



The 131st Episcopal Council of the Diocese of Southern Virginia
Diocesan Episcopal Church Women's President
Annual Report - February 25, 2023

“O God, we thank Thee for Thy Church, founded upon The Word, that challenges us to do more than sing and pray, but go out and work as though the very answer to our prayers depended on us and not upon thee Help us to realize that man was created to shine like the stars and live on through all eternity. Keep us, we, pray, in perfect peace, help us to walk together, pray together, sing together, and live together until that day when all God's children Black, White, Red, and Yellow 1, will rejoice in one common band of humanity in the kingdom of our Lord and of our God, we pray. Amen.” -Martin Luther King, Jr.

Greetings to my fellow parishioners. First giving honor and praise to our Lord Jesus Christ, and on behalf of the Episcopal Church Women (ECW) of the Diocese of Southern Virginia, this is our annual report. Thank you for your continued support, encouragement, and commitment to the ECW's vision and mission.

We have and still are facing a challenging universe, but with the wisdom and guidance we receive from Jesus Christ our savior, sustainer, redeemer, and counselor, we have survived and hope to press forward with faith for our service to mankind. Our outreach work has touched many lives in America and abroad totaling \$41,929.44. Church Periodical Club (CPC) \$4, 300.00, and United Thank Offering) UTO) \$1, 219.00 with a grand total of \$ 46,539.44.

Many parishes had food drives, clothing drives, bazaars, and shelters for the homeless, gave encouragement and guidance to the persons not yet recognized and accepted in our society as needing our assistance to follow Christ, for example, the

autistic community of souls and the immigrants from the different counties of this world.

I have had the opportunity despite the COVID-19 pandemic to visit a few parishes this past year, All Saints' Episcopal Church, South Hill, Virginia, St. Augustine Episcopal Church, Newport News, Virginia and Emmanuel Episcopal Church, Hampton, Virginia I would like to share some pictures from two of the visits:

Lt. Mrs. Laura L. Manigault, Diocesan ECW President - Rt. Dr. Angela M. Parker, Distinguish Women Award Recipient - All Saint's Episcopal Church, South Hill, Virginia - Supply Priest, The Rev. Dr. Terrance Walker



Lt. Mrs. Laura L. Manigault - The Rev. Dr. Phillip Shearin, Priest-in-Charge - Rt. Dr. Renee Escoffery-Torres, Diocesan ECW Vice President

Autism Acceptance Month to be celebrated yearly in April was added to the ECW Calendar of Events. This April we will have a virtual program on April 29, 2023, highlighting the Maverick Learning Center, a Virginia Beach school for children with Autism. The keynote speaker is Mrs. Maegan Cahoon. She and her husband John owns and operates the school.

Zoom information for Saturday, April 2023 at 10 AM: meeting ID 686 630 9176 - Passcode: 848600.

Our current elected officers/appointees are as follows:

President- Mrs. Laura L. Manigault -Vice President-Mrs. Rhonda F. Toll - Treasurer- Mrs. Nancy L. Smith -Recording Secretary/ Nominating Chair- Mrs. Nancy P. Sands -Corresponding Secretary- Ms. Cornelia Taylor-UTO Coordinator- Mrs. Joanne Alston-Austin-CPC Coordinator/ Parliamentarian-Dr. Renee Escoffery-Torres -Communication Chair- Dr. Angela M. Parker -Prayer and Worship- Mrs. Deborah Austin-Special Stewardship Chair/Student Work Chair- Mrs. Helen Sharpe- Williams

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, Agencies in ECW Fellowship (Daughters of the King) Convener, Ms. Lydia Dyson and (Women to Women) Convener, Ms. Susan Schrader. Gracias! Kudos! Merci Beaucoup!

Prayer of Hope and Guidance

Almighty and most merciful Father, we thank you for all the blessings of this life. We thank You, especially for the Episcopal Church Women. We ask you to guide us as we work to find more ways to serve our global village and the local communities. By your grace, equip us to feed the hungry, provide clothing for those in need, and accept the differences within us. Offer shelter to the disenfranchised and help facilitate access to basic healthcare for those without advocates. Give us the strength to preserve as we invite others to join in our common life for justice and peace. Help us to address the racial and class divisions in our world so that we may all be treated equally as one created by you in your image.

Guide us as we become more faithful in our spiritual journey; find godly ways to restore the absence and open our hearts to the stranger. Bless us so that we might move into new ways of being and doing for the sake of those who have the desire for spiritual food and thirst for the living waters. All this we ask through Jesus Christ our LORD, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen. Laura L. Manigault

Submitted by Mrs. Laura L. Manigault, Diocesan ECW President