

132nd Annual Council
of the DIOSOVA
ECW President's
Report - February 2024



Your continued commitment, support, encouragement, and dedicated service to ECW's vision and mission is highly appreciated.

First giving honor and praise to our Lord Jesus Christ, and on behalf of the Episcopal Church Women of the Diocese of Southern Virginia, I submit to you our annual report.

We have and still are facing a challenging universe in this 21st century but with the wisdom and guidance we receive from Jesus Christ our Savior, Redeemer, Sustainer, and Counselor, we will survive to press forward to provide unselfish service to all. Our outreach work has touched many lives in America and abroad with \$32,450.07 and United Thank Offering (UTO) \$16,364.14, to the total sum of \$48,814.21.

Many parishes in the dioceses had food and clothing drives, and bazaars, provided shelters for the homeless, and made contributions to local elementary schools, adult day care centers, Episcopal Relief and Development Disaster Fund, Mission of the Holy Spirit, Department of College Ministries, Dos Santos, and domestic violence programs.

We gave encouragement and guidance to the persons not yet recognized and accepted in our society as needing our assistance to follow Christ. For example, we worked with the autistic community of souls and immigrants from many countries.

I have had the opportunity despite the COVID-19 pandemic to visit a few parishes this past year, specifically All Saints' Episcopal Church, South Hill, Virginia, St. Augustine's Episcopal Church, Newport News, Virginia, Emmanuel Episcopal Church, Hampton, Virginia, Christ the King, Tabb, Virginia and St. George's, Newport News, Virginia.

In 2024 Autism Acceptance Month will be celebrated on April 20th via Zoom with the theme “Let’s Get Involved-Work and Fun.” The keynote speakers are Mr. Tyler Williamson, CEO of FACT (Families of Autistic Children in Tidewater), and Ms. Sarah Weiss, CWIP (Waiver Operations Supervisor of Eggleston Services).

Zoom information for Saturday, April 20, 2024, at 10 A.M. will be provided through our newsletter (Grapevine) and the Diocesan newsletter (TIDINGS) later.

Our current Elected Officers/Appointees are as follows:

President - Mrs. Laura L. Manigault, Vice President - Vacant, Treasurer - Mrs. Nancy L. Smith, Recording Secretary - Vacant, Corresponding Secretary - Ms. Cornelia Taylor, UTO Coordinator - Mrs. Joanne Alston- Hooker, CPC/Parliamentarian - Dr. Renee Escoffery-Torres, Communication Chair - Dr. Angela M. Parker, Stewardship Chair/ Student Work Chair - Helen Sharpe-Williams, Historian/Archivist - Vacant.

Eleven positions will have to be filled starting in January 2025. Don't hesitate to contact Mrs. Nancy P. Sands by telephone: 434-203-1508 or email: beachpeach7@hotmail.com for more information.

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, ECW Agencies in Fellowship: Daughters of the King, Convener, Ms. Lydia Dyson; and W2W4 Congo, Convener, Mrs. Susan Schrader; and The School of Religious Literacy, Dr. Terrance Walker. Gracias! Kudos! Merci Beaucoup!

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
Louisa Taylor Letcher Commemoration
St. Paul's Episcopal Church 201 St. Paul's Blvd,
Norfolk, VA 23510
- May INGATHERING: CHURCH PERIODICAL CLUB (CPC)
- September 19 Diocesan ECW Fall Executive Board Meeting (Virtual)
- October 19 Diocesan ECW Fall Annual Meeting
All Saints' Episcopal Church 203 Franklin Street,
South Hill, VA 23970
- October INGATHERING: UNITED THANK OFFERING (UTO)



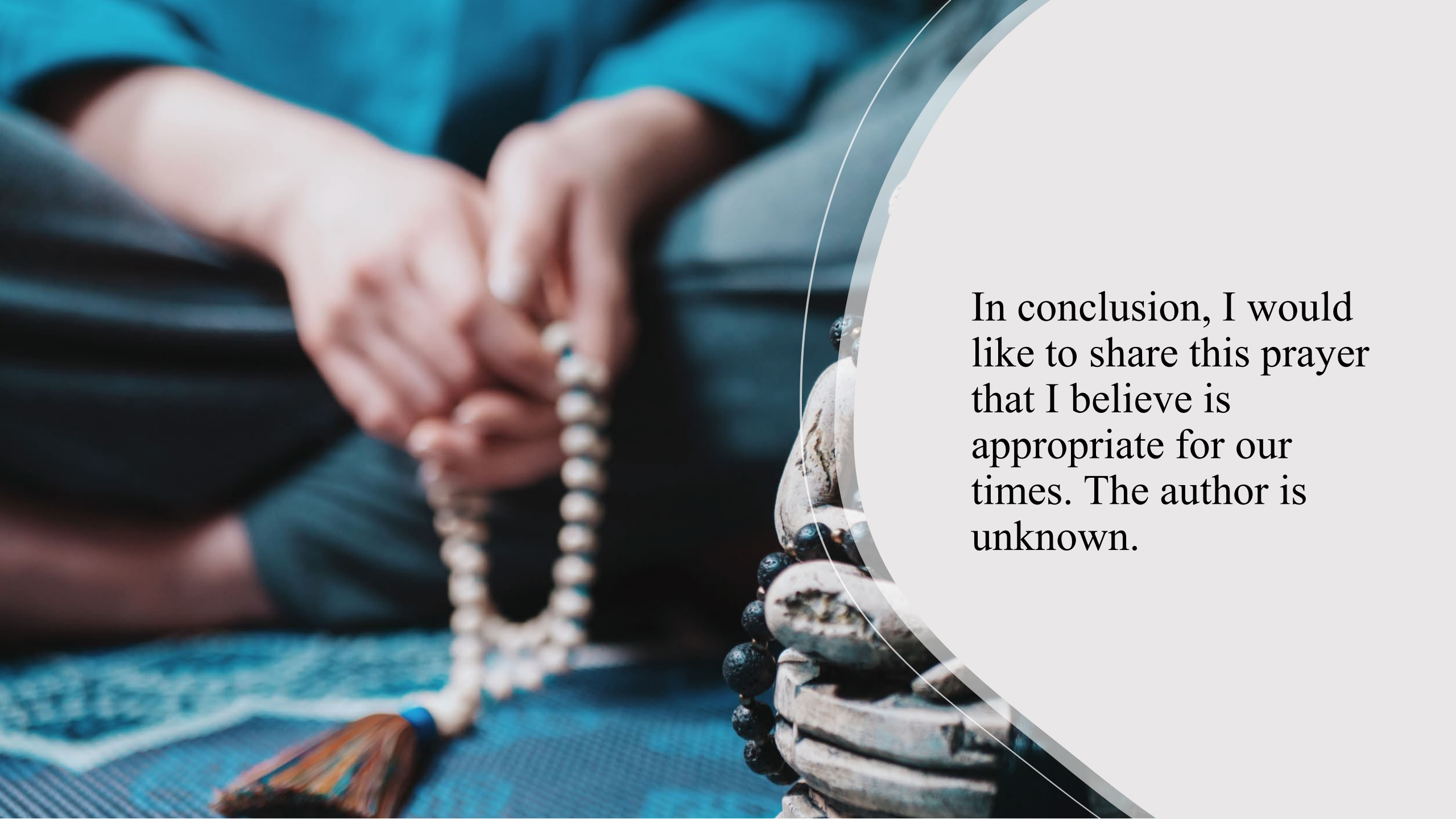
An additional organization has been added to the Agencies in Fellowship with the Diocesan Episcopal Church Women (ECW) organization and is addressed as the School of Religious Literacy. Information about this organization is as follows:

The School of Religious Literacy

In the midst of war, terrorism, peace, civil rights, human rights, environmental crisis, fake news, toxic nationalism, UAP disclosure, life and death, the Episcopal Church Women of All Saints' Episcopal Church, South Hill, Virginia, invites all those, both lay and ordained, who are called to struggle with these great issues, to join us in pursuit of the Doctor of Religious Literacy degree at our new school.

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 our place in it, especially in our professional lives.

The School of Religious Literacy exists “to educate the religious literacy leaders who will educate the world.”



In conclusion, I would like to share this prayer that I believe is appropriate for our times. The author is unknown.

A Prayer for Peace in the World

Lord, we pray for the power to be gentle; the strength to be forgiving; the patience to be understanding; and the endurance to accept the consequences of holding to what we believe to be right.

We pray for the vision to see and the faith to believe in a world emancipated from violence, a new world where fear shall no longer lead men to commit injustice, nor selfishness make them bring suffering to others.

Help us to devote our whole life and thought and energy to the task of making peace, praying always for the inspiration and the power to fulfill the destiny for which we and all men were created. Amen.

Submitted by

Laura L. Manigault

Diocesan ECW President and Vice President of Province III ECW