President’s Message

“Love Thy Neighbor” ECW Outreach Project 2017-2018

LOVE THY NEIGHBOR is a project that I am asking that you will embrace for the next two years. I hope to share the plight of women, children and the elderly in our diocese suffering from abuse, homelessness and trafficking. Women, children and the elderly that we as servants of Jesus are called to help - Jesus said, “Love your neighbor as yourself.” If we follow this commandment we will not stand by and see our sisters suffering and not help. Think of the great impact that we can have on others if we will simply love them like God loves us. And, think of how we can play a very important part in someone receiving their healing because of our commitment to love them.

When I was thinking about how to launch this project I immediately thought of the Rev. Becca Stevens who has done so much work in this area. Knowing that she is in great demand for speaking engagements I began in December 2016 trying to get on her schedule. I was surprised when her office responded with a date. I am excited to have the opportunity to hear Rev. Stevens again. She was one of the keynote speakers for the Daughters of the Kings – Triennial in 2015. It is my hope that we all can hear her. So I am encouraging everyone to come hear this remarkable woman and some of the women she has help. Once you have heard the Rev. Becca Stevens you will be changed forever. Read more on page 2

Mark your calendars, November 4, 2017, the Rev. Becca Stevens will be the keynote speaker for the Diocesan ECW Annual Fall Meeting to held at St. Francis Episcopal Church in Virginia Beach Virginia.

With your support we can turn knowledge into action. We need to share the news that love heals, that hope doesn't die, so we can inspire each other to keep going. The most powerful part of the gospel is love without judgment. You can be a part of changing lives. You can help provide safety and hope for a friend, a neighbor, an employee, a stranger, or maybe even a loved one.

I am asking each convocation to select a “Love Thy Neighbor Project” where they can do the most good. Ask yourselves these questions: Where can you help? Who can you help? How can you help? Need an idea? You will find ways to help a domestic violence shelter on pages 8 & 9 and on the diocese’s website under Ministries.

Whatever you decide to do, or can afford, your local domestic violence shelter is always in need of volunteers to help keep them running. Helping women of abuse, and children from those homes, can be very hard and grueling work, but is so important and in turn, can be so rewarding. You will be helping to change lives, no matter how much time or money you can invest.

Remember we, the Episcopal Church Women of the Diocese of Southern Virginia, are Christ’s ambassadors, appointed by the highest authority in the universe to represent Him. As we are moved by the Holy Spirit to love and care for each other we become the hands and feet of Jesus helping those in need. Helen Sharpe-Williams, ECW President

Inside This Issue

Page 2
- Spring Annual Meeting
- Meet Rev. Becca Stevens
Page 3
- Treasurer’s Report
- Scholarships Awarded
Page 4
- United Thank Offering
Page 5
- St. Stephen’s Women’s Day
- Women-to-Women Project
- New Daughters of the King
- High Tea at St. Mark’s
Page 6
- Trinity Hosts Board Meeting
- Malawi Bishop Thanks ECW
Page 7
- Boys Home of Virginia News
Pages 8 & 9
- Love Thy Neighbor Ideas
Page 10
- Province III Report
Jackson-Field Hosts ECW Spring Annual Meeting

Shiny new floors, colorful furniture and freshly painted walls brighten up the Marshall Cottage at Jackson-Feild. Even the bathroom is getting a facelift thanks to the ECW’s $20,000 donation earmarked for the cottage’s renovation. A visit to the cottage to see the renovations was the highlight of the day for Episcopal Church Women from six convocations gathered at Jackson-Field for the ECW’s Spring Annual Meeting May 20. “We were happy to see the work that had been done,” said Helen Sharpe-Williams, ECW Diocesan President.

The day began with the business meeting in Jackson-Field’s recreation hall. The room showed no signs of the students’ prom held there the night before the meeting. Meredith Melo, Assistant Director of Advancement, Jackson-Feild Behavioral Health Services (JFBHS) welcomed visitors, gave an overview of Jackson-Field programs and served as the renovation tour guide. President Sharpe-Williams spoke about her president’s project, “Love Thy Neighbor.” The focus is on ending abuse. She announced Becca Stevens, an Episcopal priest, who is president of Thistle Farms, the largest social enterprise in the US run by abuse survivors is the keynote speaker for the Diocesan ECW Annual Fall Meeting at St. Francis Episcopal Church, Virginia Beach, November 4, 2017.

The Rev. Dr. Robin Jones invited the women to celebrate eucharist in the beautiful renovated All Saints Chapel. The chapel was closed in 2011, when Jackson-Field last hosted an ECW meeting. In August 2014, the chapel was rededicated after a capital campaign to make repairs and improvements. The day ended with a delicious lunch. Many thanks to Jackson-Feild.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!!!!!!!!!!!!

Diocesan ECW Annual Fall Meeting—Nov. 4, 2017

St. Francis Episcopal Church, Virginia Beach

BECCA STEVENS is many things…an author, speaker, priest, social entrepreneur, founder and President of Thistle Farms, the largest social enterprise in the US run by survivors. She has been featured in the New York Times, on ABC World News, NPR, PBS, and CNN.

In 2011, the White House named Becca a “Champion of Change” for her work against domestic violence. Recently, she was featured in the PBS documentary, “A Path Appears,” named Humanitarian of the Year by the Small Business Council of America as well as the TJ Martell Foundation, inducted into the Tennessee Women’s Hall of Fame and is a Top 10 2016 CNN Hero. She has been conferred honorary doctorates by The University of the South, Swannee and General Theological Seminary, New York.

When Becca speaks the listener is struck by her earnest, empathic delivery infused with her personality. Her message is honest and she offers groups a way to move from fear and synicism into inspired action.

She regularly keynotes at national events, business gatherings, morning worship in churches as well as universities and colleges across the country, inspiring young adults to live into their ideals. She is an international voice for the growing global movement for women’s freedom and a fervently hopeful and determinedly loving champion for the marginalized.

She lives in Nashville, TN where she serves as an Episcopal priest and lives with her Grammy-winning songwriter husband and three sons.

Thistle Farms is a powerful global community of women healing from prostitution, trafficking and addiction. They employ 50 survivors through social enterprises: Thistle Farms Home & Body, Thistle Stop Cafe, and an artisan studio. Thistle Farms Global helps employ more than 1,500 women.
ECW Treasurer’s Report
Betty Mariner, ECW Diocesan Treasurer

This time of the year in ECW is traditionally a period of calm in the financial year. That is true this year also. January thru May receipts equaled $2,059.38 from dues, contributions, and bank interest. Expenses for the same period totaled $1,921.83. Additionally, at the Board’s direction, the following funds were withdrawn from ECW investments:

**Flora A. Penick Memorial Fund** – $11,329.00 rolling interest
$8,779 to be distributed to scholarship applicants + parish contributions to equal $9,200  
$1,250 to be distributed to Fall Annual Meeting expenses  
$1,000 to be distributed to Fall Women's Retreat  
$ 300 to be distributed to Camp Chanco scholarships

**Bishop Tucker Memorial Scholarship Fund** – $4,200.00  
$2,200 will be sent to the Congo.  
$2,000 was presented to the Bishop of Malawi at the ECW’s Spring Luncheon at Trinity, Portsmouth.

**Spring Annual Meeting Report** - Account Balances

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>First Quarter Investment Funds</th>
<th>3/31/2017</th>
<th>Account Balances</th>
<th>April 2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jackson Feild</td>
<td>$74,534.61</td>
<td>God Bless the Children</td>
<td>$256.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Little Roses</td>
<td>$94,472.31</td>
<td>Holy Cross School, Belize</td>
<td>$230.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harriet Taylor</td>
<td>$77,702.34</td>
<td>Book of Remembrance</td>
<td>$196.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Administrative)</td>
<td></td>
<td>CPC</td>
<td>$454.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flora A. Penick</td>
<td>$284,289.26</td>
<td>Miles of Pennies</td>
<td>$266.72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bishop Tucker</td>
<td>$129,577.56</td>
<td>Elise Holladay Scholarships</td>
<td>$220.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holy Cross School, Belize</td>
<td>$14,310.22</td>
<td>Historian</td>
<td>$ 51.31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Discretionary</td>
<td>$300.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Anglican Fellowship of Prayer</td>
<td>$150.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Time For Reflection</td>
<td>$1,717.93</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**ECW Elise Holladay Scholarships Awarded**

ECW Student Work Chair, Sandra H. Garner, St. Stephen’s, Petersburg, reports high school graduates in five convocations from Danville to Virginia Beach received Elise Holladay scholarship awards this year. The following students received awards ranging from $720 to $1,000.

- **Andrew Redd Curtin**  
  St. Paul’s, Norfolk
- **Audreana Jasmine Ellis**  
  St. Andrew’s, Newport News
- **Kayleigh Hall**  
  Christ Episcopal – Danville
- **Charles James Harris, IV**  
  St. Aidan’s, Virginia Beach
- **Hannan Lynn Hatke**  
  St. Michael’s, Colonial Heights
- **Hunter Copeland Kahler**  
  Christ & St. Luke’s, Norfolk
- **John Henry Moore**  
  Church of the Epiphany, Danville
- **Hailey B. Previtt**  
  Trinity, South Boston
- **Vaughan Thomas Robertson**  
  St. Luke’s, Blackstone
- **Imani Allysia-Lauren Viney**  
  St. Augustine’s, Newport News
- **Zachary A. Wusk**  
  Christ the King, Tabby

**Tucker Memorial Scholarships Awarded**

- $2,200  Democratic Republic of the Congo
- $2,000  Northern Diocese of Malawi
Before the April 2017 ingathering, $21,147.89 was collected for UTO. Ingathering funds to add to this number are still coming in! Our Spring UTO total will be tabulated and reported by the beginning of July. The Diocesan UTO Grant Steering Committee anticipates that word will be received by the end of June concerning the results of a grant submission made on behalf of St. Paul’s in Newport News. A grant for $23,400 in UTO funding was requested for ministry work right here in our Diocese. Should the Diocese of Southern Virginia receive a positive result, we will certainly celebrate!

Submit Your Prayer for the 2018 UTO Pocket Book of Prayers

Please remember that you are invited to submit a prayer for use on the 2018 UTO Pocket Book of Prayers. Every three years, the United Thank Offering gathers original prayers from around the Episcopal Church to create a book of prayers available at General Convention. This year original prayers are being collected from several categories: gratitude, guidance, fear/danger, forgiveness, healing, loneliness, crisis/dealing with disappointment or crisis, and love of God. Children, women, men, clergy, seminarians or groups may write prayers for this edition of the booklet and they may be submitted in any language. Prayers can be submitted in any format: collect, litany, free form, or prose. Please submit all prayers by July 1, 2017. Prayers must be submitted using this link: https://dfms.formstack.com/forms/uto_book_of_prayers. You'll be asked to select which category your prayer fits into best for the pocket prayer book. You'll also be asked to provide a title for your prayer. You may submit multiple prayers, but you will need to fill out a separate form for each prayer. If you need assistance, please contact Ronda Toll, Diocesan UTO Coordinator or the UTO staff at hmelton@episcopalchurch.org.

UTO Updates from Province III

Joyce E. Haines, Province III United Thank Offering Representative

As your Province III UTO representative, I welcome you to the new Province III website: www.province.org. We also welcome your photos and stories of how you promote UTO in your parish ask you to send them to aturner@diosova.org. Although the new website focuses primarily on the work of our province, it also provides a link to the UTO website.

At the April 28-30 Province III ECW meeting in Hunt Valley, Maryland, Ms. Rosamond Daniels was elected as the new UTO provincial representative. Ms. Daniels will be installed at Triennial in Austin, TX. Also, at the April 30-May 1 provincial council and Synod meeting in Martinsburg, West Virginia, Dr. Pamela Cochran was announced as the new provincial coordinator. Dr. Cochran’s primary focus will be to direct the outreach of Province III to its thirteen Dioceses and to the Episcopal Church around the world. For more details about her duties and responsibilities, please visit our webpage.

Please note the following dates:

June 20: UTO grants will be announced by the Board and Executive Council.

July 1: The deadline for prayers for the 2018 UTO Prayer Booklet. So far, Southern Virginia has submitted one of the 23 prayers collected. We invite you to write and submit a prayer using this link: https://dfms.formstack.com/forms/uto_book_of_prayers.

September 1: Young Adult and Seminarian Grant applications will be available.

December 15: The deadline for receiving funds for the 2017 Ingathering. After December 15, there is no guarantee that your check will be counted toward the 2017 year. Please remember to turn in your money as it comes into your church or diocese so that it can contribute to grow the interest on the Ingathering account. In addition, we will be able to send quarterly reports on the status of each diocese’s Ingathering for the year. Southern Virginia is one of 46 dioceses that increased its Ingathering amount in 2016!

The continued success of the mission and ministry of the United Thank Offering reflects the work of each of us giving thanks for our blessings, big and small, by dropping coins and bills into our Blue Boxes.
St Stephen’s ECW, Petersburg, VA to Celebrate Women’s Day Sunday, June 25, 2017

The day’s guest speaker will be Marlene E. Forrest. She is a Candidate for Holy Orders in the Diocese of Virginia and is currently a senior studying for her Master of Divinity at Virginia Theological Seminary in Alexandria, Virginia. Marlene has been active in the life and ministry of her home church, Meade Memorial Episcopal in Alexandria, Virginia.

She currently serves as the Senior Seminarian Assistant at St. Mary’s Episcopal Church in Arlington, Virginia and is completing a summer internship at St. Margaret’s Episcopal Church in Woodbridge, Virginia. She is a graduate of Virginia State University and George Mason University. She is retired Special Education Teacher of 30 years. She is licensed in the Diocese of Virginia as a Eucharistic Minister, Lay Preacher and Worship Leader.

Please join us at 228 Halifax Street in Petersburg at 10:30 am. Call 804-733-6228 for additional information.

Women-to-Women’s New Project for 2017-18

by Susan Broaddus

Women-to-Women’s latest project is supporting individual women victims and even boy victims of GBV (gender based violence) as identified by the indigenous NGO serving women in the Province of Ituri. This NGO is called P.I.R.D. (Iturian Programs for Rehabilitation and Development) (www.ngo-pird.org). It was founded in 2005 by Mme Espérance Kungoza, the daughter of our recently retired Archbishop.

Mme Espérance graduated some years ago from the University of Lubumbashi with a degree in Economics and currently oversees the financial side of an American AIDS program at the US Embassy in Kinshasa. I have known her since she was in grade school and worked with her parents at the Anglican Seminary. It is deeply gratifying to know how she has developed her talents.

Mme Espérance’s mother Mme Mugisa founded the province-wide Anglican Church’s women’s program U.F.P.P.S. (Union of Women for Peace and Social Promotion) In Ituri, U.F.P.P.S. works in conjunction with P.I.R.D. PIRD helps with the kind of individualized instruction each person needs whether literacy, regular schooling or vocational training. It also offers mentoring and micro-loans as follow-up to ensure on-going success. The P.I.R.D. team is made up of well-trained local women who help victims in the northeastern Ituri region of the Democratic Republic of Congo.

W2W hopes ECWs, parishioners, and youth groups may want to sponsor an individual. Costs last year ranged from $150 to $250. Where response to trauma suffered permits, there may even be information or correspondence about the recipient. We will proceed there with sensitivity.

New Daughters of the King

L. to r.—Maria Herbert, Angela King, the Rev. Harold Cobb and Helen Sharpe-Williams.

The Grace Chapter of the Order of the Daughters of the King, admitted two new members Sunday, May 28. The Rev. Harold Cobb, rector at Grace, admitted Angela King and Maria Herbert. Helen Sharpe-Williams, Grace Chapter president, presented Angela and Maria for admission. The Daughters’ mission is to extend Christ’s Kingdom, especially among women and girls, through prayer, service and evangelism.

St. Mark’s Episcopal Church
Suffolk, Virginia
Hats and Gloves are welcomed.
Please RSVP by June 14
757-650-8809 757-934-0830
The Rt. Rev. Fanuel Magangani Receives ECW Scholarship Award for Malawi

For the last five years, the ECW has mailed a $2,500 scholarship check to Malawi to help fund seminarians’ education in the Diocese of Northern Malawi. This year, the Rt. Rev. Fanuel Magangani, their Bishop, received the scholarship check in person. Diocesan ECW President, Helen Sharpe-Williams, presented the check to Bishop Magangani at the Episcopal Church Women’s Annual Spring Luncheon at Trinity Episcopal Church in Portsmouth, May 24. Bishop Magangani was the speaker at the lunch. Trinity’s ECW invited diocesan ECW board members to attend because of their connection with Malawi through the scholarship award.

The ECW first heard about the need for scholarship funds in Malawi from Grace Martino-Strid, ECW diocesan treasurer (2011-2014).

“Momma Grace connected us with the ECW,” Bishop Magangani said. “We give thanks to God for the continuous support we have received.”

Grace had heard much about Malawi at The Church of the Good Shepherd, her home parish, in Norfolk. The Rev. Robert Davenport, then rector at Good Shepherd, has been a long-time partner in ministry and participant in God’s work in Malawi. Grace told Mr. Davenport about the ECW scholarship fund and encouraged him to request a grant for seminarians in Malawi. It didn’t take much encouragement. He sent a request. The ECW approved the request and has continued to support Malawi through the years.

Mr. Davenport, rector at Good Shepherd until 2013, is currently serving as priest-in-charge at Trinity. He and his wife, Lizzy, were instrumental in arranging Bishop Maganani’s visit. When he introduced the bishop at the lunch he recalled meeting an orphaned, young man 20 years ago who through his hard work and study is now the first indigenous bishop in the Diocese of Northern Malawi. There are 48 clergy and 33 parishes in the Diocese of Northern Malawi. Bishop Magangani, conversant in 10 different dialects, grew up primarily on Likoma Island, and was educated at Zomba Theological College and Mzuzu University. He is currently working on his doctorate at Nashotah House in Wisconsin.

“I bring you greetings from your brothers and sisters in the Northern Diocese of Malawi,” Bishop Magangani said. He talked about the Diocese of Northern Malawi five-year strategic plan to move from dependence to sustainability. After much research, they chose to start a printing business two years ago. The bishop’s board room now houses the printing press. Prayer books are printed and sewn together by hand. Bishop Magnagani closed by saying, “We are very grateful for all your support. Thank you for listening.” But, perhaps it was we who listened to him that received the most.

ECW Diocesan President, Helen Sharpe-Williams, presents a scholarship check to seminarians to the Rt. Rev. Fanuel Magangani, Bishop of the Northern Diocese of Malawi, at the Episcopal Church Women’s Annual Spring Luncheon at Trinity Church in Portsmouth.

Trinity ECW Hosts Spring Board Meeting

The ECW at Trinity Episcopal Church in Portsmouth hosted the ECW Spring Board Meeting March 11. The Rev. Robert Davenport, priest-in-charge celebrated eucharist. Many thanks Trinity ECW and Mr. Davenport.
On May 5th I attended the Boys Home of Virginia’s Residential Education Day 2017. The theme for the day was “Road to Success.” The weather almost made me cancel this trip. The area received four inches of rain leading up to me driving onto the campus. Guess what? As I was parking my car, the rain stopped, the clouds gave way to the sun. The campus is beautifully nestled in the Alleghany Highlands in southwestern Virginia.

I toured the main hall where the students displayed projects detailing their studies. I was most touched by this poem written by Jackson titled “Boys Home.”

I live at a place called Boys Home.
It is a great place to explore and roam.
It’s a place for boys to be free,
And I don’t know about any of the other boys
But it makes me happy.
I can do things I never could,
And done things I never thought I would.
I also get to hike,
And I ride my new bike.
They give me shelter and a place to sleep,
They buy and provide things that are mine to keep.
They give things that I never had,
And make me feel like I have a dad.
They give me hope
That I will never ever mope.
About things I never had,
Like someone to be there for me…. Kind of like a dad.
I love this place,
It is something that puts a smile on my face.
I call this place my home.
But you can call it Boys Home.

All in all it was a great day that ended with a delicious lunch prepared by two premier chefs from the Culinary Institute. I shared the table with boys, supporters, and former board members. We listened to the boys sing and share their future hopes. As we returned to our cars and said our goodbyes, we hugged each other and said, “I hope I see you here next year.”

Boys Home of Virginia’s Residential Education Day 2017
Article and photos by Helen Sharpe-Williams, ECW President

Boys Home 2017 Graduates

These five boys each received a $100 love gift from the ECW in Southern Virginia when they graduated from high school May 19. Many thanks for continuing to support this outreach started last year as part of our “God Bless the Children” project.
Number 1: Clothing
Women many times leave their homes very quickly without packing. All they take with them are their children and the clothes on their back. A great way to assist would be clothing or superstore gift cards (so they can buy correct sizes) or offer to personally shop for them if they cannot leave the shelter. Having even an extra change of clothing when they have nothing would help and for survivors who are ready to leave the shelter, gift cards to help them get professional work attire is a great way to help them with the process of securing a job and building a new, independent life.

Number 2: Hygiene Items
Hygiene items such as soap, shampoo, conditioner, shaving cream, razors, deodorant, toothbrushes and paste, tampons and pads, diapers, and wipes are always items needed by women who have left their homes quickly. Your local shelter may already have a list of their most needed items. A great way to give back anytime of the year is to host a fund-raiser with your group of friends or club and see how many items you can donate to the shelter collectively.

Number 3: Group Collections
Your group could choose one main item and have members bring them to meetings, events, or even do a special theme surrounding it to make it more fun and bring in more donations.

Number 4: Bake Goodies
Bake cookies or goodies and take them to your local shelter for the employees, as well as those living in the shelter, for the holidays or the weekend. Employees will appreciate you thinking of them for all their hard work and women and children in the shelter will be thankful for a homemade or special treat to brighten their day.

Number 5: Gifts for Staff
Purchase holiday gifts for your local domestic violence shelter staff. A massage gift certificate, a restaurant gift card, a bath and body gift basket, or anything that embodies a relaxing time for them for all their long and tireless hours.

Number 6: Work at a Hotline
Check and see if your local shelter or rape crisis center has a domestic violence or rape crisis hotline that is in need of volunteers. Since these lines are generally open 24 hours a day, every day, they many times utilize volunteers to keep costs down. Usually volunteers have to go through a training course and then commit to work several times a week answering the phones. You have to be willing to do the training and work your schedule, but this can be a very rewarding way to offer your assistance right on the front lines, so to speak.

Number 8: Use Your Artistic Abilities
If you are artistic, offer to teach free lessons or host craft times at the shelter for the women or kids. This will help them take their mind of stressful situations and provide the children with some much needed entertainment. Or offer to help create and/or stock an art or craft area for the shelter by providing paper, paint, play dough, scrap fabric, glue, glitter, recycled materials such as glass jars and bottles, plastic tubs, newspaper, and more.

Number 9: Clean
If cleaning is your forte, you could call and see if they could use a hand cleaning donated items, shelving, rooms, laundry, or just overall organizing their space. If you enjoy interior decorating, you could buy new items and work your magic to create a home-life atmosphere of tranquility and peace.

Number 10: Cook Meals or Donate Food
This is a suggestion from a young male volunteer aged 12, who loves to cook. One of the things you might equate with home and safety is a good home-cooked meal. Call your local shelter and find out about food donations. Do they have a pantry they must keep filled for the guest to cook their own meals? Offer to run a drive for much needed items at a time of year when the pantry gets low. Ask if you could host a cooking class teaching the women how to
Number 10 continued
cook nutritious, yet quick meals for her family. Teaching a class where cooking is done utilizing pantry-type items is a way to ensure families are eating right while under stress and, if needed, teach essential life skills that will help them in their new future.

Number 11: Share and Help from Your Experiences

Ask your local shelter what volunteer options are available for peer-to-peer support services. If you are a survivor yourself, you could offer valuable emotional support to those going through the process. Many times, leaders of the domestic violence support groups are volunteers and that could be YOU! These women are very scared and need a helping hand and an attentive ear to work through their emotional journey.

Number 12: Community Education

Although one of the purposes and missions of any domestic violence organization should be community education, many times they just can’t do as much as they would like due to budgets and staffing. Possibly, you could volunteer time to take their materials to various service groups and organizations in your area and talk about the mission, goals, and needs of the shelter, while gaining awareness for domestic violence issues in your community. You could contact your local library and ask to put up a display on domestic violence awareness, with information on resources that are available in your community such as your local shelter.

Number 13: Let Kids Help Other Kids

If your children would like to be involved here is an idea from one of our 8-year-old female supporters—for your next birthday party invite your friends and have them bring with their gift, or in place of a gift to you, something for the children at the domestic violence shelter. Good ideas include coloring books, crayons, books, puzzles, blocks, stuffed animals, gift cards, or whatever you think another child would enjoy since he/she had to leave all her favorite items behind.

Number 14: Help with Childcare

If you love children, your assistance with childcare could be greatly appreciated by both the shelter and the families. If your local shelter does not have the funds to employ a full-time childcare staff, and most don’t, then you could offer some of your time to care for the children at the shelter in a group at a certain day or time, or work with a single mom as she schedules meetings with lawyers, needs time for paperwork, housing appointments, and the list goes on. Sometimes they might not be able to take the children to their regular daycare due to a stalking partner so childcare while the mom works is also important. Leaving an old life and starting a new one can be time consuming and confusing and you could help ease that by assisting in the care of her children.

Number 15: Plan a Fundraiser

Put on a fund-raiser such as a 5K run, a bake sale, a bazaar, a dinner and dance, or a silent auction. Put on your creative thinking cap and come up with something unique that will work in your community to raise awareness for domestic violence and your local shelter’s work, while also raising much needed funds to support their efforts.

Number 16: Give!

Last, but not least, just simply DONATE. If you don’t have much free time to spend now in your life, but still want to help, donate money and gift cards for many different stores. Donate any old cell phones you have. Check your local shelters list of much-needed items to see what will make the most impact. Don’t forget the families at Christmas or holiday times, as that is when items, gifts, and clothing are needed even more.
The 98th Annual Meeting of the Province III Episcopal Church Women

By Delegate Helen Sharpe-Williams, ECW President

The 98th Annual Meeting of the Province III Episcopal Church Women was held April 28 – 30, 2017 at the Embassy Suites by Hilton in Hunt Valley Maryland. There 24 persons registered for the meeting. The theme was Living Abundantly: A Life Centered in Christ.

The major topic of the Diocesan Presidents meeting on Friday was COMMUNICATIONS.

1. Ways of communicating
2. Who is responsible for communications?
3. Is the president involved in communications?
4. What is expected of the Diocesan Presidents?

Everyone agrees that we all fall short when it comes to getting the word out as to what is happen. It was emphasized that all available forms of communications should be used: mailings, e-news, Facebook, phone calls, e-mails, and webinars. Constance contact is a top prior for the ECW.

Saturday meeting covered the usual business items. There were no reports from five dioceses.

New officers were elected. Beblon Parks, President; Dottie Arthur, Vice President; Rosamond M. Daniel, UTO Coordinator; Cindy Mohr, Province II Representative to the ECW National Board; Alternate: Alyce Priffer. The meeting closed with dinner and installation of new officers.

Beblon Goodloe Parks New President—Province III ECW

Beblon Goodloe Parks was elected President of the Province III Episcopal Church Women during the 98th Annual Meeting held in Hunt Valley Maryland. Beblon served as President of the ECW of the Diocese of Virginia from 2009 – 2011. Prior to that, she served on the Diocesan ECW Board as Vice President of Program and Social Justice Committee’s Chair. She served eleven years on the Jackson – Feild Homes Board.

Beblon is a member of St. Philip’s Episcopal Church in Richmond Virginia. She is a Past President of the ECW at St. Philip’s. She is a member of the choir, St. Anne’s Guild and works with Food Pantry. She is currently serving on the National ECW Board as Member-at-Large for Social Justice. Beblon stated that her main goal would be to strengthen the Province.

The Grapevine

The Grapevine is a quarterly print-ready newsletter available for individuals and churches to receive via email. We appreciate your help sharing the news.

If you have news you would like included in The Grapevine, or know of someone who would like to be added to the email list, please contact Nancy Smith at nsmithwtr@aol.com.

2017 Calendar

ECW
Diocese of Southern Virginia

September 9
Diocesan Fall Board Meeting
Emmanuel, Jenkins Bridge

Oct. Ingathering
United Thank Offering, UTO

November 4
Diocesan Annual Fall Meeting
St. Francis, Virginia Beach

Beblon Goodloe Parks
Province III President