Episcopal Church Women (ECW)
of the
Diocese of Southern Virginia

"THE GRAPEVINE"

March 2023

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Notes from the President's Desk

"In everything do to others as you would have them do unto you; for this is the law and the prophets." Mathew 7:12 (NRSV)

To all my Sisters in Christ, I wish you a Happy, Blessed, and Safe New Year. I would like to extend my heartfelt appreciation for the undying support, trust, and confidence you have displayed to me as your Episcopal Church Women (ECW) Diocesan President over the years. Thank you.

With the help of God, our Creator, Guardian, Keeper, Sustainer, and Redeemer, we are to remain faithful to our vision and mission as ECW as we encounter the many challenges of our days in our service to all God's creations.

On our journey during this year of 2023, I would like to share with you the following words by John Donohue:

A Blessing for the New Year

May the light of your soul guide you. May the light of your soul bless the work you do with the secret love and warmth of your heart. May you see in what you do the beauty of your own soul.

May the sacredness of your work bring healing light and renewal to those who work with you and to those who see and receive your work.

May your work never weary you. May it release within you wellsprings of refreshment, inspiration, and excitement. May you be present in what you do. May you never become lost in the bland absences.

May the day never burden. May dawn find you awake and alert, approaching your new day with dreams, possibilities, and promises.

May evening find you gracious and fulfilled. May you go into the night blessed sheltered and protected. May your soul calm, console, and renew you.

Yours in Christ,

Laura L. Manigault, Diocesan ECW President

The 131st Episcopal Council of the Diocese of Southern Virginia

Diocesan Episcopal Church Women's President

Annual Report - February 25, 2023

"O God, we thank Thee for Thy Church, founded upon The Word, that challenges us to do more than sing and pray, but go out and work as though the very answer to our prayers depended on us and not upon thee Help us to realize that man was created to shine like the stars and live on through all eternity. Keep us, we, pray, in perfect peace, help us to walk together, pray together, sing together, and live together until that day when all God's children Black, White, Red, and Yellow l, will rejoice in one common band of humanity in the kingdom of our Lord and of our God, we pray. Amen." -Martin Luther King, Jr.

Greetings to my fellow parishioners. First giving honor and praise to our Lord Jesus Christ, and on behalf of the Episcopal Church Women (ECW) of the Diocese of Southern Virginia, this is our annual report. Thank you for your continued support, encouragement, and commitment to the ECW's vision and mission.

We have and still are facing a challenging universe, but with the wisdom and guidance we receive from Jesus Christ our savior, sustainer, redeemer, and counselor, we have survived and hope to press forward with faith for our service to mankind. Our outreach work has touched many lives in America and abroad totaling $41,929.44. Church Periodical Club (CPC) $4, 300.00, and United Thank Offering) UTO) $1, 219.00 with a grand total of $ 46,539.44.

Many parishes had food drives, clothing drives, bazaars, and shelters for the homeless, gave encouragement and guidance to the persons not yet recognized and accepted in our society as needing our assistance to follow Christ, for example, the

autistic community of souls and the immigrates from the different counties of this world.

I have had the opportunity despite the COVID-19 pandemic to visit a few parishes this past year, All Saints' Episcopal Church, South Hill, Virginia, St. Augustine Episcopal Church, Newport News, Virginia and Emmanuel Episcopal Church, Hampton, Virginia I would like to share some pictures from two of the visits:

Lt. Mrs. Laura L. Manigault, Diocesan ECW President - Rt. Dr. Angela M. Parker, Distinguish Women Award Recipient - All Saint's Episcopal Church, South Hill, Virginia - Supply Priest, The Rev. Dr. Terrance Walker

Lt. Mrs. Laura L. Manigault - The Rev. Dr. Phillip Shearin, Priest-in-Charge - Rt. Dr. Renee Escoffery-Torres, Diocesan ECW Vice President

Autism Acceptance Month to be celebrated yearly in April was added to the ECW Calendar of Events. This April we will have a virtual program on April 29, 2023, highlighting the Maverick Learning Center, a Virginia Beach school for children with Autism. The keynote speaker is Mrs. Maegan Cahoon. She and her husband John owns and operates the school.

Zoom information for Saturday, April 2023 at 10 AM: meeting ID 686 630 9176 - Passcode: 848600.

Our current elected officers/appointees are as follows:

President- Mrs. Laura L. Manigault -Vice President-Mrs. Rhonda F. Toll - Treasurer- Mrs. Nancy L. Smith -Recording Secretary/ Nominating Chair- Mrs. Nancy P. Sands -Corresponding Secretary- Ms. Cornelia Taylor-UTO Coordinator- Mrs. Joanne Alston-Austin-CPC Coordinator/ Parliamentarian-Dr. Renee Escoffery-Torres -Communication Chair- Dr. Angela M. Parker -Prayer and Worship- Mrs. Deborah Austin-Special Stewardship Chair/Student Work Chair- Mrs. Helen Sharpe- Williams

I appreciate this phenomenal group of Christian sisters who have dedicated themselves to serving all of God's creation. Also, I would like to extend my gratitude to our Diocesan Bishop, The Rt. Rev. Susan B. Haynes, and her Administrative Staff, Agencies in ECW Fellowship (Daughters of the King) Convener, Ms. Lydia Dyson and (Women to Women) Convener, Ms. Susan Schrader. Gracias! Kudos! Merci Beaucoup!

Prayer of Hope and Guidance

Almighty and most merciful Father, we thank you for all the blessings of this life. We thank You, especially for the Episcopal Church Women. We ask you to guide us as we work to find more ways to serve our global village and the local communities. By your grace, equip us to feed the hungry, provide clothing for those in need, and accept the differences within us. Offer shelter to the disenfranchised and help facilitate access to basic healthcare for those without advocators. Give us the strength to preserve as we invite others to join in our common life for justice and peace. Help us to address the racial and class divisions in our world so that we may all be treated equally as one created by you in your image.

2023 ECW Diocesan Calendar

February 25	**Diocese of Southern Virginia Annual Council**
March 16	**Diocese ECW Spring Board Meeting (Virtual)**
April	**INGATHERING: UNITED THANK OFFERING (UTO)**
	AUTISM ACCEPTANCE MONTH (VIRTUAL – APRIL 29, 2023)
May	**INGATHERING: CHURCH PERIODICAL CLUB (CPC)**
May 20	**Diocesan ECW Annual Spring Meeting (Virtual)**
	Louisa Taylor Letcher Observance will be held at Annual Spring Meeting
September 21	**Diocesan ECW Fall Board Meeting (Virtual)**
October	**INGATHERING: UNITED THANK OFFERING (UTO)**
October 28	**Diocesan ECW Fall Annual Meeting (Virtual)**

DIOCESE OF SOUTHERN VIRGINIA ECW 2023

President: Laura L. Manigault akumlovj.bfrh87@gmail.com

Vice President: Ronda Toll rtoll@cox.net

Parliamentarian : Dr. Renee N. Escoffery-Torres escoffery-torres@gmail.com

Treasurer: Nancy Smith nsmithwtr@aol.com

Recording Secretary: Nancy Sands beachpeach7@hotmail.com

ELECTED MEMBERS

Communication: Dr. Angela Parker ecwcommunication@gmail.com

Prayer and Worship: Deborah Austin complianceretired@gmail.com

PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTEES

Corresponding Secretary: Cornelia Taylor cornelia_ecw@yahoo.com

Nominating Chair: Nancy P. Sands beachpeach7@hotmail.com

Church Periodical Club Director: Dr. Renee N. Escoffery-Torres escoffery-torres@gmail.com

United Thank Offering Coordinator: Joann Alston-Hooker jalhooker@verizon.net

Special Stewardship Chair: Helen Sharpe-Williams helen.sharpe-williams@earthlink.net

Historian/ Archivist: Alexandra Grace Sears alexandra.sears.19@gmail.com

AGENCIES in ECW FELLOWSHIP

Daughters of the King: Lydia Dyson Lydia.dyson.1d@gmail.com

Women to Women: Susan Schrader sssusieq77@gmail.com

Greetings and peace to you, my sisters in Christ!

You are cordially invited to join the ECW for a special celebration of Autism Acceptance Month. A virtual program will take place beginning at 10 am on Saturday, April 29, 2023 (please see Zoom meeting information at the end of this article). The ECW is highlighting the Maverick Learning Center, a Virginia Beach school for children with autism. The keynote speaker is Maegan Cahoon, who, with her husband Josh, owns and operates the Maverick Learning Center. In preparation for the event, please enjoy the article that follows about Maegan and Josh and the founding of this unique learning environment inspired by their son, Maverick.

What happens when school in its traditional form isn't right for your child? After years of searching, Josh and Maegan Cahoon asked themselves that question. The answer they came up with was this: let's build it. "I thought we can just sit around for the next 10 years and wait for someone else to do it, or we can just build it ourselves," Maegan says. "I've lost a lot of sleep and cried plenty of tears to make this happen."

In just seven months, the Maverick Learning Center came to life. For the school's name, Josh and Maegan Cahoon didn't have to look far. Of her own eight-year-old son, Maegan says, "Maverick means 'one of a kind' and my son Maverick really is a one-of-a-kind child."

When he was four years old, Maverick Cahoon was diagnosed with autism, a diagnosis every 1 in 44 children receives, according to the Centers for Disease Control.

"When you can't understand your child and give them what they want, it's tough," says Josh Cahoon. Maverick had many struggles in school. "You really have two options: You have a self-contained classroom for the children, and you have an inclusion class where you may have a child or two with autism mixed in with typical learners," says Josh. Maverick's parents say neither option met their son's needs. Schools outside the public realm didn't check the boxes either.

Maegan and Josh opened the Maverick Learning Center in a 4,200-square-foot former medical office on First Colonial Road, just north of the Hilltop neighborhood in Virginia Beach. Josh, a

contractor, was able to renovate the space on evenings and weekends. The paint was barely dry when the first students filed in. Today the Maverick Learning Center serves children on the autism spectrum and is currently accepting students for grades kindergarten to fifth grade, with plans to expand to middle school and high school grades.

The Cahoons call it "a specialized school for students diagnosed with autism." Maverick Learning Center is a sensory-friendly environment, including a calm room and areas for therapy and outdoor instruction. Teachers are certified in special education.

“I wanted to create a safe place for my son Maverick and for kids like him, where they can come and they can be exactly whom they want to be every day and build a school for the non-typical student," says Maegan.

The Cahoons have taken steps to attract local students and have partnered with the Eliza Hope Foundation in order to provide financial aid for those who may not be able to afford the tuition.

The school features open enrollment, so students can start at any point during the school year. Maverick Learning Center provides a unique niche and a little bit more help for the needs of “in between” kids in a one-of-a-kind way.

Source material from Eric Hodies (Virginia Pilot) and Anthony Sabella (WTKR News 3)

Maverick and Maegan Cahoon

Zoom information for Saturday, April 29, 2023, at 10 am: Join Zoom Meeting
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6866309176?pwd=VkxPZ2RoZ2d5WENhTW4vTkZFMnowQT09

Meeting ID: 686 630 9176
Passcode: 848600

For more details or support, please reach out to Ronda Toll at 757-869-8873 or rtoll@cox.net

Episcopal Church Women
Province III
Annual Meeting

Roslyn Conference & Retreat Center
Richmond, VA
July 21 – 22, 2023

Keynote Speaker: Rt. Rev. Susan E. Goff

Bishop Suffragan, Retired
Episcopal Diocese of Virginia

Seen, Heard, Connected and Invited: ECW in a Changing World

2023 Annual Meeting Options and Fees

Full Program (Friday evening through Sunday morning)
Private room: $270.40 **Shared room: $217.60**
Saturday Only (Saturday afternoon and evening): **$55.50**
Please complete the form below. Send in your registration fee of $40 no later than June 9, 2023. Once received, an invoice will be sent reflecting your selected program option, which includes all meals. For more details, contact Rosslyn Edwards at rosslyn.edwards@yahoo.com

Registration Form

Please send registration form and $40 fee to:
Rosslyn Edwards
10757 Campus Way S.
Upper Marlboro, MD 20774

Name and Diocese_____

Email and Phone_____

Full Program (Private Room): ____ Full (Shared): _____
Saturday Only_____

Lunch Choice (please circle one): Meat/Fish/Vegetarian

Please make checks payable to Province III ECW

ECW Trust Fund Outreach Totals $10,893.00 in 2023

In January, our President, Laura L. Manigault, sent a check for $848.00 to Holy Cross Anglican School in Belize; a check for $4,430.00 to Jackson-Feild Home in Jarratt, Virginia and a check for $5,615.00 to Our Little Roses Foreign Mission Society in Honduras. The annual contributions were made available from the Louisa Taylor Letcher Memorial "Fund G," the Louisa Taylor Letcher Memorial "Fund F" and the Belize Holy Cross Anglican School Fund. These funds are invested with the Diocese of Southern Virginia Foundation. Each year the ECW withdraws income made available for distribution to recipients based on the 5% spending policy of the Foundation.

The Louisa Taylor Letcher Memorial Fund G

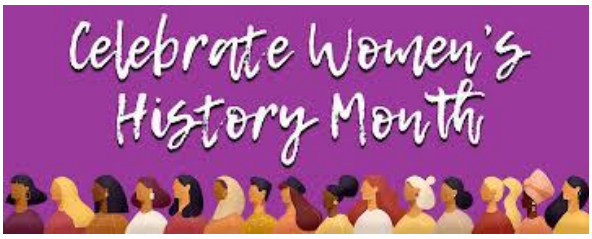
Now designated "Fund G," this fund was established in 1925 by the Women's Auxiliary of Southern Virginia in loving memory of its founder and first president. She served 27 years until her death in 1920. The fund-raising began in 1923 with a $10,000 goal. They reached that goal in 1925. It is sometimes called the girls international scholarship fund. "Fund G" originally furnished scholarships for girls at St. Agnes School, Kyoto, Japan. When the St. Agnes school closed, funds from the "Fund G" were allocated to Holy Trinity School in Haiti. A hurricane destroyed Holy Trinity in 2010. Today, these funds are allocated to Our Little Roses in Honduras. Thanks to the Women's Auxiliary's (now ECW) foresight the fund is used as the ECW may deem wise for Missionary work, perpetuating the name of our founder.

The Louisa Taylor Letcher Memorial Fund F

"Fund F" was established sometime from 1920 – 1940 to support a girl at Jackson-Feild Home. The contribution now goes to Jackson-Feild to use at their discretion. The ECW History on Page 139 in *A Goodly Heritage, The Episcopal Diocese of Southern Virginia 1892-1992* says the "Loulie" Taylor Letcher Memorial Fund – "Fund F" was established by Mr. John Letcher, Louisa's husband, in her honor. The ECW and Jackson-Feild have no record of this endowment being established by Mr. John Letcher. We will continue to look for more information about "Fund F's" history. In the last decade, the ECW changed the fund name to the "Louisa" Taylor Letcher Memorial Fund. Loulie was Louisa's nickname.

The Belize Holy Cross Anglican School Fund

This fund was established by the ECW in 2009. In 2008, under the leadership of President, Delores Purvis, the ECW committed to raise $10,000, to support Holy Cross Anglican School's feeding program. The ***With These Hands*** project raised over $20,000. The extra funds were used to establish this fund. The annual income is sent to Holy Cross Anglican School in Belize to use at their discretion. Annual voluntary contributions from parish ECWs are deposited in the fund to build the principal.



Women's History Month commemorates the many accomplishments and contributions made by women throughout history. In the United States, Women's History Month is observed annually during the month of March.

The beginnings of Women's History Month date back to 1978 in Sonoma, California. The Sonoma school district organized a weeklong celebration honoring women's contributions to culture, history, and society. The idea caught on in many communities across the country, which led women's groups to successfully lobby for national recognition. In 1980, President Jimmy Carter made the first presidential proclamation declaring the week of March 8th as Women's History Week.

The following year, in 1981, the U.S. Congress and President Ronald Reagan passed further resolution to establish Women's History Week as a national celebration. It was not till 1987 that the National Women's History Project successfully petitioned Congress to expand the celebration to a month.

TRIBUTE TO EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN
OF THE
DIOCESE OF SOUTHERN VIRGINIA

LOUISA TAYLOR LETCHER
Co-Founder and First President – Episcopal Church Women

Presidents of the ECW

1890-1892	Associate Presidents - Miss Louisa Taylor and Miss Sallie Stuart
1893—July 1, 1920	Mrs. John D. Letcher
July 1, 1920-1924	Mrs. Frank W. Darling
1924-1926	Mrs. Charles R. Grandy
1927-1929	Mrs. Walter Whichard
1930-1932	Mrs. Frank A. Holladay
1933-1936	Mrs. Lewis D. Pilcher
1937-1939	Mrs. W.W. Wilkinson
1940-1942	Mrs. Henry McR. Pinner
1943-1945	Mrs. E.B. Lewis (Mrs. Charles A. Penick)
1946-1948	Mrs. Joseph D. Deal
1949-1951	Mrs. J. Billsoly Hudgins
1952-1954	Miss Emily M. Hall
1955-1958	Mrs. Luther H. Apperson
1959-1960	Mrs. Cullen M. McCoy
1961-1963	Mrs. S. Janney Hutton
1964-1966	Mrs. Jack Mason
1967-1969	Mrs. Harold S. Sniffen
1970-1972	Mrs. George M. Spaulding
1973-1974	Mrs. Kavanaugh Y. Thrift
1975-1976	Mrs. W.H. Bainbridge
1977-1978	Mrs. Alex P. Grice, III
1979-1980	Mrs. Lewis Z. Johnston, Jr.
1981-1982	Mrs. Morris E. Broyles
1983-1984	Mrs. E. Gordon Hanson, Jr.
1985-1986	Mrs. William F. Bernart
1987-1988	Mrs. Gordon Woody
1989-1990	Mrs. Samuel Davis, Jr.
1991-1992	Mrs. B.Z. Henry, Jr. (Mrs.. F.T. Bockoven)
1993-1994	Mrs. Frances S. Barber
1995-1996	Mrs. Kay Gray
1997-1998	Mrs. Marian M. Edwards
1999-2000	Mrs. Walter E. Allen
2001-2002	Mrs. Larnell R. Parker
2003-2004	Mrs. Joy (Morris) Johnson
2005-2006	Mrs. Mary E. Ordeman
2007-2008	Mrs. Delores J. Purvis
2009-2010	Mrs. Nancy Smith
2011-2012	Dr. Angela M. Parker
2013-2014	Mrs. Barbara E. Taylor
2015-2016	Mrs. Nancy Polick Sands
2017-2018	Mrs. Helen Sharpe-Williams
2019-Present	Mrs. Laura L. Manigault

ECW Diocese of Southern Virginia

A Brief History

The Woman's Auxiliary to the Episcopal Church as organized in Baltimore, MD in 1871 with Miss Mary Emery as its first secretary. A year later Miss Emery came to Norfolk and visited the home of Mrs. Tazewell Taylor. At a meeting at St. Paul's Church in Norfolk, the Norfolk Branch of the Auxiliary was founded with Miss Louisa Taylor, then 18 years old, elected the first secretary.

Miss Louisa and her friend, Miss Sallie Stuart, formed several branches around the state, but they were not allowed by the Bishop to form a diocesan group.

In 1890 the Bishop gave them permission to form the Diocesan Women's Auxiliary. The name of the Women's Auxiliary changed to the Women of the Church and later to the Episcopal Church Women, the name by which it is known today.

We are an organization to assist the women of the Episcopal Church to carry on Christ's work for reconciliation, mission and ministry in the community, the nation and the world and to take their places in the life, governance and worship of the Church.

Over the years many capable and dedicated women of distinction have served the organization in many capacities following Mrs. Louisa Taylor Letcher and Miss Sallie Stuart, who ventured for Christ in those early years and whose names will always be held in the highest esteem. From its humble beginning in 1890 the ECW in the Diocese of Southern Virginia has grown to a viable organization in the nine convocations of our diocese.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REFLECTIONS

Elise Holladay Scholarship Application

For young men and women who want to further their education.

Beverley D. Tucker Scholarship Application

For men and women who seek education in an accredited school or Affiliated of the Episcopal Church.

Requirements for application:

- The applicant must be a communicant of the Episcopal Church.
- The applicant must have **at least a "B" or 2.75 cumulative GPA** on a 4.0 scale.
- The student must be enrolled full time for the coming year.

Complete the following:

Full Name of applicant _____ Date of birth _____

Telephone number _____ E-mail address _____

Home/mailing Address _____
(Street address, City, State, Zip code)

Name of parish _____ Priest _____

Parish Address _____

Priest's e-mail _____ ECW scholarship received before? When _____

Name of high school /college/seminary attended last semester _____

Last semester's Grade Point Average _____ Year in high school/college/seminary _____

Number of adults & children in family _____ Number in college (including parents and self) _____

College (applied to or returning to) _____

EFC from FAFSA Student Aid Report (SAR) _____

Parents Gross Adjusted Income (IRS) (signed) _____

Student's Gross Adjusted Income (IRS) (signed) _____

Signature of Applicant _____ Date _____

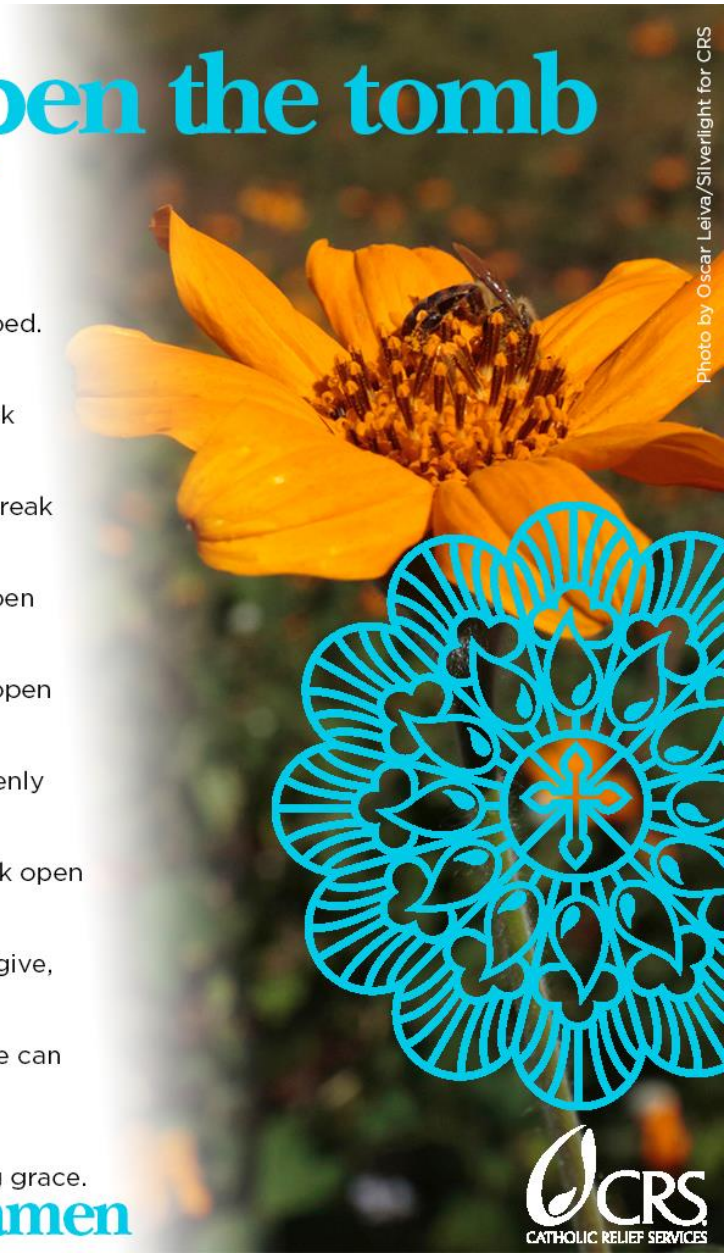
Signature of Parent/Guardian _____ Date _____

The following must accompany this form:

— a letter of reference from the church Rector or other clergyman (give referees plenty of time!)
— a letter of reference from the school guidance counselor or a teacher
— a letter of reference from a third party not in the family
— an official transcript of grades
— a copy of page 1 of the SAR letter
— a copy of signed IRS pages showing the Adjusted Gross Incomes of the Parents and Student (SSN blacked out)
— an essay explaining *(a)* why the applicant seeks the scholarship and *(b)* his/her educational goals
— a list of school, church, community activities and jobs including the hours devoted to these activities
— if this is the second Elise Holladay Scholarship, update the letters of reference including priest at campus (college town) chapel (church) and update the official transcript showing the college courses
— a list of other scholarships received for the coming year including amounts

Only *complete* applications will be considered and must be postmarked by **Friday, May 5, 2023** for the student's application to be considered for the fall semester. A student may receive funds twice. Questions? Call Helen Sharpe-Williams (757) 487-8183. Send the complete package to the attention of: **Helen Sharpe-Williams**
ECW Scholarship
2343 Locks Landing
Chesapeake, VA 23323

break open the tomb



Lord of Easter's Promise,

I live in faith of the Resurrection,
but such is the nature of my faith
that so much of me remains entombed.
Break open the tomb.

Where I've buried my compassion, break open the tomb.

Where I've buried my sense of mercy, break open the tomb.

Where I've buried my humility, break open the tomb.

Where I've buried my humanity, break open the tomb.

Where I've buried my love for my Heavenly Father, break open the tomb.

Where I've buried my sense of joy, break open the tomb.

Where I've buried my willingness to forgive, break open the tomb.

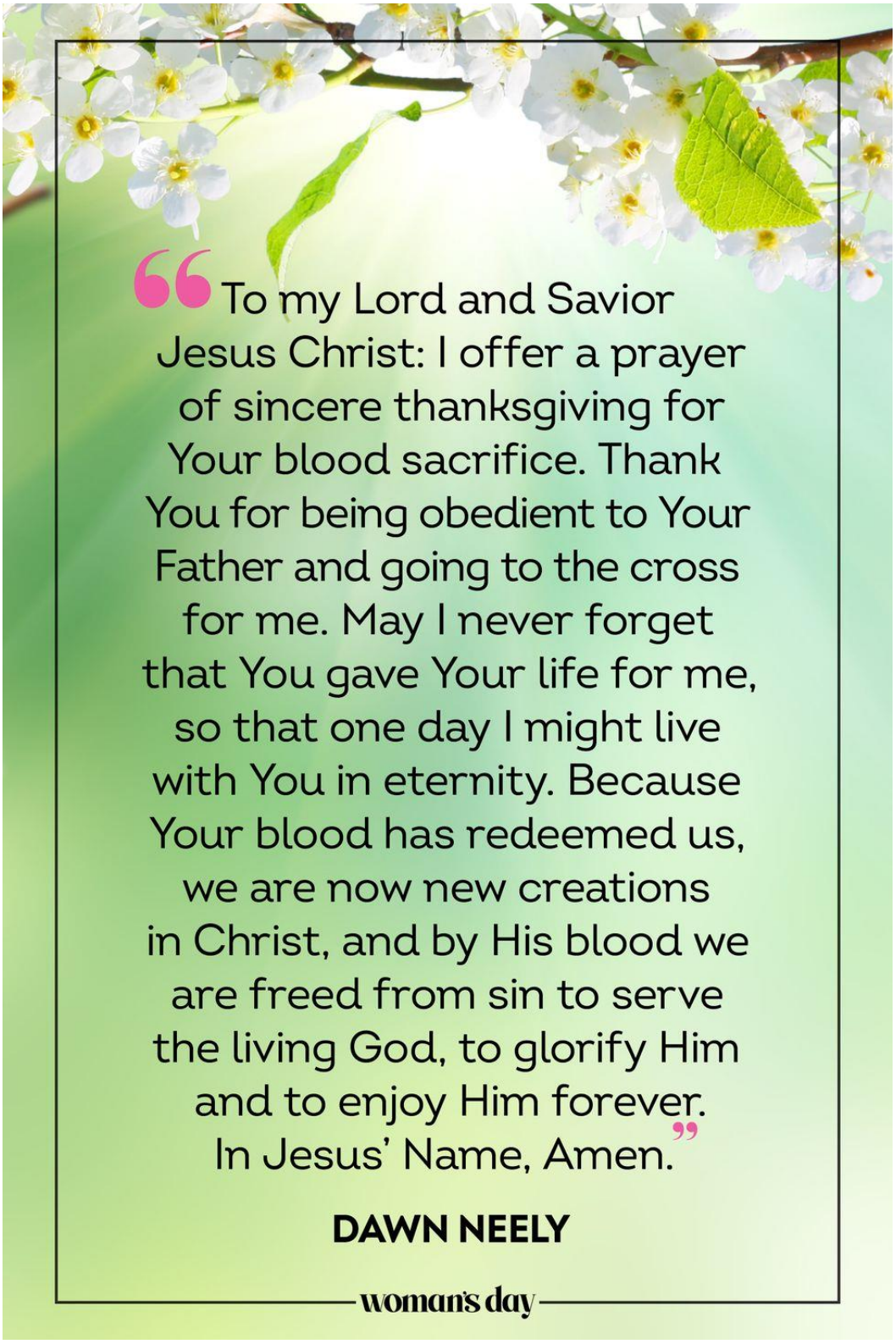
Lord, in you I've found a Savior no grave can withstand.
Help me to roll away this stone
And find the miracle of new life
That I may live more fully in your saving grace.

amen

Message from the Communication Chair – Dr. Angela M. Parker

"THE GRAPEVINE"

The next issue of "The Grapevine" will go out May 31, 2023. **All submissions must be ready for print and submitted in a WORD document**. All submissions are due on or before April 30, 2023. Please email your submissions to: **ecwcommunication@gmail.com**

THANK YOU!

EASTER PRAYER