Bishop Hollerith’s reflection on General Convention

General Convention is a rare experience! It is demanding of its participants. It can often be tedious and arduous and at the same time deeply moving and inspirational. It sometimes feels like a “zoo” - given the cultural, regional, ecclesiological and theological diversity it embodies. It is the Church in all its glory and in all its fractiousness. I’ve attended 4 General Conventions now, and I am truly convinced that there is something holy about the gathering. Not holy as in “perfect.” But holy as in “blessed” - that kind of favor of love that God bestows on a community of people who, in all their finitude and fallibility, are willing to show up and struggle to be Christ’s body in the world. It isn’t always pretty. But God loves us for trying, even if we don’t always get it right, and that fact makes it holy.

As at all previous conventions, during the 79th General Convention held in July in Austin, Texas, hundreds of resolutions were taken up for debate and legislation. At the end of convention there were four particular resolutions adopted that stand out as having potential impact on our life together in Southern Virginia. Some clarification about these seems in order.

1. Prayer Book Revision

General Convention voted not to revise the 1979 Book of Common Prayer. In fact, it passed a resolution to “memorialize” the Prayer Book – which, in essence, says that for the next several years the BCP ’79 is our standard for liturgy in the Episcopal Church.

Having established the ’79 book as the norm, General Convention also affirmed the need to create and authorize new supplemental liturgies for the Church to use between now and when we do eventually revise the Prayer Book. These liturgies may include texts with inclusive language and/or other expansive language changes, and new updated non-English translations. As has always been the case, these new supplemental liturgies will be for optional usage.

2. Marriage Rites

General Convention voted to authorize the new marriage rites for same-sex and opposite-sex couples as ‘trial use” liturgies. The transition from being “proposed rites” to being “trial use” will result in the liturgies becoming available for use by any clergy person who is presently authorized to perform the BCP ’79 marriage rite. In other words, soon it will no longer be necessary for a priest to receive a bishop’s permission to use the new marriage rites in his/her church.

In light of the fact that a handful of bishops in the Church remain opposed to same-gender marriage and do not presently allow any of their priests to marry same-sex couples, General Convention established a special allowance. Rather than violate their consciences, bishops who are opposed will designate another non-opposed bishop to provide “pastoral support” to any couple desiring to be married with the trial rites. This allowance is based on the general understanding that any same-gender couple who qualifies for lawful marriage will have reasonable access to the marriage rites no matter where they happen to reside.

Go to our website to register for news by email, www.diosova.org. Follow us on Facebook & Twitter.
Although I wholeheartedly support same-gender marriage, I believe the alternate oversight option will serve the Episcopal well, and model the kind of tolerance and openness to differences in theology that is a hallmark of our great tradition.

To summarize: As of Advent I, all clergy in Southern Virginia may use the trial rites for marriage – including same-gender marriage - without permission from the office of the Bishop. The normal diocesan requirements for marriage after divorce will continue to apply as before. For obvious pastoral reasons, it is recommended that all clergy continue be diligent in their efforts to hold thoughtful theological conversations about same-gender marriage with parish leadership – especially if the use of such rites has not yet been introduced to the parish.

As has always been the case, parish clergy with primary authority (rector, priest in charge, etc.) are free to decide for themselves whether or not to perform any marriage – same-gender or otherwise. In other words, no clergy person in the Episcopal Church is obliged to perform any particular marriage.

3. Combating Sexual abuse/harassment

While there were several resolutions around this very complex and important matter, all were focused on making the Church environment safe for all people regardless of gender or orientation. Perhaps paramount was the passing of the House of Bishops’ “Working Covenant” for the practice of equity and justice for all in the Episcopal Church. An outgrowth of a session of a “Liturgy of Listening”, at which bishops told the personal stories of those who have suffered injustice in the church, the Covenant acknowledges that the Church is not immune to abuse, harassment and exploitation of people of varying gender, racial and cultural identities. The covenant states that bishops will engage their diocesan cultures and structures to ensure that all people are being treated fairly - in power sharing, in wage equity, and in clergy deployment.

In the days ahead it will be incumbent upon us to consider if we are actually being who we claim to be in Southern Virginia – if our practice is in line and congruent with our faith statements – especially in regard to our treatment of those whom we employ and who serve us.

4. Diocese of Cuba

One of the true highlights of General Convention was the unanimous vote - both in the House of Deputies and the House of Bishops – to restore the relationship of the Episcopal Church and La Iglesia Episcopal de Cuba. The resolution lamented the actions of the House of Bishops that ejected the Diocese of Cuba from the Episcopal Church in 1966 (Cuba was one of our missionary dioceses). For 50 plus years the Episcopal Church in Cuba struggled alone - with the exception of occasional support from the Anglican Church of Canada. And yet, for the past 50 years the Church of Cuba has considered itself part of the Episcopal Church, hoping that one day its mother church would welcome it home.

One of the most powerful moments occurred when the Bishop of Cuba was welcomed with applause into the House of Bishops to sit at a table with her colleagues. It was an honor and privilege to witness such an important moment of restoration. The joy in the face of the bishop was palpable – as was the joy in the faces of those people who had traveled with her from Cuba to witness and celebrate the return.

Perhaps the Diocese of Southern Virginia will find some avenue in the future in which to connect with and directly support the Episcopal Church in Cuba. I believe it could be a life-giving experience for both dioceses.

As a final thought, I find that I am particularly proud of Southern Virginia’s deputation - thinking especially of our deputies’ dogged faithfulness to what proved to be a highly demanding 11 day legislative process. We owe our deputies a debt of gratitude for their commitment of time and energy. Some of them even used their personal vacation time to attend and serve the Church on our behalf.

And I also find that I am again very proud of our Presiding Bishop Michael Curry and the steadfast and energetic leadership that he offers the Church. His great humor and affection and down-to-earth manner infused the entire 11 day experience with a sense of thanksgiving and hopefulness, not to mention his spirit-filled preaching lighting up the room!

The Episcopal Church is a wonderful, special and unique part of the Jesus Movement. We truly have much to offer the world. For those who were in attendance, this summer’s 79th General Convention confirmed that fact once again.
Clergy transitions


The Rev. Connie Jones retired from Grace Church, Yorktown, on August 1, 2018.


The Rev. Becky Crites began as priest-in-charge at Emmanuel, Chatham, and as Assistant Chaplain at Chatham Hall on August 1, 2018.

The Rev. Claire Hunkins will retire as vicar of Emmanuel, Jenkins Bridge, on October 1, 2018.

Cursillo Weekend Sept. 27-30

The next Cursillo Weekend will be Sept. 27-30 at Chanco on the James in Surry. Linda Tandy is the rector for this weekend. Go to www.cursillodiosova.org for information and an application. Cursillo is Spanish for "Short Course." For us, it's a short course in Christianity. The movement was started many years ago in an effort to help young Christian men grow closer to Christ. Today, there are Cursillo movements all over the world. On the three day weekend, candidates learn how to grow as leaders in their communities and in their own personal journey with Jesus.

Fall Camp keynote speaker will be author Lauren Winner

The Tri-Diocesan Council on Aging will hold its annual Fall Camp at Shrine Mont Oct. 22-25. Fall Camp is an opportunity to spend time in the mountains of Virginia with other seniors (but we don't have an age limit) from across the Commonwealth and from other states. The Camp is an attempt to take seriously the spiritual needs and journeys of primarily retired people, challenging participants through keynote speakers, workshops, worship and interaction with one another.

The keynote speaker for this year’s conference will be Lauren Winner. Dr. Winner is an Episcopal priest and vicar of St. Paul’s Episcopal Church in Louisburg, NC. She writes and lectures widely on Christian practice, the history of Christianity in America, and Jewish-Christian relations. Her books include Girl Meets God, Mudhouse Sabbath, Still: Notes on a Mid-Faith Crisis, and, most recently, a book on overlooked biblical tropes for God, Wearing God.

Get full details on Fall Camp and register at www.fallcampatshrinemont.org.

New program offers disaster planning to congregations

A new disaster management program is now available to help congregations plan for potential incidents, provide direction during times of crises, and foster cooperation in recovery efforts.

Heading this program for the Diocese is Dr. Bill King, diocesan volunteer disaster management coordinator, and the Rev. Willis Foster, rector of St. Stephen’s, Petersburg. Both have extensive experience in planning, training, and operations associated with disaster preparedness and incident management.

The central focus of the disaster management program is assisting congregations to develop and maintain an All-Hazard Disaster Management Plan (AHDMP). This AHDMP will enable congregations to evaluate their infrastructure, identify threats, and assess specific vulnerabilities, and develop a plan to address them.

Plan development training for your disaster management team is now available. You should anticipate an eight-hour training session. For additional information and scheduling, please contact Dr. Bill King at 757-572-3853 (cell) or 804-479-3301 (home), or ddc@diosova.org. For documentation and training materials contact Diocesan Communications Officer Ann Turner at 757-213-3388 or aturner@diosova.org.
Mark your calendar for fall youth events

**November Weekend**
This year's November Weekend for grades 6 through 12 will be Friday, November 16 to Sunday, November 18, 2018 at Chanco on the James. Teens along with their adult leaders are invited to attend this faith, fun retreat. Stay tuned for our theme and registration information.

**2018 National Acolyte Festival**
This year's festival is Saturday, October 6 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Washington National Cathedral. Parishes, this is a fantastic opportunity to take your acolytes to a morning service of re-dedication and Holy Eucharist and workshops are offered in the afternoon for enrichment. Go to www.cathedral.org/event/national-acolyte-festival-2018 for complete details and registration.

Boys Home students participate in Uganda mission trip with Galilee, Virginia Beach
*The Rev. Anne Grizzle, Chaplain, Boys Home*

Boys Home is in fact a mission, but part of what we do on "the hill" is to encourage our students to spread their kindness and caring beyond the boundaries of our community.

This summer, three of our students practiced their missionary spirit on a trip to Uganda. Evans, Nikki, and Christian, along with two houseparents, Deborah Darcus and Milliyon Fesseha, joined Galilee, Virginia Beach, and made the trek to Uganda!

The group served at the Otino Waa Children’s Village for the first four days. As part of Solar Light for Africa, the group helped install solar lights in the village. As a way to bring fun to the children of the orphanage, the group spent one day offering a field day filled with soccer, face painting, and many games. The following evening was movie night, and the final evening was a dance night. The students learned that dance is a way of saying goodbye in Africa. Boys Home student Evans won the dance contest!

Next, they had the privilege of spending two days at the Chobe Safari Lodge, within Murchison Falls National Park. There, they were able to experience the amazing wildlife of sub-Saharan Africa! The group was very excited to see elephants, giraffes, water buffalo, hippos, and monkeys!

Next on their agenda was to visit two other children's schools, where they installed and checked on lights. One of the schools was a school for the deaf. The Boys Home students learned how important light is at night because this is how the students could see in order to communicate using sign language.

When asked about the highlights of the trip, Evans responded with "I was in Africa!" Houseparent Debbie Darcus said she found the trip inspirational as they bonded with the children in Uganda and witnessed the great faith of each of them! She also said how helpful, kind, respectful, and hardworking the students from Boys Home were.

Judging by the smiles on all of their faces when they talked about their time together, it is clear that this was a trip where they not only gave, but they also received.

Chanco teams up with Seton Youth Shelters to help children with an incarcerated parent

Chanco on the James teamed up with Seton Youth Shelters of Virginia Beach to provide a day of fun and team building on June 2 for participants in Seton’s Mentoring Program. The children in the Mentoring Program all have an incarcerated parent. The idea behind the program is to help give the children a positive role model and adult interaction to help guide them through this very difficult time in their lives.

Seton Youth Shelters shall provide a safe haven, counseling and outreach services, 24 hours per day without charge, to assist youth in crisis throughout Hampton Roads, with the goal of reuniting families. The girls’ shelter is located at St. Aidan's, Virginia Beach, and St. Aidan's rector, the Rev. Mark Wilkinson, is president of the Seton board. To learn more about Seton Youth Shelters go to www.setonyouthshelters.org.
Trinity, Portsmouth, summer mission trip to Boys Home

Trinity, Portsmouth, is one of three churches that have spent time at Boys Home in Covington this summer. Volunteers from Trinity spent about a week at Boys Home, working hard on some very hot days.

Volunteers worked diligently to replace front wood panels and insulate the entrance barn, and installed kick boards in the run-in sheds and corral barn for the horses. They also installed new bench seats on the bleachers by the riding area and began construction of a greenhouse by the garden area. To relax after their hard work, the group enjoyed an afternoon four-wheeler ride up the mountain behind Boys Home.

If your congregation would like to learn more about Boys Home and how you can support their ministry, please contact Lauren Ward, Lward@boyshomeofva.org.

St. Martin’s visits Haiti school for children with disabilities

Jim Ducibella, St. Martin’s, Williamsburg

In late May, four members of St. Martin's Episcopal parish Williamsburg, traveled to Port au Prince, Haiti, primarily to tour St. Vincent School for Children with Disabilities.

Two hundred children, all of them deaf, blind or missing limbs for a variety of reasons, attend school five days a week in a mansion the Episcopal Church purchased after the original school was destroyed in the earthquake of 2010. Twenty-eight of the children are full-time residents. The rest are bussed in daily.

The foursome - retired priest David Boyd, head of St. Martin’s Men’s Fellowship Outreach Deane Gordon, and parish members Emile Katherine Earls and Mac Ambler - celebrated with the Bishop of Haiti and 400 other people on Trinity Sunday in the temporary facility being used after the Cathedral was likewise destroyed in the earthquake of 2010.

The following day, the four toured St. Vincent School, gifting the school and its new principal with 150 pounds of school supplies. The new principal is attempting to change the method by which the students learn, transitioning from lessons taught in French (and an emphasis on memorization) to those taught in Creole, the language most of the children speak, with less emphasis on memorization.

The foursome brought back a list of things the school needs, which they will share with St. Martin's and other Episcopal parishes once the school year in Haiti is complete and the principal can take full stock of their shortcomings. St. Martin's ultimate goal is to form a covenant with St. Vincent's, offering it a steady, reliable stream of support. One thing that is not in doubt, the school is in great need of money. It costs $780 per year to send one child to the school. The school asks parents to provide $130, which leaves a $650 "tuition gap" per student.

Last year, St. Vincent received the funds needed to fill the tuition gap from 70 donors. Their obvious goal is a fully funded school, with suitable donations to cover all 200 students. To learn more about St. Vincent's, and to donate to their cause, go to www.stvincentshaiti.org.

St. Mark’s, Bracey, ECW holds annual Rainbow Tea

Rose Bennett, St. Mark’s, Bracey

The ECW of St. Mark’s, Bracey, held our Annual Rainbow Tea program on June 2. The speaker for that occasion was Dr. Margaret A McKeathern, the daughter of our ECW President, Gertrude McKeathern. Dr. McKeathern is retired from the Navy and works with children and families at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda, MD.

Dr. McKeathern spoke on Life Lessons with questions and answer. Some of the words that she used were smile, recognize, acknowledge, validate others, blessings, attitude of gratitude, patience and thankfulness. Dr. McKeathern said that “when words are both true and kind, they can change the world.” She also quoted W.A. Ward, “Gratitude can transform common days into Thanksgiving, turn routine jobs into joy, and change ordinary opportunities into blessings.” It was very inspiring and reminded us most people are good. In today’s world I think, we all need that reminder.
St. Stephen’s teams up with neighboring church for Hampers of Hope

Allan DeWall, St. Stephen’s, Newport News

St. Stephen’s, Newport News, recently celebrated one year of “Hampers & Hope” ministry. In May 2017 St. Stephen’s launched “Hampers and Hope” in partnership with neighboring Hidenwood Presbyterian Church. On the last Tuesday of each month, volunteers staff the Soap ‘n Suds laundromat on Jefferson Avenue for three hours to help low-income community members wash and dry clothes at a time of the month when their funds may be running short. The program has grown steadily and at the one-year anniversary provided $300 worth of assistance to their neighbors.

Eastern Shore Chapel group joins Muslim community for Ramadan

Carrollyn Charles Cox, Esq., Eastern Shore Chapel, Virginia Beach

I was greatly impressed with the Iftar dinner a group from Eastern Shore Chapel, Virginia Beach, shared this summer in Norfolk, breaking the fast on the ninth night of Ramadan. We were the guests of Rumi Friendship Association, a congregation of mostly Turkish born Muslims who shared their spiritual story with us (and we with them). During Lent, representatives from their Islamic faith family came to Eastern Shore Chapel to compare similarities between our Lenten observances and their practices during the holy month of Ramadan. Subsequently, two Islamic leaders attended our Pentecost Eucharist (and baptism) and spoke to us about the varying roles of women in Islam.

At the Ramadan event, our group of nearly 50 Episcopalians outnumbered our hosts. The haunting call to prayer, the ginger soup, stew, vegetables and baklava, the faith stories that track our own, the explanations of the fasting, the special prayers - all were memorable and surprisingly similar to our own when placed side by side. And the intimate moment when they took us inside their tiny place of worship, explained what was happening, and allowed us to be there with the men as they and the Imam (leader of their prayers who spoke from the Quran by memory) made their fourth prayers of the day.

The hugs and handshakes as we left, the promises to share a meal together at another time, the awe we felt at the honor their allowing us into the privacy of their prayers bestowed on us; all spoke of shared intimacy and trust. And, we laughed, their movement from standing to bowing to prostrating made them kin to us of the Anglican Communion with all our movement from sitting to standing to kneeling in our worship.

News from Mission of the Holy Spirit

Keith A. Josey, Lay Pastor, Mission of the Holy Spirit, Norfolk

Over the past several months we have been working to provide programming throughout the summer and to prepare for the fall—programming that is uniquely formatted to uplift, empower and strengthen our Mission families. In keeping with our core values, all Mission worship and programs include spiritual, educational and psychosocial components.

Spiritual: The Mission of the Holy Spirit continues to allow multiple expressions of worship during our service along with connecting each of us to the structure and richness of our liturgy. This blending has only been possible by allowing clergy, volunteers, members and staff to feel and share the power and presence of God openly without judging or attempting to change each other. Thank you to the clergy and churches that assist with Eucharist, provide meals, and simply come to be present with us—your impact is greater than you know.

Educational: The Mission is all about supporting and encouraging the educational goals of our members. Thank you to all who help make scholarships, educational trips and programs possible. This year we have helped five individuals with scholarships. We have a high school graduate, as well as several elementary students who are earning good grades.

Psychosocial: Our focus again this summer was building the family unit in order to create a stronger community. Through “Bridging the Gaps” we have begun impacting lives and have weekly activities to assist parents and children.

We need your continued giving if we are going meet our goals. Sponsor a trip, provide funds for program needs such as fuel, snacks, program supplies and prizes. Partner with another sponsor/volunteer and add joy to the life of a young person or family. Your support of the Mission of the Holy Spirit makes this ministry of hope and change possible.

The Rev. Stewart Tabb, rector of Ascension, Norfolk, celebrates Easter with the Mission.
Volunteers preserve grave markers in Yorktown with assistance of Historic St. Luke’s
Al Crane, Grace, Yorktown

Grace Church, Yorktown, partnered with 18 volunteers on June 7 to learn the proper techniques, tools, chemicals, and procedures to clean and preserve historic and contemporary cemetery grave markers and monuments.

After a workshop led by Rachel Popp, Education Coordinator at Historic St Luke’s Church in Smithfield, which provided a detailed checklist with procedures and background information, the volunteers applied their new knowledge in the North Wing section of Grace's cemetery, cleaning and restoring 30 gravestones, markers, and monuments. A detailed written and photographic record was documented for each grave site cleaned. A follow up workshop will be held in September to address additional historic grave sites in the Grace Church Cemetery.

Youth mission trip to St. Paul’s and the Community Action Network
Gareth and Seth Ross, Trevor and Wilson Simmons, and the Rev. Charlie Bauer; Hickory Neck, Toano

From July 24 to 27, four youth from Hickory Neck Church, Toano, engaged in a mission trip, led by their curate, the Rev. Charlie Bauer. Unlike a typical youth mission trip, they did not travel overseas or even out of state; rather, they drove less than an hour to downtown Newport News, where they spent the week living in, working on, and building up relationships at St. Paul’s, Newport News. (St. Paul’s is the founding church for the Community Action Network at St. Paul’s, a non-sectarian 501(c)3 created to feed the poor, clothe the naked and help the homeless on the peninsula.)

St. Paul’s has a long history, founded in 1883 just blocks from the present-day city hall and the Newport News shipyard. Given its location near the waterfront, St. Paul’s served as a meeting place for troops departing from and arriving to Newport News during both World War I and II. But as the neighborhood shifted and became more industrial, church membership has diminished over the past several decades. Now, the parish hall is open 7 days a week as a community center to support the neighborhood, particularly those in the homeless community. In March of 2017, the Community Action Network was founded to support the ministries of St. Paul’s.

Their mission was twofold: they came to work, and they came to build relationships. Volunteer work was to repaint an upstairs library, in the hopes of revitalizing a room now in such disrepair that the church could not use the space. Though the painting would take up much of their time, our critical work was in the people we met. And while the youth missionaries were within driving distance of home, they chose to stay at St. Paul’s, sleeping each night in sleeping bags between the pews in the sanctuary. They wanted to become integrated with the neighborhood, living and working, eating and sleeping all in one place.

As youth missioner Seth Ross reflected, "new experiences can give you a better perspective that you can meld into your worldview." By living within the community, these youth missioners experienced the transformational gift of relationship. they learned that as close as they were to home, that they could close the gap even further by getting to know one another.

On the last day of their trip, they met with one of the guests of the Community Action Network ministry. He told them his story: of the life he once had, and the alcohol that had once consumed him, leading him to "resign" himself to the streets. Through St. Paul’s and the Community Action Network, he has found hope, and people who believed in him for who he is. They were all changed through this encounter, and throughout their time in Newport News. The youth hope to return soon.

To learn more about the ministries of St. Paul’s Episcopal Church and the Community Action Network, go to www.stpaulsnn.org/the-network.
Community Day gets kids ready for school

Over 3500 people attended the Western Bayside Community Day held August 25 on the grounds of Good Samaritan, Virginia Beach! Getting their neighborhood kids ready for back-to-school was a big theme for the day, and events included the distribution of 1300 backpacks full of supplies. The Virginia Beach Dental Clinic was set up inside Good Samaritan, along with back to school immunizations given by the City of Virginia Beach, and hearing and vision tests given by the Lions Club. Free haircuts were provided in the Family Life Center. Virginia Beach Mayor Louis Jones even came by to join the fun. The day wasn't all about back-to-school though, there were bouncy houses provided by the city, music by DJ Warren O'Neal, and lots of games with the Virginia Beach Police Department, who brought their horses too. And, of course, there was lots of delicious food provided by Good Samaritan's partner in ministry, Enoch Baptist Church.

St. Andrew’s EYC thinks globally, acts locally

_The Rev. Lorna Williams, St. Andrew’s, Newport News_

St. Andrew's, Newport News, challenged seven teens and three adult mentors to "Think Globally, Act Locally for Christ" on a week-long local mission.

We began by serving at THRIVE Peninsula, where we organized the pantry, and stacked plastic bags for clients to use when they receive food items to take home. We also did shredding of old papers and updated the resource folders that clients use to find local and national resources for their specific needs, for example, for assistance for veterans. While we were at THRIVE, we learned some facts about the reality faced by many of our neighbors in our communities, for example, Hampton Roads is third in the whole nation in eviction rates.

On two separate days we served at LINK's warehouse, organizing donated items such as dishes, cutlery, cups, kitchen items, etc. While we were working clients came in and were very pleasantly surprised with items which were easy to find for them to take home.

Then we participated in Serve the City, which is a big volunteer event put on by the City of Newport News. The youth chose to work with refugee children from Afghanistan. Along with other volunteers, we set up coloring materials, and flash cards to help teach the kids English at a park surrounded by apartments where many refugee families live. We also occupied the little ones while their mothers learned English themselves from other adult volunteers. We encouraged the learning of the children and fed them snacks at the end of the day.

The youth, through their service to their local community, walked in the way of the disciples of Jesus when he sent them out to minister to others. And as Jesus commanded us, these young people shared their love for others. We are very thankful to the congregation for making it possible for us to act locally for Christ, making a difference in the lives of our neighbors.

Diaper Drive helps families

_Rose Parker, St. Augustine’s, Newport News_

St. Augustine's, Newport News, conducted a diaper drive during the months of June and July to benefit the local diaper bank that provides diapers to low-income families. The drive, spearheaded by Valerie S. Price, was conducted to help meet basic diaper needs of area children and their families, and to elevate awareness of diaper need. Babies need up to 12 diapers a day, toddlers about eight. The majority of day care centers, even those that are free to parents and subsidized, require parents to provide a day's supply of disposable diapers. God's gifts are meant not only to bless us, but for us to use to bless others (1 Peter 4:10).
Bruton Parish youth make mission trip to Appalachian South Folklife Center  
Meghan Brewer, Bruton Parish, Williamsburg

Vans full of enthusiasm were loaded on Sunday morning, June 17, at Bruton Parish, Williamsburg, with 28 youth and chaperones eager to start the drive to West Virginia to help a family in need. As we cranked up the Mission Trip 2018 CD of music, it was most appropriate that the first song playing was John Denver's “Take Me Home, Country Roads”. “Almost Heaven, West Virginia” could not have rung more true as we were driving through the winding roads! We truly felt that the mountains seemed like a little piece of heaven here on earth. So beautiful, in fact, that it made it hard to breathe as God's beauty literally surrounded us. At the same time, though, it was also hard to believe that just one day later we would be seeing a very different picture altogether.

About forty minutes from Bluefield, we settled into the Appalachian South Folklife Center where God would have our hands - and many other body parts - hard at work. Over the next five days, we proceeded to deconstruct a 70 foot trailer - walls, cabinetry, insulation, roofing, plumbing, etc. As we worked throughout the week, we got to know Pap and his family who had lived there. We learned it had only been two weeks since he had moved out of this trailer. While tearing down the home, we noticed holes in the floors, hornets and wasp nests in the walls, mold in the insulation, and skeletons of rats in the floorboards.

Our Bruton youth felt God's presence in many ways this week. They realized how blessed they are to have the homes they live in. They felt God's presence when he gave us the strength to continue our work when it was well into the 90 degree temperatures. Through blood, sweat, exhaustion and temperaments, we felt God pushing us because we knew, in the end, we would be changing the life of Pap and his family. By our final day of work, we had the home down to the studs - what once stood there days before, which seemed like a nightmare for this family, was now a sign of hope for their future of rebuilding a new home.

Even though this trip was very physically challenging, we took time each morning and evening to reflect upon our day through scripture, songs and prayer. It was our time to come together as a group, giving praise and sharing a time of love and gratitude for one another. The youth helped lead our prayer time, many feeling more confident this year with the Book of Common Prayer and understanding the Daily Office.

In addition to hard work and prayer, we were fortunate to meet many inspirational people from the surrounding area. Richard, the ranger from Sandstone at New River Gorge in Grandview State Park, shared the local agricultural history and led us on trails through the forest, sharing with us the astounding beauty that West Virginia has to offer. Greg, the lead man for the worksite, built a blazing fire one night for us, and shared many stories of his experiences of the area and his family, who were miners. We realized through these stories that, though West Virginia is so remarkably full of beauty, it is also sadly full of poverty and lack of education. However, this area is rich with culture, and music is especially at the top. We were blessed with an evening listening to local musician, Jim Costa, who shared stories and songs played on his banjo and fiddle. We capped the trip off as we headed down the road to the Ace Adventure Campsite, where the kids played in the lake, white-water rafted, and told stories by the campfire.

I felt a sense of pride watching these youth work together as a team, growing spiritually and loving one another. We laughed, we cried, we prayed, and we grew stronger individually. Reflecting on the good, the bad and the ugly, we ended our time together with an evening service of Eucharist - a perfect ending to a time of togetherness all with silver-linings and hardships, which left us with goosebumps!

We hugged, we sang, we passed the Peace, and we felt a truly overwhelming presence of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. This was a mission trip that we will not soon forget. A mission trip of memories that will last a lifetime.
Learning the Gentle Way from the Irish while on Peace Pilgrimage in Northern Ireland
Harper Bathel, Director of Children’s & Youth Ministry, and the Rev. Andie Rohrs, St. Andrew’s, Norfolk

In September 2017, our St. Andrew’s, Norfolk, Episcopal Youth Community received a $16,000 grant from the Shafer Trust, a fund administered by Kellam, Pickrell, Cox, and Anderson that promotes peacemaking. This funding enabled the Church to take ten graduating 10th through 12th graders and three adults on a peace pilgrimage in June. The focus was to connect them with one another and with God, to build relationships with the Irish people, and to learn about the nations’ process of pursuing peace after decades of conflict.

Throughout the pilgrims’ eight day trip, they discovered the awe and wonder of the island. They learned from the wisdom of St. Patrick and other saints from the region’s history. One day was spent in a retreat at Corrymeela, an interfaith community that has been instrumental in promoting peace and reconciliation since 1965. In their group reflection times, the pilgrims studied scripture centered around Jesus’s Sermon of the Mount from the Gospel of Matthew. They also enjoyed the natural beauty of the Irish land and seascapes, and the warm welcome from the people they encountered.

One of the highlights of the pilgrimage was the day spent at the 174 Trust community in Belfast. The Trust was founded 35 years ago with the mission of building a strong, just, and peaceful society that promotes tolerance and inclusion. Their building is located in the midst of one of the areas that was deeply affected by the Troubles that the country went through from the 1960s until the Good Friday agreement in 1998. When asked about how the organization promotes peace in an area with such a deep history of violence and conflict, the director responded “gently.” He explained that the Trust offers programs for all ages centered around common interests that reconnect the Protestant and Catholic communities. These include groups for singing, arts and crafts, sports, and fellowship. The Center also has a preschool and afterschool programs for neighborhood children. These programs provide opportunities for conversation, laughing, and playing together.

As the thirteen pilgrims explored these two countries, they experienced the gentle way of the Irish through their fascinating history and culture, rich Celtic faith, breathtaking views and coastlines, and their sincere hospitality. They were impacted by all they witnessed and experienced as they grew deeper in relationship with one another and God. The hope is that as the pilgrims go back to their daily lives, they will use what they learned to pursue peace in their communities, our country, and the world.

Mission trip transforms leaders and students
Chuck Marks, St. Aidan’s, Virginia Beach

Over the years I have supported Mission Trips for the youth of my congregation in many different ways, be it fund-raising, parenting, or helping to lead the group myself. Those trips have come in several different forms to include using host groups like Reach Mission Trips and even planning and running our own trip as well. Each of those missions were inspirational, moving, and satisfied real need in the communities in which we served. My perspective, though, has been focused on completing work, showing progress, even thinking of our impact in terms of “before” and “after.” “See the impact we were making in the community?” “See the difference we have made?” I did not realize that my mindset was somewhat egotistic and was centered on what our group would get out of the trip, rather than the impact we were intending.

Several years ago we heard of the need right here in our own Diocese of Southern Virginia, on the Eastern Shore of the state between the Chesapeake Bay and the Atlantic Ocean. The youth of our Congregation felt the need to answer the call to do work closer to home, in our own community, and to ensure that the hard-earned mission trip funding could be spread as wide as possible. This year’s trip was different, though.

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Mission trip transforms leaders and students, continued from page 10

It was not because we were in our own backyard, so-to-speak. It was not because of the spirituality that we experienced. It was not even the mission work itself. We had experienced all of those mission elements before. It was because of the incredible relationships that we were to build with the community, the host organization Youth Works, with our fellow missioners from Arizona, Ohio, and Maryland – and, perhaps most importantly, with each other. On Friday, when we returned to St. Aidan’s in Virginia Beach, it was clear that we were not the same people who had left just five days earlier. We were transformed by this trip and grew in ways that were unimaginable as we loaded the cars on Sunday. We were touched by the Spirit and were made the better for it.

Recognizing Need. The community on the Eastern Shore is unique, dynamic, and evolving. This part of Virginia is a combination of big agriculture, small farms, fishing, chicken processing facilities, and community support structures. Off of the main thoroughfare, Virginia State Road 13, are a series of historic communities that serve as the centers of agriculture and fishing. Much of the farming has evolved to big business agriculture, while the traditional labor, composed historically of African-Americans have moved away or are employed by the poultry industry. Where manual labor is required for farming, guest workers from the Caribbean and Central America are used, with many immigrants from Haiti, Guatemala, and Mexico. The various races and ethnicities live mostly in homogenous groups, coming together in some of the churches, town hosted events, and in serving the needs of the community.

The shortfalls prevalent throughout the United States are reflected in the Eastern Shore of Virginia - needs for the homeless, the elderly, families with working parents that cannot afford day care, hunger, English as a second language, and poverty. These needs overmatch the resources available in the small, agrarian and fishing communities that do not generate significant profits for those involved in those businesses. Furthermore, because of the lack of urban centers and the propensity for young people to leave home for better opportunity outside the region, the needs of these communities are significantly more profound than in other geographic areas in the United States.

During our week in Parksley, Virginia, we took part in multiple ministries. Some examples of these are Kids Camp - hosted by Youth Works - an interactive, Christian-based day care for children of parents from the community who must work through the day, potentially leaving young children at home, unsupervised. Una Familia was a tutoring program for children where English is a second language in the home, to ensure they do not fall behind in school where English is the primary language. The Agape Ministry is a Christian pre-school to help children prepare for entry into school. Lighthouse Ministries for the homeless to help families and individuals transition back into permanent housing. Manna is a mission to help feed the hungry in a community environment, serving hundreds each week. The local food banks work together to distribute collected food for the community from nearly every institution on the Eastern Shore. Hermitage on the Eastern Shore is an assisted living facility that provides a positive and light-filled environment for their residents. Each of these missions, as well as several others, provided opportunities to experience the need in the community and contribute positively. This was not about “before” and “after” mission work, but rather about contributing to ongoing efforts, meeting the dedicated and passionate individuals who serve their community every day, and experiencing the wonderful and happy community served by the various missions.

Building Community. When a group comes together for mission work, it is important to quickly build a community of folks that are willing to work together as a team. The four churches on our trip came together quickly to establish a community with a common goal. It did not matter that we were from four different regions of the United States, that our Christian denominations were not the same (and sang different songs), or that we were a mix of middle school youth, high school youth, college aged young adult leaders, or more mature adult leaders. Our community was quickly enabled by our four college leaders from Youth Works into mixed “super-hero” teams, ready to take on the week of unknown need ahead of us.

We were busy each day from early morning, preparing breakfast, building our lunches, cleaning our church home, Grace United Methodist Church in Parksley, Virginia, completing a theme-based daily devotion, getting organized to head out, then partaking in a day of mission work, scattered around the local communities. Afterward, we packed into the YMCA for showers, then back to Grace for dinner preparation, dinner, clean-up, an evening activity, a community Gathering, and individual church time to contemplate the meaning of the day. One would expect a group of middle school and high school students would not be interested in discussing the day at 10:30 PM, after a full day of hard work and intense heat and humidity. It was quite the opposite.

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Mission trip transforms leaders and students, continued from page 11

Each of our youth and adult leaders related something from the day that was moving, unexpected, surprising, funny, sad, or heart-warming. We experienced layers of community that only strengthened as the week progressed: our own church group; our Youth Works group of four churches; our Super Hero Teams; our connections with those we ministered; our ties to the local community. The Spirit was with us as we started to recognize all of these inter-related communities.

Creating Safe Spaces. Perhaps one of the most important lessons I learned from this trip was the importance and need to create safe spaces for the missioners to explore difficult topics the need in the community raised. Each of us is shaped by our own experiences and the influence of our families. Each of us reacts differently when exposed to surprising events that unfold around us. It is vital that we are allowed to process those experiences safely, individually, and in the proper context. My super-hero group had one of the most amazing conversations on the very first day of mission work. We had just finished a wonderful morning in an assisted living facility, partaking in morning exercises for those able, taking folks from the memory unit for a walk, filling bird feeders, chatting with a local with nearly 100 years of stories from the Eastern Shore, and playing a phenomenal game of hangman. Afterward, during our lunch on the lawn outside in the heat, we discussed the incredibly difficult end of life decisions that families must make that are sometimes even taken over by the state when a plan is not in place or the family absent. We discovered that each of us had a story to share from our own family, and that each of us had opinions shaped by our own experiences and perceptions. Our collected lesson from the day was the discovery that we cannot judge the decision taken by a particular family without understanding all of the dynamics that went into such a complicated, difficult, emotional and personal decision. From my perspective, I was amazed that our brand new community found the courage to share such intense feelings after only being together for a few short hours. The Spirit was present with us in that moment.

Throughout the week, we kept experiencing moments like these, where folks of all ages shared moving thoughts and expressed their own struggles with belief. Members of our group reversed their previous vocal positions on certain subjects and embraced mission work that they had heretofore avoided. Some expressed their newfound perspective on what their community involvement should be, rather than the stories they told themselves to avoid taking action or responsibility. Each of these was enabled by the safety of the group and the willingness of every single person not to judge and to try and actively listen to each person when they spoke.

Establishing Relationships. At the end of the week, most of our group was choked up with the necessity of saying goodbye to 60 individuals who were just strangers five short days prior. We also felt the struggle of leaving a community in which we had made friends and had met many wonderful people. One of our super-hero groups was afforded the opportunity to visit the local shops in town, meet the owners and employees, and offer to wash their windows. The group visited the department store, the hardware store, the florist, a formal and bridal shop, a Haitian Market, and sundries shop to name just a few. After the visit, the group kept finding connections to these folks in other mission work, showing us the power of vital and vibrant inter-personal relationships in a close-knit community. These relationships were the key to allowing the Spirit into our community and enhancing the power of each and every element of our mission work.

Exploring Spirituality. The new experiences encountered by our church group collectively and individually are innumerable. Each of us came across something every day that caused us to pause and explore our own beliefs and purpose. The daily themes provided each day by Youth Works allowed a good, scripture-based structure to explore those experiences. With very little prompting at the end of the day, our church group time in the evening served as the culminating point of our experiences. Our group was able to explore our worries, our hopes, our beliefs, our doubts, and our role in our home community. I cannot think of anything more fitting on a mission trip than for a church community to explore together collective and individual beliefs and to further each of our own spiritual journeys. An example of this is the following prayer of thanksgiving and hope that our group wrote during our last evening together:

Dear Lord, We are grateful to have been brought together for this mission trip. We have experienced so much this week that we would like to thank you for: The new relationships we have created with the children of the community; The people we have met and the hope they have healthy lives in a good place to live;

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The children of the Agape Center and the hope they get the love they deserve; The children of the community and the hope they have supportive families; The parents of the community and the hope they continue to have jobs; The children of the community and that they have friends supportive of each other; The collective churches that connect the community together; The opportunity to do things in the name of Jesus; The loving and welcoming nature of our own church group; The ability to each find our own way safely; And finally for the passion one can find in even the smallest of things: A carved stone placed for a loved one; A piggyback ride for a child; The laughing at the goofiness of Middle-school boys; The sharing of slapjack; dominoes; or Uno; A quiet conversation; The learning from young children; In the sharing of who we really are. Amen.

We are committed to heading back to the Eastern Shore next year to continue the journey we started. The profound need of a vibrant and happy community helped us safely contemplate complex thoughts and ideas in a shared way that enabled a deeper exploration of our own Spirituality. We are grateful for our church community of St. Aidan’s and the families that enabled our mission to the Eastern Shore. We are thankful for our new friends from Arizona, Ohio, and Maryland who shared in our journey. We are deeply appreciative of Grace and St. Thomas United Methodist Churches and the community of Parksley, Virginia for hosting us. We are eternally in the debt of Brittney, Jocelyn, Timmy, and Matthew from Youth Works for creating this moving opportunity. Our entire group has grown and benefitted from this profoundly positive experience.

The Campaign for Chanco: Progress update and looking ahead

There is much excitement among the Chanco community as we recently surpassed our $2.5 million base goal in our Campaign for Chanco to improve and expand our property. Through this campaign Chanco will gain much more than upgraded facilities. Our enhanced and renovated facilities mean that we will be able to offer more transformative experiences to even more guests. Chanco is truly about our collective stories of deepened relationships with God and one another. As one of our camper parents, Missy Gates shared, “All three of our children attended camp at Chanco, as well as the children of many friends. This summer our daughter is finally realizing her dream of being a counselor! It is a wonderful environment for growing in the love of God.”

The Chanco Board and staff have been busy since 2016 working on this major improvement effort. In 2016, the Chanco Board approved a feasibility study which interviewed 56 individuals and received 300 survey responses. This study determined that yes, Chanco could embark on a major fundraising effort and that the time is now! By spring 2017, design concepts and costs were prepared to share with donors. In May 2017, our diocese made a lead commitment of $500,000 for an initial $2.5 million dollar campaign with a stretch goal of $3 million. From May 2017 until July of 2018 over $2,500,000 was accomplished staffed by three, volunteers of 15, and with over 250 families, parishes and foundations making commitments.

Achieving our base $2.5 million goal is an unprecedented accomplishment and would not be possible without each of you – our friends and parishes who have supported this important milestone time in Chanco’s history. But we’re not done yet! We are striving to blow past our $3 million dollar goal in order to complete our projects in the best possible way for now and generations to come. This campaign is allowing us to build a broader base of support and interest from our Chanco community. These stronger relationships will position us to have a more thriving retreat ministry, fully booked camp sessions every summer, and more long-term engagement with our community. All of this means that the 2,500 people we now serve annually will only grow – reaching more people within and outside of our Church than ever before.

Thank you to all of our friends who have already participated in this exciting campaign! If you or your parish have not yet made a gift, or would like more information, please contact Campaign Director Talley Banazek at talley@banazek.com or 804-399-4019.
Camp Chanco 2018 an enormous success!

*Don’t miss the “Do It Now” discount when registering for 2019 by September 30*

Summer Camp 2018 was another spectacular season at Chanco on the James. This past summer marked Chanco’s 50th year of summer camp programming and was a wonderful few months of adventure, trying new skills, making new friends, increasing self-confidence and self-reliance, worship and outdoor fun!

Among the successes of the last summer, for the seventh year in a row Chanco was awarded a top spot in the “Best Summer Camp” category in Virginia Living magazine. 2018 also marked another year of significant scholarships awarded to campers in need. Year after year, Chanco receives more scholarship requests than our scholarship endowed funds can fulfill and year after year our donors meet that need with additional scholarship gifts. Chanco sponsored full scholarships to youth from the Boy’s Home, ForKids, Mission of the Holy Spirit, and Dos Santos to provide a transformational camp experience that would not otherwise be possible. Chanco also partnered with ministries such as *All God’s Children*, serving campers with incarcerated parents. In addition to helping support youth from these organizations, Chanco provides numerous scholarships to families throughout our diocese for whom Camp Chanco would not be possible without this assistance.

Perhaps more important than any award or accreditation we receive, Camp Chanco offers an opportunity for young people from across all races, denominations, genders, family backgrounds, and cultures to just be kids together. To be outdoors, unplugged, and away from social media and technology. It is a place where every challenge is faced together as a team with the support of compassionate young adult counselors. Many call Chanco their second home. As 2018 camp staff member Christopher Rossi shared, “Being a legacy; my mother a camper and counselor and I, myself, the same, Chanco is a huge, if not the biggest part of my life. There you will grow as a person and grow with others, and develop emotional connections to all aspects of life unimaginable anywhere else. Chanco is not just a summer camp, but part of those of us who have attended, and will continue to return. #ChancoIsHome.

Even though summer has just ended and most are thinking “back to school”, we at Chanco are already planning for next summer! Take advantage of the “Do It Now” discount! Register for Camp Chanco 2019 by September 30th and lock into 2018 rates. Don’t miss the chance to secure the session of your choice while saving money at the same time by registering this month for your 2019 summer fun! Visit [www.chanco.org](http://www.chanco.org) for more information. Questions or for a paper registration form, please contact us at hospitality@chanco.org or 888-7CHANCO (888-724-2626). 2019 Camp Chanco registration will be live on our website soon!

Food for the Soul Retreat: Nourish your mind, body and spirit with us!

Summer camp at Chanco may be over, but retreats for youth and adults are just around the corner! October 19-21, Chanco will be hosting a special new retreat “Food for the Soul” featuring incredible food, a cooking lesson with Chef Rafael, and learning about and tasting Virginia wine as well as discussions about the importance of nourishing your spirit. This retreat is for adults 21 and older. Minors may accompany their parents and activities such as pizza making are planned for our younger guests. The event begins with check in 6-8 pm Friday with a welcome reception with cheese and crackers. This event includes all food, lodging and activities and is $220 per person if sharing a room and $270 per person for a private room. Registration will be live soon at www.chanco.org. For questions or to register ahead of the rush contact Director of Programs Nathan Hoyt at programs@chanco.org or 888-724-2626. We look forward to seeing you there!
Calendar of Events

For more upcoming events, visit www.diosova.org.

CE-Net Gathering - September 19, 10 to 11:30 a.m., Diocesan Office. Join the Christian Education Network (CE-Net) for an informal roundtable conversation on Wednesday, September 19, 10:00 to 11:30 at the Diocesan Office in Newport News. Come ready to share one thing from your ministry that is going well AND one thing that is a growth opportunity in your ministry. If you are available, please join us for a Dutch treat lunch at a nearby restaurant afterward. Hope to see you there!

Administrators & Treasurers Lunch Group - September 20, 12 to 1:30 p.m., Diocesan Office. This is a wonderful opportunity to meet with other parish administrators and treasurers to talk about common issues. There's no agenda for this gathering - just an opportunity to get together, share, encourage, support, and ask questions. Bring your own lunch; beverages will be provided. RSVP to Diocesan Comptroller Judy Dobson, jdobson@diosova.org or 757-213-3386


National Acolyte Festival - October 8, National Cathedral, Washington DC. Join acolytes from across the United States for a morning service of re-dedication and Holy Eucharist. Workshops in the afternoon offer enrichment and instruction. Go to www.cathedral.org for info and registration.

Food for the Soul Retreat - October 19-21, Chanco on the James. This special new retreat, Food for the Soul, features incredible food, a cooking lesson with Chef Rafael, and learning about and tasting Virginia wine as well as discussions about the importance of nourishing your spirit. This retreat is for adults 21 and older. Minors may accompany their parents and activities such as pizza making are planned for our younger guests. Go to www.chanco.org for info and registration.

Diocesan ECW Fall Annual Meeting - October 20, St. Cyprian’s, Hampton.

Fall Camp at Shrine Mont - October 22-25, Shrine Mont, Orkney Springs, VA. Fall Camp is an opportunity to spend time in the mountains of Virginia with other seniors (but we don’t have an age limit) from across the Commonwealth and from other states. The keynote speaker for this year’s conference will be Lauren F. Dr. Winner is an Episcopal priest and vicar of St. Paul’s Episcopal Church in Louisburg, NC. She writes and lectures widely on Christian practice, the history of Christianity in America, and Jewish-Christian relations. Go to www.fallcampatshrinemont.org for details and registration.

November Weekend - November 16-18, Chanco on the James. Teens in grades 6-12 and their adult leaders are invited to attend this faith, fun retreat. More info coming soon!


Bishop Hollerith’s Visitation Schedule

September 9 – St. Mark’s, Hampton
September 16 – Emmanuel, Glenmore
October 7 – Christ & Grace, Petersburg
October 14 – Old Donation, Virginia Beach
October 28 – Martin’s Brandon, Burrowsville
November 11 – St. Stephen’s, Petersburg
December 2 – Eastern Shore Chapel, Petersburg
December 9 – Epiphany, Danville
December 16 – St. James, Accomac & St. George’s, Pungoteague

Safe Church training
Go to www.diosova.org for information and registration. Online training is also available.

- September 22, 2018 – St. Andrew’s, Newport News
- October 13, 2018 – St. Aidan’s, Virginia Beach
- October 27, 2018 – St. Matthias’, Midlothian

Get more news from Southern Virginia!
Sign up for our weekly eNews at www.diosova.org.
Congratulations Deborah Austin!

Distinguished Woman - Diocese of Southern Virginia

On Sunday, July 8, Deborah Austin, St. Mark’s, Suffolk, was honored as the Diocese of Southern Virginia’s Distinguished Woman. She joined more than 60 women from all nine provinces of The Episcopal Church who were honored with a luncheon, a certificate, and a Distinguished Woman pin featuring a one-of-a-kind design in recognition of their dedicated service in their home dioceses. Yewande Austin, founder of The Global Institute for Diversity and Change, offered opening remarks. Each Distinguished Woman was presented individually. Continued on Page 3

A Great Honor and Privilege

Deborah Austin, Distinguished Woman, Episcopal Church Women

To be nominated to receive the Distinguished Woman Award of The Diocese of Southern Virginia is a great honor and privilege. This picture taken with Presiding Bishop Michael Curry as I received my Episcopal Women’s pin was a highlight of the conference for me. Volunteering to use my time, talents, and treasures has allowed me to challenge, empower, and inspire those in my personal and Christian sphere of influence, and myself. This journey has taught me how to embrace barriers as only temporary and to see them as an opportunity to make connections, navigate diversity, and build relationships to accomplish my desired goals.

I am grateful for the positive impact I’ve been able to have on students as well as adults in the community and the City of Suffolk. This honor represents an unforgettable milestone, but the work continues.
Opening Eucharist of the 79th General Convention
Way of Love

Sermon, Presiding Bishop Michael Curry

Imagine Eucharist for 8,000 people. Imagine a marketplace of goods and ideas. Imagine quiet conversations among friends, old and new. Imagine one of the largest legislatures in the world. Imagine the utter silence of prayer before momentous decisions.

The every-third-year gathering of the Episcopal Church known as General Convention and the Episcopal Church Women Triennial is all of these things. The 79th gathered in Austin, in the Diocese of Texas, on July 5 and continued until July 13. Bishops, deputies, and Episcopal Church Women from the Episcopal Church made broad decisions about policies and worship.

The opening Eucharist of the 79th General Convention of the Episcopal Church on July 5 included lively music in many styles, communion for thousands of people and a sermon by Presiding Bishop Michael Curry calling on members of the Episcopal Church to embrace spiritual practices that can help lead them to a Jesus-centered life.

Called the “Way of Love,” the seven practices provide a Rule of Life that all Episcopalians are encouraged to adopt.

- **Turn:** Pause, listen and choose to follow Jesus.
- **Learn:** Reflect daily on scripture, especially the life and teachings of Jesus.
- **Pray:** Spend time with God in prayer every day.
- **Worship:** Gather in community for worship every week.
- **Bless:** Share one’s faith and find ways to serve other people.
- **Go:** Move beyond one’s comfort to witness to the love of God with words and actions.
- **Rest:** Dedicate time for restoration and wholeness.

Bishop Curry said that several months ago he had asked a group of bishops, clergy and laypeople to meet with him to explore how the church could move more deeply into being the Episcopal branch of the Jesus Movement, a statement that has been the theme for his first three years as presiding bishop. He said he wanted to find a way to “help people throw themselves into the arms of Jesus.”

That group concluded that the Episcopal Church did not need a new program but instead should call upon spiritual practices that for centuries have helped Christians draw closer to God. The result, the **Way of Love,** was adopted. Bishop Curry said this would help church members to **“open up the soul and spirit.”** He also encouraged everyone at General Convention to spend time meditating on the life and teachings of Jesus before they take action, including before speaking at a microphone. Volunteers handed out brochures describing the practices to people as they left the worship hall.

ECW Welcome Dinner

We rounded out our first official day of the 49th Triennial of the Episcopal Church Women with a beautifully planned and well organized dinner of good food, good speakers, and good dinner companions. The dinner was so well planned there were no serving distractions, and the speakers flowed evenly from one to another.

Our first speaker **Laura Torres,** a dynamic young woman from the YWCA-Austin. She gave us much food for thought during an exploration of intrinsic biases vs. extrinsic biases. Her message was primarily about recognizing and dealing with our own internal biases, which is when our expressed beliefs are in direct conflict with our behavior. There is much work to be done before we are able to actually make a change in our national mores, but recognizing this is the first step.

**Irit Umani,** Executive Director, Trinity Center located in downtown Austin. The need of the homeless is great and at times overwhelming, but based on the testimony of one of your clients, in the video you shared with us, the work you are doing is satisfying to both the giver and the receiver.

Service is all about one person at a time, and you have clearly modeled what that can and does look like. Continued on Page 3
Deborah Austin, Distinguished Women,
Continued from Front Page

Deborah Austin is a retired teacher, resource officer, and all around community leader. She is a lay Eucharistic Minister, choir, vestry member, Sunday school teacher, and is the secretary of the James Solomon Russell UBE Chapter of the Diocese of Southern Virginia. As Deborah’s church is without a fulltime priest, she plans the worship services and there are Sundays she is called on to deliver the message of the day. She has served as St. Mark’s ECW president, as senior warden, and as delegate to council. She is a member of the Links, Inc. and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority. Deborah, a loving wife, mother, and grandmother, is active in her community. She checks in on sick and shut-in neighbors, driving them to their appointment – and engages the children in after-school activities.

Deborah serves the diocese as well as her church. She has been a long-time active ECW diocesan board member, serving in a variety of positions: Prayer and Worship Chair, Nominating Chair, CPC Chair. She is always willing to do whatever is asked of her. Words cannot describe such a warm-loving person as Deborah.

Lisa Towle, President of the National Board of Episcopal Church Women congratulated each Distinguished Woman, and all those who were there to support them. She stated that the work they do in their communities and throughout the Church has happened over many years and has been so very diverse. We are inspired by your dedication, and we who are dedicated to women's ministries stand on your shoulders.

She offered a reflection from Bishop Steven Charleston, one of the Triennial Meeting’s keynote speakers:

"Listen. Today a single word spoken will carry the message of a thousand hearts. The one truth shared will unlock the hope of a million silent souls. This is the day of hearing, when justice breaks its silence and mercy finds its voice. The quiet ones will be heard and the lost ones recognized. The clamor of the crowd will be hushed. The language of the poets at long last understood. Today is a day of messages, of understanding and of wisdom. Listen. Someone is speaking to you, telling your story, honoring your vision, giving your dreams the substance of prophecy, the joy of the common word that holds the world together."

We are here to share part of your story, to honor your vision, to thank you for helping to hold our world together and demonstrating in word and deed what it means to be part of a beloved community.
The 49th Triennial Meeting began with a worship service led by the chaplain, the Rev. Cathy Boyd, rector of St. Martin's Episcopal Church, Williamsburg, VA. Our musician, Dr. Linda Patterson, made sure we made a joyful noise. As part of the introduction of the 2015-2018 national board, board members surprised everyone by dressing in period clothing representing women of the Church from decades past. What a fun way to start our time together. Next came the highly-anticipated presentations by the two keynote speakers, Bishop Steven Charleston and The Rev. Canon Stephanie Spellers. They did not disappoint.

Bishop Steven Charleston is the retired Bishop of Alaska. Over his long and distinguished career he has served the church in many capacities. He was the national director for Native American ministries, a tenured professor in systematic theology, and the president and dean of a seminary. Today he is a nationally recognized author with a dozen titles to his name, including three novels and his groundbreaking Native American theology, The Four Vision Quests of Jesus. He is the recipient of three honorary doctorates and in 2014 a building was dedicated to his name “The Charleston House of Interfaith Cooperation,” on the campus of his alma mater, Trinity College in Hartford, Connecticut. He is a citizen of the Choctaw Nation in Oklahoma where he currently lives with his wife, Susan, a professional artist who designs all of the covers for his books.

Steven Charleston began his writing with only four other people as his audience. Today there are over 10,000 people who read his daily meditations and thousands more who have discovered him through RMP's flagship book, HOPE AS OLD AS FIRE. Sometimes, on a spiritual path, it is more fun to walk beside a seeker than a true believer. I have no quarrel with those who are certain they know exactly where they are going on the path of faith, but often their questions are few and their stories familiar. It is when you listen to the seeker’s vision that things can come alive. Questions and doubts, longing and hopes, experiences both difficult and transcendent: it sounds very honest to me. And very human. If you are a seeker, I will be proud to walk beside you, discovering life as we go.

The Rev. Canon Stephanie Spellers has a long title. Presiding Bishop Michael Curry’s Canon for Evangelism, Reconciliation, and Creation, but here's the short job description for the Rev. Canon Stephanie Spellers: helping Episcopalians share the good news and cross boundaries as part of the Jesus Movement. Previously she was the Canon for Mission Vitality for the Episcopal Diocese of Long Island and a member of the chaplain team for the House of Bishops. She served as the co-chair of the Standing Commission on Mission and Evangelism (2009-2012). A former church planter and seminary faculty member, she is the author of Radical Welcome: Embracing God, The Other and the Spirit of Transformation. A native of Kentucky, Stephanie now lives in New York City. She graduated from Episcopal Divinity School with a Masters of Divinity; Harvard Divinity School with a Masters of Theological Studies; and Wake Forest University with a Bachelors in Religion, where she began organizing for justice and peace.

Rev. Spellers asked if we could embrace this vision of self-sacrifice and other-directed care runs throughout the book of Acts. It’s clearly not an easy choice: notice Ananias and Sapphira, who lied and kept some of the proceeds from selling their property. But radical generosity is clearly the choice God wants God’s people to make: notice how quickly the selfish couple gets struck down, apparently by none other than the Holy Spirit. I don’t suppose the choices are any easier for us today. We share deep concern for the plight of refugees, undocumented immigrants and vulnerable people. We honor the spirit of generosity, love of neighbor and communal concern that grounds all of Christian life. But let’s face it: we make exception after exception in practice because it’s so counter-cultural and just plain hard. Have you been in the room when someone brings up socialism or commonly held property? Most Americans push the very idea aside as anathema, as if there’s no way we could take such extremes seriously. Continued on page 3
The Grapevine

SOCIAL JUSTICE SPEAKERS

Abagail Nelson, Senior VP for Programs, Episcopal Relief and Development, was the first speaker in Triennial Meeting's BYOB (Bring Your Own Breakfast) series. She shared ERD's three "high-impact" priorities - women, children, and climate, and offered an in-depth look at how the well-being of each affects the health of the world. She also addressed the need for disaster preparedness and the importance of each church having a disaster strategy for its congregation, and emphasized the need to view poverty relief as disaster prevention.

Patricia Bullock, a member of St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Austin and director of the Trinity Center Shower Ministry, housed at St. David's church in downtown Austin, shared with delegates how this ministry was formed, and what its role is in the community. The Trinity Center Shower Ministry was designated the recipient of the Community Connection Gift for Triennial Meeting 2018. In addition to collecting financial donations for this life-affirming ministry, the National Board of Episcopal Church Women has a goal of assembling hundreds of “summer survival kits” to the homeless citizens served by the shower program.

How it began: While participating in Woman to Woman at Trinity Center, volunteers from St. Mark’s Episcopal Church in Austin heard the women they were assisting talk about personal belongings being stolen when they were taking showers at other facilities in town. It was then that the idea for a private and secure shower program for homeless women was born.

Donna Emery, Director of Development at Mobile Loaves and Fishes of Austin, gave us a brief overview of their ministry and what it means to the local community. Community First! Village, a ministry of Mobile Loaves and Fishes in Austin, Texas, has been selected by the National Board of Episcopal Church Women as the recipient of the Unified Gift, which will be presented at Triennial Meeting in 2018. Donna described the village as a “novel approach to mitigating the problem of homelessness.” During a meeting in Austin last spring, the NECW Board visited the 27-acre village for the disabled, chronically homeless in central Texas. This is a place of wonder with affordable housing of varying styles, including many tiny homes; a huge community garden; a recreation center and community store; worship spaces and prayer labyrinth; a medical facility; even an arts center where unique pieces are handcrafted by village residents. Time and again, Board members heard residents use the phrase, “my own place.” With this grateful pride comes responsibility as the people of Community First share in the maintenance and administration of the village. This is a model of supportive community worth emulating, and Episcopal Church Women are in a unique position to encourage the life changing outreach happening in this wonderland.

Yewande Austin, an award-winning lecturer, social activist and honorary U.S. Cultural Ambassador, brought music and a message to the ECW Triennial Meeting on Saturday, July 7: "It's our responsibility to lean into the dark spaces and make a difference."

The resident of Virginia used her life story as a backdrop to illustrate why she believes, "God had equipped you with all the talents needed to be the change in your own life," and she then challenged audience members to "identify three gifts you are sitting on that could help you change your community" whether it's poverty, human trafficking, violence against women or hunger.

Yewande, who sang a variety of musical genres, including Negro spirituals and show tunes to help make her points, explained she is using her gifts to build Alheri Village, a sustainable resettlement community for some of the nearly two million survivors displaced by conflict with Boko Haram terrorist in Abuja, Nigeria.

And she cautioned to not forget to "ask those you serve what they need" before deciding what will be done to fight an injustice.
I currently serve as the Diocesan Coordinator of the United Thank Offering (UTO). This role accorded me the opportunity and blessing to be able to attend the Triennial Meeting of the Episcopal Church Women (ECW). This meeting was held concurrently with the 79th General Convention of the Episcopal Church. I have been reflecting on my experience at Triennial and General Convention since I got back from Austin, Texas just over a month ago. The General Convention is unlike any other meeting I have ever attended. It’s a bit overwhelming to tell the truth! It’s full of different streams of ideas, hopes, dreams, and emotions ebbing and flowing in every direction. I realize now that the collision of all of these ideas and hopes and dreams is the very source of life and action for our church. I witnessed our church, the Episcopal Branch of the Jesus Movement, as Presiding Bishop Curry has called us; working together to become more and more a part of God’s kingdom, a kingdom built on the Way of Love. I took away the assurance that the church will continue to focus on racial reconciliation, evangelism, and the care of creation.

Bishop Curry opened the convention with a sermon that spoke of love and compassion, of honesty and faithfulness. His energy and passion for following Jesus filled the air and seemed to lift people off their feet as he preached on the loving, liberating, life-giving Word of God. The Presiding Bishop said many times during the Convention that our mission is to tell and to live the story of Jesus’ redemptive love and forgiveness.

At General Convention I experienced the church more fully. I experienced frustrating moments involving disagreements in our governance, joyful moments celebrating millions of dollars collected one coin at a time for UTO, inspiring moments learning about the profound social justice work taking place within our church, and simply indescribable moments praising God during rich, meaningful worship services. Imagine attending worship with thousands of other Episcopalians listening to preachers and worship leaders from all over the world! I was a frequent visitor to the Exhibit Hall where I met Bishops (including the Presiding Bishop!) and clergy and lay people who represent the real diversity of our church. In one day at Convention I spoke to people from Ecuador, Haiti, Cuba, Mexico, Texas, Tennessee, Ohio, and Michigan. I had conversations with transgender persons, lay and ordained, spent time with fellow UTO Coordinators, and hugged dear friends I hadn’t seen in years. I even listened as Native people played drums and danced…and that was all in just one day! I could tell similar stories for each of the ten days I attended Convention.

When I left for Austin in July, I thought I understood what it means to be Episcopalian. The fact is I only knew the church from the perspective of an active parishioner. What I’ve come to understand after attending Triennial and General Convention is that the Episcopal Church is about as diverse a body of faithful people as a denomination can be and still consider itself to be one church. General Convention is not only a wonderful place to gain a more full appreciation and understanding of the vastness of the Episcopal Church, it is a place where one grows in understanding the fullness and beauty of humanity.

As for today, I have three years to prepare to gather in Baltimore with thousands of other people to celebrate this amazing institution we call the Episcopal Church.
United Thank Offering (UTO) Grant Announcements

The United Thank Offering grant awards for 2018 were announced at Triennial Meeting on Friday morning by the UTO Board president, Sandra Squires. The total amount awarded was $1,283,216.21. The UTO Board received 68 grant applications and was able to fund 34 grants. This year's grant recipients represent eight of the nine Anglican Communion provinces and 28 dioceses of The Episcopal Church.

Guess What?

Next, we moved to those pecky Bylaws and Resolutions. All those sleepy women are now awake and have their swords sharpened, ready to do battle about every “comma, the, and etc.” They ran to the microphone, swinging their swords about, not wanting to yield contentious to the very end. All this hot air to go with the outside temperature only to be delayed until another day.

Down to Business – Bylaws and Resolutions.

A number of Bylaws were altered and/or changed. The newly passed bylaws will be posted on the National ECW website as soon as the new board meets.

Resolutions

1. To describe the structure and relationship between the ECW and UTO. A task force will directed to work out the differences and present in 2021.
2. That ECW and all other interested women’s organizations within the Domestic Foreign Missionary Society collaborate to raise funds for and create a Women’s Reading Room at the Archives of the Episcopal Church. A task force will directed to work out the differences and present in 2021.

NEW NATIONAL ECW BOARD OFFICERS:

President – Karen Patterson
Vice President – Patricia Wellnitz
Secretary – Samar Fay
Member at Large – Multi Media – Laura Orcutt
Member at Large – Social Justice – The Rev. Deacon Ema Rosero-Nordalm

A Very Special Closing Celebration and Eucharist, including Commissioning of the New National Board of ECW officiated by Triennial Meeting 2018 Chaplain, the Rev. Cathy Boyd

Love God, love your neighbor, love yourself. Go. Do God’s work in the world, and in the Church. Share the Good News of God in Christ. But it is also very important to remember that you can’t share what you don’t have. So remember to tend your soul. We will not always know where we are going. But we go anyway. Who knows? Maybe it is for this reason that you are where you are. Here you are. This is your Esther moment. Do what you can.

The END!!!!!!
**ECW News from Redeemer in Midlothian**  
*Mary Alligood, President*

Redeemer’s ECW has had an active year. Our major fund raising activity is the Annual Christmas Bazaar held the second Saturday of November. Vendors rent spaces and/or tables. Reservations are being taken now for the 2018 Bazaar on Saturday, November 10, at Redeemer’s website: redeemermidlothian.org. Our 2017 profit ($2300) was distributed to Chanco on the James Building Campaign, YMCA “Bright Beginnings”, the Remote Area Clinic in Wise, VA, Peter-Paul Development Center, Richmond CrossOver Ministries, and Period Patch, Inc.

The highlight of our year was a Spring Tea on April 28. Ladies and girls were treated to a fashion show, a raffle of delightful prizes, beautifully decorated tables, and delicious food served by Redeemer’s men. Prizes were given for creative hats. The profit from the Spring Tea was donated to the Women’s Shelter in Wise County, VA.

**Help Fund 2018 Outreach—Dues, Due November 1**

Each fall the ECW Diocesan Board asks Episcopal Church Women diocesan wide to help fund outreach in the diocese, nation and world. Each parish is requested to contribute annual dues of $3 per person. Two of those dollars ($2) fund the ECW Diocesan Budget. At year end, recipients world-wide receive donations allotted by percentages based on the amount of money received. The remaining dollar ($1) helps fund the administrative fund.

The board also asks for voluntary contributions to help fund the Church Periodical Club and Miles of Pennies; 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.

All contributions are due November 1. Please mail one check payable to: ECW Treasurer with the Parish Annual Contribution Report 2018 on page 11 to Betty Mariner, ECW Diocesan Treasurer.

The Parish Contribution Report for the ECW President 2018 on page 11 is due September 30. Please send the report to Helen Sharpe-Williams, ECW Diocesan President.

**United Thank Offering Fall Ingathering**  
*Ronda Toll, UTO Coordinator, DioSoVa*

Fall is fast approaching and you know what that means…..it is time to gear up for the semiannual United Thank Offering Ingathering. Next to Pumpkin Spice Lattes, this Ingathering is the best part of October!

The United Thank Offering is an outreach ministry of the Episcopal Church that was founded in 1889. It is a personal and family devotional program of the Episcopal Church encouraging men, women, and children to share their thankfulness to God through daily prayer and offerings. By embracing this devotional program, we are reminded to be prayer oriented first and then we are encouraged to give tangible thanks for our blessings as an offering or thanking to God. Each year, the offerings collected are given away in the form of grants. These grants focus on meeting compelling human needs and on expanding the mission and ministry of the church at home and throughout the world. Through these grants, those less fortunate can come to know the love of God.

Please give generously to the 2018 UTO Fall Ingathering. Even the smallest donations, when added together, can make a huge difference in the lives of others.

Contact Ronda Toll, ECW Diocesan UTO Coordinator, at rtoll@cox.net or at 757-869-8873 for UTO literature, materials, supplies, or for any more information.
**Women For Congo: Continues to Support PIRD**  
*By Susan Broaddus, Convener of Women For Congo*

Women for Congo has been asked by Espérance Kugonza, founder of PIRD (Program for Rehabilitation and Development in Ituri), to continue to help the young women we started with last year who haven’t yet graduated from high school. We were able to assist 16 individuals during the last school year and will help at least 15 again this year. Hopefully, we will find sponsors for more.

These young women are victims of gender-based violence who are coping with this in various ways. The average amount we seek is $250 per person for vocational training or schooling. This amount includes uniforms, professional tool kits or backpacks, oversight by PIRD (counseling) as well as tuition.

We are asking individuals, small groups, ECWs, and parish outreach committees for gifts of $250 or more, but any amount will go a long way. For instance, $170 will help with in-depth professional counseling; $80 will pay for a hand-cranked sewing machine and $150 for a treadle one. If you can help, have checks made out to the ECW and sent to me: Susan Broaddus, 1323 Lafayette Blvd., #1, Norfolk, VA 23509. I then send the checks to our ECW Treasurer.

PIRD supports several kinds of projects including agricultural development and roads to get the products to market. Look at their website to learn more about it: www.ngo-pird.org

Women for Congo represents several parishes, meeting monthly for the purpose of supporting women in our Anglican Church in the DRCongo. Over the years, we have become a group of friends who look forward to seeing each other on the first Monday of each month!

**Won’t you join us?**

Contact me to get on the mailing list and to receive directions to the meetings at broaddussusan@aol.com.

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**WOMEN-TO-WOMEN FOR CONGO**  
**SUPPORT THE PROGRAM FOR REHABILITATION AND DEVELOPMENT (PIRD)**

Help Survivors of Gender-Based Violence

PIRD, based in Ituri in the Democratic Republic of Congo, assists women and children who are victims of gender-based violence.

Women like 19-year-old Gigi, whose home was attacked at night by armed men. They looted her home and raped her and her older sister, who was 7 months pregnant. Gigi is severely withdrawn and requires psycho-social counseling.

Women like 16-year-old Jane, who was raped while traveling on summer vacation. She needs aid to continue schooling.

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**Who’s Who in ECW?**

We need your help to keep contact information up-to-date in the ECW Yearbook and Directory. We also want to honor our sisters in memoriam. Please complete and mail the *ECW Parish Information Report, due November 1,* and the *ECW Convocation Report 2018, due November 15,* to Helen Sharpe-Williams, President. 2343 Lokcs Landing Chesapeake, VA 23323. You can find the forms on Page 12 in the newsletter. The forms are also in the 2018 Yearbook, but send them to Helen Sharpe-Williams not Louise Boss. For a copy of the ECW Yearbook and Directory, email or call Ann Turner, Diocesan Communication Officer, aturner@diosova.org, 757-213-3388.
Human Trafficking: Dreams for Sale

Human trafficking has become our world’s modern form of slavery. With limited access to education and sustainable skills, millions of women, men, and children are exploited by an industry that generates over $32 billion every year. This horrific practice has destroyed the lives of over 60 million people across the globe, but’s hardly just a “third world” problem. Every 10 minutes, a woman or child is sexually exploited in America. The 3rd largest industry after guns and drugs, there are over 1.5 million trafficking victims in America alone. So what fuels this business in 2 countries bound by over 400 years of slavery with the highest rates of trafficking in the world?

Human trafficking is the trade of humans for the purpose of forced labor, sexual slavery, or commercial sexual exploitation for the trafficker or others. This may encompass providing a spouse in the context of forced marriage, or the extraction of organs or tissues, including for surrogacy and ova removal. Human trafficking can occur within a country or trans-nationally. Human trafficking is a crime against the person because of the violation of the victim's rights of movement through coercion and because of their commercial exploitation. Human trafficking is the trade in people, especially women and children, and does not necessarily involve the movement of the person from one place to another.

Recognizing key indicators of human trafficking is the first step in identifying victims and can help save a life.

Here are some common indicators to help recognize human trafficking:

- **Does the person** appear disconnected from family, friends, community organizations, or houses of worship?

- **Has a child** stopped attending school?

- **Has the person** had a sudden or dramatic change in behavior?

- **Is a juvenile engaged in commercial sex acts?**

- **Is the person disoriented or confused, or showing signs of mental or physical abuse?**

- **Does the person** have bruises in various stages of healing?

- **Is the person** fearful, timid, or submissive?

- **Does the person** show signs of having been denied food, water, sleep, or medical care?

- **Is the person** often in the company of someone to whom he or she defers? Or someone who seems to be in control of the situation, e.g., where they go or who they talk to?

- **Does the person** appear to be coached on what to say?

- **Is the person** living in unsuitable conditions?

- **Does the person** lack personal possessions and appear not to have a stable living situation?

**Does the person** have freedom of movement? Can the person freely leave where they live? Are there unreasonable security measures?

Not all indicators listed above are present in every human trafficking situation, and the presence or absence of any of the indicators is not necessarily proof of human trafficking.

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**ECW News: How to Find it. How to Share it.**

**Diocese of Southern Virginia**

*The Grapevine* - The ECW’s quarterly, print-ready newsletter is available via email or online at diosova.org on the ECW page under Ministries. Please help us with distribution via email or printed copies for folks who don’t have computers.

**The deadline for the next issue is Nov. 23.** We want to include your news and add you to the email list. Please contact Nancy Smith, nsmithwtr@aol.com.

**Weekly Enews** – Go to diosova.org and click on News and Publications to sign up to receive the latest news from around our diocese in weekly email newsletters. Send your news to Ann Turner, aturner@diosova.org.

**Diocesan eNews** is distributed on Wednesday, includes ECW news. Send the news by Tuesday.

**Parish eNews** is distributed on Tuesday. Send news by Monday.

**The Diocesan Connection** is a quarterly print-ready newsletter available for individuals and churches to receive via email. Churches are asked to distribute the newsletter to their members via email or, if necessary, by printing and mailing.

**National Episcopal Church Women**

Go to ecwnational.org for news and to sign up online to receive the *ECW Communique Magazine.*
**Parish Annual Contribution Report, 2018**

Please provide the amount of your parish ECW Requested and Voluntary Contributions. Total all contributions and send one check payable to ECW Treasurer.

Mail by November 1 to: Mrs. Betty Mariner, 30359 Bobtown Rd., Pungoteague, VA 23422 757-442-7215, themariners@verizon.net

Parish: _________________________________________________________
Convocation: _____________________________________________________
City/Town: _______________________________________________________

Amount of Check: __________________________________________________

Please use this form for all contributions EXCEPT United Thank Offering. If you have questions about United Thank Offering contributions call United Thank Offering Coordinator: Helen Sharpe-Williams, 757-487-8183, helen.sharpe-williams@earthlink.net.

**REQUESTED CONTRIBUTIONS**

Diocesan Dues - $3.00* per member TOTAL: $ ______

*Dues are based on $2.00 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**

Church Periodical Club:
Adults: $ ________________________________

Miles of Pennies: Children: $ __________________________

Elise Holladay Scholarship Fund: $ _______________________

Book of Remembrance: $ _____________________________

God Bless the Children $ ________________________________
(Jackson-Feild Homes and Boys Home of Virginia graduates’ gifts)

“With These Hands” Endowment Funds,
Holy Cross Anglican School Belize: $ _______________________

Please send all other outreach contributions directly to the recipients.

Name of person completing form:
_____________________________________________________

Phone: ________________________________________________

E-mail: __________________________________________________

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**Parish Contribution Report to ECW Diocesan President, 2018**

Please send in this report by September 30 to the ECW Diocesan President listing your ECW Parish contributions for the year. The President will include your Parish Information in the report for Province III. and the National ECW Boards.

Send report to:
Helen Sharpe-Williams
2343 Locks Landing
Chesapeake, Virginia 23323

Questions?
Call the Helen Sharpe-Williams, ECW President—757-487-8183 or Betty Mariner, ECW Treasurer—757-442-7215,
Parish Name ____________________________________________
Convocation and Number ________________________________

Name of the person sending the report:
_____________________________________________________

Phone ________________________________________________

E-mail ________________________________________________

Contributions: (You may consider your budget as your list of your contributions.)
_____________________________________________________
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ECW Parish Information Report for 2018

ECW President or Parish Contact, please complete and mail by November 1 to Louise Boss, Second Vice President, 12402 Wilsonia Way, Machipongo, VA 23405, Phone: 757-678-5331 Email: louisebossexede.net

Convocation Name & Number: ____________________________
Parish: _______________________________________________
Rector: _______________________________________________
Senior Warden Name (if no Rector):
_____________________________________________________
911 Physical Address: ___________________________________
City/Zip Code: ________________________________________
Phone ____________________Email ______________________
Mailing Address if different from above:
___________________________________________________
City/Zip Code: ________________________________________
E-mail: _______________________________________
Number of ECW Members: _____________________________
All Episcopal women of your church are members of the ECW.
Name of President or ECW Contact (Circle One):
___________________________________________________
Address: ____________________________________________
City/Zip Code: ________________________________________
Phone : _____________________________________________
E-mail: _____________________________________________

IN MEMORIAM
Please list alphabetically the women in your parish who have passed away since November 1, 2015:
___________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________

Person submitting form:
___________________________________________________
E-mail: _____________________________________________
Phone: _____________________________________________

ECW Convocation Report 2018
Please complete and mail by November 15 to Louise Boss, Second Vice President, 12402 Wilsonia Way, Machipongo, VA 23405, Phone: 757-678-5331 Email: louiseboss49@gmail.com

Convocation Name & Number: ____________________________
Convocation Chair
Name ________________________________
Address __________________________________
City/Zip Code __________________________
Phone ___________________________ E-mail __________
Vice Chair
Name ________________________________
Address __________________________________
City/Zip Code __________________________
Phone ___________________________ E-mail __________
Secretary
Name ________________________________
Address __________________________________
City/Zip Code __________________________
Phone ___________________________ E-mail __________
Treasurer (Serves on the Finance Committee)
Name ________________________________
Address __________________________________
City/Zip Code __________________________
Phone ___________________________ E-mail __________

Appointments to the ECW Standing Committees 2016
Treasurer serves on the Finance Committee.

Legislative
Name ________________________________
Address __________________________________
City/Zip Code __________________________
Phone ___________________________ E-mail __________

Nominating
Name ________________________________
Address __________________________________
City/Zip Code __________________________
Phone ___________________________ E-mail __________

2016 ECW CONVOCATION MEETINGS
SPRING:
Date ________________________________
Parish __________________________________
City ___________________________________

FALL:
Date ________________________________
Parish __________________________________
City ___________________________________