



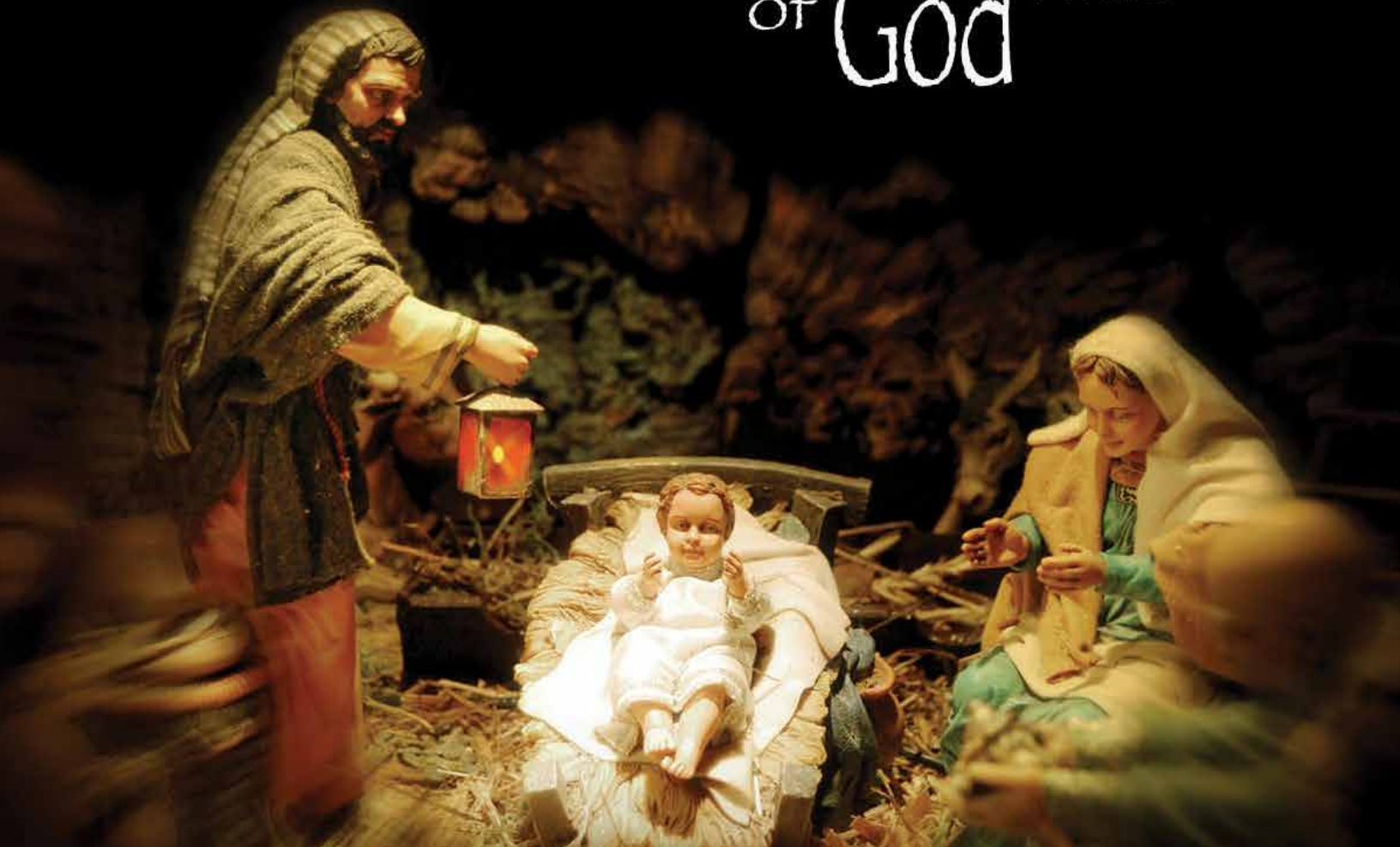
Communiqué

Volume 20, Number 3

Winter 2013

Walking in the Footsteps of God

PAGE 6



“Stir Up the Spirit”, Stir Up the Dust

By The Reverend Deacon Nancy R. Crawford



In the last years of my mother's life, whenever I visited her we also visited her attic. There, we found items that had been precious in her life, but which no longer fit into the living parts of her home. She hoped that these precious items would find new purpose, and new life, in my home or in my children's homes. Quite often, because the items had been left in the attic for years and years, they had accumulated dust. Some things I dusted off and took home with me, and other things were left for another time.

REVISITING OLD, BELOVED ITEMS

Over the past several months, members of the Episcopal Church have been revisiting old, beloved items of women's ministry, dusting them off, and giving them new life. How many of us have heard once again and been inspired by the story of the Emery sisters of Boston? These five sisters of a 19th Century Episcopal family were devoted to mission and ministry in the church. Julia Emery gave 40 years of her life as secretary of the Women's Auxiliary, the precursor to Episcopal Church Women. Margaret Emery was instrumental in the creation of the Box Work, later to be known as United Thank Offering. Because of the recent attention that has been given to the UTO Board, its makeup and its granting process, my blue box is more predominant on my desk as it becomes heavier and heavier with coins. Not only has the dust been stirred up with the United Thank Offering, so has the dust on my little blue box. Have you, too, become more intentional about the coins that are put in UTO blue boxes? I, for one, was not the most devout when it came to putting coins, along with thanks and prayer, in my UTO box. I generally remembered

when my coin purse became too heavy, or as the time of the parish ingathering drew near. Now, if I don't have a coin each day to put in the box, I simply touch it and give thanks. I give thanks for the women, past and present, who have volunteered their time and talents to see that ingatherings take place in churches, and that boxes are visible at church-wide events. I give thanks for the women, past and present, who have volunteered their time and talents to serve as diocesan UTO coordinators, and who meet with their bishops to discuss grant applications. I give thanks for the women, past and present, who have served as province representatives and members-at-large to the UTO Board. Those serving now have swept away the dust and are back at work, making sure that funds are collected and then granted to mission and ministry projects around the Anglican Community.

STIRRED UP THE DUST

The Episcopal Church Women, too, have stirred up the dust on some old, beloved items of our organization. At the last Triennial Meeting, the delegates passed Resolution 101/104 which resolved "that an ad hoc committee be established by the 2012-15 Episcopal Church Women (ECW) Board to study, research, and review the present function and structure of the ECW Board, and the mission and purpose of the ECW." The ad hoc committee has been established with a woman from each of our nine provinces, women who are intergenerational representatives from various Episcopal Women's Ministries, as specified in the resolution. A consultant from Crystal Brook Consulting, Donna Lynn Johnson, an Episcopalian from the Atlanta, GA area, has been hired to work with the ad hoc committee and to provide professional services

and oversight in the execution of the resolution.

What will they find in the attic of ECW? What will find new purpose, new life in the ministry and mission of ECW? And what will be left in the attic to be brought out at another time? We pray for the Holy Spirit's guidance with those who take counsel for the renewal and mission of ECW.

We "Stir up the Spirit"—and the Spirit decides to

stir up the dust on our venerable women's ministries. Let us keep our hearts and minds open to hear what the Spirit is saying to us.

Amen.†

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.

2012-2015

ECW National Board

Listed below is the current leadership of the Episcopal Church Women.

President

The Rev. Deacon Nancy R. Crawford
1595 E. 31st Ave.
Eugene, OR 97405
541-543-1122
president@ecwnational.org

Secretary

Lisa H. Towle
110 Dutchess Dr.
Cary, NC 27513-4209
919-386-9531
secretary@ecwnational.org

Vice President of Program

Shirley Greiman
25 Wolcott Woods Dr.
Simsbury, CT 06070
860-803-7525
vpprogram@ecwnational.org

Treasurer

Kathy Mank
9559 Kelly Dr.
Loveland, OH 45140
513-560-2126
treasurer@ecwnational.org

Vice President of Information and Communication

Christine Budzowski
578 Washington Blvd. #861
Marina del Rey, CA 90202
310-948-0056
vpinformationcommunication@ecwnational.org

Member-at-Large Social Justice

Deborah Gardiner
2119 Tallow Dr.
Portland, TX 78374
361-816-0277
socialjustice@ecwnational.org

Table of Contents

Vol. 20, No. 3, Winter Issue

From the President's Desk...Page 2

"Stir Up the Spirit," Stir Up the Dust

By The Reverend Deacon Nancy R. Crawford

COVER STORY...Page 6

Walking in the Footsteps of God

By Michelle Johnston

Tech Talk...Page 10

A Tweet a Day

By Lisa H. Towle

Perspectives...Page 12

Living a Fifteen-Hundred-Year-Old Rule of Life

By Karen Potts

EpiscoMom...Page 14

Faith in the Balance

By Kristen Pratt Machado

United Thank Offering...Page 16

Grant Awarded to Center for Disabled Children in Jerusalem

By The Reverend Deacon Nancy R. Crawford

Diocesan Discourse...Page 18

Communiqué is looking for writers.

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

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).

Deadline for the next issue of *Communiqué* is February 15, 2014

Communiqué

Vol. 20, No. 3

www.ecwnational.org

Christine Budzowski

National ECW Vice President for
Information and Communication

Rogena Schuyler Silverman

Editor

tmeditor@ecwnational.org

Copy Cats Printing

Hattiesburg, MS,
Printing

Cristina Paraiso

Artistic Advisor

Submissions to the *Communiqué* are from unique and diverse people throughout the world. Opinions expressed in these submissions are those of the author, and not necessarily held by members of the ECW Board.

To receive the *Communiqué*, to report a change of address, or make a submission, contact:

Christine Budzowski

578 Washington Blvd., #861

Marina del Rey, CA 90292

vpinformationcommunication@ecwnational.org

ecwnational.org

Subscription to *Communiqué* is on a voluntary basis. Suggested rate is \$12.

Additional contributions are always welcome.

Send check payable to the

Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society to:

Kathy Mank

ECW Treasurer

9559 Kelly Dr.

Loveland, OH 45140

513-560-2126

treasurer@ecwnational.org



2012-2015 ECW National Board Province Representatives

Province I representative

Linda Guest
29 Hazelwood St.
Cranston, RI 02910
401-741-5642
province1@ecwnational.org

Province II representative

Ginger Lief
310 Riverside Dr. #822
New York, NY 10025-4123
212-662-3257
province2@ecwnational.org

Province III representative

Dottie Arthur
2001 Parsonage Rd.
Parkton, MD 21120
410-357-8857
province3@ecwnational.org

Province IV representative

Kathy Gosselin
8040 Summerbreeze Ter.
Spring Hill, FL 34606
352-410-9812
province4@ecwnational.org

Province V representative

Connie Ott
7995 Shagbark Cir.
Cross Plains, WI 53528
608-798-3688
province5@ecwnational.org

Province VI representative

Mari-Lou Triebenbach
16520 30th Ave. N.
Plymouth, MN 55447
763-559-4961
province6@ecwnational.org

Province VII representative

province7@ecwnational.org

Province VIII representative

Louise Aloy
1005 Laelae St.
Wailuku, HI 96793
808-264-9830
province8@ecwnational.org

Province IX representative

Mayra Brown
Calle Santiago No. 114
Gazcue Apartado 764
Santo Domingo, DR
809-482-2555
province9@ecwnational.org

Parliamentarian

Connie Skidmore
P.O. Box 4588
Incline Village, NV 89450
775-232-9250
cwskid@att.net

www.ecwnational.org

Walking in the Footsteps of God

Of all the places in the world, why travel to Israel?

By Michelle Johnston

This seemed to be the question a friend was asking me when, before my trip, he asked, “what are your expectations for this trip?” Did I have expectations? I thought for a minute and said, “I don’t have any expectations. I want to be open to whatever happens.” When I thought about it more, deep down I was hoping to have some type of transformative spiritual experience. According to scripture, this is where my God walked the earth – how could I physically inhabit the same places that God physically inhabited and NOT be transformed?

AN OPEN HEART AND AN OPEN MIND

When I left California on my pilgrimage, I felt I was going with an open heart, an open mind, and a fairly good understanding of the political and religious tensions in that area. After all, I come from a progressive Episcopal parish, All Saints Pasadena; we have a Middle East Ministry and I have been involved with our Peace & Justice work. I soon learned that I did not know as much as I thought. And now, reflecting on my experience, even my trip preparation was an indication of what I consider to be my unconscious beliefs about Israel and the Middle East. It never occurred to me to spiritually prepare for my trip by looking at a Palestinian or Muslim point of view. Jews and Christians are not the only ones who consider the Holy Land holy – it’s holy for Muslims as well.

Our guide, Iyad Qumri, was amazing! As an Arab, a Palestinian, and a Christian who was born in Jerusalem and lived there all his life, he brought a very unique perspective to the holy places, the people, and the political/religious situation in the region. He knows the region and the Bible inside and out, allowing him to connect each of the holy sites we visited to the actual scriptural passages that speak about those sites and the

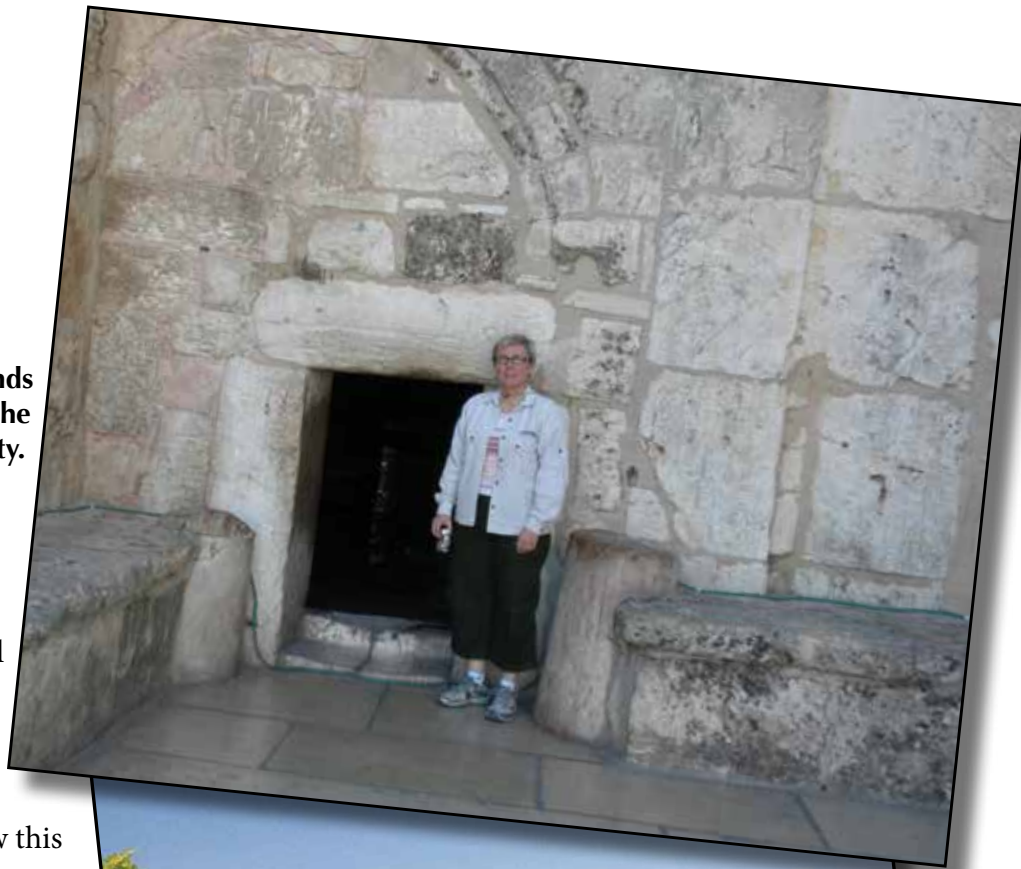
events that took place there. This allowed us to connect to each place on a much deeper spiritual level.

Guiding pilgrims in the Holy Land and helping them to see through the eyes of the Jews, the Christians AND the Muslims is Iyad’s ministry. And because this is his ministry, he has forged relationships that enable him to provide experiences that are unique to most pilgrims. One of these once-in-a-lifetime experiences was at Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem. The church is built over the site that is traditionally considered to be the cave that marks the birthplace of Jesus. Iyad arranged for our small group of 12 to participate in an Italian Eucharist – *in the cave* – with the priest and nuns! So many people funnel through this small cave that they are usually only allowed time to briefly touch the star that marks the birth spot and are then ushered along to make way for the next person in line. How special that we not only got an extended time in the cave, but we also got to celebrate Eucharist. In fact, I was SO moved, that tears streamed down my face through most of service. At one point, even the priest shed tears – that’s how moving the experience was. To experience a Holy Sacrament in such a holy place was truly a spiritual and transformational experience.

A TRANSFORMING EXPERIENCE

Reciting The Beatitudes from the very cave where it is said that Jesus did the same when he gave The Sermon on the Mount was another transforming experience as were renewing baptismal vows at the Jordan River and taking a boat ride on The Sea of Galilee – the same sea where the disciples fished and Jesus walked on water. Wow! Place after place, I kept thinking, “I can’t believe I’m standing here, touching this, seeing this...” Books, documentaries, and other people’s stories are no substitution for experiencing

At right: Author Michelle Johnston stands at the entrance of the Church of the Holy Nativity.

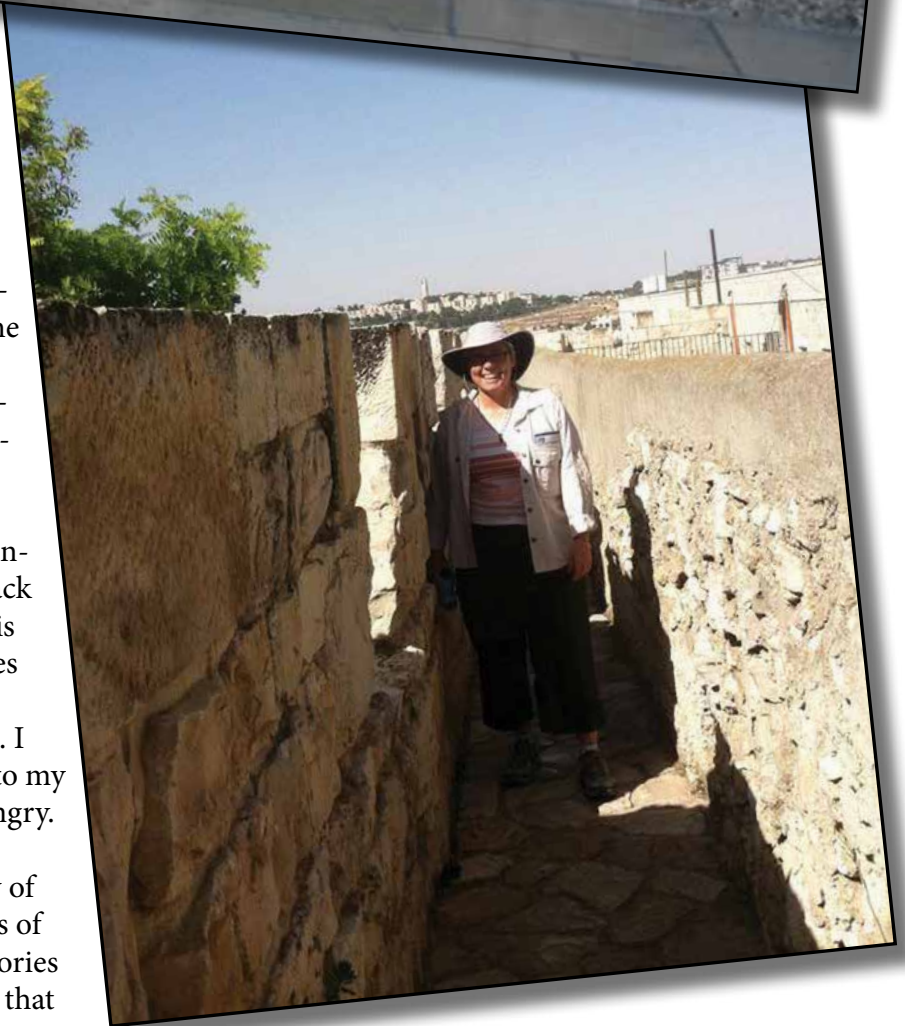


these places first hand. And now to what broke my heart. I will be the first to admit that I am not an expert on the Israeli/Palestinian conflict, but I thought I knew the basics on both sides. However, being there in person allowed me to see firsthand how this conflict is impacting everyday people.

STANDING NEXT TO THE WALL

I stood right next to a 30-foot high concrete wall and heard how it goes through a Palestinian neighborhood and separates Palestinian families. In the paraphrased words of the Jewish speaker who shared with us the Jewish perspective of the political situation, “while Israel has a right to protect its borders, the problem is in the implementation.” Standing next to the wall brought up feelings of sadness and injustice. I learned that you could tell a Palestinian house from a Jewish house by the large black container on top of the house. This container is for collecting rain water and Palestinian houses each need one because the Israeli government denies them running water five days per week. I put myself in their shoes and it brought tears to my eyes; the inhumanity of it made me sad and angry.

In the US, our media gives us a biased view of the Middle East. For example, when the events of 9/11 took place, our media showed us news stories of Palestinians cheering; they did not show us that there were also Palestinians holding candlelight vigils in solidarity with us. Like many, I unconsciously took in this information as unbiased news and formed beliefs I didn't even know I had. Jews and Palestinians should not be defined by their extremists. Muslims



Above: The author on the ramparts of the Old City of Jerusalem.

and Christians should not be defined by their extremists. Muslim, Jews, and Christians have followers who want to do violence in the name of their God, but these people are the minority and should not be taken to represent the entire group.

As Christians, Jesus is the incarnation of our God, but we don't always follow his example. If we did, we would love the Palestinian as much as we love the Jew. We would advocate for the rights of Palestinians as much as we advocate for the rights of Jews. I am not advocating hatred of Jew in favor of Palestinian; I am advocating love and compassion towards both. I also want to be clear that it is the Israeli government oppressing the Palestinian people, not the Jewish people as a whole.



Above: Standing along the shore of the Sea of Galilee.

“There are no easy answers to the complicated situation in the Middle East, but I think there are answers and there is hope.”

STOP TAKING SIDES

I am advocating that we start following Jesus and stop taking sides. I am advocating that we treat all humans with dignity and stop supporting the building of settlements and walls and stop the denial of water. And, although I am not a Bible literalist, I am advocating that you take *Matthew 22:39* literally and love your neighbor as yourself. There are no easy answers to the complicated situation in the Middle East, but I think there are answers and there is hope. There are good people on all sides who are working for peace in the region in many different and important ways. And in my opinion and their opinions, a solution begins with human dignity.

You should travel to The Holy Land and experience it for yourself – it's perfectly safe and it's an experience you will never forget. You may not come back changed in the way I was, but you will come back changed.†

Photos courtesy of Nancy R. Crawford and Michelle Johnston.

Michelle Johnston is a member of All Saints Episcopal Church in Pasadena, CA.

**The next
ECW Pilgrimage
to the Holy Land is
planned for
December 1, 2014.
Mark your calendars,
and check the next
issue of
Communiqué,
or the ECW Website
(www.ecwnational.org)
for details.**

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



A Tweet A Day

*Students do it, doctors do it,
Even educated rockers do it,
Let's do it, let's tweet our news.*

(With apologies to Cole Porter).

By Lisa H. Towle

Over the past few issues of the *Communiqué*, we've looked at ways of using technology to help tell the stories of Episcopal Church Women, wherever and whenever they're happening. But immediacy is not the only plus of communications tools powered by digital technology, there's also the matter of relevancy. True, sometimes you can't beat the time-honored method of ink on paper to spread the word (exhibit A: this magazine). However, by making the effort to engage with people in other ways you're sending strong messages: the ministry of Episcopal Church Women is not mired in the past; Episcopal Church Women will meet people where they are; Episcopal Church Women want to share or, in the lingo, "network."

TWEET THIS

"Messages" brings me to the point of this article, tweets. Baby birds make noises we know as tweets, but there's also a form of communication called tweeting. Tweets are little messages limited to 140 characters, they can include links to images, videos and websites, and they can be an effective way of spreading the news about ECW.

Tweets are sent via a company called "Twitter" (www.twitter.com). The largest of the online social networking services of its kind, industry watchers estimate Twitter has more than half a billion registered users. There is no charge to join Twitter or to send and read these bursts of information that are available to anyone who chooses to "follow" you (and if you don't opt to make your account private everyone can share in your tweets).

The beauty of tweets is that you can send and receive information without having to spend a lot of time at a desk because while Twitter may be reached via a computer it's also accessible via mobile phones. For instance,

recently, one of my young adult daughters, a devotee of Twitter who chooses to follow over 500 accounts (though many of them don't tweet regularly), received 80 original tweets in the course of an hour. They were from her alma mater, individuals, women's rights organizations, food-related entities (including favorite restaurants), global education groups, political groups, and a variety of lifestyle and entertainment media.

Furthering the sharing process is something known as retweeting or "RT." Should you receive a tweet and want to make sure your followers also get the information, you may forward it as a RT from your Twitter account. In the course of that same lunch hour, my daughter received a stream of retweets originating from a group that was trying to draw attention to an initiative of theirs. She read all the tweets on her phone, noted what was important, what was funny or interesting, and what perhaps should be passed along, and then moved on with her day. Nothing took a lot of time because, again, the messages are only 140 characters long. Nor did anything beg for an immediate response. And so it goes in the world of Twitter also known as the "Twitterverse."

IT ALL ADDS UP

Those who use Twitter often cite two reasons for doing so: It gives them an immediate pulse on news and events that matter to them and it allows them to broaden their reach to a wider community. As with a website or Facebook page, Twitter is a way to stir things up by telling your story and offering the opportunity for involvement. Each of these tools requires different levels of expertise and will bring a different audience. While not perfect comparisons, think of them in this way: Website = novel. Facebook = short story. Twitter = haiku poetry.



Each can build on the other. Here's an example of how that integration can work. My diocese, the Diocese of North Carolina, will be celebrating its official bicentennial anniversary in 2017 and the diocesan ECW wants to ensure that the contributions of the women to the life and health of the church over the past 200 years are part of the observance. With the guidance of our professional archivist and historian, Lynn Hoke, we've initiated several projects, one of which is called "The Story Goes On." Lynn, with the help of Ellen Weig, another creative Episcopal Church Woman, has culled through decades of diocesan newspapers and reports as well as personal correspondence for mentions of women of the Episcopal Church. These mentions – some lengthy, others just a sentence long – were compiled and given to me in 2011.

The diocesan ECW committed to tweeting and posting about "The Story Goes On" on a weekly basis until the time of the bicentennial. (Repetition is especially important when it comes to long term communication.) In November of 2011, as a kickoff to our Annual Meeting, we began something known as Short Story Thursdays. Every Thursday I post to our website (www.ecw-nc.org) an item from the compilation given to me by Lynn and Ellen. I then tweet the 140-word essence of that posting (@ECWDioNC) and include in the tweet a link to the website so followers can read it in its entirety. All our tweets are filed on our website in a tweet library

for future reference. They also automatically appear on our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/ecwnc) so people who "like" us have the opportunity to follow along. As I said, repetition is important. Interestingly, while there's some overlap in the people who follow us on both Facebook and Twitter we essentially have two different audiences. The more the merrier.

GO SLOW, BUT GO

Of course what you do needn't be this involved, at least not in the beginning. It's about the possibilities. Your branch, diocese or province may want to start tweeting with simple reminders about upcoming meetings, retreats or fund-raisers. Perhaps there are prayer requests or links to scripture you'd like to share (note: Forward Day by Day tweets and these make ideal retweets). Building an audience takes time. You'll need to talk-up your new communications effort and invite people to move forward with you.

Our evolution continues. †

Lisa H. Towle was elected to serve as secretary of the National ECW board at the 2012 Triennial Meeting in Indianapolis, IN. She is also president of the Diocese of North Carolina's ECW, which was recognized at Triennial '12 for excellence in digital communications.

Living a Fifteen-Hundred-Year-Old Rule of Life

A modern woman applies the Rule of Benedict to everyday practices.

By Karen Potts

I met St. Benedict in 2007 when I was in training to become a pastoral minister. In addition to the training materials, we read *The Rule of Benedict: Insights Through the Ages*, by Benedictine nun Joan D. Chittister, O.S.B. This book changed my life. Now I travel a Benedictine journey in my life. I am not an oblate; I am not part of a Benedictine monastery, but now I consciously follow a Benedictine rule of life which keeps me centered and balanced in my life.

How does a way of life based on the writing of St. Benedict in the sixth century have meaning for a woman in 2013? *The Rule of Benedict* is a discipline done in community and in the present. *The Rule of Benedict* is a call to live differently.

It is a discipline, but it is a gentle discipline based on practicality. The disciple of Benedictine spirituality “is first and foremost a practical way to live the good news of the gospel today” (Joan D. Chittister, *Wisdom Distilled from the Daily: Living the Rule of St. Benedict Today*, HarperOne 1991, page 200). Benedictine spirituality is living the Gospel using moderation and balance. I created my personal rule of life and review it at least once a year. I am a founding member of The Episcopal Community, which is based on striving to live out the Baptismal Covenant using a Benedictine rule of life. I am not alone on my spiritual journey; I am part of a community.

SPIRITUAL CORE

When I do anything really important, something that affects my spiritual core, I need the support and companionship of other Episcopal women. This has become a given in my life. For me, following Christ is both an individual and a community activity/endeavor. I can't do it all alone. It is a trinity of God, self, and a supporting community.

The Rule of Benedict teaches me to live in the pres-

ent. I value silence and solitude; I value community and companionship. I have learned that the present is now and that it is a holy Now, a holy Present. I cannot change the past; I cannot control the future (beyond using common sense and caution), but I can learn to live in the present. The present is where God really is. He is the God of now, and I have learned that He is with me and within me. This is the holy Now. This realization changed me.

REALIZATION OF LIVING

Because of this realization of my living in the present with God within me, I changed. I attempt to live differently. This leads to how I created my personal rule of life. As I stated earlier, I learned about St. Benedict through Sr. Joan's *The Rule of Benedict: Insights Through the Ages and Wisdom Distilled from the Daily: Living the Rule of St. Benedict Today*. I learned about writing my rule of life through The Episcopal Community's new member study, the Rev. Jane Tomaine's (stbenedictstoolbox.org) *St. Benedict's Toolbox; The Nuts and Bolts of Everyday Benedictine Living* (Morehouse Publishing, 2005). After completing our study, I was part of the team who wrote The Episcopal Community's *Rule of the Community* and *Creating a Rule of Life*. The latter is a personal workbook with extended explanation, examples, and worksheets. Visit our Website theepiscopalcommunity.org to find the links to *Rule of Life*, which will take you to *Rule of the Community* and *Creating a Rule of Life*. You will also find a link to me under “leadership.” I will respond if you email me for suggestions, help, or encouragement.

Having a rule of life encourages me to live with balance: to grow, connect, support, and serve. These are the watchwords of The Episcopal Community and mean:

- Grow: to deepen and strengthen the individual's relationship with God
- Connect: to nourish individual relationships



“The disciple of Benedictine spirituality ‘is first and foremost a practical way to live the good news of the gospel today.”

Joan D. Chittister, O.S.B.

- Support: to support fellow members and The Episcopal Community
- Serve: to serve others and the whole of God’s Creation

A CONSCIOUS WALK

For me, trying to follow a Rule of Life is a conscious walk with God in community, and the inverse is also true: the Rule is a conscious walk with others in community in God.

For me, it has become all interconnected: the Rule and God and the Holy and me—me, God, the Holy, and the Rule. I am part of all of these precious compo-

nents. They are all part of me and have become with me and within me. I embarked on a search to find myself and to find God. I now know that He was there all along. He was and is and will be with me forever. I invite you to join me and the members of The Episcopal Community in this journey. †

Karen Potts, Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast (and recently, Diocese of Oklahoma), is a member of The Episcopal Community and part of the Circle of Leadership (the national board). She is among Episcopal women who strive to live out the Baptismal Covenant more fully by following a Benedictine rule of life.

Faith in the Balance

How one young professional Episcopal mother finds time for a family, her career, and faith.

by Kristen Pratt Machado

I dropped my daughter off at a birthday party an hour early. We live in the South so the host was very gracious and although I felt a bit uneasy, I couldn't immediately determine the source. The table was set, my 5-year-old daughter, Piper, had already run off with the birthday girl, yet the host was wearing sweat pants (not a big deal in my book, but quite unusual at Southern special events), so I retreated to my car where I looked up the Evite on my phone. The vague uneasiness I had felt a minute ago turned into a feeling of shame that I haven't felt since I was a teenager. My face was beet red and my pulse raced. What to do? With possibilities for total escape limited (I was bound to see this mother again somewhere), there was nothing to do but face the consequences.

I walked slowly back to the front door and knocked gingerly (somehow hoping she wouldn't hear me). The kind, sweatpants-wearing host assured me that all was fine and I should never think of it again. After profusely apologizing and offering to bring Piper back an hour later, a gesture that was thankfully refused—I skulked back to my car and drove away as fast as possible. When I returned home, I told my husband that he would not only be collecting Piper from the princess birthday party, but he was to arrive a minimum of 15 minutes early.

ONE OF "THOSE" MOMS

You might think, "What's the big deal?" Or, feel confident that you would never make such an error. And I wondered why this relatively benign gaffe caused me so much embarrassment. I realized it's because I am one of "those" moms. The ones who work full time while trying to keep all of the balls in the air, never missing a beat. Those who stay up until midnight baking smushed-looking cupcakes for their child's

birthday celebration, and who put way too much time into thinking about what teachers might really appreciate during "teacher appreciation week." And those who sometimes miss important events or who are noted as "strangers" at school because they neither drop off nor pick up their child. What all of "those" moms realize is that something always has to give.

VERY BLESSED

I am very blessed. I love my work, which I do at home, and I have a fairly flexible schedule. My husband is a true partner and contributes just as much as I do in the childcare and household departments. We can also afford a wonderful nanny who is like family. When I start feeling overwhelmed by the number of items on my to do list, I realize that the precious moments of free time that often get spent perusing gossip magazines, or trying to get a few extra minutes of sleep, should really be spent on my health—more specifically my spiritual health.

We attend the local Episcopal Church most Sundays and I help in the *Godly Play* classroom regularly, but it's the time spent focused on reading the Bible and in prayer and meditation that keeps me centered. I am in a small group Bible study with other mothers from a variety of Christian faiths, from Episcopal to Baptist to Orthodox. All of them are stay-at-home moms, but we all experience the same problem—making the time to spend on devotion and in communion with God. It is the most popular prayer request among us.

I think this is common for all women, regardless of what stage of life we are in because we are the doers. We take care of our families, elderly parents, neighbors, friends in need, and pets. We are the ones to respond to the call for help. I am proud to be part of this longstanding tradition of care taking, but we have

to remember that we need time to rejuvenate, as well. We need time to be with God.

Am I saying that reading *People Magazine* is not a worthy pastime, or that sneaking in a 15-minute catnap is something to be ashamed of? No, sirree! But just as we schedule our children's activities, medical appointments, work deadlines, etc, we also need to schedule time for our spiritual endeavors.

I know that I will be embarrassed and overwhelmed many more times in the future, and I will make many more mistakes. In the midst of this crazy journey, I only hope I remember that faith is one area that I shouldn't short shrift. Time must be made, priorities shifted. This can be a tall order (let me tell you how successful I've been in scheduling exercise time, ha!),

but I'm praying that I am up for the challenge. †

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.



Grant Presented to Center for Disabled Children in Jerusalem

By The Reverend Deacon Nancy R. Crawford

The United Thank Offering (UTO) has a long history of granting funds to projects within the dioceses of the Church, as well as its companion dioceses. UTO's motto, "Our change changes lives," begins with the coins and bills that are put in a blue box found on the bedside table, the kitchen sill, and the office desk — place where prayers of thanksgiving are said with the small sacrifices of coins. The number of these coins grows through the efforts of the women in the pews. At the end of a year of ingatherings, the UTO Board determines grants to be awarded that are commensurate with the dollar amount collected. This tradition of giving and receiving has made a difference in the lives of God's children for more than 125 years.

Among the UTO grants awarded in May 2013 was \$77,450 to the Jerusalem Princess Basma Center for Disabled Children. The funds are to be used for the renovation of the facility's therapeutic pool, as well as the renovation of its nursery to make it more child friendly (complete with tiny toilets!).

PRINCESS BASMA CENTER

During the ECW Pilgrimage to the Holy Land this past summer, participants not only had the opportunity to visit the Princess Basma Center, they were given a tour of the facility by the now-retired director, Betty Majaj, and the new director, Ibrahim Faltas. Majaj founded the center in the 1960s. At the time, the Arab Anglican bishop raised funds for the center — with most of the funds coming from Sweden and Norway. The center was dedicated in 1966, and its namesake, Princess Basma, sister of King Hussein of Jordan, was invited to be its royal patron. According to reports, the princess was both surprised and delighted to have the facility named



From left: Nancy Crawford, Betty Majaj, Cleopatra Hall Leader, Mari-Lou Treibenbach, Lynn Headley, and Ibrahim Faltas with the blankets knitted by the women of St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Alexandria, VA.

in her honor. In 1987, the Princess Basma Center was expanded to include a school.

Today, the Princess Basma Center provides education and therapy for children and vulnerable adults suffering from profound disabilities and trauma. No longer are parents of disabled children ashamed, often keeping them hidden in a back room. (Unfortunately, this is still a cultural drawback in some parts of the world.) For the younger children who attend therapy for 2 to 4 weeks, the mothers must accompany them, to help them more quickly build trust, and to become partners in their own rehabilitation. A special dormitory wing provides living and sleeping quarters for each mother and child. Unfortunately, due to lack of funds, the center must close 2



At left: Children on the playground of the Princess Basma Center. In addition to its school, the center offers education and therapy for children and adults with profound disabilities and traumatic injury.

days a week, causing the mothers to take their children back and forth, home and back to the center again.

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS VOCATIONAL TRAINING

Prior to 2000, the center served children from towns and cities in the West Bank, such as Bethlehem — which is only 12 miles from Jerusalem. Since then, **difficult-to-obtain travel permits are required for West Bank Palestinians to enter Jerusalem**, and so the children of that area cannot be served as easily as before. In addition to children's programs, many of the adults at the center receive vocational training. Volunteer master finishers are always needed to teach these individuals how to make their products more saleable.

During the pilgrims' tour of the facility, we witnessed children and their mothers quietly going through their therapy sessions. On the playground, we were greeted by waves and smiles from the many deaf children who have received cochlear implants, and are now learning to hear and speak with their new devices. What fun for us to see the children thriving! A few "high-fives" were even exchanged.

UTO TILE

Lynn Headley, former national UTO Board member and leader of the pilgrimage, presented Majaj and Faltas with a beautiful UTO tile that is to be hung at the center, or imbedded in the wall during renovation. Present for the presentation were: Nancy Crawford, national ECW Board president; Mari-Lou Treibenbach, Province VI



Above: Cleopatra Hall Leader (left) and Betty Majaj (far right) are shown a young student's new cochlear implant by a facility teacher (center).

representative to the national ECW Board; and Cleopatra Hall Leader, UTO coordinator for the Diocese of Long Island. The tile was commissioned by the Diocese of Los Angeles, a companion diocese of Jerusalem, and was designed by an artist from a local Christian Armenian family. In addition to the tile, the pilgrims presented a thankful Majaj with a large box of blankets that were knitted by the women of St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Alexandria, VA. †

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.

Diocesan Discourse

Sharing the News From ECW Provinces

PROVINCE II

In September, the ECW Diocese of Long Island together with the staff at St. John's Episcopal Hospital, Rockaway, NY, hosted a baby shower at the hospital for thirty-five expecting mothers. Their outreach to the hospital is one of the ECW Diocesan Board's major programs.

On November 1, the Book of Remembrance Mass was held at the Cathedral of the Incarnation in Garden City, Long Island. The names of those who died between October 1, 2012, and October 1, 2013 were read. *The Book of Remembrance of the Episcopal Church Women of the Diocese of Long Island* is maintained as a lasting memorial to a relative or friend whose faithful service has furthered the work of the church. The Rev. Joan Fraser was the celebrant at the Service and The Rev. Cecily Broderick was the homilist. The memorial funds were designated this year for tornado relief in the Diocese of Oklahoma. Following the service, a luncheon and the ECW Annual Meeting took place at the Cathedral.

In her fall letter, Dianne Roberts, newly-elected president, ECW Diocese of New York, invited the ECW membership to share with her their "thoughts, prayers, and suggestions so we can continue to expand ECW's rich legacy." She asked all to register early for the 50th Anniversary ECW Stony Point Conference. The theme of the conference, which was held October 25-26, was "Stir Up The Spirit: Celebrating Through Telling Our Stories And Taking Action." Sarah Eagle Heart, missionary for the Church's Office of Indigenous Ministries, was the keynote speaker and a panelist. Other panelists included The Rev. Theodora N. Books, Dr. Mary S. Donovan, The Rt. Rev. Chilton Knudsen and The Rev. Deacon Hyacinth Lee.

The ECW of the Diocese of Newark holds an annual luncheon at Grace Church, Madison, NJ, to honor one or two women from each parish in the diocese. Each honored woman is presented with a certificate and a pin from the Bishop in the sanctuary, followed by lunch in the parish hall. A total of 26 to 30 women are honored at this enjoyable and popular spring event.

Mother Joan Fraser was the celebrant at our Book of Remembrance Service, and Mother Cecily Broderick was the homilist. The memorial funds were designated for tornado relief in the Diocese of Oklahoma.

~~Submitted by Ginger Lief, Province II Representative, Diocese of New York



PROVINCE III

Season's Greetings are sent to all by Province III: "For unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given." (Isaiah 9:6).

As we celebrate with you the miracle of Christmas, one of the real joys of the holiday season is to wish you and your family a Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy, and Safe New Year.

~~Submitted by Dottie Arthur, Province III Representative, Diocese of Maryland



PROVINCE VII

At our annual convention this October, Bishop Mike Milliken awarded the Bishop's Cross to two women in our Diocese:

- Nan Pyle for her dedication and service at St Cornelius in Dodge City, KS

Lonnie Isaak

1942–2013

“The comfort of having a friend may be taken away, but not that of having had one.”

— *Lucius Annaeus Seneca, (4 BC–AD 65),
Roman philosopher and statesman*

It is with deep sadness that the National ECW Board announces the passing of one of its own, Lonnie Kay Isaak.

Lonnie, the national representative of Province 7, passed away on Friday, November 15, 2013. A memorial was held at Church of the Epiphany, Independence, KS.

Aside from her ECW family, she is survived by her mother Joan Perkins, a sister Diane Wuthnow, a brother John Perkins, daughters Laura Aube’ and Jeanna Smith, step-children James and Holly Isaak, her grandchildren, friends, and extended family.

Rest well, our friend and sister. †



• Clarice McGraw of Grace Church, Hutchinson, KS, in honor of her years of service with ECW in The Diocese of Western Kansas and Grace Church. We couldn't be more proud!

We have been blessed to have Clarice as President in our Diocese for a number of years, and as the incoming President of our Diocese, I certainly have big shoes to fill.

Also, our Diocese is looking forward to working together to build our relationships within our parishes, the diocese, our province, and beyond. Our theme of "Let's become a God spark"* in Western Kansas will require much nurturing, and we are looking forward to meeting and working with all of you in the future months.

*The core self, the part of us made in God's image, spirit and soul.

*~~ Submitted by Lana Mederos,
Province VII President, Diocese of West Kansas*



PROVINCE V

Province V, the Province of the Midwest, covers the northern half of the center of the country, encompassing five-and-a-half states with 14 dioceses. The dioceses range in size from about 25 parishes to 130 parishes and from very tiny parishes (average Sunday attendance 10) to large churches with several hundred on a Sunday. It encompasses many small towns (under 1,000 population) to Detroit and Chicago. The diversity is great across the Province in liturgy, theology and culture. ECW and UTO are alive and well in almost all the dioceses, and women's groups are strong throughout the Province.

Two stories describe the diversity of the province: St. Simeon's, Lafayette, WI (near Chippewa Falls), has about 20 families in its parish. Each year the parish makes and sells between 1,100 and 1,200 apple dumplings to raise funds for various community needs, such as food banks, community feeding program, Habitat for Humanity, school supplies for local children in need, as well as a refuge center in

nearby Eau Claire.

The entire parish gathers several weeks before the events to peel, core, and wrap between 1,100 and 1,200 apple dumplings. The dumplings are frozen until the events. They are then sold at the annual October Fest in Chippewa Falls, a community wide event and at the St. Simeon's Apple Fest celebrating its 53rd year in the fall of 2013. This project provides about \$4,000 each year to be distributed to community needs.

The second story will be familiar. Those of you who attended Triennial 2012 contributed to the community connection gift for Craine House where non-violent female offenders can live with their preschool children, have a job, and transition back into society. This program is moving into a larger facility, which will be able to house up to 40 women and their children. This facility is a vacant nursing home that needs extensive remodeling and cleaning before it can be occupied. The Episcopal Women's Ministries from the diocese of Indianapolis (the new name for the ECW women's board of the diocese) has begun a "matching challenge" fundraising campaign for this program. It will match any contributions up to \$5,000 - and they are well on their way toward reaching their goal.

*~~Submitted by. Connie Ott, Province V President
Pro Tem and Representative, Diocese of Milwaukee*



**The *Communiqué*
production team would
like to wish everyone a
very Merry Christmas
and prosperous and
blessed New Year!**

A Christmas Prayer

*God, we are as confounded
as Joseph and Mary,
as busy as the innkeepers,
as lonely as the shepherds,
as frightened as Herod,
as wayfaring as the Magi.
Turn us again to the place where,
with quietness,
you wrap up your truth
and promise,
your love and salvation
in the Child born in a crude barn.
We ponder these things
as the noise and clamor of the world
are stilled for a time,
and there is a peace that settles
deep within us.
Bring us to Bethlehem,
to the place where Jesus
was homeless
but where we are truly at home.*

Amen.

~~Rev. Canon Ralph Frye



**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	_____
GEMS	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Triennial Meeting	_____
Endowment	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Women to Women	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communiqué	_____

This gift is an: Honorarium
 Memorial

for _____

An acknowledgement may be sent to:

(Name and address)

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

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

Join With Us: Episcopal Church Women Unified Gift 2012-2015

The Girls Educational and Mentoring Services (GEMS) has been selected by the Social Justice Committee and the ECW National Board as the recipient of the 2012-2015 ECW Triennial Unified Gift. GEMS, a nationally recognized organization, is in the forefront of the campaign to bring an end to violence against women and young girls – a social justice issue for which the time has truly come.

Founded in 1998 by Rachel Lloyd, a survivor of sexual exploitation, GEMS has taken the initiative in developing specialized services for girls and young women, ages 12-34, who are survivors of commercial sexual exploitation and trafficking. Based on survivors' experiences the GEMS victim-survivor-leader model has been developed. The model serves to support an avenue of recovery and growth for the survivors.

The General Convention of The Episcopal Church

through Resolution D042 re-committed in 2012 to protecting victims of human trafficking, particularly women and children.

The Episcopal Church Women, inspired by the resolution and by members of the national board, is committed to raising awareness of human trafficking and commercial exploitation of young women and children. ECW found in GEMS, an organization uniquely equipped to serve girls and young women as addressed in the church's resolution.

Please send all donations for the 2012-2015 ECW Triennial Unified Gift from parishes, dioceses, provinces, and individuals to Kathy Mank, ECW National Treasurer, 9559 Kelly Drive, Loveland, OH 45140 – please make checks payable to DFMS (Domestic and Foreign Mission Society) and specify 2015 ECW Unified Gift on the check. †



**EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN
UNIFIED GIFT
2012-2015**



Girls
Educational &
Mentoring
Services



- Empowers young women (age 12-24) who have experienced commercial sexual exploitation and domestic trafficking to exit the commercial sex industry and develop to their full potential.
- Committed to ending commercial sexual exploitation and domestic trafficking throughout the U.S.
- Founded in 1998 by Rachel Lloyd, a survivor of commercial sexual exploitation.

The General Convention of The Episcopal Church, through Resolution D042, has re-committed to protecting victims of human trafficking, particularly women and children.

The Episcopal Church Women, inspired by the resolution and by members of the national board, is committed to raising awareness of human trafficking and commercial exploitation of young women and children. ECW found in GEMS, an organization uniquely equipped to serve girls and young women as addressed in the church's resolution.

Send Your Donations To:

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

Make checks payable to

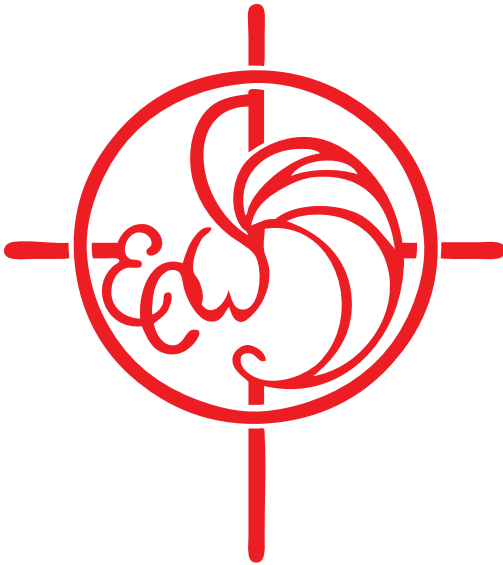
Domestic & Foreign Missionary Society (DFMS)

Questions? Contact:

Deborah Gardiner
Member-at-Large, Social Justice
2119 Tallow Drive
Portland TX 78374
socialjustice@ecwnational.org
361-816-0277

JOIN WITH US!

**For More Information About Episcopal Church Women, visit us at www.ecwnational.org or
Friend Us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/ecwnational**



Episcopal Church Women
578 Washington Blvd., #861
Marina del Rey, CA 90292

NON-PROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
HATTIESBURG, MS
PERMIT NO. 50

Coming in the
Next Issue of
Communiqué:

- **Perspectives** —
The Road to Triennial:
Are You Ready?
- **EpiscoMom** —
Volunteering: The Path to
Deepened Faith and
Connectiveness to the Church
- **Diocesan Discourse** –
News from the Provinces
- **Tech Talk** —
Bridging the Generational Divide
Through Technology & Social Media

...And more!

Calendar of Events

Do you have something coming up in your diocese that you would like to share with the rest of the ECW? Information for this calendar comes from Episcopal Church Women throughout the Church. If your group or diocese has plans for meetings, special events, special missions, or other happenings, please send all pertinent information for inclusion in the next edition of *Communiqué* to: TMEditor@ecwnational.org.

*ECW Pilgrimage to the Holy Land:
December 1, 2014*

Save the Date!

Communiqué is looking for writers.
If you are interested, or have questions,
please contact TMEditor@ecwnational.org