



ECW NEWS

Episcopal Church Women of the Diocese of New Jersey

February 2017

In Memoriam Deborah Anderson

I am saddened to report that faithful ECW Board Member Deborah Anderson passed on February 9, 2017.



Deborah started serving on the Episcopal Church Women Diocesan Board in 1998 and at present held the position of Spiritual Development and Worship Chair.

Deborah was first introduced to the Diocesan board by Patricia Dreyling who needed a Secretary for the New Brunswick District. Within a year Pat had advanced to ECW Diocesan President and asked Deborah if she would take the position of President of the New Brunswick District.

She served as the Diocesan President from 2001-2004. She helped establish the Women of Honor luncheon and served as the first chairperson in 1999. She was one of the original members of the Diocesan Women's Commission.

Deborah has been a past member of the Evergreens Co-op Society and Sunday School teacher for St. Alban's Church New Brunswick and St. Peter's Church, Perth Amboy.

On the national level, she has held the office of Province II Representative to the National Board of the ECW, Social Justice Chair, and Representative to the UN for the Status of Women and Children in the World program.

On the Province II level Deborah served as President in 2012 and has regularly attended Province meetings.

Deborah was honored as a Distinguished Woman at the 47th Triennial Meeting in 2012 and was selected as one of President Carol Seale Council's

Honorees at the 2014 Honored Women's Luncheon.

As Spiritual Development and Worship Chair Deborah scheduled Retreats and Quiet Days and always encouraged us to develop our spirituality with helpful tips on prayer and by suggesting authors and books for study.

Deborah is the mother of four children and ten grandchildren. She worked full time at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital and had been with the hospital more than 29 years.

May Deborah's soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

Carolyn Belvin

President's Message

Last newsletter, I wrote about what ECW meant to me. I've since learned more from the wonderful ladies who serve on the Diocesan ECW Board with me about why they are a part of ECW and it has been moving, inspiring, and humbling.

Several of them have devoted many decades to ECW and it has been a major way through which they have served Christ and his church. Common themes were joining with their mothers at first, and as years passed and new parish families were joined, ECW became a way to belong, to become part of something vital and important. They were welcomed by the older women and given leadership roles. They grew in service and faith; they traveled to province meetings and conventions, meeting others to share in both.

These are all wonderful memories—but they shouldn't be just memories. We should be fostering these same connections with the young women of our Church and creating these experiences for them! Invite the younger and the newer women of your parishes to not only help with a long-standing

project but ask them to chair! Invite them to be the Student Service or UTO Chairperson! Find out what ideas they have and try them out. Listen to them. Don't just help them but let them help you.

We are a diverse and wonderful group of women. Some groups hold special events for the older women in their parishes, some devote many hours to baking, sewing, quilting, and knitting for the sick and needy, others focus on their spiritual life with retreats and prayer groups, still others lead their churches as lay ministers, Eucharistic visitors—the list goes on. For those of us who love ECW, we need to share it with the women in our lives so that the next generation will have the same roots in it that we do.

We are fortunate to be in a Diocese that values ECW and to have a Bishop who recognizes its importance. At this year's convention, the 2017 budget being presented for approval includes ECW as a line item for the first time in order to support our outreach to youth and Hispanic parishes and our formation initiatives. I've been invited to address convention on the second day, another exciting opportunity to share with the members of the Diocese of New Jersey what we are doing to further the work of God's church.

This brings me to a discussion I had with my husband while preparing for my talk. I was bouncing ideas off him as is my habit, and he interrupted, which is NOT his habit, saying, "what bothers me about ECW is the redundancy." Naturally, I was ready to take umbrage at what I thought was a suggestion that ECW was not needed now that women experience more opportunities and equality in today's church. Fortunately for him, he was quick to add, "I mean, think of it, Episcopal and Church—why do you need both? If you're an Episcopal woman, you're necessarily a church woman, saying it like that makes you think of the Church Lady from Saturday Night Live. Which of course you aren't."

I told him he was silly, but then I got to thinking. Is there a reason for us to specify Episcopal Church Women and not just Episcopal Women? After looking at many photos of the splendid missional work being done by our Diocesan ECW, I believe there is. We are Episcopal, yes, but we are also "church" in the larger, greater sense. The Oxford dictionary includes the definition of church as a social or political force; Merriam says church is the whole body of Christians. I like that. It reminds me of our presiding Bishop Michael Curry's words that

we are the Episcopal branch of the Jesus Movement. We, the Episcopal Church Women, are the Episcopal Branch of a social and political force that embodies the whole of Christian women. And we have a lot of work to do.

Blessings to all of you and hope to see you at Convention, and especially at our ECW/Women's Commission Breakfast, where Becca Stevens, founder of Thistle Farms, is the guest speaker.

Donna Freidel, dlfesq@aol.com
ECW Board President

Mark Your Calendars

Saturday, February 25, 2017 - Diocesan ECW Board Meeting – 10:30 am

Holy Innocents' Church, Beach Haven

Friday & Saturday, March 3 & 4, 2017 – Diocesan Convention and ECW/Women's Commission Breakfast

Hyatt Regency, Princeton

Saturday, March 18, 2017 – Diocesan ECW Board Meeting – 10am

Trinity Cathedral, Trenton

Saturday, May 20, 2017 – Annual Meeting

Grace-St. Paul's Church, Mercerville, NJ.

Saturday, October 14, 2017 – Women of Honor Luncheon

Holiday Inn, Manahawkin, NJ

ECW and the 233rd Convention of the Diocese of New Jersey!

The 233rd Diocesan Convention will take place on March 3-4, 2017, and ECW will be there! We hope that many of you will join us at the Hyatt Regency in Princeton for what promises to be an exciting and informative convention.



The keynote speaker, Rev. Becca Stevens, Thistle Farms Founder and President, will also be the speaker at our ECW/WC breakfast on Saturday morning. The breakfast begins at 8:00 a.m. It is always a delightful time to catch up with friends from other parishes and it

will be especially meaningful this year, with Becca Stevens and some of her colleagues joining us.

Thistle Farms is our national mission focus this year and we welcome this opportunity to learn more about this important work in helping formerly trafficked women get their lives back together.

We will have a table during the convention—stop by and visit us! We will be giving away ECW tote bags and information about how to start an ECW and our various programs and activities.

Please note, you must register for the breakfast and convention—see the diocesan website for more information, <http://dioceseofnj.org/diocesan-convention/previous-conventions/dc233/general-information/> or call Ann Notte at (609) 394-5281, Ext. 41.

We hope to see you there!

Diocesan ECW Receives Oysters and Pearls Grant!

We are extremely excited, and grateful, to announce that the Diocesan ECW has received an Oysters and Pearls grant from the Ministry for the Disabled, which will enable us to provide translations of our written materials into Spanish—including copies of our award-winning ECW Newsletter!

Thanks to the efforts of Board member and Monmouth District President Karen Reeman and Chairperson of the Committee on Ministry for the Disabled, Donna Devlin, the efforts of the ECW to expand its outreach to non-English speaking members of the Diocese is going to be greatly advanced.

The award, given before the end of 2016, was in the amount of \$700.00, and already is being used to obtain translations of our Newsletter, the Student Service Award application, and the prayers that appear in the 2016-2017 ECW Yearbook. We will also use it for formation materials and for the program at our Annual Meeting in May. It is our goal to make our ECW materials fully bilingual by the year 2018 and move on from Spanish to other languages from there.

Thank you to Donna Devlin and her Ministry for the grant and the invaluable assistance this will be to our work in the year ahead. Thank you also to Deacon Karen for her leadership role in this area.

It's That Student Service Award Time of Year!

One of the programs our Diocesan ECW is proudest of is the Student Service Awards. Each year, we ask you to nominate the student or students in your parish who have distinguished themselves in service to their church and their community. **The selection is made at the parish level** and we will accept for the award those students whose applications are sent to us with their parish's recommendation.



The award is open to graduating high school seniors and to college students who remain active in church and community service. Our

award recipients include young people who have served as lay Eucharistic ministers, choir members, lay readers, acolytes, Diocesan Youth Council representatives, Convocation and Convention delegates, Diocesan Youth Mission Trip and Choir Camp participants, Eagle Scouts and Girl Scout Gold Award Recipients, Van Duzer Scholarship Recipients, food bank volunteers, first responders, and so much more!



They are truly amazing young people and we are proud to acknowledge them with the ECW Student Service Awards.

The student must complete an application and submit two letters of recommendation, one from a clergy person at your parish, or, if there is none, from a warden, and the other from a lay person familiar with their service work. A third letter of recommendation may be submitted but it is optional this year. Both females and males are eligible. We ask that you try to keep your nominees to two or three but if you are blessed with more truly outstanding young people, please do not leave anyone out. (Just consider making an extra

donation to our Student Service Award fund if you are able).

You can find the application on the Diocesan website. Here is a link to it: <http://s3-us-west-2.amazonaws.com/dioceseofnj/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/2017-SSA-application-final.pdf>

If you need a copy mailed to you, please call Carol Seale Council at 732-752-5734, or Donna Freidel, at 856-232-2220.

We would love to see every parish submit at least one young person to receive this award. Our young people are a blessing from God and this Diocese has many outstanding, engaged, service-minded young people of God—let's show them how much we appreciate their work and dedication and encourage them to continue doing God's work in the church and in their communities!

United Thank Offering

The 142nd Annual Meeting and United Thank Offering Ingathering will be held on Saturday, May 20, 2017 at 10 am, Grace -St. Paul's Church in Mercerville.

All women of the diocese are invited to attend and bring their gifts and offerings. Giving can make a difference in your life as well as in the lives of those who are receiving it.

We welcome Marty Lawless who will be assisting me in reaching out to you with information about UTO. We encourage churches to have two ingatherings a year and to bring the Spring Ingathering to the Annual Meeting.

To assist you in preparing for your Ingatherings and where you can order coin boxes, collection envelopes, bulletin inserts and lists of previous grant recipients please log on to <http://episcopalmarketplace.org/Products>

For information about UTO, its history, grant lists, and a parish coordinator's handbook log on to <http://www.episcopalchurch.org/page/united-thank-offering>

Greta Brown
UTO Coordinator

Church Periodical Club

The Church Periodical Club is dedicated to the worldwide Ministry of the Printed Word and to the Promotion of Christian Mission. The National Book Fund grant program provides funds for projects over \$250.00 with an application and deadline.

CPC is funded by voluntary contributions from all levels of the Church by people in the pews. We have only been receiving contributions from the same few parishes that contribute yearly. We thank them for their dedicated support and would welcome additional participation from around the diocese.

As Diocesan Church Periodical Club coordinator I have available applications for local grant opportunities up to \$250.00 for students in the Diocesan Deacon Formation program and in seminary. This diocesan granting program delivers grants from semester to semester. Currently three grants have been awarded.

The availability of grants has to reach the recipients for which they were intended. Please spread the word.

For application forms for the local grants and further information about the national grants, please contact me at 609-653-8451.

For more general information about the Church Periodical Club log on to <http://www.churchperiodical.com/>

Gail Katten
Church Periodical Club Coordinator

Monmouth Musings...

The Mission of the Church is the mission of Christ. The concept of the Five Marks of Mission was developed by the Anglican Consultative Council between 1984 and 1990. It has become the standard by which dioceses and parishes measure the faithfulness of their mission activities.

The Five Marks of Mission are: (1) To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom, (2) To teach, baptize and nurture new believers, (3) To respond to human need by loving service, (4) To seek to transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and to pursue peace and reconciliation, and (5) To strive to safeguard the

integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth.

I present to you just some of the many ways Monmouth District women are contributing to the Five Marks of Mission of our Church.

#1 To Proclaim & #2 Teach

The Women of St. James, Eatontown
(Robin McKeever, ECW pres.)

This Advent season Robin McKeever and ECW member Marge Sandbach led a Christian Ed program for St. James children. There were two sessions: Dec 4 and Dec 18. The session on Dec 4 was held during the 10:15am service but the 2nd session was moved to coffee hour (11:30-12:30) to meet the needs of Brazilian parents. The Women of St. James hope to continue offering Christian Ed programming throughout the year convenient to all parish parents.

#3 Loving Service

The Women of All Saints, Lakewood
(Judy Bennett, ECW pres.)

On Nov 24, All Saints Church in Lakewood held its 1st Annual Friends and Family Thanksgiving Celebration. Planned and organized by ECW secretary Gwen Evans, 50-60 parishioners and friends attended. Guests were served a traditional Thanksgiving turkey dinner including dessert and choice of beverages.



The Women of St. James, Eatontown (Robin McKeever, ECW pres.)

Led by ECW member Marge Sandbach, St. James, Eatontown donated about \$1,800 worth of new clothing, toys, and other requested gifts to the Visiting Nurses

Assoc. (VNA) "Season of Hope" program. Parishioners also gave over \$1,600 worth of gift cards from local grocery stores for a total donation to VNA of \$3,400.

#4 Justice

The Women of St. James, Eatontown
(Robin McKeever, ECW pres.)

Clergy mentor Dcn. Karen Reeman wrote and successfully presented a request for a \$1,025 grant to the Commission on Ministry with the Disabled

(O&P). This money will be used for Portuguese translation services. The intent of this grant is to help St. James more completely include their Brazilian members in the life of the church and to continue their ministry to Brazilian communities in Eatontown and surrounding areas.

ECW Monmouth District
(Dcn. Karen Reeman, pres.)

On the diocesan level, district ECW pres. Dcn. Karen Reeman wrote and successfully presented a request for a \$675 grant to the Commission on Ministry with the Disabled (O&P) for the Diocesan ECW. This money will be used for Spanish translation services

#5 Stewardship

The Women of St. James, Eatontown
(Robin McKeever, ECW pres.)

Fondly called an "Ugly Bag", The Women of St. James make reusable cloth bags from repurposed clothing and fabric for St. Brigid's pantry at St. James, Long Branch. The "Good Steward" Cloth-Bag Project seeks to reduce the cost and pollution caused by disposable paper and plastic bags.



Organizations throughout the diocese have participated in this project including St. Raphael's in Brick, Trinity in Princeton, St. Thomas in Red Bank, and the Monmouth E.V.E. Guild.

To date 100 bags have been donated to St. Brigid's pantry. To

encourage clients to reuse the cloth bags at the pantry, each bag now includes embroidered labels in English and Spanish. Thanks mostly to ECW member Kathy Braun, The women of St. James currently have 400 bags awaiting labels. They hope to donate their first 50 bags with labels early 2017.

Faithfully
Dcn. Karen Reeman,
President. Monmouth District

Doings in the Woodbury District

Woodbury District had a busy fall, with three great District meetings and myriad parish activities.

Our first two parish meetings were reported on in the last newsletter so this report will tell you about our delightful November meeting at St. John's in Salem.



Our speaker was "Beach Clown," aka Kathleen Crews, who now lives in Salem and has dedicated many years of her life to helping children, from touring with Patch Adams' troupe in war torn areas to standing on

her street corner blowing bubbles with the kids who walk past her house on their way to school. She taught us the healing power of laughter, especially when one learns to laugh at oneself, and also the joy in loving oneself.



Several young people joined in her presentation, including the young at heart Deacon Sally Maurer.

The winter has been filled with bazaars, coat drives, evensongs, Valentines for shut-in's and

Valentine bake sales, Epiphany suppers and much more! We will meet again on March 19, at 2:00 pm at Christ Church, Woodbury, the home of one of our business ECW's, where we will enjoy a Litany for Women and the Evening Office, led by Convocation Dean, Fr. Brian Burgess, and refreshments prepared by the ladies of the Christ Church ECW.

Blessings,
Donna Freidel, President, Woodbury District

Seventh "Women of Honor" Luncheon

The Episcopal Church Women Diocese of New Jersey is once again planning a "Woman of Honor" luncheon. This will be our seventh luncheon and will be held at the Holiday Inn on Rt. 72 in Manahawkin, NJ on **Saturday, October 14, 2017.**

Since our first luncheon in 1999, over 180 special women from all areas of the Diocese who have shown exceptional dedication to the ECW ministry have been given this honor.

Please select one woman, who will be your guest at the luncheon, based on criteria which include being a member of your church and an active member of ECW community functions. The honoree should have also demonstrated hard work, love and exceptional dedication to the parish. She is an example to others.

It is suggested that the officers of ECW make the selection possibly in consultation with the parish priest. It is not a popularity contest or to be voted on by the membership.

In 150 words or less, share information about the honoree to be included in a booklet that will be presented on the day of the luncheon.

PLEASE COMPLETE THE SELECTION FORM BELOW AND RETURN IT BY JULY 1, 2017 TO:

STEFANIE ROTSAERT,
1 Ridgemont Lane, Whiting, NJ 08759-2974
732-350-2904

or email your information to Carolyn Belvin at cbelvin@theoceancountylibrary.org, or cjb613@hotmail.com

Luncheon Reservation form will be available soon.

Stefanie Rotsaert, Chairperson

ECW NEWSLETTER, Carolyn Belvin, editor, 75 Locker Street, Beachwood, NJ 08722

Woman of Honor Selection Form

Name of Honoree (please print):

Her address and phone number:

Your Church and Town:

Signature of ECW President or Parish Priest:

Attach your page with information in **150 words or less** printed or typed about the honoree.

