

Episcopal Church Women Report for 2009

The Episcopal Church Women (ECW) of the Diocese of Lexington is an organization of women who are committed to serving our Lord Jesus Christ and sharing his love through worship, prayer, service, study, and fellowship. All women in the Diocese of Lexington are members of the ECW by virtue of their membership in the Episcopal Church.

Not all the Episcopal churches in our Diocese have active ECW groups. Some parishes have active groups of women who carry out many of the ministries associated with the ECW, but they do not call themselves the "ECW." Whatever name is used, all the women in our Diocese are considered sisters in the community of ECW.

Many of our ministries are those typically associated with the ECW, such as United Thank Offering, Church Periodical Club, Altar Guild, and Daughters of the King. In fact, these organizations are actively represented on our Board.

Others, such as the Bishops' Funds, are unique to our Diocese. A recent innovation in our Diocese is the matching grants program whereby a local ECW chapter can request a matching grant from the Diocesan ECW for an outreach project. This year the ECW of Church of the Resurrection was awarded a matching grant of \$200 to purchase bed linens for the Lexington Spousal Abuse Center. The matching grant application is available on our Website.

Each Spring, the women of the Diocese are invited to a Women's Weekend at the Cathedral Domain. This year's weekend featured the Rev. Marcia Hunter, who presented a creative and inspiring program on *Women at the Foot of the Cross*, as well as a Healing Eucharist with Bishop Sauls.

Our Fall Luncheon and Annual Meeting was held in November and was hosted by St. John's Church, Versailles, in November. The Rev. Alan Sutherland celebrated the Eucharist. A special presentation recognized the women who were nominated as Honored Women of the Diocese of Lexington:

Marcey Ansley, Good Shepherd, Lexington
Audrey Board, Trinity, Covington
Michelle Dunlap, Christ Church Cathedral, Lexington
Mary Lou Garland, Trinity, Danville (represented the Diocese of Lexington at 2009 Triennial)
Ruth Mark, Christ Church Cathedral, Lexington
Ann Richmond, St. John's, Versailles
Virginia Root, St. Andrew's, Ft. Thomas

Also this fall, the ECW Board was pleased to be invited to meet with the ECW of Church of the Nativity, Maysville. We would be happy to meet with any women's group in the Diocese, whether formally organized as an ECW or not.

In partnership with the Camps and Conferences Board, we are working to fund a new playground at the Cathedral Domain. Donations can be made to the Bishop Moody Fund by mailing a check to the Diocesan Office, to the attention of the ECW.

The Diocesan ECW is also active at the provincial and national levels. This year seven women from our ECW Board attended the Province IV Women's Conference at Kanuga Episcopal Center in Hendersonville, North Carolina, in June. The conference is open to all lay and clergy women of Province IV. In addition, we sent four delegates to the ECW Triennial in Anaheim, California, in July.

You can find out more about the ministry of the ECW by visiting our Website at <http://www.diocex.org/ecw>. If you are on Facebook, search for us as "Episcopal Church Women in the Diocese of Lexington." We also publish a newsletter, *The Link*.

Executive Committee

President: Diane Gabbard

Vice President/President Elect/Newsletter Editor: Katherine Harper

Treasurer: Susan Baird

Recording Secretary: Lisa Edwards

Corresponding Secretary: Bobbie Sieja

United Thank Offering Coordinator: Diane Gabbard

Church Periodical Club and Bishops' Funds Chair: C.C. Johnson

Altar Guild: Geri Foley

Women's Weekend: Lisa Davis Hawkins

Member-at-Large: Toni Shultz

President, Daughters of the King: Linda Brown

Respectfully submitted,
Diane Gabbard, President