

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



*“THE GRAPEVINE”
December 2023*



Inside This Issue

NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

TREASURER’S REPORT

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MESSAGE FROM THE COMMUNICATION CHAIR

*Happy
Holidays!*

Notes from the President's Desk

Dear Sisters in Christ,

As we approach the environmental changes of this season and remain focused on our vision and mission as the Episcopal Church Women (ECW) in these transmutable challenges on our journey, I would like to extend to you this INVITATION penned by Oriah Mountain Dreamer.

The Invitation

by Oriah Mountain Dreamer

It doesn't interest me what you do for a living
I want to know what you ache for
and if you dare to dream of meeting your heart's
longing.

It doesn't interest me how old you are
I want to know if you will risk looking like a fool
for love
for your dreams
for the adventure of being alive.

It doesn't interest me what planets are squaring your
moon...
I want to know if you have touched the center of your
own sorrow
if you have been opened by life's betrayals
or have become shrivelled and closed
from fear of further pain.

I want to know if you can sit with pain
mine or your own
without moving to hide it
or fade it
or fix it.

I want to know if you can be with joy
mine or your own
if you can dance with wildness
and let the ecstasy fill you to the tips of your
fingers and toes
without cautioning us to
be careful
be realistic
to remember the limitations of being human.

It doesn't interest me if the story you are telling me
is true.
I want to know if you can
disappoint another
to be true to yourself.

If you can bear the accusation of betrayal
and not betray your own soul.
If you can be faithless
and therefore trustworthy.

I want to know if you can see Beauty
even when it is not pretty
every day.
And if you can source your own life
from its presence.

I want to know if you can live with failure
yours and mine
and still stand on the edge of the lake
and shout to the silver of the full moon,
"Yes."

It doesn't interest me
to know where you live or how much money
you have.
I want to know if you can get up
after a night of grief and despair
weary and bruised to the bone
and do what needs to be done
to feed the children.

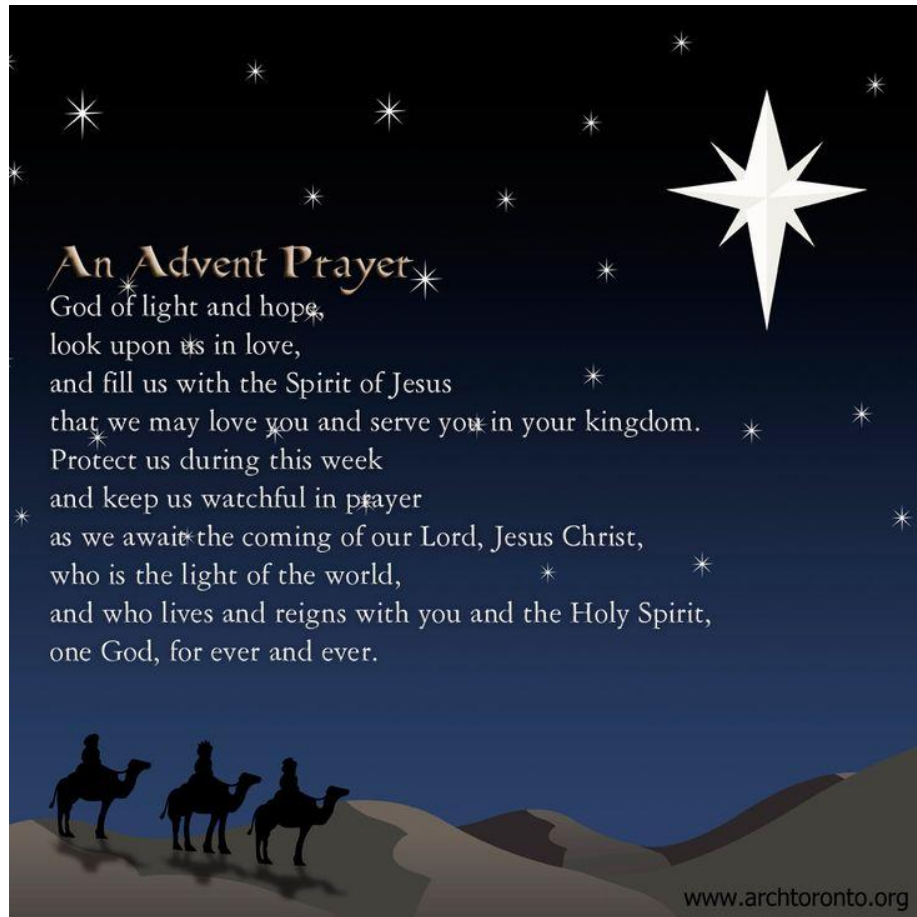
It doesn't interest me who you know
or how you came to be here.
I want to know if you will stand
in the center of the fire
with me
and not shrink back.

It doesn't interest me where or what or with
whom
you have studied.
I want to know what sustains you
from the inside
when all else falls away.

I want to know if you can be alone
with yourself
and if you truly like the company you keep
in the empty moments.

I am gratefully appreciative of your commitment and steadfast locality in your service as ambassadors of Christ. Please continue to love God and your neighbor, and don't forget yourself.

With the following Advent Prayer (author unknown) and my blessings, I wish you A Merry, Merry Christmas.



I encourage you to keep the faith and be courageous and assertive.

Yours in Christ.

Diocesan ECW President

Episcopal Diocese of Southern Virginia

Episcopal Church Women Dues Increase to \$5 Per Person Help Finance Outreach World Wide in 2023 Dues, Due December 31

All women, members of an Episcopal Church, are Episcopal Church Women. Even if the parish you belong to does not have an organized ECW, you can help finance outreach world wide by paying your dues. At the ECW Annual Fall Meeting, October 28, 2023 members voted to increase annual dues from \$3 to \$5 per person this year. Dues are usually due on November 1, but the deadline has been moved to December 31.

The two dollar (\$2) increase will be added the amount that we use to finance our Diocesan Budget. The Diocesan Budget will receive \$4 to fund our outreach in the diocese, nation and the world. See this year's budget below. The remaining dollar (\$1) will continue to help fund the administrative fund. We are fortunate the Harriet C. Taylor Memorial Trust provides additional funds for the the administrative account when needed. Income accumulated for distribution from this fund is based on the 5% spending policy of the Southern Virginia Diocesan Foundation where our funds are invested. The income is withdrawn by the treasurer annually as needed and deposited into the administrative account to cover the Administrative Budget expenses. Withdrawals with a specific purpose, for example: Triennial Expenses, from the funds (principal) will require the approval of the ECW Diocesan Board.

You can also make voluntary contributions. This year we have added Developmental Disabilities Awareness: Dare to Be Different: Let Us Unmask the Mystery of Autism Spectrum Disorder. to the list that includes the Elise Holladay Scholarships for high school graduates to further their education; the Book of Remembrance—gifts in memory of loved ones also fund the Elise Holladay Scholarships; God Bless the Children, Jackson-Feild Homes and Boys Home graduation gifts; and With These Hands, Holy Cross Anglican School, Belize Feeding Program.

All contributions are due December 15. Parish ECWs and individuals please mail one check for all contributions with the Annual Contribution Report below.

2023 ECW Diocesan Budget

Diocese

14% Chanco on the James - 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.

14% Department of College Ministries - This commission helps guide 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 of the diocese.

20% Dos Santos - This food pantry program serves the Latino/Hispanic immigrant and migrant farm worker population on the Eastern Shore of Virginia.

20% 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.

10% Grace Inside -This organization provides chaplains for women and men in prison.

Nation

10% Washington National Cathedral Preservation Fund - Supports Cathedral ministries, programs, and all the work of restoration and renewal that takes place at the Cathedral.

World

2% Episcopal Relief & Development - The international relief and development agency of the Episcopal Church.

Annual Contribution Report 2023

Please provide the amount of your parish ECW or individual Requested and Voluntary Contribution. Please send one check payable to ECW Treasurer.

Mail by December 31 to:

Nancy Smith, 509 Holgate Crescent, Virginia Beach, VA 23452, nsmithwtr@aol.com , 757-486-4705.

Parish or Individual: _____

Convocation: _____

City/Town: _____

Amount of Check: _____

Please use this form for all contributions **EXCEPT United Thank Offering and Church Periodical Club.**

Send United Thank Offering (UTO) contributions to UTO Coordinator: Mrs. Joanne Alston-Hooker
P.O. Box 1272, Newport News, VA 23601 jalhooker@verizon.net 757-407-1895

Send Church Periodical Club and Miles of Pennies Contributions to Church Periodical Club Director:
Dr. Renee N. Escoffery-Torres, 14 Grist Mill Drive, Hampton, VA 23669

REQUESTED CONTRIBUTIONS

Diocesan Dues - \$5.00* per member TOTAL: \$ _____

**Dues are based on \$4.00 for the Diocesan Budget and \$1.00 for the Administrative Fund. All Episcopal women in your church are members of the Episcopal Church Women.*

VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS

Elise Holladay Scholarship Fund: \$ _____

For High School graduates to further their education..

Book of Remembrance: \$ _____

Gifts in memory of loved ones also fund the Elise Holladay Scholarships.

God Bless the Children \$ _____

Jackson-Feild Homes and Boys Home of Virginia graduates' gifts.

"With These Hands" Endowment Funds: \$ _____

Holy Cross Anglican School Feeding Program, Belize.

Developmental Disabilities Awareness \$ _____

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

Please send all other outreach contributions directly to the recipients.

Name of person completing form: _____

Phone: _____ **Email:** _____



CONTACT:

Tod Balsbaugh
tbalsbaugh@jacksonfeild.org
804-869-3505

Fall Activities at Jackson-Feild

October was a busy month for activities for the residents of Jackson-Field Behavioral Health Services.

The month started with the annual Breast Cancer Walk. Residents and staff walked multiple times around the ¼ mile circular driveway around the campus. Several years ago two beloved staff members contracted cancer which raised the awareness of breast cancer among children and staff that has resulted in this annual walk.

The Gwaltney School, the on-campus, middle and high school held a Step Team Dance. Contestants were dressed up in costumes that mirrored the music they performed. The music included the Adams Family theme, Michael Jackson's Thriller and Monster Mash.

The school also sponsored a Harvest Festival on Halloween day. Residents came in costumes, they made their own masks and partook of food and treats prepared by the kitchen staff.

A fun time was had by all at each of these events.



The School of Religious Literacy
P.O. Box 486, South Hill, Virginia 23970
thestudium2023@gmail.com

ECW MEMBERS YOU HAVE BEEN RECOMMENDED!

December 4, 2023

Dear Prospective Student:

War, terrorism, peace, civil rights, human rights, environment, fake news, nationalism, UAPs, life, death; the impact and scope of religious influence in our world is without question. No longer do we have the luxury of pretending that religion is just a private thing best left for houses of worship and the musing of theologians and preachers. We all exist in a sea of religion and becoming religiously and biblically literate can help us better understand our world and the people in it, whether on the battlefield, in the classroom or in the boardroom.

The School of Religious Literacy exists to be a place where serious people of all faiths, and no faith, begin to make sense of our religious world and their place in it, especially in their professional lives. The School exists not to convert but to enlighten and enable. The School of Religious Literacy exists “to educate the religious literacy leaders who will educate the world.”

Therefore, on behalf of the Episcopal Church Women (ECW) of All Saints’ Episcopal Church in South Hill, Virginia, I invite you to join our school, a religious house of studies designed to raise up the best of us to struggle with the hardest subject, the place of religion in our world and in our lives. If you think you have what it takes to delve into these waters then, let us know. Your receipt of this letter means you have already been recommended to begin this journey; to become a Doctor of Religious Literacy in your profession.

If you would like to be in our first class, please email us at the following address for an application: thestudium2023@gmail.com.

Thank you for taking the time to consider joining us in this most important work and remember, “The beginning of wisdom is the most sincere desire for instruction” (Wisdom of Solomon 6:17 NRSV).

Mrs. Judy Jacquelin
All Saints’ ECW President

Mr. Warren Jackson
All Saints’ Senior Warden



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)

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

“THE GRAPEVINE”



The next issue of “The Grapevine” will go out March 18, 2024. **All submissions must be ready for print and submitted in a WORD document.** All submissions are due on or before February 19, 2024. Please email your submissions to: ecwcommunication@gmail.com

News Articles Due

February 19, 2024
April 29, 2024
July 29, 2024
November 4, 2024

Newsletter Will Be Published

March 18, 2024
May 27, 2024
August 26, 2024
December 2, 2024

