



ECW of the Diocese of Southern Virginia

# “THE GRAPEVINE”



Notes from the President’s Desk

February 2022 – Spring Edition

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

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## 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](mailto:akumlovj.bfrh87@gmail.com). The deadline date is March 7<sup>th</sup>, 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



<b>Office</b>		<b>Term Ends</b>
President	Mrs. Laura L. Manigault	2022
Vice President	Dr. Renee N. Escoffery-Torres	2022
Treasurer	Mrs. Nancy L. Smith	2022
Recording Secretary	Mrs. Myrna Simmons	2024
Parliamentarian	Dr. Renee Escoffery-Torres	2022
Corresponding Secretary	Mrs. Tia Mornings	2022
Church Periodical Club Coordinator	Mrs. Louise Boss	2022
United Thank Offering Coordinator	Mrs. Joanne Alston-Hooker	2024
Special Stewardship Chair	Mrs. Helen Sharpe-Williams	2022
Nominating Committee Chair	Mrs. Nancy P. Sands	2025
Historian/Archivist	Vacant	
Student Work Chair	Mrs. Helen Sharpe-Williams	2024
Prayer and Worship Chair	Mrs. Deborah Austin	2024

# ANNOUNCEMENTS



## United Thank Offering

*Sharing Blessings with Thanksgiving and Love*

**New UTO Coordinator for ECW Diocese of Southern Virginia**

**Mrs. Joanne Alston-Hooker**

**P.O. Box 1272**

**Newport News, VA 23601**

**[jalhooker@verizon.net](mailto:jalhooker@verizon.net)**

**757-407-1895**

**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](mailto:ecwcommunication@gmail.com)**

**THANK YOU!**