CPC, 2023!

On Saturday, January 28, newly elected and appointed officers of the ECW for the Diocese of Southern Virginia were installed by Bishop Haynes. After a 3-year term as Diocesan ECW Vice President, I am proud to serve as your new CPC Coordinator for the Diocese of Southern Virginia.

The Church Periodical Club, or CPC, "…is the only organization in the Episcopal Church dedicated solely to providing free literature and related materials, both religious and secular, through grants to people all over the world who need and request them and who have no other source for obtaining them. Prayer books, books for seminarians, educational materials, medical textbooks, agricultural manuals, and books for those in local and global mission are some of the publications The Church Periodical Club supplies…It is our goal to have an active and enthusiastic CPC representative in every parish and diocese."

As a former college English member of the faculty, recent author of my second history book, and someone married to a self-professed bibliophile, I am intimately familiar with the transformative power of the written word. Undoubtedly, I am truly excited to enter into this ministry, coordinating the efforts of the Diocese to keep printed materials available everywhere- including our parishes, schools, and seminaries.

To that end, I hope to identify and meet each parish CPC coordinator, and determine ways that we can actively participate in and support this important ministry. There are two different funding grants which support this effort: the **National Books Fund (NBF)**, collected for adult reading materials, and usually the goal of the offering collected during CPC Sunday, and the **Miles of Pennies Fund (MOP)**, started in 1988 on the 100th Anniversary of the CPC, whose grants serve the needs of children from kindergarten to 12th grade.

I applaud the efforts of our Diocese in their contributions to both of these funds in the past, with much thanks to Mrs. Louise Boss for keeping this effort alive during challenging times. But as we emerge from a global pandemic, I challenge us to do more.

Look for my call to meeting for parish CPC coordinators in upcoming weeks, and if you are already working diligently writing a grant for funds, the upcoming submission deadline is March 1. For more information, see our national website: churchperiodical.com. I am also sharing the winter newsletter, to allow you to get a feel for the work which continues:

Are you ready to join the effort in this important work? I am looking forward to helping to make a difference throughout our Diocese, and beyond.

I would like to leave you with the CPC Prayer: "Bless Oh Lord, the Church Periodical Club, that it may be an instrument for the spread of your Word throughout the world. Grant to its officers Wisdom and patience, its members perseverance and the spirit of sharing that asks no return. Bring more to take part in its mission and ministry. Bless our gifts and those who receive them to the enrichment of individual lives, that we all may be servants of the risen Lord. Amen."

God's Blessings,

Dr. Renee Escoffery-Torres
CPC Coordinator
Diocese of Southern Virginia