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

"THE GRAPEVINE"

August 2023

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Dear Sisters in Christ,

I hope you are well and safe as we approach the sunny, hot, and humid days of summer as you travel hold on to your undying faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, He has promised to be our Redeemer, Provider, and Protector for all His creations.

I recommend that we stay steadfast in our faith because there remains a lot of work to be accomplished by the Episcopal Church Women (ECW) in our communities, nation, and the world. We should always remember our vision and mission as we serve all people from all walks of life in this 21st century. Love, Hope, and Perseverance are the way.

We must constantly encounter varying degrees of social injustice, poverty, loneliness, grief, insults, depreciation of our talent, misuse of our time, and racial biases. However, I believe with the help of God, we can overcome all obstacles.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude for your trust, support, and commitment to the organization that its members will remain the hands and feet of Christ.

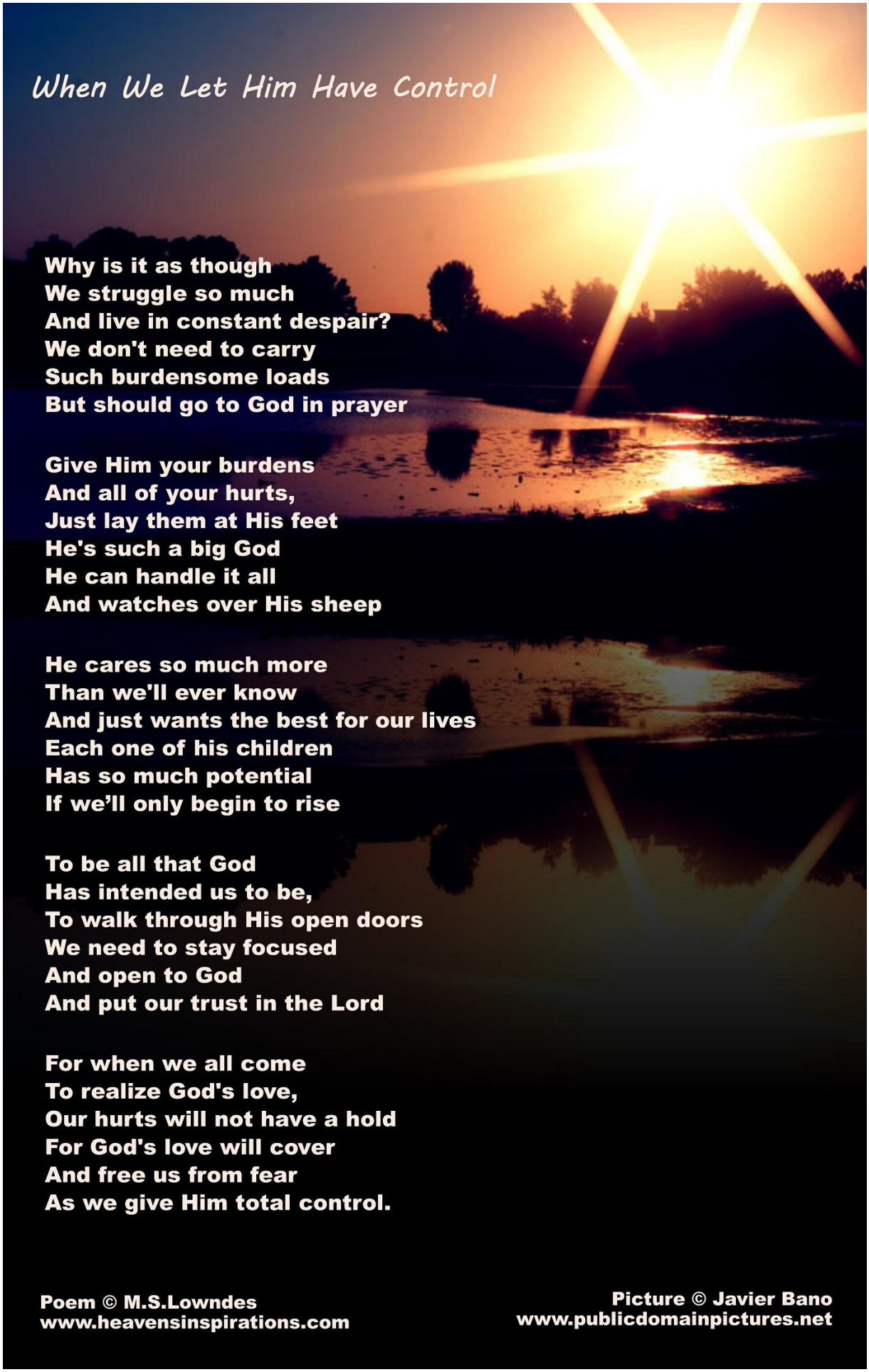
Enjoy your lazy days of summer, get some rest, and be ready to face all challenges going forward. Leave your worries on the doorstep of time. You have my blessings through the Holy Spirit as you remain in fellowship with one another.

I would like to share this poem with you entitled *WHEN WE LET HIM HAVE CONTROL* written by M.S. Lowndes.

Faithfully Yours,

Laura L. Manigault

Diocesan ECW President



When We Let Him Have Control

Why is it as though
We struggle so much
And live in constant despair?
We don't need to carry
Such burdensome loads
But should go to God in prayer

Give Him your burdens
And all of your hurts,
Just lay them at His feet
He's such a big God
He can handle it all
And watches over His sheep

He cares so much more
Than we'll ever know
And just wants the best for our lives
Each one of his children
Has so much potential
If we'll only begin to rise

To be all that God
Has intended us to be,
To walk through His open doors
We need to stay focused
And open to God
And put our trust in the Lord

For when we all come
To realize God's love,
Our hurts will not have a hold
For God's love will cover
And free us from fear
As we give Him total control.

Poem © M.S.Lowndes
www.heavensinspirations.com

Picture © Javier Bano
www.publicdomainpictures.net

Highlights from It's all about Love: A Festival for the Jesus Movement
July 9-12, 2023
Baltimore, Maryland

The "It's all about Love: A Festival for the Jesus Movement" which involved great workshops, revival worship in evangelism, racial reconciliation, and creation care was indeed an inspirational and provocative event for me. I was lifted with great hope and faith in the future of our Episcopal Church in the western hemisphere.

I based the above statements on the following edited transcripts of the Presiding Bishop Michael Curry and the House of Deputies President, Julia Ayala Harris.

The Presiding Bishop Michael Curry-

"It is all about love. And when you listen to Jesus of Nazareth, he points us to God, who the Bible says is love. And at one point, he said in John 13, "A new commandment I give you"—Moses gave you 10; I've got one more— "A new commandment I give you that you love one another as I have loved you." Love one another as God loves us. Love one another as Jesus loves all the little children of the world. Love one another as the Spirit, that sweet, sweet Spirit—sweet, sweet Spirit, who, when the Spirit shows up, we will leave this place and know we have been loved and can love—love one another as I have loved you. For by this, everyone will know that you are my disciples that you love one another, that you love the loveless, that you care for others, that you witness to God's justice. That you try to help somebody along the way. That you help somebody and don't hurt them. And if you hurt them, own it. Get up, 'fess up. And then get up. Love one another."

"When the power of love"—repeat after me— "When the power of love overcomes the love of power, then the world will know peace." It is all about love. Oh, turn and tell your neighbor, it's all about love. Go on, tell them. It's all about love. All about love. All about love. It's all about love."

"Love yourself, even if it's an illusion. Love yourself. Love the Lord your God. Love your neighbor. Love yourself. Jesus entered Jerusalem to confront the love of power with the power of love."

"Christianity itself needs a revival, a revival to the teachings of this Jesus for whom love was at the very center of those teachings. And it dawned on me that maybe, maybe this Episcopal Church—don't you worry about the parochial statistics; don't you worry about all the facts and figures. If we love God and love our neighbor and love ourselves, we will work our way even out of our misery. Don't you worry about it now. That's all about love, all about love. All about love."

"Let love lead and love your child. Let love lead and let her find the life abundant meant for each. Let love lead to help you heal old wounds. Let love lead, and you'll find life as God intended because love is God's GPS. It's God's global positioning satellite that will lead you to the heart of God, the heart of the world, the heart of yourself."

The Presiding Bishop Michael Curry concluded with these words, “together with the God who is the source of love and life, together with God we can; we can make poverty history together in partnership with God. We can do justice and love mercy and walk humbly with our God. Together with God, we can clean up this environment so that there is plenty of good room for all of God’s children. Together with God, we can create societies and a world where everybody is treated as God’s somebody. Together with God, we can create a world where justice really does roll down like a mighty stream and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream. Together with God, we can learn how to lay our swords and shields down by the riverside, to study war no more. When the power of love overcomes the love of power, then the world will know peace.”

The House of Deputies President Julia Ayala Harris left an impression on me in the following statements: ‘’ We as Episcopalians have a story both communally and individually. So, what is the story that we carry as Episcopalians, and how does that story affect how we do racial reckoning? How do we think about climate justice, how do we go about evangelism? Because these stories also give meaning to our lives and define how we go about the world and do the business of the church.

“Because what we know from our personal lives is that when we reframe a traumatic event, it gives our life meaning. We all have experiences of those hurtful times from childhood. When something that we have transformed and reframed in our personal lives, it allows us to learn from, take courage from, and draw new identities in new ways from those transformed experiences. At this moment, our church is being called to transform its story.”

“We are being called to transform stories and narratives about whose voices, whose literal bodies matter, Black and Brown bodies, Indigenous bodies, women’s bodies, children’s bodies, trans and non-binary bodies, and differently-abled bodies. And at the same time, because the Spirit doesn’t give us a break, we are being called to transform narratives about our church’s relationship with power and empire, with Indigenous boarding schools, with our history, with the trans-Atlantic slave trade and forced labor.

“The Spirit is calling us to transform these narratives; because she is calling us into a new identity focused on justice, courage, freedom, and love. Storytelling is an act of love.”

“Jesus stood for something greater than the status quo. He stood for a just society, a society of love. Even in the darkness, we know this is to be true because Jesus himself lived and died through these ideas. Christ shows us the gift of compassionate courage is innate because the love of God will never fail us.”

“The Spirit is calling us to live into the fires of Pentecost: to bear witness to the love of Jesus Christ; to bring Good News to our families, our churches, and our communities, to a hurting world that so desperately needs it.”

President Julia Ayala Harris concluded her statements with this prayer:

“Creator God,

We come before You, our divine Author, with hearts filled with gratitude and reverence. We acknowledge that You are the embodiment of courage, justice, and love.

Grant us the courage to stand firm in our convictions, to face the challenges that come our way in unwavering faith. In moments of fear and doubt, infuse us with the boldness to step forward (if I perish, I perish), knowing that You are with us and that Your perfect love casts out all fear.

We pray for your divine justice to prevail in our lives and in the world around us. May we seek justice for the oppressed, the marginalized, the voiceless, and the breathless? Help us to stand up against injustice and be advocates for righteousness and truth.

Fill our hearts with Your boundless love, the love that knows borders and transcends all barriers. Help us to love our neighbors as ourselves, to extend kindness and compassion to all those we encounter. May our love reflect Your love, shining brightly in a world that desperately needs it.

As we continue on our journey, writing the pages of our story, we place our trust in You, knowing that You are true courage, justice, and love. Guide us, empower us, and fill us with Your Holy Spirit so that we may live out our story in a way that brings glory to You, our loving, liberating, and life-giving God.

All of this we ask in Your name Amen."

Submitted by,

Laura L. Manigault,

Diocesan Episcopal Church Women of the Episcopal Diocese of Southern Virginia, President
Province III, Vice President

The Episcopal Church Women extends sincere congratulations and best wishes for a bright future.

— Helen Sharpe-Williams, Student Work Chair

2023 ECW Scholarship Recipients

Congratulations to the 2023 Episcopal Church Women Scholarship Recipients:

Mr. David Gary Morgan, Jr. St. Augustine's Episcopal Church, Newport News, VA
Mr. William Bibeau Eastern Shore Chapel Episcopal Church, Virginia Beach, VA
Ms. Mary Reins All Saints' Episcopal Church, Virginia Beach, VA
Ms. Bella Curtin St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Norfolk, VA
Mr. Blake Curtin St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Norfolk, VA
Mr. Corey Brooks, Jr. Grace Episcopal Church, Norfolk, VA
Mr. Ethan Villaluz St. Aidan's Episcopal Church, Virginia Beach, VA
Ms. Leah Ballinger Canterbury Episcopal Campus Ministry, Harrisonburg, VA

News from Jackson-Field

Jackson-Field concluded another highly successful fiscal year. We are most grateful to all our many stakeholders especially the ECW of the DIOSVA for helping us fulfill our mission and helping our children.

We remain steadfast in providing cutting-edge, evidence-based psychiatric residential treatment services.

Our Gwaltney School continues to develop creative ways to engage students and promote positive behaviors. Students participated in a career fair where they learned responsibilities and requirements about employment in a variety of careers. JFBHS staff were interviewed face-to-face in the areas of maintenance, finance, teaching, food service. Students also participated in a science fair to demonstrate their research based knowledge.

Resident staff hosted several activities which included our annual prom titled A Magical Moment in time. Girls showed off their prom dresses and boys were outfitted in a shirts, ties and slacks. It was a night they will cherish forever.

Residents enjoyed an Easter egg hunt, decorating eggs. Bingo, decorating cookies and arts and crafts.

The residential staff hosted a field day which included lawn games, dunking tank, water slide, and special food and treats.

Residents their artistic skills to create ‘silly socks’ for residents of an assisted living program in Emporia. Using fabric paint, the children had a wonderful time decorating socks not only with fun designs but also with inspirational and kind words for the senior recipients. “It’s always fun to spark the children’s imagination and creative efforts,” said The Rev. Dr. Robin Moore, chaplain ..“I’m forever seeking ways to engage our residents in volunteer efforts as a part of their treatment at Jackson-Feild. They were so proud of their creations, and were pleased that they could help brighten someone else’s day.”

The new fiscal year is filled with hope and greater expectations to meet the challenges of helping children with severe mental illness. It brings opportunities for growth and improvement. We thank each and every member for the ECW for your loyal and faithful and support this year. It is much appreciated.

2024 ECW Diocesan Calendar

February 10	Episcopal Diocese of Southern Virginia Annual Council
March 14	Diocesan ECW Spring Executive Board Meeting (Virtual)
April 20	Autism Acceptance Month Observance (Virtual)
April	INGATHERING: UNITED THANK OFFERING (UTO)
May 18	Diocesan ECW Spring General Meeting St. Paul's Episcopal Church 201 St. Paul's Blvd, Norfolk, VA 23510 Louisa Taylor Letcher Commemoration
May	INGATHERING: CHURCH PERIODICAL CLUB (CPC)
September 19	Diocesan ECW Fall Executive Board Meeting (Virtual)
October 26	Diocesan ECW Fall Annual Meeting All Saints' Episcopal Church 203 Franklin Street, South Hill, VA 23970
October	INGATHERING: UNITED THANK OFFERING (UTO)

SEPTEMBER

ECW Executive Board Meeting

Thursday, September 21, 2023, at 7 pm

Join Zoom Meeting
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6866309176?pwd=VkxPZ2RoZ2d5WENhTW4vTkZFMnowQT09

Meeting ID: 686 630 9176
Passcode: 848600

OCTOBER

Diocesan ECW Fall Annual Meeting

The Impact of the Pandemic on our Mental Health

The Episcopal Church Women of the Diocese of Southern Virginia invite you to join them at their October General Meeting. The meeting will feature school psychologist Ms. Leesa Parnell leading a discussion on the impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Mental Health. Ms. Parnell's keynote presentation will address challenging topics including depression, suicide, and anxiety disorder. Details of the meeting, offered both in person and online, are as follows:

In-person Meeting Location: Emmanuel Episcopal Church, 179 East Mercury Blvd, Hampton, Virginia 23669

Time: 10:00 AM -2:00 PM

Registration: 9:00 AM to 9:45 AM

Cost to attend is $20 per person, which includes a light breakfast and lunch.

Virtual Meeting: Zoom link Meeting ID: 829 9502 6959 Passcode:814467

Join Zoom Meeting

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82995026959?pwd=dlVKWlZscTNYTW80QUxtSU8yRTgvQT09

SPEAKER

Leesa Parnell is a School Psychologist with Hampton City Schools. As a School Psychologist, she has served the students of Virginia Beach and Hampton for the past 26 years, 22 of those years with Hampton City Schools. Leesa received her Bachelor's degree in Psychology from Appalachian State University in Boone, NC. She holds a Master's degree in Counseling from Old Dominion University and an Education Specialist's degree in School Psychology from The College of William & Mary. Leesa sees herself as an advocate for children and spends much of her time helping students and staff understand the unique learning needs of individuals. Her interests in practice focus on the unique mental health needs of students.

Leesa volunteers in many areas of her church including teaching Sunday School to 2–3-year-olds alongside her daughter Suzy. She also serves as a Chapter Advisor to Alpha Delta Pi sorority at Christopher Newport University, providing guidance and helping them thrive in their college years. Leesa's favorite job is wife and mother. She and her husband Mark have been married for 26 years and have two children Simon (20) and Suzy (17). She and Mark met at Crossroads Community Church singles group where they still attend. Watching their children grow and thrive has been the most rewarding and difficult job. As a family, they love to watch movies, travel, go to concerts, ride roller coasters, and visit with extended family.

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

"THE GRAPEVINE"

The next issue of "The Grapevine" will go out December 4, 2023. **All submissions must be ready for print and submitted in a WORD document**. All submissions are due on or before November 3, 2023. Please email your submissions to: **ecwcommunication@gmail.com**

THANK YOU!