind the groupings of laity, deacons, priests and bishops, who were led by Dr. Charles Willy and his family. (Willy preached at the 1974 ordination and was president of the House of Deputies at the time.) The women were followed by Bishop Tony Ramos, who was the assisting bishop at the 1974 ordination, and Bishop Barbara Harris—the first woman bishop in the Anglican Communion. The women sprinkled the congregation as they processed.



Jane Banning

The Most Rev. Dr. Katharine Jeffers Schori preached to an over-capacity congregation. Her sermon was representative of the joyful spirit that filled the church. The Gospel Choir of the African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas shared their enthusiastic, infectious music that had the entire congregation singing and clapping.

The Church will be forever grateful to the Philadelphia Eleven Merrill Bittner, Alla Bozarth, Allison Cheek, Emily C. Hewitt, Carter Heyward, Suzanne R. Hiatt, Marie Moorefield Flescher, Jeannette Piccard, Betty Bona Schiess, Katrina Wells Swanson, and Nancy Hatch Wittig. The Liturgy ended appropriately with the singing of Lift Every Voice and Sing. Thanks be to God.†

*—Jane Banning, former president of the National ECW President, recently attended the celebration of the 40th anniversary of the ordination of women as priest, in Washington D.C. She has also provided the photography from the celebration.*



# Save the Date...

You may have heard that the **2015 General Convention of the Episcopal Church** will be held in beautiful Salt Lake City, Utah, where a new Presiding Bishop will be elected to the Church.

The Triennial Meeting, in conjunction with General Convention, will be held inside the **Salt Palace Convention Center**. All of the scheduled events – including Community Eucharist and triennial workshops – will be inside the Convention Center providing participants more time to sit in on a session of the House of Bishops and House of Deputies, or visit the Exhibit Hall and **“shop ’til you drop.”**

Your National ECW Board is planning an exciting Triennial Meeting full of surprises.

Our theme: **“Stir Up The Spirit: ¡Celebremos!”** is inspiring us to think up new ways to celebrate women’s ministries in the Episcopal Church. We hope you are able to be a part of the celebration, in person or online.

— Shirley Greiman, VP of Program







The Advocate Angel in the nave of the church.

Photo credit: Michaela Prell

# 40th Anniversary Remembrances

By Jane Banning

July twenty-six, two-thousand fourteen, was a bright, sunny day in Philadelphia—a perfect day to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the ordination of 11 courageous women into priesthood. Joy and happiness radiated from everyone as they arrived for the Morning Symposium, which was held at the Howard Gittis Student Center, Temple University. The day was a dramatic change from the 88° humidity of July 29, 1974, the feast of Martha and Mary, when those first women were ordained as priests.

## THINKING BACK FOUR DECADES

July 26 was a day to celebrate, and everyone was ready to sing a new song. But many of the women who were around in the 1960s and 1970s well-remember the years of struggle as they waited for the Church to validate what they believed was God's call to our foundational baptismal ministries. Today's young women would find it difficult to believe that in 1914, their predecessors were requesting to serve on the committees that dispersed the funds that they

raised. When these women heard that male missionaries were receiving higher compensation than their female counterparts, they asked again to serve on the committee responsible for missionaries' salaries. They were denied membership. And so it went—year after year after year.

By the 1970s, laywomen were finally able to answer God's call to serve in all Church ministries that did not require ordination. At last, the Church decision-makers accepted and acknowledged many of the spiritual services to which the women believed God had called them.

## ONGOING DISCRIMINATION

Dr. Frederica Thomsett mentioned in her address during the Morning Symposium that young women have shared stories of discrimination that continue to this day. She spoke of the Executive Council Committee on the Status of Women (ECCSW), a committee advocating women's ministries. "Within the church the women continue to be behind," she said.



The Rev. Dr. Nancy H. Wittig, one of the original 11 women ordained into priesthood, gave the meditation at the conclusion of the Morning Symposium. She revealed that there was a time when her strength and determination to answer God's call to ordination were what enabled her to continue her journey to priesthood. Despite her many disappointments, she defended her call through dark times.

### A WOMAN'S CAUCUS

October 30, 1971, comes to mind. That is the day when 60 women met at Virginia Theological Seminary, in Alexandria, VA, and laid the foundation for the Episcopal Women's Caucus, "affirming the role of women (both lay and ordained) in the changing Church." They continued to ask, "When will women be priests in this Church?" The House of Bishops met that same day. They elected to ignore the reports of a 1966 study committee and suggested still another study committee to postpone "solving the women problem." The women persisted. Finally, at General Convention, 1976, a Canon passed, allowing women to be ordained priests. In January 1977, eligible women began to be ordained. Regardless of these advancements, Dr. Thomsett stated, "Women still fall short." One example, she cited, is in the House of Bishops, where there are currently 290 Bishops, and 20 of whom are women. (She believes at least 30% of the House should be women.)

When it was time for Eucharist all past hurts and discriminations were forgotten as thanks and celebration were given for the original eleven ordained women. The George W. South Memorial Church of the Advocate was filled to beyond capacity with a varied representation of the church for the 3pm liturgy, "Celebrating the Ministry of Women." It was truly a celebration.

The refrain to the processional hymn, "Sing a New Church," was:

*Let us bring the gifts that differ  
And, in splendid, varied ways,  
Sing a new church into being,  
One in faith and love and praise.†*

—Jane Banning, former president of the National ECW President, recently attended the celebration of the 40th anniversary of the ordination of women as priest, in Washington D.C. She has also provided the photography from the celebration.



*Photo credit: Michaela Prell*

**Barbara Harris is the retired Bishop Suffragan of the Diocese of Massachusetts, and was the first female bishop in the Anglican Church. She served as crucifer at the service on July 29, 1974.**



*Photo credit: Michaela Prell*

**The Rev. Hillary Raining at the Eucharist.**



*Photo credit: Michaela Prell*

**Bishop Ramos in laying on of hands. He is the only remaining Bishop of the four who consecrated the ordinands.**

# Reflections of Faith in the 21st Century

*Two women share their inner thoughts on being  
an Episcopal woman today.*

*A new era did not redefine or minimize my Faith.*

My having Faith brings freedom and relief from anxieties.  
The practice produces reassuring and comforting thoughts.

*"I want you to be free from anxieties."* 1 Corinthians. 7:32.

True Faith embodies Hope and Trust and is constant. Those two elements keep me grounded in the ever-present Spirit and Divine providence. Doubt and uncertainty are lessened.

An obvious uneasiness existed as the new millennium approached. Nonetheless, universal prayers and acts of Faith prevailed. The Divine presence was in place. Anxious FEARS were dispelled.

My mantra is: *"Your Faith should not stand on the wisdom of men, but in the power of God."* 1 Corinthians. 2:5.

God's love strengthens. The healing of the Canaanite woman's daughter, notwithstanding the caustic rebuke from Jesus, is testimony to her extraordinary faith.

My demonstration of being Faith-full is not limited to the year or the Century. The behavior is timeless.

*"Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things unseen."* Hebrews 11:1.

May we seek God's Grace and an unwavering Faith,  
as we continue on our spiritual journey.

—Cecily Morgan, Episcopal Church Women  
The Episcopal Church of the Holy Cross, Decatur, GA







# The Spirit of Can-Do Women

*I am a woman of the Episcopal Church.*

It saddens me that the ECW of the 21st Century is not as vibrant now as it was in my younger years. Even being a “working woman,” I was able to attend parish meetings, and meetings within my deanery or other deanery meetings. The Diocesan annual ECW meeting was well-attended, as ladies gathered from near and far to have fellowship with women of like minds and spirituality. The workshops filled up fast. It seems to me it was a period before soccer moms or professional women in the work place.

*We were positive, can-do women.*

Attending church was a priority. Being negative was not in our thought process. We shared our faith. It was filled with a loving spirit which came from the balance in our lives. Inspiration and ideas for our ECW programs came from a sense of family and togetherness.

*Egos were left at the door.*

Cohesive leadership came freely, as did the continual sharing of constructive and workable ideas. We were ladies, not with individual agendas, but ready to open our hearts and minds to the Spirit of God.

Maybe those of us that are also DOK will share our hymn with the ECW:  
*“Lift High the Cross”*

—*Esther H. Moon*  
*St. Peter’s, Santa Maria, CA*  
*Diocese of Los Angeles, Province VIII*

# BRIDGING the Generational Gap

By Kristen Pratt Machado

*The author reflects on her decades-long friendships, and how they inspire her relationship with the ECW.*

In the Gospel of Luke, we learn that the post-menopausal Elizabeth has become pregnant against all odds. She meets with Mary, a young and engaged—but unmarried—woman who may need refuge against angry family members who did not understand that a miracle was underway. When the two women meet, Elizabeth’s baby, John the Baptist, moves in her womb, and Elizabeth is called to give Mary a blessing:

*Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.*

—Luke 1:42-45



Terry Jones and the Reverend Steve Rice, rector of St. Timothy’s, during an ECW planning meeting.

I have always loved this story because I am a great believer in both God’s ability to work miracles and the strength that a bond between women offers. Mary seeks solace and finds it in Elizabeth, the older and wiser one. Both are comforted by the bond they share and through their deep and tireless faith.

## RELATIONSHIPS

While my relationships with other women have not involved any miracles thus far, I treasure the female friendships I have cultivated over the years (I am still close friends with a woman I met when we were little girls in first grade!). I have always sought out the company of other





Some of the women’s Bible study group, which includes ladies of other Christian denominations. From left: Kristen, Ginger Marrs, Meg Asby, Leigh Beasley, and Charley-Anne Piersol.

women and enjoyed being part of groups solely dedicated to fostering camaraderie among women and/or girls—from playing on girls-only sports teams to becoming an active member of a sorority to hosting “girls nights” filled with wine and nonstop talking. I have the same two best friends with whom I went to college, and the new friends I have met in Winston-Salem, NC, are treasured additions to what I would call my fellow women warriors—ladies who are doing their best to take care of their families, make a difference in the world, and have some fun along the way.

Withstanding my women’s Bible study group, of which I am the oldest (most seasoned?), my friends are all mostly about my same age. This is my comfort zone. So when a very thoughtful and forward-thinking then-member of St. Timothy’s, Dale Link, contacted me about bridging a generational gap in the parish’s ECW, I was intrigued but nervous. When we did meet, and she asked if I would help her in getting young women at St. Timothy’s more interested in ECW, my first thought was to be extremely flattered because I’m not very young. Af-

ter that warm glow wore off, I was terribly unsure. I had never attended an ECW meeting before (and to be honest, I didn’t really know what it was) but

**“I have always  
loved this story because  
I am a great believer in both  
God’s ability to work miracles  
and the strength that a bond  
between women offers.”**

I did have a feeling that I should give this a chance. I wanted to be part of a church-based women’s group. I also figured older women in our congregation had a lot of wisdom that young women could benefit from. Plus, it became clear that ECW’s survival at St. Timothy’s could be in jeopardy, and the more I learned about the history of the ECW, the more I knew I couldn’t let this happen.

Well, fast forward to today, and I am co-president of St. Timothy’s ECW with a vibrant, warm, energetic, and, yes, wise woman named Terry Jones. Terry retired after a career spent helping children as an elementary school counselor and now works as an educator at Old Salem, a museum and gardens that focus on preserving the cultural heritage of Salem, a colonial town started in 1753. She often remarks that I have inspired her in many ways (I think my sometimes charming children may have added to this feeling), but it is she who has taught me some very valuable lessons. Just by brainstorm-





St. Timothy's ECW occasionally offers childcare during meetings. Last fall, the childcare arrangement fell through and we had two future ECW members join us: Kristen's 6-year-old daughter Piper Machado and 5-year-old Lily Pylant, daughter of Shannon Pylant. They happily played under the table while we learned about the fruit of the Spirit.

ing with her and trying to find ways to get the older and younger women of this parish to come together and to find value in what ECW has to offer, I have learned what it means to be part of a church community. She taught me that it's the people who make a church and that our collective commitment to following Jesus' teachings is critically important. Her resilience in the face of setbacks and her inherent kindness inspire me to continue on faith's bumpy path.

#### INVIGORATING ECW

So, Terry and I are working to reinvigorate ECW at our parish. We are trying new things this year—different meeting times, more emphasis on social justice and fellowship, and additional events outside of our traditional structure. Will it work? I don't know, but one thing I know for sure is that the cause is worth fighting for. And I am enjoying the journey. †

I would love to hear from other ECW members who have ideas about how to successfully bridge the generational gap. Please email me at [kpmachado@gmail.com](mailto:kpmachado@gmail.com).

— *Kristen Pratt Machado is the executive editor of a monthly clinical journal serving dental hygienists and director of publishing operations for the journal's parent company, Belmont Publications, Inc. She and her husband, Ché, have two children—5-year-old Piper and 3-year-old Beck—and reside in Winston-Salem, NC. Kristen is a member of St. Timothy's Episcopal Church where she leads the Meals for Moms (and Dads!) Ministry and volunteers on the Vacation Bible School committee. She is also a member of the Winston Salem Women's Fund, a community of passionate women creating social change.*



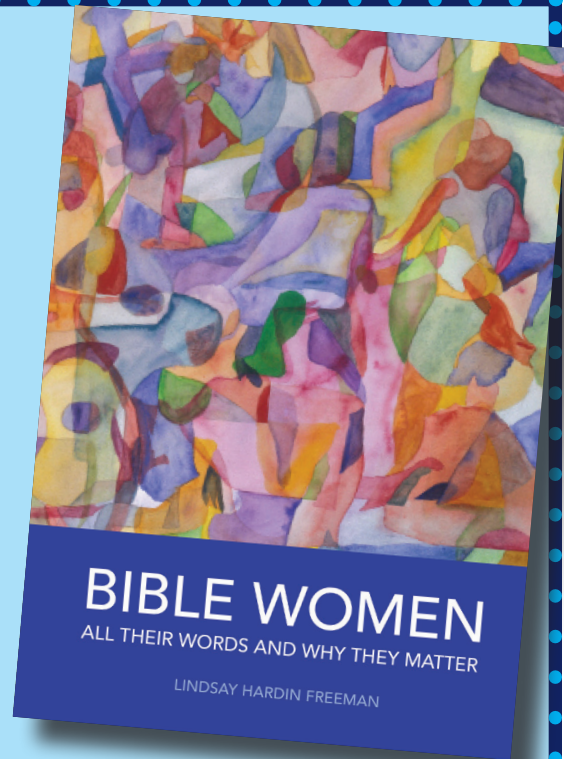
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— Taken from <http://www.lindsayhardinfreeman.com>



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Lindsay Hardin Freeman, an Minnesota-based Episcopal priest of 29 years, has won over thirty awards for journalistic excellence. A popular speaker and retreat leader on Bible women and contemporary spirituality, she is the author/editor of six books, and has served congregations in Massachusetts, Philadelphia and Minnesota. The long-time editor of *Vestry Papers* (2001 – 2010), she also serves as a ministry developer for the Episcopal Church in Minnesota and as adjunct clergy for St. David's, Minnetonka.

— Taken from: [www.lindsayhardinfreeman.com](http://www.lindsayhardinfreeman.com)

Lindsay Hardin Freeman has provided a great gift to the women of our church, and to all people searching for relevance in even the smallest of words and action. As she writes in her introduction of the 93 women who speak in the Scriptures, "Their words are meant for us." Here is a fascinating offering for group study and personal reflection from this consummate storyteller and teacher.

—The Rev. Deacon Nancy R. Crawford, National President, Episcopal Church Women, Eugene, Oregon

# Sharing the News from ECW Provinces

## Province I

Province I is made up of seven dioceses: including Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont, and Western Massachusetts. The National Episcopal Church Women Board meets in each Province between Triennials.



Ender's Island

Province I hosted the board meeting from August 21-26, at St. Edmund's Retreat Center, Enders Island, CT (near Mystic, CT.). The women of Province I were invited to St. Edmund's on Saturday, August 23, to share Eucharist, lunch, and discussion time with the board. The Rt. Rev. Laura Aherns, Bishop of Connecticut was asked to be the celebrant. We enjoyed seeing old friends and meeting new ones.

### PROGRESS OF WOMEN

The annual meeting of Province I Episcopal Church Women was held on September 27 at St. George's Episcopal Church, located in York Harbor, Maine. The guest speaker was be the Rev. Linda Grenz, Canon to the Ordinary in the Diocese of Rhode Island. Discussion of the progress of women in the Church, past, present, and future, took place over lunch. There was a large turnout among Province I members.

—Linda Guest,  
Province I Representative to ECW Board

## Province II

### DIOCESE OF CENTRAL NEW YORK

In the autumn of 2008, the women of Trinity Church in Watertown, NY, decided to reestablish a women's group. They met with Jennifer Kenna the president of the Women's Ministries Commission of the Diocese of Central New York, who gave them current information from National ECW "Start-up Start-over Program." Since then, the group has grown not only in membership, but also in number of amazing ministries. Most of the current group consists of retirees, aged 55 years and older.

A group christened "Yarn" meets on Tuesday mornings to create an array of handmade items for outreach projects. Items include: chemo caps, newborn hats, prayer shawls, and blankets for such organizations as the Victims Assistant Center, Wounded Warrior blankets, and garments for *Dress-a-Girl*, a project which supplies dresses to girls in impoverished countries around the world. They share their time and talents, while simultaneously enjoying quality time with each other and usually something VERY delicious to eat. Women from other denominations have joined them as well.

### TWO FUNDRAISERS

Trinity's ECW holds two fundraisers per year: a Christmas bazaar in December, and a rummage sale in the spring. The majority of the money raised is donated to various local and church-wide outreach projects. In addition they support the Watertown Urban Mission's School Supply Drive in the fall and a mitten/hat/scarf drive at Christmastime.

One of their newest endeavors has been to host an "80+ Years Young" luncheon in the fall. Any parish member who is an octogenarian—or older—will receive a written invitation to a beautiful formal luncheon prepared and served by the members of the ECW. Every attempt possible is made to get many of the parish homebound to this event, even providing transportation where necessary.



The women of Trinity Church do not know the meaning of the word “retirement!” They do, however, exemplify the meaning of “resurrection” as they continue to bring “new life” to many in this community, the larger Episcopal Church and in the world. It is a blessing to be among them.

—Submitted by Jennifer Kenna, Assistant Priest for Pastoral Care, Trinity Church Watertown, New York

### DIOCESE OF LONG ISLAND

The ECW of Long Island annual meeting was held on October 31. The day began with the celebration of the Eucharist in the Cathedral of the Incarnation—our new Assistant Bishop Chilton Knudsen celebrated and preached. The names of those entered into the diocesan ECW Book of Remembrance in the past year were remembered at the service. Memorial gifts to the Book of Remembrance are disbursed annually to an outreach ministry—alternating amid a local, a national, and an international cause. This year, the recipient of the fund was Codrington College, Barbados, Caribbean. The monies will be used for restoration purposes, in honor of the Diocese of Long Island clergy who were educated at the facility. During the meeting following the service, the ECW elected a vice-president, recording secretary, and Triennial deputies, and presented the 2015 proposed budget.

### DIOCESE OF NEW YORK

The ECW Bronx District held its Fifth Annual Spring Luncheon on Saturday, May 10. ECW diocesan president Dianne Roberts, together with the immediate past three presidents—Virginia (Ginger) Lief, Margaret Cash, and Dorothy Smith—were the guest speakers. The theme was “Stir Up the Spirit! A Celebration of Service.” Each speaker was asked to briefly share the anticipations, realities and accomplishments of her time in office.

On Saturday, May 17, the consecration and installation of the Rev. Allen K. Shin, as Bishop suffragan, was held at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, New York City. The previous Saturday he attended the ECW Bronx district luncheon, where he introduced himself to the luncheon guests. Bishop Shin joined the Episcopal Diocese of New York from the Diocese of Long Island, where he served as a rector. ECW board members from both dioceses attended

the May 17 cathedral service.

—Compiled by Ginger Lief, Province Representative

### Province III

In May, the Diocese of Bethlehem held its annual meeting at the Kirby House in Mountain View, PA. The Rev. Lou Divis told stories of the Creation, intersecting with God’s Word in the Old and New Testament. The group’s project “Bethlehem Tailors Training Center,” in South Sudan, had its first graduation. This program has been supported since 2000.

All dioceses are busy with scholarships, Hurricane Sandy Relief Funds, Women to Women of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, soup kitchens, backpack programs, and other programs supporting families in their communities.

— Dorothy Arthur, Province III, Southwest Virginia.



Church Mice from the women of Trinity Church, Staunton, VA.

The women of Trinity Church in Staunton, VA, have been busy sewing church mice! We try to meet once a month to sew, laugh, share soup, share souls, and create. The tradition of church mice was resurrected in 2013 with sales totaling \$1,125 for the church Memorial Garden. The proceeds from 2014 sales will help pay the salaries of teachers at a secondary school in Copan, Honduras.

—Caroline Tucker, Province III

## Province IV

### THE DIOCESE OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

The ECW of The Diocese of Central Florida had a very busy spring. We completed our first Women of Vision (WOV) workshops early in the year and found them helpful. Most of the attendees felt there would be value in continuing the trainings. Our Board has established a goal of offering a session in each deanery in the coming year. However, prior to rolling out the trainings we are tweaking the materials and trying to find additional trainers. We have a committee composed primarily of our deanery directors to work on this. Members of the committee met with our Archdeacon for ideas from her. Progress has been delayed due to surgeries and illnesses but we hope to get the ball rolling again soon.

We had three deanery meetings – NW, NE, and Central. The NE and NW meetings were well attended. The Central Deanery has not met in years and while attendance was sparse, we are hoping this spark will stir up the spirit of others in the deanery and that participation will grow. A SE Deanery meeting also was scheduled, but was canceled due to a conflict.

Interestingly, we are having difficulty settling on a date and venue for our fall annual meeting. With the president's surgery, we are considering trying something new and moving the meeting to early next year. This would avoid conflicting with bazaars and other activities churches generally have in the fall. It also might address the complaint that there are too many meetings for women to attend between ECW, DOK, and the Altar Guild.

### THE DIOCESE OF ATLANTA

Our annual retreat was in May, at Camp Mikell Retreat and Conference Center, Toccoa, GA. It was a great success. Our retreat leader was Dr. Beth-Sarah Wright and her topic was "Healthy Body and Soul – Saying Yes to God's Love." She is a noted author and lecturer. The annual meeting of the Diocese of Atlanta was held on October 4, at St. Matthews Episcopal Church, Snellville, Ga. The guest speaker was Prov-

ince IV president, Barbara Owens. We were very excited to have her visit our diocese.

For 2014 -2015 we will be raising money to upgrade the infrastructure of Camp Mikell. Our ECW built a cabin at Mikell in 1941. For some reason, it was named the "Hen House." Generations have attended camp at Mikell and are now sending their children and grandchildren. The last big construction project was completed 25 years ago. Our goal is to preserve this special Godly place for the next generation.

### THE DIOCESE OF EAST TENNESSEE

The ECW of East Tennessee Diocese participated in our Annual Diocesan convention in February. We manned booths for ECW and UTO and gave out materials and information about ECW to folks who were interested in revitalizing their ECW or UTO efforts. We also attended sessions at the convention. In March, we assisted in hosting Katrina Packard, with the National Altar Guild, at Church of the Good Shepherd in Knoxville. Approximately 70 ladies attended from across the Diocese and it was very well-received.

In April, our diocese participated in the Tennessee Statewide Tri-Diocesan conference by assisting with gifts for the keynote speaker, Katerina Whitley, a conference musician, and the three Bishops of Tennessee, conducted a Bishop's roundtable about the state of the church. In May, ECW participated in a day-long meeting dealing with the Mutual Ministry Review held by the diocese. In June, our Scholarship chair, and selection team, chose our Mollie Tucker Scholar for 2014. Leia Thompson of St. James Church in Greeneville, TN, will be attending the University of the South at Sewanee in the fall.

The East Tennessee Fall Ingathering and Annual Meeting was held in September at the Grace Point Camp and Retreat Center with the Bishop and the Rev. Michelle Warriner Bolt presiding for our Eucharist. Our program was a celebration of the "40th Anniversary of the Ordination of Women in the Church" and we invited all female clergy in the Diocese to attend, as well as those pioneer women who



were our first ordained women priests. As we hoped, a large number of the women of the Church were able to attend this all-day event.

### THE DIOCESE OF ALABAMA

The ECW Board had their scheduled meeting on August 9. There was discussion around the upcoming Fall Conference held at St. James, Alexander City, in October, with our East Alabama Convocation hosting. Our guest speaker was the Rev. Becca Stevens. Lots of fun, food, and fellowship were had along with a wonderful program. Activities included the choice of a shopping safari at downtown Alex City boutiques (who had discounts waiting on the ladies) or a tour of Children's Harbor, a camp for children battling diseases. A silent auction provided many opportunities to get some early Christmas shopping in with the proceeds going to the ECW Scholarship Fund. ECW announced the recipients of the 2014-15 college scholarships. Over \$10,000.00 was awarded to 12 deserving college students. We congratulated them and wished them well in their studies. The new website will be up soon with a fresh look.

### THE DIOCESE OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

The Diocese of Southwest Florida is getting ready for fall Deanery Meetings and for its Annual Meeting in November which will be an election and installation of our new Board for 2015-2017. The Rev. Carol Mead will be our guest speaker with Bishop Smith as our celebrant and installer.

### THE DIOCESE OF SOUTHEAST FLORIDA

The 45th annual meeting of the Province IV ECW executive board recently appointed new board members, deanery directors, and presidents for the following parishes: North Palm Beach Deanery,

Broward Deanery, North Dade Deanery, and South Dade Deanery.

A board installation took place at Christ Episcopal Church in Coconut Grove (South Deanery), with Bishop Frade serving as the celebrant and installer. The guest speaker at the event was visiting Archdeacon Ranfurly Brown, from Nassau Bahamas. The Rev. Barbara Baptiste-Williams, assistant priest of Christ Church, served on the altar for the service. Another high-point of the service was the presentation of a plaque to the Distinguished Women Triennial Delegate, Jennifer Chang.

In addition, an ECW children's Sunday was held on October 19, at Grace Episcopal Church, West Palm Beach, FL.



—Submitted by Gloria H. Clausell, ECW President, Diocese of Southeast Florida

### THE DIOCESE OF FLORIDA

The women of the Province began the year with the Winter Meeting held at Camp Weed and the Cerveny Conference Center. The speaker was the venerable Deacon Jeanne Beyer. She spoke about the role of deacons in the Episcopal Church and her role as Archdeacon of the Diocese of Florida.

In April, the annual Diocesan Women's Retreat welcomed the Reverend Louanne Loch as retreat leader. Her presentation was a thoughtful and moving look at the Stations of the Cross.

In June, several women traveled to Kanuga for the Province IV Women's Retreat.

The Late Summer Meeting took a lighthearted look at the "Bad Girls of the Bible," and also heard from Mary Ann Cox of St. Peter's in Jacksonville. She spoke to us about the work of Community Health Outreach and how they will use the United Thank

Offering Grant they received this year.

On November 1, Bishop Howard helped us to celebrate and install new officers.

Continued encouragement and participation from women in the workplace and mothers of young children, by having our meetings on Saturday and by providing child care, is ongoing.

### THE DIOCESE OF GEORGIA

The Episcopal Church Women (ECW) in the Diocese of Georgia and its Board has been faithfully working for the Church in Georgia. Our theme for the past 2 years in the Diocese of Georgia has been, "Many Paths...One Journey: Prayer, the basis of all women's ministries." This year's very successful and well-attended Annual Meeting in May was held at the Honey Creek Episcopal Conference Center in Waverly, GA and hosted by the Central Convocation. Barbara Owens, Province IV ECW President from the Diocese of Louisiana was keynote speaker. Barbara spoke to us about her spiritual journey and the power of prayer in her life.

### THE DIOCESE OF NORTH CAROLINA

As the 2014-15 academic year starts, eleven women will continue courses of study or begin classes for the first time in a long time thanks to Lex Mathews Scholarships. The scholarships, part of a program by the Diocesan ECW for women in the diocese aged 23 and older, are intended to help the women gain self-sufficiency via a bachelor's degree, associate degree, certification program or licensure. This year, \$11,100 was awarded for the study of everything from nursing to paralegal technology.

The ECW in NC has pledged to educate the people of the diocese about the problem of human trafficking. (North Carolina consistently ranks in the top ten of trafficked states.) To this end, the Episcopal Church Women have joined Partners Against the Trafficking of Humans in North Carolina. PATH-NC is a network of concerned citizens, governmental organizations, for profits and nonprofits (including faith-based groups) working together to raise public awareness and foster community actions to end human trafficking.

### THE DIOCESE OF MISSISSIPPI

This is an exciting time for the Diocese of Mississippi. We have elected the Very Reverend Brian Seage to be the 10th Bishop of Mississippi. He will be consecrated bishop coadjutor on September 27 at the Jackson Convention Complex. ECW feels a special connection to the bishop-elect as he has been a presenter at our conferences and his wife, Kyle, (rector at St. Philip's/Jackson) is a former ECW chaplain. Mississippi was fortunate this year to have received both UTO grants submitted, one for our diocese and one for our companion diocese (Panama). When Trinity/Pass Christian had to rebuild following Hurricane Katrina, the building had to be raised to meet new building codes on the coast. The elevator installed was discovered not to be large enough to accommodate a casket at funerals. The grant will allow them to install a new elevator so that this will not be a problem in the future. In Panama the grant will be used to upgrade the Diocesan Retreat Center. Of course, Mississippi continues to be very supportive of UTO and also CPC national projects. In addition, diocesan projects--Children at Risk and Global Scholarship continue to benefit children in need in Mississippi, and provide scholarships to students in Panama and Uganda. The spring conference in April featured Katerina Whitley, who presented her *Women of the Bible* program. The women are looking forward to the Fall Conference and Annual Meeting in November where the Right Reverend Michael Curry, Bishop of North Carolina, will be speaker.

### THE DIOCESE OF LEXINGTON

In May, we held our annual Women's Weekend at The Cathedral Domain, our camp and retreat center. The weekend included time for worship, fellowship and prayer. Bishop Doug Hahn was meditation leader and presented three thought-provoking meditations about *Walking in the Dark*. He asked everyone to imagine the lives of Mary Magdalene, Thomas, and Cleopas and their individual walks in the dark. During the final session he emphasized; "Even when things are not as we thought, we know that God is with us in our walk and knows our name." In June, five members of the board attended the Province IV ECW meeting at Kanuga which was, as always, a great time for networking and meeting ladies from around the province.



## THE DIOCESE OF WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA

October 4, saw the Diocesan Annual Meeting at Trinity Church in Covington, Kentucky. The meeting began at 10:30 with the Rev. Linda Young as the Celebrant and Preacher. Following was the election of officers for the next Triennial and recognition of Honored Women from around the diocese in anticipation of selection of our Honored Woman representative to Triennial.

In 2015, we will be offering to partner with ECW's from around our diocese by awarding matching grants for projects near and dear to our ladies. We will also again be accepting applications to the Bishop Hosea Fund for Education.

## THE DIOCESE OF EAST CAROLINA

Summer is a slow time for ECW here as families are either out of town or entertaining others who frequent our coastline during this time of year. But our parishes do continue to help with the food banks, soup kitchens, etc, that are still going strong.

Our Diocese ECW August Gathering was on August 21 at Trinity Center. We had over 100 ladies in attendance as we learned about "Praying with the Hymns."

This was also our first meeting with our newly-elected board. At our Annual Meeting this past April, we accepted a new set of by-laws which established a position of 1st VP for Programs and allows our Past Presidents a vote on the board – these changes have helped already. Also, we discussed how to implement some of the recommendations of our Task Force to Reinvigorate the ECW in our diocese, which we had last year – one of the main products of this task force was our new by-laws. Now we will work on another recommendation of reaching out to and helping our parishes form/reform organized ECWs (if interested) and/or helping organized ECWs investigate ways to "reinvent" themselves. We intend to use the new surveys, etc. from the National ECW site, but we want members of our board or task force to introduce and help the parish in this effort. Hopefully, in a future report I will be able to provide more feedback on this effort.

We had a wonderful overnight retreat about Centering Prayer in April with our Bishop as our presenter. Women's Education Program. Next year, we will do a Fashion Show plus a High Tea to raise funds and awareness of ECW projects.

This year, the Diocesan ECW Board is meeting within each of the six deaneries so the women can tell us their stories. So far, we have had two of the six gatherings. This is a great way our women are meeting the board and we listening to their many positive stories about their projects. We have done an assessment based on what our women want to keep and what they have wanted to throw out or change. This process is still in the works.

## LINES OF COMMUNICATION

Also, we have started a "Did You Know" column in our newsletter "Go Tell It On The Mountains" which is a section where all the parishes have an opportunity to tell what their women are doing. Our communication person has put us on the Diocese "The City" which is a way for others to keep in touch and tell their own stories.

We are redesigning our website. Our unified gift project this year has been Ministry of Hope, a program for women in prison. We continue to raise funds and support United Thank Offering, Church Periodical Club and our own diocesan project All Saints Day Memorial Offering, which this year those funds went to help La Capilla Episcopal Church.

Some of us went to Province IV ECW Conference. Our women made "goody bags" to give to the women who came to event. We continue to support other outreach projects in and out of our diocese and our Camp Henry which is a camp for boys and girls at Lake Logan Conference Center. We now have a Hispanic Ministry Liaison on our board so we can work with our Latino sisters. Our last event for 2014 will be our Annual 93rd Episcopal Church Women Celebration held at Deerfield Episcopal, Asheville. Our keynote speaker will be author Katherine Moose. Ms. Moose. A book signing followed our celebration.

## THE DIOCESE OF UPPER SOUTH CAROLINA

We had five ladies from our diocese attend the Province IV Conference at Kanuga. They all expressed their favorite workshops, the music, speakers, and, of course, the delicious food that Kanuga has to offer.

The Diocese of Upper SC has received a companion UTO grant with Cange, Haiti. The grant was for new latrines for the school Ecole Bon Sauveur. There will be new enclosed facilities for boys and girls with doors on the stalls, and a new waste treatment facility, as well. Their previous bathroom facility was a pit latrine (basically, a hole in the ground) with no privacy. We are truly thankful for the benefits that this new facility will allow for the students and teachers.

We have asked our parishes to collect the hardback board books for the children at the school. These are the books with simple words and pictures to help the students learn English and their own language.

## Province VI

A Province VI ECW Colorado ECW co-sponsored retreat was held in Denver on September 12 and 13. Special guest, author, and retreat leader, the Reverend Lindsay Hardin Freeman, spoke about her new book, "Bible Women: All Their Words and Why They Matter." Thirty-one women—plus Freeman and her husband the Reverend Leonard Freeman—were gathered for the event, which included nine clergy members.

### ELECTION OF NEW OFFICERS

Sandra Squires, of Nebraska, was reelected as president of Province VI, while Samar Fay, of Colorado, was elected as secretary. Irene Kornelly, also of Colorado, was elected to serve as the Province VI delegate to Triennial, Salt Lake City, and Nebraska's Pat Sheldon will serve as Province VI representative to the Episcopal Church Women national board, starting in 2015.

Colorado-based Kornelly, Amy Mayes, and Marcia Himes (both from Wyoming) will continue to serve as vice president and co-treasurers, respectively, until 2015. Also continuing service through summer



**National ECW Board Visits Province VI**  
The National Episcopal Church Women's Board visited the Benedictine Center in Schuyler, NE, in late October.

term are: Mari-Lou Triebenbach, of Minnesota, ECW National Board; Sandra Squires, of Nebraska, United Thank Offering Board, and Lyn Zolman, of Colorado, as president and representative of the Daughters of the King National Board.

### MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

Province VI ECW has openings in the following areas: the United Thank Offering Board (advanced technology skills and time commitment required); the Altar Guild, and the Church Periodical Club. Interested parties can contact province president Sandra Squires at [sksquires@cox.net](mailto:sksquires@cox.net) for additional information.

## Province VIII

### DIOCESE OF EL CAMINO

#### TIME OUT WITH GOD

The women of the Diocese of El Camino Real put aside busy lives to refresh, reflect, and renew at the 32nd annual retreat sponsored by the Episcopal Church Women held this year on August 7 and 8 at the St. Francis Retreat Center, San Juan Bautista, CA. The theme of this year's retreat was "Time out with God."

The Retreat Leader, the Rev. Wilma Jakobsen from St. Jude's, Cupertino, opened the session "Be Here Now" noting that God welcomes us in love. Wilma invited us to take time to listen, to learn, to be – in song, in silence, in creativity – to be open to the Spirit.

We were invited to mediate on we needed in order to be present at the moment, to be open to God's



love and grace at the retreat, to be open to what the Holy Spirit wants to do in us and for us. Further, we explored what we had come from and what we needed to put aside. We pondered what we needed to entrust into God's loving care so that we could be here now.

As we began to embrace silence, Wilma led us in "Finding God in the Quiet." As we studied the story of Elijah and God's call to him in 1 Kings, we were invited to reflect on where in our lives we encounter the desert; that is, where do we find the need for God most strongly? We considered how God nourishes us and what support God gives us on our journey of faith. Like Elijah, how can we hear



The 32nd annual retreat sponsored by the Episcopal Church Women was held at the St. Francis Retreat Center, San Juan Bautista, CA. The theme of this year's retreat was *Time out with God*.

the "sound of sheer silence" by which God communicates with us? We were invited to meditate on whether human disappointments or failures have ever been for us a steppingstone toward a deeper relationship with God. To gain our own personal insights, like Elijah, what is our answer to God's question: "What are you doing here?"

As we moved into Living in the Present Moment, we reflected on a passage from Isaiah 43, encouraging the Israelites "not to remember the former things, or consider things of old" as they passed through the sea, for God was doing a new thing, making a new way in the wilderness. We then took time alone in silence, reflection, prayer, creative work. During this time we reflected on how we have been tempted to view the past with nostalgia. We pondered how we can use the past to find courage for the present and hope for the future. Like the

Israelites, we explored what changes our lives when we realize that God always creates something new. As we considered our past, we identified former things we need to let go of. We explored what new things we hoped for and what God is doing in us or through us that is new.

In the session "Coming to God As We Are," we studied a passage from Mark 10. "Let the little children come to me," Jesus implored, "For it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs." In our time of reflection, it was meaningful to consider, that in God's sight we do not have to pretend that we are more than we are, that we can be like children before God. Two profound questions were posed: What does it mean that we are unconditionally loved by God? What does it mean to us that every person in the world is unconditionally loved by God? Following our personal time of reflection, we shared in small groups how we had been moved by God as the Spirit opened our hearts.

During our time at St. Francis Retreat, we wandered the grounds, enjoying the beauty of God's creation among the ancient oaks. We encountered black-tailed deer, wild turkeys, and a variety of songbirds. From the edge of the retreat center we could look out over the valley, with farmland below stretching to Highway 101 in the distance.

Throughout the retreat, the women of the diocese joined together in Taize chant, encircling us in peace and serenity, knowing God's presence among us.

*Bless the Lord my soul and bless God's holy name  
Bless the Lord my soul, who leads me into life.*

*In God alone my soul can find rest in peace,  
in God my peace and joy;  
only in God my soul can find its rest,  
find its rest in peace.*

*Ubi caritas et amor, ubi caritas, Deus ibi est.  
(Where there is love and caring, God is there.)  
O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer,  
when I call, answer me.*

*O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer,  
come and listen to me.*

In the closing Eucharist, the reading from John 15 resonated deeply with all of us. Jesus said, "This is

my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. You did not choose me but I chose you. I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I'm giving you these commands so that you may love one another."

We left the retreat with hearts full of God's blessings, having found his voice among the ancient oaks and each other. We came away refreshed and renewed, having felt God's presence in the Holy Spirit speaking to our hearts. How grateful we were having spent time out with God.

– *Diane Lovelace, ECW President,  
Diocese of El Camino Real*

## Province IX

During the year 2014, women of Province IX (including the Dioceses of Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic, Honduras, the Republic of Venezuela, Colombia, Central Ecuador, Ecuador Litoral, and extra territorial Diocese of Cuba) have been working closely with our bishops, according to the various diocesan programs for the honor and glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

From January to April 2014, dioceses in our province had their annual conventions, responsibility and the work of these events were mostly responsible for our women. Similarly between the months January through May 2014, the Episcopal Women's Puerto Rico, Dominican Republic and Cuba, performed their conventions or annual meetings, where parts of the policies are chosen, the work done in the previous year reported and planned activities for the other period.

During the months May through August 2014, the following activities were held:

1. Days of Prayer, special programs for mothers and the elderly.
2. Educational workshops and spiritual fortifications.
3. Active participation in summer school programs. In the Dominican Republic this year we were visited and Collaboration Groups of eight different partners Diocese.

The months of September through November 2014,

will feature such activities such as:

1. Management Studies and the Bible (September).
2. National and Regional Retreat (October).
3. Activities focused on social program and collection UTO.

December is the month dedicated to the fraternal sharing through lunch, dinner, and any other activities that allow our women to come together to discuss their experiences and work.

In the general convention of 2012, approved that ninth province from 2016 face the challenge of self-sustainability, each of these dioceses will receive a single match for our budget and the subsidy received from 815, will be suspended at that time. Our groups receive financial support from our Diocese, therefore if the budget is limited our finances and resources to develop the pastoral work also limited. We thank God that for the moment, the women of Puerto Rico women have economic stability. In the Dominican Republic we receive an annual financial support as part of the Diocesan budget and the unconditional support of our Bishop Rdm. Julio Cesar Holguín. In some dioceses, such as Venezuela and Ecuador, women face economic problems that affect their activities.

Like our Diocese, the women's groups in the Province IX, urges us to prepare a strategic plan leading to the generation of resources to continue developing our mission work.

Last March, in the Diocese of Ecuador Litoral, our province council held its business meeting chaired by Bishop Rdm. Francisco Duque. At this meeting, it was agreed that in the third week of February 2015 the Diocese of Puerto Rico, the provincial synod was made.

We maintain communication with our bishops, especially with our Presiding Bishop Rdm. Francisco Duque, in order to make plans before the 2015 Triennial for a workshop retreat for Province IX. We hope that the Lord will help us to find the necessary resources for its development. We are always willing to work for God, with faith and hope and belief that everything in Christ strengthens us. Sending a warm and fraternal embrace.

~ *Mayra Brown, Province IX Representative*



# Did you know?

Diocesan, Province, Parish/Congregation and individual contributions provide ongoing support to the ECW National Board to continue its ministry. Even the smallest contributions add up and make a world of difference.

## How does your contribution help?

### Aid to Delegates

Contributions defray the cost and enable delegates to attend the Triennial Meeting (TM) who could not otherwise afford it. Applications are made to the Treasurer within 4 months of the TM. Up to \$1,000 may be awarded to a continental US delegate and up to \$2,000 to a delegate residing outside the continental US.

### TM Endowment Fund

Originally formed as the *Dollar Endowment Fund* in 1991, this fund's objective is to always have sufficient resources for the ECW National Board to host the TM. If every Episcopal church woman had given \$1 in 1991, the fund's objective would have been met. The fund balance today is approx. \$514,000 (which fluctuates with the market) and generates roughly \$20,000 in income annually. Contributions are much appreciated to ensure a resource to host TM.

### Scholarship Fund

A newly established Scholarship Fund for women pursuing graduate study for ordination or the helping professions. The Finance Committee coordinates the application process and makes award recommendations based on need. The ECW National Board contributed \$50,000 to establish the fund. Contributions from individuals, dioceses, provinces and others are welcomed in memory of, or in honor of church women who are or have been special in their lives.

### Unified Gift

Each Triennium the Social Justice Committee of the ECW National Board selects a Unified Gift. The ministry or cause supported by the organization chosen should be broad enough in scope for ECW's at all levels (churchwide, province, diocesan, and congregational) to join in a fundraising, service, or advocacy project on the same theme. For TM 2015, the Unified Gift selected is GEMS, Girls Education and Mentoring Services, an advocacy and training organization, that addresses human trafficking.

### Women to Women

Formerly a grant program, the Women to Women gifts support women and families trapped in a cycle of poverty, disease and hopelessness. The gifts are designed to enable women to learn skills that will enable them to start small businesses or become employable in similar fashion to micro-lending. An application process is coordinated by the Social Justice committee of the ECW National Board. The application requires bishop verification of the need represented. Contributions by individuals, ECW, and outreach committees provide seed money for projects.

### Communiqué

Our magazine, *Communiqué*, is published nationally three times per year by the ECW National Board and costs approximately \$10,000 per issue to produce.

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## ECW National Board Contribution Form 2012-2015

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	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Aid to Delegates	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Unified Gifts	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Aid to Delegates	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Unified Gifts	_____

Contribution for:	Amount
<input type="checkbox"/> GEMS	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Triennial Meeting	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Endowment	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Women to Women	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communiqué	_____

### This gift is an:

- Honorarium    Memorial

For: \_\_\_\_\_

An acknowledgment may be sent to: (Name and address)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**To make a contribution, tear out this page and mail it with your contribution to:**

Kathy Mank, National ECW Treasurer  
9559 Kelly Drive, Loveland, OH 45140

**Make checks payable to:**  
Domestic & Foreign Missionary Society (DFMS)