Happy and Blessed New Year to All! We have come this far by faith. Let us press on to see what the end will be. “He gives power to the faint and strengthens the powerless. Even youth will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted; but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.” Isaiah 40:29-31 (NRSV)

In keeping with the Episcopal Church Women’s (ECW) vision and mission; let us continue forward in our service with the help of God our Creator, Sustainer, Guardian, and Keeper as we sojourn in this New Year’s challenges.

I am asking for your continued support, recommendations, and prayers for us to remain focused as we serve as the feet and hands of Jesus Christ.

In conclusion, I want to offer this Prayer for the New Year penned by Eager A. Guest.

Grant me the strength from day to day
To bear what burdens come my way
Grant me throughout this bright New Year
More to endure and less to fear.
Help me live that I may be
From spite and bitterly complain
When cherished hopes of mine prove vain,
Or spoil with deeds of hate and rage
Some fair tomorrow’s spotless page.
Lord, as the days shall come and go
In courage let me stronger grow.
Lord, as the New Year dawns today
Help me to put my faults away.
Let me be big in little things:
Grants me the joy which friendship brings.
Keep me from selfishness and spite:
Let me be wise in what is right.
A happy New Year! Grant that I
May bring no tear to any eye.
When this New Year in time shall end
Let it be said I’ve played the friend,
Have lived and loved and labored here,
And made of it a happy year.

Yours in Christ,

Laura L. Manigault, Diocesan ECW President
Episcopal Diocese of Southern Virginia
Autism Acceptance Month Involvement

- The Presidential Service Project of *Autism Dare to be Different: Let Us Unmask the Mystery Spectrum Disorder (ASD)* had one of its main objectives to move forward in our commitment to help all persons created by God.

- CDC has reported as of January 6, 2022, an increase of persons with ASD equaling 1 in 44 being diagnosed with the neurologic condition, affecting boys more than girls. The girls’ ability to mask the symptoms better is believed to be the gender difference.

1. As part of the president’s program, and to continue this effort among our parishes, we have funds available to assist parishes in presenting Autism Acceptance initiatives, especially in the month of April. These monies will be available through the submission of a proposal to the ECW President. Use your own ideas on how to serve (i.e., monetary donations, informative programs, establishing “quiet spaces”, etc.) to help ASD parishioners and their families in their spiritual growth and cultivating relationships.

2. ECW can provide some information on resources and reference materials on Autism Spectrum Disorder.

3. Criteria for proposal submissions can be obtained from the ECW President via email. Please send to: akumlovj.bfrh87@gmail.com. The deadline date is March 7th, 2022.

4. If you receive support from the ECW, a summary report is required, sent to the ECW President in September.

There is need for continued research in this area. Doors need to be opened. We need to become more acceptant and committed. Early diagnosis and detection can provide strategies for persons on the spectrum. There is a need to help those who outgrow the system and open the eyes of employers that are missing a great opportunity to hire persons with special abilities. If we continue these efforts, I believe we will see a changed world going forward to serve all God’s children.

Looking forward to hearing your excellent ideas.

Thank you.

Yours in Christ,

Laura L. Manigault, Diocesan ECW President

Dr. Renee Escoffery-Torres, Vice President
2022 Episcopal Church Women (ECW) Diocesan Calendar

February 22-26  Diocese of Southern Virginia Annual Council (Virtual)
March 19       Diocesan ECW Spring Board Meeting (Virtual)
April          INGATHERING: UNITED THANK OFFERING (UTO)
                AUTISM ACCEPTANCE MONTH
May            INGATHERING: CHURCH PERIODICAL CLUB (CPC)
May 14         Diocesan ECW Annual Spring Meeting (Virtual)
                Observance of Founder (Louisa Taylor Letcher)
September 17   Diocesan ECW Board Meeting (Virtual)
October        INGATHERING: UNITED THANK OFFERING (UTO)
October 15     Diocesan ECW Fall Annual Meeting
                Trinity Episcopal Church
                500 Court Street
                Portsmouth, VA 23704
## Current Diocesan Episcopal Church Women Elected and Appointed Officers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Office</th>
<th>Term Ends</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>2022</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vice President</td>
<td>2022</td>
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<tr>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>2022</td>
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<tr>
<td>Recording Secretary</td>
<td>2024</td>
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<tr>
<td>Parliamentarian</td>
<td>2022</td>
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<tr>
<td>Corresponding Secretary</td>
<td>2022</td>
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<tr>
<td>Church Periodical Club Coordinator</td>
<td>2022</td>
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<tr>
<td>United Thank Offering Coordinator</td>
<td>2024</td>
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<tr>
<td>Special Stewardship Chair</td>
<td>2022</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nominating Committee Chair</td>
<td>2025</td>
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<tr>
<td>Historian/Archivist</td>
<td>Vacant</td>
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<tr>
<td>Student Work Chair</td>
<td>2024</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prayer and Worship Chair</td>
<td>2024</td>
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Message from the Communication Chair – Dr. Angela M. Parker

“THE GRAPEVINE”

The Grapevine ECW Newsletter will be published four times this year (February, June, August, and December). The next issue will go out June 15, 2022. All submissions must be ready for print and submitted in a WORD document. All submissions are due on or before May 27, 2022. Please email your submissions to: ecwcommunication@gmail.com

THANK YOU!