



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



***"THE GRAPEVINE"***  
*December 2024*



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## Notes from the President's Desk

Greetings to my Sisters in Christ,

I greatly appreciated your devoted commitment to me as the Diocesan Episcopal Church Women's President through the challenging years. You displayed support, friendship, and willingness to serve this ministry as phenomenal women of faith. We keep our vision and mission as Episcopal Church Women (ECW) and accepted the proposal to see that we serve all God's creations through the Autism Spectrum Disorder Project. I am indeed grateful and with the help of God may you continue to be blessed. Remember that you are the Hands and Feet of our Creator, Redeemer, Savior, and Protector. Please keep preserving no matter the consequences you face on your journey. The following poem by Ella Wheeler Wilcox, I would like to dedicate it to you.

### ***As You Go Through Life***

by

Ella Wheeler Wilcox

Don't look for the flaws as you go through life;  
And even when you find them,  
It is wise and kind to be somewhat blind  
And look for the virtue behind them.  
For the cloudiest night has a hint of light  
Somewhere in its shadows hiding;  
It is better by far to hunt for a star,  
Than the spots on the sun abiding.

The current of life runs ever away  
To the bosom of God's great ocean.  
Don't set your force 'gainst the river's course  
And think to alter its motion.  
Don't waste a curse on the universe —  
Remember it lived before you.  
Don't butt at the storm with your puny form,  
But bend and let it go o'er you.

The world will never adjust itself  
To suit your whims to the letter.  
Some things must go wrong your whole life long,  
And the sooner you know it the better.  
It is folly to fight with the Infinite,  
And go under at last in the wrestle;  
The wiser man shapes into God's plan  
As water shapes into a vessel.

Faithfully Yours,

*Laura L. Manigault*, Diocesan ECW President

Episcopal Diocese of Southern Virginia

## \$ Dues and Contributions Deadline Extended \$

Many thanks to everyone who has sent dues and voluntary contributions this year. But if you are just a little behind, there is still time to send them. The deadline has been extended to December 31.

Last year, at the ECW Annual Fall Meeting in October members voted to increase annual dues from \$3 to \$5 per person. The decision was made based on the recommendation of the ECW Finance Committee. The two-dollar (\$2) increase will be used to finance our Diocesan Budget. See this year's budget below. The remaining dollar (\$1) will continue to help fund the Administrative Fund. We are fortunate the Harriet E. Taylor Memorial Trust Fund provides additional funds for the Administrative Fund. Withdrawals with a specific purpose (for example: this year Triennial Expenses) are taken from the funds (principal) and require the approval of the ECW Diocesan Board.

We can also support outreach through our voluntary contributions. Last year we 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.

Parish ECWs and individuals please mail one check for all contributions with the Annual Contribution Form on the next page.

### Dues \$5 Per Person

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 worldwide by paying your dues.

### "Episcopal Chicken"

In 1988, under the leadership of Iris Hansen, past president 1983-1984, the ECW produced "Episcopal Chicken," a cookbook filled with the best chicken recipes across the diocese. Sold in parish bookstores nationwide, "Episcopal Chicken," raised over \$11,000 and the funds were invested in the Harriet E. Taylor Memorial Trust Fund. Interest from the account supplements the diocesan ECW Administrative Fund. Harriet Taylor was ECW's beloved treasurer for 14 years.

## 2024 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.

## Annual Contribution Report 2024

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

Mail by December 31 to:

Nancy Smith, 509 Holgate Crescent, Virginia Beach, VA 23452, nsmithwtr@aol.com , 757-672-8156

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: 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

Escoffery-torres@gmail.com, 757-677-6445

### 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 Fund: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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: \_\_\_\_\_



## Nomination Committee

# CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Hello, My Sisters in Christ:

This notification comes as an official call for nominations for officers of the Episcopal Church Woman (ECW) for the Diocese of Southern Virginia for the 2025-2027 term of office.

The criteria for selection, as well as roles and responsibilities for each position, can be found in the most recent copy of the ECW Handbook.

If you are interested in nominating an Episcopal Church Woman in your parish, please check with her first prior to submitting her name. Self nominations are welcome.

The four positions are as follows:

ECW Vice President

ECW Secretary

ECW Treasurer

ECW Historian/Archivist

For additional information pertaining to this call for nominations, please contact Mrs. Nancy P. Sands, ECW Nominating Committee Chair, email at [beachpeach7@hotmail.com](mailto:beachpeach7@hotmail.com)

Thank you for your consideration to provide service and support for this very special ministry.

Sincerely,

Nancy P. Sands

ECW Nominating Committee Chairman



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT:

OCTOBER 14, 2024

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

## Jackson-Field Happenings

Residents celebrated the end of summer with a number of events including build a pizza night, taco night, bingo, movie night ice cream socials, paint night, brunch, karaoke night, board game night, and a spade tournament.

The Gwaltney School year is off and running. Faculty members showed off their artistic talents with a staff art party. We recognized our food service staff with a Food Service Appreciation Day. Our Positive Behavior Incentive Program (PBIP) is designed to make school fun which reducing unacceptable behaviors and encouraging positive behaviors.

There were seventeen special events or programs in September and another eighteen scheduled for October. We have five different clubs that focus on specific activities such as poetry, drama, book and creative arts. In addition there is a student government association which actively involves students in their education.

We held special days such as tie dye day, trivia contests, nature hunt, breast cancer walk, Halloween door decorations and others.

The focus for our activities is to engage our children in learning and provide them opportunities to grow and feel good about themselves.

We celebrated Mental "Health Month. Our clinical treatment team utilizes **Touch Points** devices as an intervention. Touch Points is a wearable device that uses gentle vibrations to reduce anger, stress and anxiety and promotes sleep. These devices help our children manage anger They are scientifically proven to reduce stress In 30 seconds, increase focus by 50% and to fall asleep within 15 minutes.

# W2W4Congo....PIRD and Peace Center

Thank you very much dear friends,

It's very good sign that God is upon the girls.

The schools start in September, we will get the girls together and register them.

We will give you a comprehensive report by the end of October 2024

As an indication of expenditure :

- Tuition Fees: \$1950 Covering tuition fees for several girls to attend school for a year, ensuring their continued education
- School Supplies: \$700 Providing essential school supplies such as textbooks, notebooks, uniforms, backpacks, and stationery.
- Transportation: \$500 Supporting transportation costs to ensure that girls living in remote areas can attend school regularly.
- Health and Hygiene: \$300 Ensuring access to basic health and hygiene products like sanitary pads, soap, and health check-ups.
- Mentorship and Counseling: \$167 Offering mentorship programs and counseling services to support the girls' emotional and psychological well-being.
- Bank charges \$48

We will not thank you enough. May God of mercy bless you!

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Espérance Kugorza

Tel en Ethiopie +251 95 344 0741

skype: spkugorza

Bisoke Balikenga wrote

"Our Peace Center is going well. We had women and disability seminar but the disability people are asking us if we can start a school. We plan to have another seminar at the place called Chabusiku. Please pray for us."

Another note:

"We have many challenges, no fund for getting materials for the women. Some people are sick, and have no money to get medicine. Please pray."

## W2W4Congo....PIRD and Peace Center





School of Religious Literacy

## School of Religious Literacy celebrates first anniversary

The founding administration of The School of Religious Literacy hosted its first year anniversary, Sunday, Oct. 6.

The purpose of the celebration was to receive input from the community as to how the school might better provide religious education.

Angela Parker gave the welcome, the Rev. Millard S. Cook, C.F.C., gave a blessing for the school and grace, after which guests enjoyed a delicious dinner.

After dinner, the program continued with introductions of the founding school officials by Terrence Walker, president, including Parker, provost and registrar, Charles Farrar, comptroller, Judy Jacquelin, com-

père, Warren Jackson, verger and the Rev. Valerie Mayo, academic don.

Walker explained the history and purpose of the school with Farrar reporting on the status of the school.

Walker led the discussion with the attendees regarding the community's needs for undergraduate and graduate religious education. The closing prayer was given by the Rev. Valerie Mayo. At the closing of the program, guests were invited to stop by the school office for a tour.

The mission of The School of Religious Literacy is to "educate the religious literacy leaders who will educate the world."

As a ministry of the Episcopal Church Women (ECW) of All Saints'

Episcopal Church, South Hill, The School of Religious Literacy was created to be an educational, spiritual, and social program in which students develop a comprehensive understanding of the English Bible and an overall understanding of world religions, their historical developments, and their relationships with the world in which we live.

The school is open to all who seek a godly education and who qualify for the rigors of such an education.

For more information or to provide suggestions for school offerings, contact the school at [thestudium2023@gmail.com](mailto:thestudium2023@gmail.com) or 434-632-0487. The school is located at 201 Franklin Street, South Hill.



## Christmas Once Again

It's Christmas once again,  
Yes, it's that time of year,  
To reflect now and then,  
And wish that you were here.  
To talk about the story,  
About a baby born one night.  
A King without His glory,  
Who left His throne of might.

The babe grew into a child,  
And the child became a man.  
The King dwelt among His people,  
But they would not understand.  
God left His Heavenly splendour,  
The Son came from above.  
He became a simple servant,  
To show that He was love.

Then one day He died,  
Crucified upon that tree.  
Even now I wonder why,  
Why did He die for you and me?  
Christmas without Easter  
Is only half the story;  
Jesus, the Son of God,  
Arose again in glory.

He didn't come that night,  
Just to give us a holiday;  
He came to give us life,  
And showed He was the Way.  
Immanuel, our God is with us,  
As the prophets had foretold.  
He redeemed us with His precious blood,  
Not with silver or with gold.

The wise men later brought their gifts,  
Knelt and worshipped at His feet.  
Like a wise man, will you give  
Your heart to the Prince of Peace?

(Poet - Jerry Bouey)

## Message from the Communication Chairman – Dr. Angela M. Parker

### ***“THE GRAPEVINE”***



I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mrs. Laura L. Manigault and the Diocesan ECW Board for giving me the opportunity to serve as your Communication Chairman and to prepare **“The Grapevine”** newsletter for the Episcopal Church Women of the Diocese of Southern Virginia for the past three years. It has truly been a rewarding and enjoyable experience.

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