THE GRAPEVINE

EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN SPRING 2021

NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Dear Sisters in Christ,

Happy and a Blessed New Year of two thousand twenty-one. Our previous year was indeed a challenging one for all of God's creation. We have come this far by the Grace of God, and have survived under His protected wings.

We are resting on the shoulders of great women before us, who have left a grand legacy for us. Are we ready to sojourn into a brighter future for all people? Yes, must be the answer. We must continue in order to not let our foremothers, mothers, sisters, aunts, nieces and cousins down, in spite of the many challenges before us now and the unseen future. We can with God's help.

Our daily commitment to Christ will fortify us to do so. We can be prepared with unseen might to preserve without falling, because we are His hands and feet. I have the utmost faith in you, because you are remarkable women.

"Let us not grow weary of doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up. So then, whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all, and especially for those of the family of faith." (NRSV-Galatians 6:9-10)

Thank you for your continued support, encouragement, challenges and commitment as we take on a New Year. I am highly appreciative, and I will with God's help try to serve you with transparency, sincerity, humility, empathy, compassion and fairness.

Lastly, I want to say may our Creator continue to shine upon you, guide

you, and give you His continence. We will persevere as Episcopal Church Women have done and will continue to do, with the grace of God.

God Bless You.

Yours in Christ,

Laura L. Manigault

Laura L. Manigault,

ECW President

ECW Meeting Schedule

See page 2 for complete schedule

March 20
Spring Executive Board

Meeting, via Zoom

9:00 Check In
9:30 Meeting Begins

Zoom Link:

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81034947915?pwd=ZDlWSURKUVhwUkFua3FSREcvbFF4Zz09

Inside This Issue

ECW Meeting Schedule 2021
Page 2

April is Autism Awareness Month
Dr. Renee Escoffery-Torres
Page 3

Donations from Ribbon Crosses
A Prayer During Lent
Page 4

Tiaa Mason: Paying it Forward
Page 5

The Godspeed Project,
Page 6

The Diocese of Kamango and UTO
Page 7 & 8

Finance Committee
Page 9

Treaurer's Report 2020
Page 10 & 11

ECW Meeting Schedule 2021

We look forward to returning to in-person meetings, but in the meantime we will plan to meet via Zoom. This year we will continue with programs about our service ministry:

Dare to Be Different:
Let Us Unmask the Mystery of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)

Meetings

March 20 **ECW Diocesan Spring Board Meeting**

APRIL – Autism Awareness Month

April 8 **Zoom Webinar**
Autism Panel Discussion 3 – 4 p.m.

May 15 **ECW Diocesan Spring Annual Meeting**
Louisa Taylor Letcher, Founder,
Commemorative Service

September 18 **ECW Diocesan Fall Board Meeting**

October 16 **ECW Diocesan Fall Annual Meeting**
Autism Awareness Workshop

Ingatherings

April **Ingathering United Thank Offering (UTO)**

May **Ingathering Church Periodical Club (CPC)**

September **Ingathering United Thank Offering (UT0)**

Watch your email for information on how to join our Zoom meetings.

To be added to the email list, call or email Tia Morings, corresponding secretary, morings1@gmail.com

April is Autism Awareness Month

April 8

Zoom Webinar

Autism Panel Discussion

3 – 4 p.m.

Stay Tuned for More information.

Dare to Be Different: Let Us Unmask the Mystery of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)

Dearest Sisters in Christ:

One of the beautiful aspects of my election as Vice President of the Episcopal Church Women for this Diocese, is serving as Chairman of Programs, and being able to help realize the vision of our ECW President, Laura L Manigault. During her term of office, we are bringing to fruition programs related to a topic for which she has become an advocate, and supporter.

As the grandmother of an autistic child, I have come to know first handedly what it is like living in the world of an autistic child, and the impacts of ASD on a family. But as the adage goes, "When you have seen one autistic child, you have seen one autistic child." ASD is not monolithic; each autistic child or adult brings to the journey his or her own special set of reactions, approaches, and influences.

And I knew that the experience was not just mine alone. We have parish members and members of our communities who face the rewards and challenges of persons we love with ASD, everyday. So for my own personally invested reasons, I was ready to promote awareness, and enthralled to assist in the program efforts of our ECW President's series "Dare to be Different: Unmasking the Mystery of Autism Spectrum Disorder."

Our first guest at the ECW Fall meeting, held in October 2020, was Mr. Diego Zuniga, President of the Autism Society of Tidewater, who came and spoke to us about several aspects of Autism Spectrum Disorder. We will continue our series discussions with the Autism Society of Central Virginia, as we continue to explore this disorder and all of its implications, placing it in the context of not only mental, physical, and psychological development, but spiritual development as well.

We are excited to present this panel during Autism Awareness Month, which is in April, and we encourage your participation and involvement on our Zoom webinar. Please stay tuned to find out more information; the panel is scheduled for April 8, at 3 pm. Thank you for helping us realize this dream of getting information out to our parishes about this very important subject, which impacts God's community.

Dr. Renee Escoffery-Torres,
Vice President, ECW

Women of Bruton

Episcopal Church Women (ECW)

Burton Parish

Donations from Ribbon Crosses - Bruton Parish Church

Recently, the Episcopal Church Women of Bruton Parish Church were able to provide donations to two local organizations as well as the Episcopal Church in Navajoland, in New Mexico, based on revenue generated with the sale of Ribbon Crosses. The Crosses are made by members of ECW and have been very popular as bookmarks, graduation, baptism and other celebrations. We have also recently been accepting special orders for the Crosses which have provided an opportunity to reach out to many folks during these challenging times and let them know that we are thinking about them.

The three organizations who received the donations were the Peninsula Food Bank a local food bank and pantry, the Community of Faith Ministries who run a local shelter for the homeless and the Episcopal Church in Navajoland where the funds will be used for much needed fuel and food.

If you are interested in learning more about this fun and rewarding ministry, please contact the womenofbruton@brutonparish.org.

A Prayer During Lent

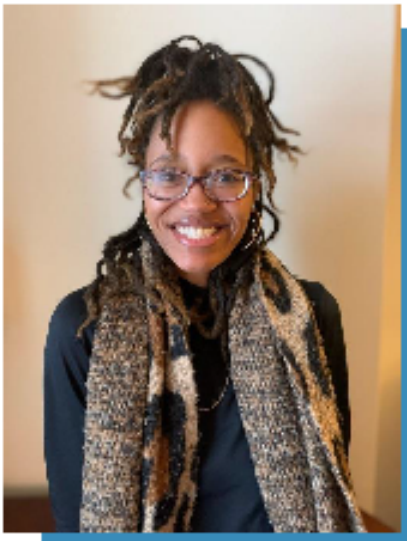
In my restless silence I sometimes pray.
Sometimes our prayers are tears
Sometimes our prayers are deep sighs
Sometimes our prayers are deep breaths
Sometimes our prayers are WHY? WHY?WHY?
Sometimes our prayers are silent stares to the sky
Sometimes our prayers are raging thoughts rising from a sick and tired soul
Sometimes our prayers are screams asking God "Do you hear me?"
Sometimes our prayers are jumbled words of despair and distress
Sometimes our prayers are still like a drying brook
Sometimes, our prayers are lonely longings
Sometimes our prayers ain't cute, eloquent, pretty and sweet
Sometimes our prayers are raw ramblings and riddled
Sometimes our prayers are poems and prose
Sometimes our prayers are wounds, wanderings and even words
Lord hear our prayers!!

~B. Michele Horton

TIAA MASON: PAYING IT FORWARD

"I want to thank Jackson-Feild's supporters for digging deep and giving their financial support. I can't thank them enough. It's because of them that I'm here and helping others."

Tiaa Mason



Tiaa Mason is a firm believer in the concept of 'paying it forward'.

Seventeen years ago, Tiaa came to Jackson-Feild from another residential program. Struggling with depression and the aftereffects of physical abuse, Tiaa was guarded, withdrawn, and skeptical about her future. Because she had anger management issues, Tiaa's therapists focused much of their attention on teaching her ways to recognize, control, and redirect her thoughts when she felt provoked. At the time, Tiaa – like many teens – neither appreciated nor valued these exercises or any of the other clinical services she received.

Over time, though, Tiaa's outlook changed. She came to treasure her experiences at Jackson-Feild and has fond memories of activities and outings. "I especially," she reports, "enjoyed Christmas and the sense of 'family' that came with it." Tiaa even developed trusting relationships with several staff members and remains in touch with them.

Like many children aging out of Jackson-Feild, Tiaa wanted to live on her own rather than return home. She quickly found herself alone, on the streets, and needing help. Thanks to the grace of God, Tiaa met her guardian angel – a kind schoolteacher – who took her in and became her surrogate mother. With her angel's encouragement, Tiaa enrolled in Grand Canyon University and earned her undergraduate degree in psychology.

Today Tiaa is married and living in Minot, ND where she and her husband are raising two young daughters. Working as a youth counselor at Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch, Tiaa says, "I found my dream job! I'm working with children who struggled just like I did, and my goal is to help them as much as my Jackson-Feild therapists and counselors helped me." Tiaa also reports that she plans to pursue her master's degree at Minot State University and become a licensed clinical therapist.

Seventeen years after arriving at Jackson-Feild, Tiaa is paying it forward as she helps children coping with mental illness.

The Godspeed Project at Jackson-Feild

A resident at Jackson-Feild Behavioral Health Services (JFBHS) confided to Chaplain Robin Moore that prior to her placement she had no home and no place to sleep. The girl's plight touched Moore's heart and motivated her to act.

The Godspeed Project originated as a partnership between the Spiritual Care Program at JFBHS and Carson United Methodist Church in which the Women's group graciously made and donated thirty pillowcases. Each pillowcase is unique and stitched with love; perhaps these ladies were thinking of their own children/grandchildren when they worked on putting the pillow cases together. The project seeks to supply each resident with a new handmade pillowcase to keep and take with them as they move on to the next place they will lay their head.

The Godspeed Project also includes an effort to partner with churches throughout the Greensville region to collect new, unused hard-sided suitcases to be offered to residents upon discharge so that they can pack their belongings instead of putting them into a trash bag, as is the case with so many youth.

Pillowcases and suitcases might seem insignificant, but they provide a sense of normalcy to those receiving and using them. They are tangible reminders to the youth that they are valued as human beings and will not be forgotten as they move on in their lives.

JFBHS welcomes churches and parishes to join in the Godspeed Project. If your church would like to help, please contact the Rev. Dr. Robin Moore at rmoore@jacksonfeild.org or 434-594-7909.

The Diocese of Kamango and UTO

Susan Broaddus, former Mission Partner

As I have said before, Christians in our sister church in the D.R.C. are amazing as they keep on keeping on. This year the Rt. Rev. Sabiti Tibafa Daniel, my old friend and former colleague, the Bishop of the Diocese of Kamango, has asked us to help him with an United Thank Offering (UTO) grant and Ronda Toll, UTO Coordinator, and Bishop Susan Haynes have agreed to help.

The Bishop writes: We have now 26,542 Christians in the diocese found in 5 Archdeaconries, 23 Parishes, 27 Priests, 13 Deacons, 23 Lay-readers and 56 Catechists. As social actions, the Diocese has 12 primary schools, 7 secondary schools and 1 Bible Institute. It has 5 health centers, 13 health posts and 1 general hospital. All these facilities are often supervised by local government officials.

Kamango is on the border with Uganda and has encountered many challenges recently with Ebola returning after seemingly being eradicated, Covid-19 flaring up, and a national epidemic of deadly measles. In addition, the ADF-NALU militia has wreaked havoc in the region sending residents to the border area. Recently, people have started to return and rebuild and replant. Food in the Eastern part of the D.R.C. is scarce these days whereas before the presence of militias, it was plentiful.

This lively Diocese has some buildings of adobe brick and are seeking a to build one of durable materials for offices and a multipurpose meeting room. Plans have been carefully and professionally drawn up. The people are ready to build when resources are available. They believe such a center will serve for Church meetings on Peace and Reconciliation as well as civic meetings, weddings, and educational events such as teaching on health.

Bishop Sabiti watches people laying the foundation of a building.

The former cyber café is the adobe building with red paint.

The Mother's Union in uniform.

Local hospital at KamangoKamango

Nov. 15, 2020

16 students finish a two-year course at the Bible Institute and are commissioned as Evangilists. 5 of the 16 are women. Mme Damalie Sabiti, the Bishop's wife, is second from the left.

Finance Committee Meets Via Snail Mail

The Finance Committee meets annually to prepare the next year's Diocesan Budget. We decide who will receive annual contributions from ECW dues and the percentage they will receive. Due to the pandemic the Finance Committee could not meet in person in 2020. But we didn't let that stop us. Thanks to the United States Post Office we met via snail mail. We invited the 26 parishes who paid dues in 2019 to participate on the committee. We received feedback from 12 parishes; Christ Church, Eastville; Emmanuel, Jenkins Bridge; Eastern Shore Chapel, Virginia Beach; St. James, Portsmouth; St. Cyprian's, Hampton; Trinity, South Hill; Redeemer, Midlothian; Christ and Grace, Petersburg; All Saint's, South Hill; Christ Church, Danville; Grace Church, Norfolk; Deborah Austin, Fourth Convocation Chair; Nancy Kuper-Page, Eastern Shore Convocation Chair and committee members, President, Laura L. Manigault; and Recording Secretary, Kathy Haney, both committee members – 16 participants. Our goal was to hear from all nine of our convocations. We ar happy to report all nine of our convocations are represented. Here are the results of the first round.

No Changes 10 parishes, 2 Convocation chairs, 1 President and 1 Recording Secretary voted to make no changes. To prepare the 2021 Diocesan Budget with the same recipients receiving the same contributions.

Addition and Increase Suggestions 1 parish voted to add Graceinside an organization that provides chaplains for women and men in Virginia prisons. 1 parish voted to increase the contribution to the National Cathedral.

We then asked for a second round of feedback. The addition of Graceinside was approved. The suggestion to increase our contribution to the National Cathedral was not approved. See the proposed budget changes below. The proposed 2021 budget was presented at the ECW Diocesan Board at the Fall Board Meeting, September 19, 2020. It was approved. Many thanks to everyone for all your help. Hopefully, this year we can meet in person.

Nancy L. Smith, ECW Treasurer

ECW Diocesan Budget

Diocese of Southern Virginia Recipients	**2020**	**2021**
Camp Chanco -The Spiritual Heart of the Diocese of Southern Virginia. A retreat center for youth and adults and one of the longest running summer camp programs in Virginia.	15%	14%
Department of College Ministries -This commission guides ministry initiatives for college-age persons in Southern Virginia, manages the Bishop Vaché Scholarship Fund and provides peer support for the campus chaplains and Canterbury Club programs.	15%	14%
Boys Home of Virginia - Provides positive role models and a supportive quality of life. Showing each boy that each day is a step toward their success.	07%	06%
Dare to Be Different – Our Service Ministry helps us become better informed about Autism Spectrum Disorder, while serving those families directly and indirectly impacted.	16%	15%
Dos Santos -This food pantry program serves the Latino/Hispanic immigrant and migrant farm worker population on the Eastern Shore of Virginia.	12%	11%
Mission of the Holy Spirit - This program offers spiritual, educational, and psychosocial services to at-risk, inner-city children, adolescents, and their families in Norfolk, VA.	12%	12%
Graceinside- This organization provides chaplains for women and men in Virginia prisons.		05%
Nation		
Washington National Cathedral Preservation Fund - Supports Cathedral ministries, programs, and all the work of restoration and renewal that takes place at the Cathedral.	07%	07%
World		
Episcopal Relief & Development - The international relief and development agency of the Episcopal Church.	10%	10%
Women-to-Women - A ministry linked with efforts being made by the national Episcopal Church to help the Anglican Church of the Province of the Democratic Republic of Congo rehabilitate women who are victims of the war-related violence in their country.	06%	06%
	100%	**100%**

2020 Treasurer's Report

In spite of the pandemic, all our Diocesan Budget recipients received a contribution from us in 2020. Many thanks to everyone who paid their dues. Together we raised $888 for our Diocesan Budget recipients and added $444.00 to our Administrative Fund. Our Voluntary Contributions totaled $1,909.00. See the results on this page. Also, see the rest of the 2020 report on the next. Many thanks to everyone for your continued support. We pray for strength and protection and the end of the pandemic. Best wishes! Questions? Ask Nancy L. Smith, ECW Treasurer, nsmithwtr@aol.com

We Paid Our Dues!

Convocation I

- **St. George's Pungoteague**
- **Women of Emmanuel, Jenkins Bridge**

Convocation II

- **St. Aidan's, Virginia Beach**
- **Eastern Shore Chapel, Virginia Beach**
- **St. Francis, Virginia Beach**

Convocation III

- **Grace Church, Norfolk**

Convocation IV

- **St. James, Portsmouth**

Convocation V

- **Goodwin Bentley Branch of ECW, Burton Parish, Williamsburg**
- **St. Cyprian's, Hampton**
- **St. Augustine's, Newport News**

Convocation VI

- **Christ and Grace, Petersburg**

Convocation VII

- **ECW of Christ's Episcopal Church, Amelia**
- **St. Monica's Guild, Good Shepherd, Richmond**

Convocation VIII

- **St. Anne's, Appomattox**
- **St. Mark's, Bracey**
- **St. Paul's Memorial, Lawrenceville**
- **All Saints, South Hill**

Convocation IX

- **Christ Church, Danville**

Your Dues Funded the ECW Diocesan Budget 2020

Diocese

15% Chanco on the James	**$ 133.20**
15% College Ministries.	**$ 133/20**
7% Boys Home of Virginia	**$ 62.15**
16% President's Project	**$ 142.10**
12 % Dos Santos	**$ 106.55**
12% Mission of the Holy Spirit	**$ 106.55**

Nation

7 % National Cathedral	**$ 62.15**

World

10%Episcopal R & D	**$ 88.80**
6 % Women-to-Women	**$ 53.30**
Total	**$ 888.00**

Parish Voluntary Contributions

Miles of Pennies	**$ 75.90**
Church Periodical Club	**$ 75.90**
Elise Holladay Scholarships	**$ 1,283.16**
God Bless the Children	**$ 350.00**
Book of Remembrance	**$ 105.00**
Holy Cross School, Belize	**$ 20.00**
Total	**$1,909.96**

Receipts January – December 2020

Parish Requested Contributions

Diocesan Dues

$1 Administrative Fund	- $444.00	
$2 Diocesan Budget	- $888.00	
	Total	$1,332.00

Parish Voluntary Contributions

Miles of Pennies	$ 75.90	
Church Periodical Club	$ 75.90	
Elise Holladay Scholarships	$ 1,283.16	
God Bless the Children	$ 350.00	
Book of Remembrance	$ 105.00	
With These Hands,		
Holy Cross School, Belize	$ 20.00	
	Total	$ 1,909.96

Other Income

United Thank Offering		
Council Collection	$ 613.88	
Miles of Pennies	$ 189.50	
Women to Women	$ 11,924.24	
Dare to Be Different	$ 150.00	
Advent Retreat		
Scholarship Refund	$ 300.00	
God Bless the Children -		
Daughters of the King	$ 500.00	
	Total	$13,707.62

Disbursements January – December 2020

2019 Diocesan Budget		
Chanco on the James	$213.75	
Dept. College Ministries	$213.75	
Boys Home of Virginia	$ 99.75	
Dos Santos	$171.00	
Mission of the Holy Spirit	$171.00	
National Cathedral	$ 99.75	
Episcopal R&D	$142.50	
	Total	$1,111.40
Church Periodical Club		
Adults	$513.00	
Miles of Pennies	$324.23	
	Total	$837.23
United Thank Offering –		
Council Collection	$ 612.83	
God Bless the Children Graduation Gifts		
Jackson Field Home	$500.00	
Boys Home of VA	$500.00	
	Total	$1,000.00
Administrative Fund		
Tidewater Storage	$ 786.00	
Council Exhibit Table	$ 125.00	
Rt. Rev Susan Haynes' Gift	$ 108.00	
President's Expenses	$ 384.21	
Office Supplies	$ 39.42	
Bank Fees Treasurer's Error	$ 29.00	
ECW Province III Dues	$ 250.00	
Mr. Diego Zuniga, Fall Annual Meeting Speaker	$ 100.00	
	Total	$1,821.63
Women to Women	$ 6,330.00	
Elise Holladay Scholarships	$ 7,000.00	
Bishop Tucker Memorial Scholarships	$ 4,500.00	
Jackson-Feild Home – Louisa Taylor Letcher Fund G Recipient	$ 3.645.92	
Our Little Roses, Honduras – Louisa Taylor Letcher Fund F Recipient	$ 4,621.19	
Holy Cross School, Belize Holy Cross School Fund	$ 1,790.94	
	Total	$33,271.24