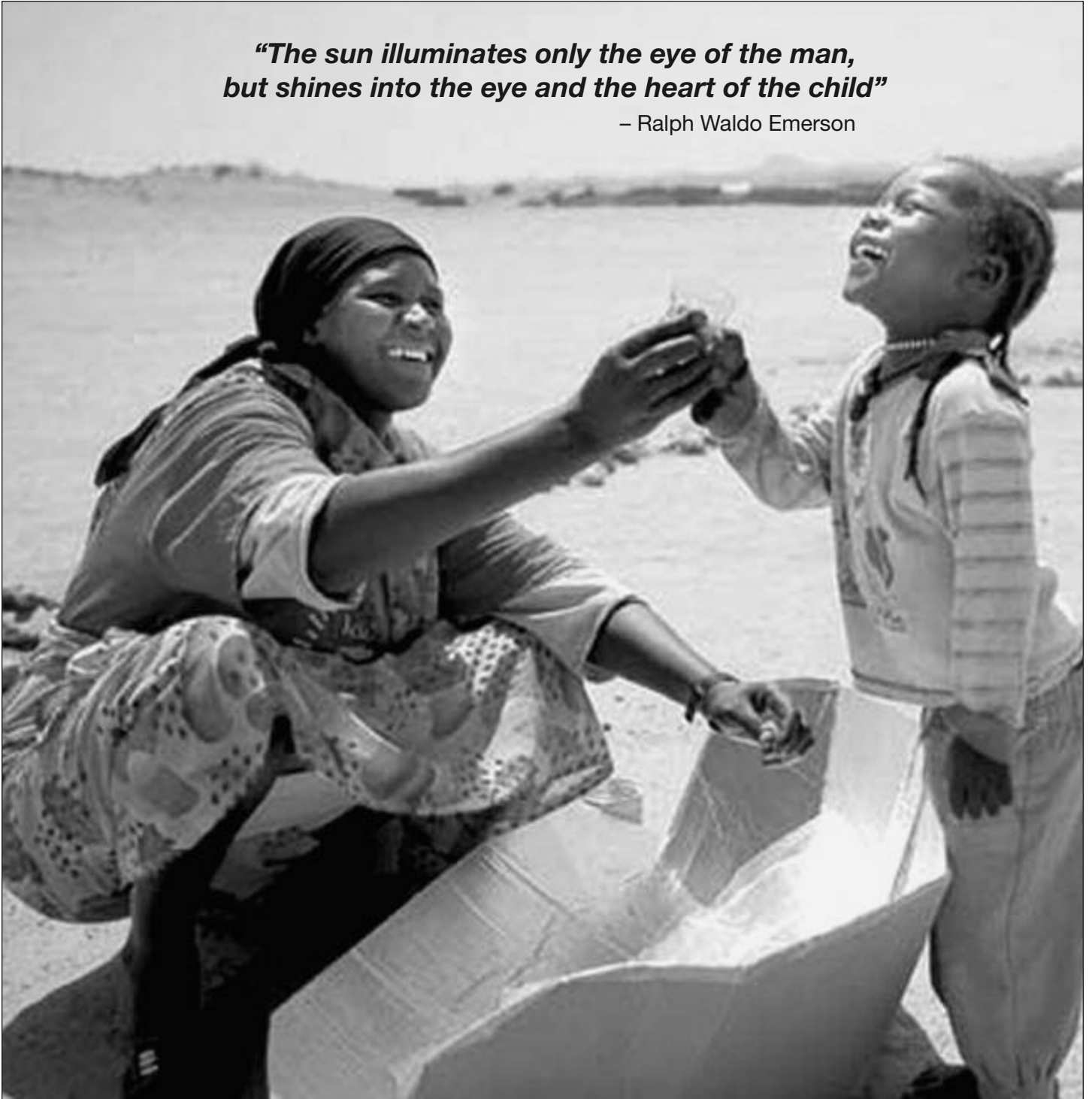


Communiqué

***“The sun illuminates only the eye of the man,
but shines into the eye and the heart of the child”***

– Ralph Waldo Emerson



*Photo by Barbara Gover
for the Jewish World Watch
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edition of *Communiqué*
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From the President's Desk

Triennial Meeting focuses on following our 'Paths'

"Many Paths, One Journey." That is the theme for the Triennial Meeting to be held in Indianapolis in July, 2012. It sounds like a long time away, but it will be here before we know it. This issue of *Communiqué* holds more information about Triennial Meeting.

Hiking and walking are activities I enjoy. As I thought about the Triennial Meeting theme, I couldn't help but think of my time outdoors, either walking my "route" in town or hiking the hills by my house. My co-worker and I have our "loop" we like to take when we can on a bike path constructed in and around town years ago by various service groups. In winter, there is no one in charge of clearing it when it snows. Some areas are plowed by a Good Samaritan who lives along the path, but other areas just stay covered with snow and ice. Last winter, I fell twice on the ice; so far so good this year.

My other path is in the hills around my house. I have a route I like to take there too. A couple of years ago, a fence was built over the road I traveled most and that meant I had to find a new way to go – one that was about the same distance, but one that kept me off the busy, paved road. I did find a new way. This one increased the uphill portion and gives me a better workout.

Whether I'm in town or out, I like to have a traveling partner. In town, it is most often my co-worker; at home it is my border collie...and the neighbor dog, who is

not chained or in a fence. She travels with us, but is not well behaved. She likes to chase cars and wander off. My dog is on a leash, especially when we are close to the road. Sometimes think I should get a t-shirt that says "The brown dog is not mine."

The paths of our journey with Christ are a lot like my walking paths. Sometimes the path has been cleared by others traveling before us, or some Good Samaritan who has made the way easier for all. Other times the path is overgrown, covered with rocks and obstacles, so that we have to "break trail." Sometimes a fence gets in our way, so that we have to go in a new direction. Sometimes we fall, and have to get back up and start again. My falls on the ice last year left a skinned knee, and a hole in my favorite pair of warm track pants. But it made me pay more attention to the conditions around me so I could reach my goal without further injury.

Most times we find others on the path with us. Some we take with us because they are good traveling partners and we enjoy the company, conversation and fellowship. Sometimes we find others with us we might rather not have along, like my neighbor's dog. They wander off in another direction, get in trouble, and mostly annoy us. Still, they are with us on the journey, even if they make their own path.

The one constant of our path is the Spirit of God. That Spirit helps us when the fence is built on our path, when the path is covered with danger and when our traveling partners have left us. That Spirit is our guide, and our ever-present companion on the one journey.

*God's peace to you,
Marcia Himes*



**Marcia Himes
ECW National
President**

In this issue of the *Communiqué*, the focus is on the environment and how ECW in their work are committed to taking care of this creation God has entrusted to us. The next issue is our special publication on the many women's organizations affiliated with ECW. Our "Many Paths, One Journey" is one that you will want to keep as a resource. As usual, many thanks to the many faithful women of ECW who contribute articles and photos of ECW and their ministries. We are so grateful for your support.

The Earth belongs to the Lord

Submitted by Renee Haney
Diocese of Northwest Texas

"I don't have time to recycle."

What a lame excuse. But it was mine, along with "No one can make me recycle!"

When my husband was in seminary near Chicago, recycling was the rule in student housing. So, I grudgingly did it. Then we moved away and I stopped.

Years later, the president of the ECW encouraged our board to reuse, reduce, recycle. "Here it comes again," I thought. But this time I also thought, "I'll try. I can read my minutes online. That would help." And it was painless. A friend at church encouraged us all to use ceramic coffee cups after church instead of Styrofoam. "OK," I thought. "I can do that too." We could use real dishes at our Lenten soup and sandwich lunches, not paper. My husband started switching his church periodical to the electronic, rather than the print, version. "Good for him. Besides, it's not hurting me. I'm really doing pretty well with being more environmentally friendly," I said to myself smugly.

But then, my 13-year-old, daughter got in on the act. One day, I was whining about how all of my papers, magazines, and stuff were getting in the way of find-



ing a much-needed piece of paper. She – not so gently – suggested I needed to get rid of some of the stuff. "Recycle, Mom," she said, and proceeded to inform me of statistics about landfills and how generations to come – her children and children's children – will have to deal with all of the trash. And she explained how I would be partly to blame and then walked off. Those were matter-of-fact statements from her, but they hit me hard.

So, I began again to focus on leaving a smaller environmental footprint. I took some more baby steps. First, I emailed the *Communiqué* web editor and asked to only receive the *Communiqué* via email. Then off to the garage I went. I realized as I sat surrounded by mounds of paper everywhere, that I did not need to be the archivist for ECW Triennial, Women's Club, PTA Board, the Garden Club or any other organization I have belonged to in my adult life. They haven't called me to

ask me for a copy of the minutes or by-laws. And my guess is they won't.

Psalm 24:1 says, "The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it."

Does my garage or our county landfill need all of my old papers? No, I'll recycle them. Does the earth need my disposable plastic water bottle to be around forever? Probably not. I'll start drinking out of a refillable bottle. Can I read all my emails and not print them. Yes. Are there large and small things each of us can do to be good stewards of the beautiful earth God has graciously given us? Absolutely.

Does God sometimes have to hit me with a 2 x 4 to get my attention. Sometimes. But, I get it.

Desmond Tutu wrote in his forward for *The Green Bible*, "The future of our fragile, beautiful planet home is in our hands. As God's family, we are stewards of God's creation. We can be wantonly irresponsible or we can be caring and compassionate."

Let's choose caring and compassionate. Small baby steps or giant ones, let's get started.

Renee Haney is the diocesan youth coordinator for the Diocese of Northwest Texas and ECW president for St. Paul's-on-the-Plains Episcopal Church in Lubbock, Texas.

Massachusetts ECW raise funds for Stove Project

Submitted by Susan Page Howland
Holy Trinity 2009 Overseas Mission Chair

The people of Holy Trinity Church, Southbridge, Mass., raised \$650 to support the Honduran Stove Project of Trees, Water, and People making it possible for 65 families to receive an ecological, cost-efficient stove. Local families put in about \$10 worth of materials and their in-kind labor during stove construction, so they have a personal investment in the stoves.

The Justa stove is based on a category of stoves often called "rocket stoves." It is constructed around an insulated, elbow-shaped combustion chamber, which provides more heat and cleaner combustion than an open fire while consuming less fuel. Using cheap, locally available materials, a prototype stove was created and tested in communities. To ensure it met the women's specific requirements, demonstration models were built so the women could test them out for themselves.

One person who provided feedback about the design was Doña

Justa Nunez. She came up with so many suggestions that the final design was named after her. The photo at right shows Doña Justa and her family building a stove.

In Honduras, more than 50 percent of families in urban areas, and more than 90 percent in rural areas use open-fire cooking stoves. These stoves waste 90 percent of wood energy through inefficient burning, which is also an environmental problem because it creates indoor air pollution, a health problem that primarily affects women and small children. Women and young children spend much of their time daily using a fire to cook and endangering their lives and health.

For more information check the Trees, Water, and People website www.treeswaterpeople.org.



Why worry about the environment?

Submitted by Susan Page Howland
Province I VP for Communication and Information

"Be the change you wish to see in the world."

– Mahatma Gandhi

When I think about the environment, I confess to being overwhelmed. Global warming, PCBs, toxic waste, contaminated soil and water...the list goes on.

But God instructs us to take care of His creation – for the earth is our island home. We are part of the created order, not separate from it, and our first calling by God is to be the caretakers of creation. (Genesis 2:4b-8, 15)

Just like the coins in the United Thank Offering box that multiply to grant more than \$2 million a year, if we all make small environmental changes, we will collectively have a huge impact on our immediate environment as well as our island home.

The National Church passes resolutions about the environment at each General Convention. In 2009 at the 76th General Convention, Resolution D027, *Five Marks of Mission* was passed. The fifth mark of mission is "to strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth."

Resolution A045, *Restricting use of Bottled Water, Energy and Water Conservation* also passed. It asks the church "to restrict the use of bottled water at General Convention and at other church-sponsored activities." It also said, "every baptized Christian (should) be encouraged to practice simple energy and water conservation techniques so that, by working together, we may restore the beauty of God's creation and ensure that this resource may again be available to all God's children in abundance."

In 2003, a pastoral letter, *To Serve Christ in All Creation*, was issued from the Province I Episcopal bishops saying: "In thanksgiving for the gift of God's creation and with an urgent concern for the health and stewardship of the world, we, your bishops, issue this Pastoral Letter on the Environment." They pledged prayers, time, leadership and energy to the work that needs to be done and encouraged all members of the Episcopal Church in New England to see, in the promises of the Baptismal Covenant, the call to serve Christ in all creation. The letter said, "Reckless destruction of nature is a sign of estrangement from God." From Hosea 4:1b, 3, "There is...no knowledge of God in the land...Therefore the land mourns, and all who live in it languish; together with the wild animals and the birds of the air, even the fish of the sea are perishing," And from Revelation 7:3 "Hurt not the earth, neither the sea nor the trees."

What can one person do?

One church, Holy Trinity Church in Southbridge, Mass., not only uses Fair Trade Coffee at coffee hour, but mugs, china plates, and cutlery – no more paper, plastic or Styrofoam. We can all make a difference one small piece at a time.

Tamsin Lucey, a parishioner at Holy Trinity Church, was moved by God's call to protect the environment and wrote a series of articles for the parish newsletter offering important information and practical solutions.

REDUCE ~ REUSE ~ RECYCLE



Recycle paper, glass, metal and numbered plastic. Recycling is mandatory in Massachusetts. Look up your state's recycling laws and encourage recycling. Holy Trinity Church contacted the local trash hauler and got a separate recycling bin. The youth decorated cardboard boxes with recycling signs and placed the bins around the church grounds. Plastic shopping bags can be so useful and are very convenient, but they never go away. The question is what should you do with them? Reuse, recycle or don't use them at all. Opt instead for reusable grocery bags. Turn off lights and other appliances when they are not needed.

USE COMPACT FLUORESCENT LIGHT BULBS

Switching from traditional light bulbs to CFLs is an effective, simple change everyone can make right now. Making this change will help to use less electricity at home and prevent greenhouse gas emissions that lead to global climate change. Lighting accounts for close to 20 percent of the average home's electric bill. Energy Star-qualified CFLs use up to 75 percent less energy than incandescent light bulbs and last up to 10 times longer. They cost little up front and provide a quick return on investment. If every home in America replaced just one incandescent light bulb with an Energy Star-qualified CFL, in one year it would save enough energy to light more than three million homes. That would prevent the release of greenhouse gas emissions equal to that of about 800,000 cars.

DON'T USE BOTTLED WATER

Drink tap water in a glass or a reusable bottle. Buy a water filter and use it at home and at your church.

DON'T CONTAMINATE

Taking care of the water resources we have available to us is part of this calling by God. "Hurt not the earth, neither the sea nor the trees," Revelation 7:3. Be mindful of what you throw in the trash. Consult your local board of health for guidelines about hazardous waste and participate in hazardous waste days.

Drinking water is a commodity we take for granted, but millions of people around the world are without clean water. We cannot send our water to others who need it, but we can protect our water from contamination.

The change starts with us. As you think about resolutions, consider one for the environment. Choose one thing and stick with it. Soon it becomes a habit and then a way of life.

Simple ways to save the Earth

Everything used to clean sinks, tubs, showers and toilets ends up in the sewer, and therefore in our water supply. Household cleaners that are not eco-friendly add toxic chemicals that contaminate ground and surface water.

When in the water supply, these products can pollute the water not only for us but for fish, animals and birds, affecting growth, reproduction and longevity. While we cannot clean up the water supply by ourselves, if we as individuals don't do anything, then collectively nothing happens either.

Here are some inexpensive alternatives to commercial cleaning products:

- Mix a small amount of liquid soap with cold water in a spray bottle and use with a wet sponge or rag. Or mix baking soda with water and apply with a wet sponge. For stains on counters, except granite, squeeze fresh lemon juice on the stain and leave for 45 minutes; sprinkle with baking soda and rub with a wet sponge

- To clean the bath tub and/or sink, use diluted liquid soap, sprinkle with baking soda, and scrub with a nylon scrubbing pad. Rinse with vinegar and water.

- To clean furniture try one-half teaspoon of olive oil mixed with one-half cup of vinegar or lemon juice. Lightly

apply to a soft cloth – a spray bottle also works well. To dust, polish and shine furniture use small amounts of vegetable oil on a soft cloth or use old fashioned Butchers Wax.

- For those with dishwashers – to eliminate the water polluting phosphates in automatic dishwasher detergent use baking soda and Borax, one tablespoon of each per load. It is quick, simple and inexpensive and safe for all dishwashers. At the very least, read the label and choose the brand with the least amount of phosphate or one that is phosphate and chlorine free.

- Use denture cleansing tablets instead of toilet bowl cleaner. Put two denture cleaning tablets in the toilet bowl and leave for a few minutes before brushing and rinsing.

- Dispose of all fat, grease and oil in the trash; pour it into a non-recyclable container first. By keeping fat, grease and oil out of our drains, we keep house and town drains clog free and help keep sewage plants problem free

If these alternatives are not for you, consider using earth-friendly cleaners, located in the grocery stores right next to the ones containing caustic and toxic agents.

Especially for Gardeners

There are several things that we can



do to be earth-friendly instead of polluting our ground water with toxic pesticides. Start by choosing plants that are hardy for your climate zone. These will adapt to your conditions and be more disease resistant. Control weeds by pulling them up before they go to seed and spread. Use physical barriers: protect plants with collars, row covers, tree bands and traps. Physically remove pests from plants. Use pesticide alternatives: nematodes to control grubs in the lawn, *Bacillus thuringiensis kurstaki* to control caterpillars, moths and tomato hornworms, hot pepper wax to control soft bodied insects, horticultural oils for mites, aphids and mealy bugs and insecticide soaps that act as an all purpose insect spray – all available from garden supply stores.

Do a little research on the safety of Weed and Feed and see if you REALLY want to put that on your lawn.

Compiled by Susan Page Howland

Resource material for this chart and the article on page 4: Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori's sermon in the Chapel of Christ the Lord at the Episcopal Church Center to celebrate Earth Day, 2008, retrieved from www.youtube.com/watch?v=SjZt0sBfdrA&NR=1. For a copy of the 2003 Province 1 Bishop's Pastoral Letter, "To Serve Christ in All Creation, Serving Christ in All Creation: What Can I Do?" and "To Serve Christ in All Creation, A Study Guide and Discussion Course for Province One," email: Dioceseofwmaecw@gmail.com. Province 1 Carbon Footprint Stewardship ministry network and blog: <http://www.province1.org/carbon-footprint-stewardship>

Safe and Solar: Springfield outreach for '09-10

Submitted by Chris DeWitt
President, Diocese of Springfield ECW

Thousands of Sudanese refugees fleeing the Darfur genocide are finding safety in their temporary new homes in the refugee camps of Chad. But that safety vanishes beyond the camp boundaries.

Women and girls, traditionally charged with the task of collecting firewood, risk being attacked and beaten when they venture out looking for the fuel they need to cook their meals.

The Solar Cooker Project offers a solution. Run by Jewish World Watch, the project equips families in the Iridimi, Touloum and Oure Cassoni camps in Chad with cardboard-and-tinfoil contraptions that harness the sun's power for cooking and purifying their drinking water. Food takes longer to prepare using solar cookers than it would on an open fire, but women no longer have to spend hours foraging for wood. And because solar cookers don't have to be tended like a fire does, women are free to do other things.

Please continue on page 6

Saving Beauty: Alexander shares with Arkansas ECW

Submitted by Sara Milford
Diocese of Arkansas

"The Episcopal Church can be a vehicle for inspiration and vision in environmental work. Our strong aesthetic tradition makes us perfect advocates for preserving the beauty of creation."

~ the Rev. Kate Alexander

In less than two hours, the Rev. Kate Alexander took the women at the Arkansas ECW Fall Gathering on an accelerated journey through history. Whether through architecture or music or any other venue of praise, the Episcopal tradition is one known for appreciating beauty. What better place to find true beauty than in the natural world? And who better to advocate protecting this treasure than us?

Images of flowers, trees, and horizons played on the screen and Alexander said, "Do we crave an experience of the sublime?" We sat mesmerized with the images and were guided through a visualization to our own favorite outdoor oasis. Is it perhaps an expression of God's grandeur we seek, beauty truly divine? Can we willingly let the most natural form of beauty be destroyed?

"All of our central theological questions now have to be asked in light of the knowledge that we have the power and seeming inclination to hurt or even destroy permanently the creation we are a part of," she said. "We can no longer talk about sin, salvation, revelation, human nature or the unfolding of the future without



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acknowledging the environmental crisis. Asking these basic questions of meaning in light of the crisis is also an amazing opportunity for new human reflection and creativity, perhaps living into the creatures God meant for us to be."

We were honored to have Alexander challenge us with these questions and charge us with contributing to saving the beauty we have been given. She leads by example. Priest, wife, and mother of three, she is also a doctoral candidate. Theological and ecological

coherence come naturally but with effort.

"As we think about living the best lives we can, it seems impossible now not to include questions of sustainability and living more 'greenly,'" she said. "We juggle family, work, time, money, food, spirituality, etc., and the green question affects all of these aspects of our lives. I think that finding good balance in all of them is a way to live more sustainably and, hopefully, with a smaller carbon footprint."

Alexander illustrated why we do what we do – even if we don't always understand why. She witnessed at Fall Gathering the sharing of ideas from across the diocese of what women in congregations are already doing to preserve God's creation, to be more sustainable. Going forward, Alexander plans to "keep running a household, raising kids and working in the church, all the while trying to be greener, healthier, more balanced and more grateful to God for all the blessings of this life."

May we all share in this work and these blessings.


Continued from page 5

The project is also creating a livelihood for the women living in the camps who are trained to build the solar cookers. <www.solarcookerproject.org>.

Our ECW board adopts a project each year for the diocese. Board members were very much moved by the plight of the women and children in the war-torn region of Chad.

The Solar Cooker project was one of our projects for the year 2009-10. The second project was the Remembering Heart Fund for a local hospital.

We set a combined goal of \$10,000 for the year. Both projects touched the hearts and purses of the people in our diocese and we exceeded our goal and raised nearly \$14,000. We were able to send approximately \$11,000 to the Solar Cooker Project and approximately \$3,000 to the Remembering Hearts Fund.



**REUSE
REDUCE
RECYCLE**

A Word about The Word

Called to be God's Stewards

Sensing the Oneness of God's Wondrous Creation

Submitted by Phyllis Hockley,
ECW Coordinator
St. Mary's Church, Eugene, Ore.

Psalms 104:24-25: How many are your works, O Lord! In wisdom have you made them all; the earth is full of your creatures. There is the sea, vast and spacious, teeming with creatures beyond number – living things both large and small.

And what is God's plan to care for these wondrous creatures?

Psalms 8:6-8: You made humans ruler over the works of your hands; you put everything under our feet: all flocks and herds, and the beasts of the field, the birds of the air; and the fish of the sea, all that swim the paths of the seas.

I was sitting on the ground last fall in the shade of my tall sunflowers, watching the wild bees, honey bees and bumble bees flit from flower to flower, when a beautiful blue dragonfly landed on my arm. I was in my glory, experiencing the wonder of God's creation. As long as I can remember, I've had a deep love for God's creation. *Psalm 19:1 The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.* I've always been able to say "Amen" to that.

Perhaps it is because I grew up on a 200-acre farm where I was close to the trees, the sky, the land, the water and the animals, I became so much a part of it. As a kid, I spent hours in the ravine with the creek running through it, with turtles and frogs and wondrous animals to encounter.

Intrigued one day by a big hole in the side of a tree, up I climbed, branch after branch to investigate. Just as I stuck my head in the hole, a mother raccoon stuck her head out, our noses within inches of touching. I'm not sure whose startled eyes were bigger, but that was a oneness encounter with a wondrous creature of God not soon forgotten.

Yes, loving God's creation and feeling the need to care for it comes naturally to me. But for some, care for the environment is saving the trees or the rain forest

or the oceans, and if these things aren't important in their lives, why will they bother? Sensing our oneness with all of life can make all the difference. Perhaps we need to spend more time experiencing God's wondrous creation: find time to enjoy the birds, take a trip to the redwoods, or gaze at the beauty of a rose while sensing our oneness and realizing we are all part of God's creation.

In a weekly Bible study I attend, we decided to take a look at some of the creation stories. Of course we started with Genesis. I've always loved hearing it read; it has such a wondrous rhythm. I can almost sense the step by step happening of creation.

But this time, I was caught by something else. It was the fact that God pronounced each thing He created – the whales, birds, cattle, "everything that creepeth upon the ground," and the other "beasts of the earth" – as "good" in themselves (Genesis 1:21, 25). But when the creation was finished, he looked "at all that he had made" – the combination of what He had done – and declared it "very good" (Genesis 1:31). Was it because he was very, very pleased with how it all fit together? I thought, "Today we'd call it a balanced ecosystem."

Then I thought, "But what have we done to that balance?" We've caused species to become extinct, destroying the biological diversity of God's creation. Many animal species have been lost forever in the last 40 years.

I read recently that the Chinese River dolphin, or baiji dolphin, is the first cetacean (which includes dolphins, whales and porpoises) to become extinct because of humans. It became extinct in 2006, and yet there were 6,000 of them just 50 years ago.

And the Dutch Alcon Blue butterfly is also gone forever. Because I have a bedroom wall covered with butterflies of all colors and sizes, learning about the Dutch butterfly was a real downer for me. Would God call it "very good" today? God put

mankind in the garden and said, "till and keep it" (Genesis 2:15). We are not doing well at keeping it.

Eight hundred fifty million trees are consumed each year just by Americans' paper use. We've stripped the earth of its natural forests, destroyed the wetlands and contaminated the earth's water, its land, its air and its life with poisonous substances of every kind.

I was reading about Hood Canal off Puget Sound in the state of Washington. Some divers were confronted with a very grim sight. A cobwebby film shrouded dead sea cucumbers. Dungeness crabs were black and lifeless. And there were carcasses of octopi – some so familiar that the divers had given them names. They thought there had been a dump or a spill. But the real cause was worse.

Surface algae in the 60-mile-long canal had multiplied by the millions last summer. The algae died off in early fall and sank to the bottom, where they decomposed and were eaten by bacteria. The bacteria, in turn, sucked life-giving oxygen from the water. Human activity around Hood Canal, particularly storm water runoff fouled by septic tanks, logging and fertilizer, is suspected of boosting phosphorus and nitrogen levels, effectively overfeeding the algae. The balance was gone.

We are called to be stewards of God's earth. "Going Green" may be a fairly new term, but caring for our environment and caring for God's creation is a responsibility we are given throughout the Bible.

As women, we especially need to take the call to heart to be good stewards. We have received the gifts of caring and of nurturing, and as the species more evolved on the planet, we have been given the responsibility to care for the others.

So use your gift of speaking, planning, organizing and taking action to care for God's wondrous creation.

Even small steps affirm that we are at work as God's stewards, and that is very good indeed.

Church nurtures garden, neighbors

St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Bethesda, Md., has gone green in a big way.

On its website, a statement sums up the church members' commitment to tending to the preservation of the earth and its many blessings.

"We're concerned about our environment and committed to being good stewards of all that we've been given," the statement on the website reads. "A geothermal heating and cooling system was part of our recent renovation. Additional measures were taken in the renovation to reduce our footprint, such as new environmentally conscious windows, the recycling of steel beams of the old roof and LED lighting.

"Our beautifully tended grounds, along with our labyrinth are tangible evidence of our dedication to the environment. This summer we have LOVE – Luke's Organic Vegetable Enterprise, a vegetable garden whose harvest will be distributed to those in need," the statement said.

The garden at St. Luke's was featured in a story in Gazette.net titled "St. Luke's church garden provides fresh produce for the needy." According to that story, the 1,000-foot garden on the St. Luke's property was launched in late 2008. The garden is tended by both members of the St. Luke's congregation and by interested community members, the article said.

The \$1,000 cost to get the garden started was covered by a



Committed to God's creation

small grant and from donations, according to the story.

"At first it was 'How do we become a more sustainable congregation,'" St. Luke's rector the Rev. Stephanie Nagley was quoted as saying in the story. "But then it became a way to connect to people who otherwise we might not have."

The vegetables grown in the garden are divided among shelters and homes in the Bethesda area and are used both to feed those living at these shelters and homes and to help educate those people about the importance of a balanced diet and healthy eating habits, the story said.

Nagley said in the story the garden also serves the congregation as a way to provide "an intergenerational kind of experience" among those tending the crops.

"The older people teach the younger people about gardening, and the younger people make the older people feel young again," she was quoted as saying in the Gazette.net story.

Resources address issues in going green

Compiled and submitted by Teri Van Huss

Going green and being successful at it can be mostly a matter of knowing where to look for resources. Here are some books and websites that may help you set up a greener home.

- Clean House, Clean Planet: Clean your house for pennies a day, the safe, nontoxic way, by Karen Noonan Locan.
- www.seventhgeneration.com – a company that produces cleaning products from plant sources and paper products from recycled paper using non-toxic bleaching. They also produce a free e-newsletter.
- www.safecosmetics.org – Everyday products like shampoo, deodorant and makeup contain toxic ingredients. Some leading cosmetics companies have signed the Compact for Safe Cosmetics. This site will help you learn more.
- www.checnet.org – CHEC's mission is to inform parents and others concerned with the welfare of children about preventable health and development problems caused by exposure to toxic substances all around them.
- environmentalhealthnews.org – Published daily by Environmental Health Sciences, a not-for-profit founded in 2002.
- The effort is to help increase understanding of the links between environmental exposure issues and human health.
- www.iceh.org – The website for the Institute for Children's Environmental Health.
- www.preventingharm.org – A resource and action center on children and the environment.
- www.emagazine.com – E, The Environmental Magazine, published by Earth Action Network.
- www.environmentalhomecenter.com – A source for green building information and resources.
- Better Basics for the Home, by Annie Berthold-Bond.
- Baking Soda: Over 500 Fabulous, Fun and Frugal Uses You've Probably Never Thought Of, by Vicki Lansky.
- www.aanma.org – Allergy and Asthma Network Mothers of Asthmatics.
- www.lungusa.com – The American Lung Association.
- www.eehi.org – Environment and Human Health Inc., a group dedicated to protecting human health from environmental harms.
- Safe Shoppers Bible, by David Steinman and Samuel S. Epstein, MD, McMillan, 1995.



Chicago ECW stays busy

At the Diocesan Spanish Liturgy Day, left photo, youth from El Redentor/Redeemer Episcopal Church, in Elgin presented a historical Aztec dance wearing very colorful dresses with ankle bells. They performed as the prelude to and during the Eucharist. Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori, below left, poses with some those attending the service. Her sermon, which she translated as she spoke, addressed the historic dilemma immigrants often face when trying to connect with God in a new and foreign place. From the eight hispanic parishes in the Diocese of Chicago, hundreds attended the day's activities. Women from Nuestra Senora de Guadalupe Episcopal Church, Waukegan, offered a 30-minute class in Zumba at the ECW diocesan convention in November. Exercise of this type burns 750 calories an hour. This class is offered to the community.



Oregon women take part in 16 Days of Activism

Submitted by The Rev. Nancy Crawford
Province VIII representative

Recently, women from St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Eugene, Ore., took part in the "16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence Campaign."

The campaign was organized nationally by Rutgers University's Center for Women's Global Leadership as well as the national Episcopal Church Women Board, Episcopal Women's Caucus and Anglican Women's Empowerment.

Prayers were made available for people to use daily during each of the 16 days of the campaign.

In Eugene, women from St. Mary's joined with others from Church Women United and the Zonta Club for a Candlelight Vigil on Dec. 2. That day was declared the United Nations International Day for the Abolition of Slavery and Suppression of the Traffic in Persons.



Cynthia Kokis and Hillary Kittleson during the Dec. 2 vigil.

Happy Birthday to US!

By Elizabeth Ann Campbell

Did you realize that during 2011, we are celebrating the 140th year of the organization of the women of the Episcopal church?

Women actually had been working with the men to support missions from the time the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society (the official name of the Protestant Episcopal Church, also known as DFMS) was constituted at a special General Convention in 1821. Various missionary societies had been sending boxes of supplies to missionaries since 1834, but as time went by, the bishops could not raise the money needed for missions at home and abroad, and they noted the successful work of women in many of the dioceses.

To provide help, the Board of Missions was authorized to organize a Women's Society and Auxiliary at the 30th General Convention held in Baltimore in 1871. This led to the hiring of Mary Emery, who started work Jan. 1, 1872, and the beginning of her communication "To All Rectors." She also continued the "Women's Work" column in *The Spirit of Missions*, published by the DFMS, and used it to invite women to enroll in the auxiliary. The first Triennial Meeting was held three years later in New York City and was called the General Annual Meeting of the Women's Auxiliary. The Auxiliary went right to work, preparing boxes for missionaries (the first reported number was 331 boxes valued at \$44,393.04 in 1875) and raising money. Daughters of the King formed in 1885, Girls Friendly Society in 1887, and the Church Periodical Club in 1888.

We owe much of the early success of the women's work to Emery's New York City family. Her mother, Susan Hilton Emery, offered her home as a haven to missionary workers passing through. Her daughters were Mary Abbot Emery, who served as the first corresponding secretary of the auxiliary, Susan Lavinia Emery, who edited "The Young Christian Soldier," Margaret Theresa Emery, who organized the box work for missions until 1919, and Julia Chester Emery, who followed Mary to serve as secretary to the Women's Auxiliary for 40 years. In addition, there were two brothers who were clergymen and supported the auxiliary in their dioceses.

A special offering was suggested to the Triennial Meeting in 1886 by Ida Soule of Pittsburgh. That first offering amounted to \$82.71. Six years later, it was known as the United Offering and totaled \$20,911.76. At the 1919 Triennial Meeting, the word "Thank" was added to United Offering, and the United Thank Offering of \$468,060.41 was allocated to support 118 domestic and 80 foreign missionaries. The 1940 Triennial Meeting offering was \$974,089.70; in 1949, it passed the \$2 million mark, and the Supply or Box Work totaled \$477,960.

At the 1916 General Convention, Julia Emery's letter of resignation was read after she had quietly left for home. Her assis-



tant, Grace Lindley, was appointed to be acting secretary to the auxiliary. Her appointment was confirmed in 1919 and she served in that position until 1940.

A big step was taken in 1919 with the creation of a National Executive Board of the Women's Auxiliary. This board was made up of representatives from the eight provinces and eight members-at-large elected at the Triennial Meeting. At the same time, Episcopal women formed the Church League of Service, which included the Girls Friendly Society, Daughters of the King, St. Barnabas' Guild for Nurses, Church Mission of Help, the Church Periodical Club, and the Women's Auxiliary.

It should be noted that in 1919 when the Triennial Meeting took place, the 19th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States had been passed and ratified, giving women the vote. The women of the church were raising the money to recruit, train, and supply the needs of missionaries and missions. Subject to approval by the General Convention, eight women were elected by the Triennial Meeting to serve on the Board of Missions. General Convention rejected the election of the potential board members with the comment that it was "improper for women to enter the political area."

By 1943, the Triennial Meeting no longer elected its executive secretary who was a regular member of the national church staff and was hired by the presiding bishop. Elizabeth Dyer was elected to the House of Deputies by the Diocese of Missouri in 1946, but was only allowed to be seated without voice or vote, so she declined. The women continued with the box work and support of missionaries, many of whom were women. The women delegates to the Triennial Meeting were allowed to walk in procession for the opening service of the General Convention for the first time in 1952. In 1955, the United Thank Offering passed the \$3 million mark, and the Triennial Meeting was moved from Houston to Honolulu so there would be no racial segregation.

The name of the auxiliary's board was changed to General Division of Women's Work (GDWW) of the National Council in

Please continue on page 11

Continued from page 10

1958, and it was allowed to nominate four women to serve on the National Council. They were now referred to as “Women of the Church” and on the local level were to be called “Women of (Parish).”

In 1961, the National Association of Altar Guilds was formed, and was represented at board meetings along with the Church Periodical Club, the Girls’ Friendly Society, and Daughters of the King. The UTO offering for the triennium was over \$4.3 million, and its budget had become more of a list of grants as the support of the church diminished. The 1964 Triennial Meeting drew up a plan for the gradual diminishing of monies given to the general church program (still at 28 percent of the UTO offerings) from 1965 through 1967. The GDWW (like the auxiliary before it) had received substantial trusts, mostly from women.

The name Executive Council had replaced the name National Council at the 1964 General Convention. The structure of the new council called for 40 members, elected by provinces and at-large by the General Convention. The theme for the Triennial Meeting was replaced by a statement of purpose: “To help the women of the church recognize that God is at work in His changing world; understand the roles and opportunities of women in church and society; and learn to respond to the demands which God is placing on us.”

The women acquiesced to a request to shorten their meeting to seven days. A theme of unity pervaded the General Convention, and at the same time the women were struggling to find their place in the shifting structure. Gradually women had been accepted at all the seminaries of the Episcopal church, so the women’s programs for training workers were terminated. Windham House, now owned by Executive Council and rented to Trinity Parish, became a center for continuing education and training.

The Triennial Meeting convened in 1967 with 499 delegates. For the first time, two men – both priests – represented the women of their diocese. Remember, delegates were chosen by the Episcopal women’s organization of a diocese or appointed by the diocesan bishop. Presiding Bishop John Hines requested \$1

million annually from the United Thank Offering to support the newly organized Urban Coalition in its efforts to quell the unrest, riots and devastation in the cities of America. He also acknowledged the women of the church were related to the urban poor in their powerlessness and second-class status in the church. He said he would rejoice when the wrong of denying women the right of serving as deputies to General Convention was remedied by a change in the constitution and canons of the church.

The times were “a-changing.

+ TO BE CONTINUED +

Writer’s note: This article is drawn from *A Short History of the Triennial Meetings of the Women of the Episcopal Church*, written by Anne Bass Fulk for the period of 1872-1984. I had the honor of meeting Anne at a National ECW Board Meeting in Arkansas several years ago, and I have such great admiration for the way she so gracefully captured our history. We all owe her our gratitude.

The 2007-2009 National Board commissioned Katerina Whitley to write the reading play “Yet We Persist” to portray the story of the Episcopal Church Women for the 46th Triennial Meeting. Whitley was also asked to edit both the *Short History* and the succeeding *President’s Triennial Reports* for online use.

This was done to assure our history would be preserved and to make it accessible to the general membership of ECW.

This shortened version for *Communiqué* is offered in hopes you will want to read the story in full. The play is filled with both facts and humor and could be a great fundraiser in your church. Both are truly exciting stories that parallel the history of the women of our own parishes or missions.

You may request the *Short History* and the play “Yet We Persist” by contacting Marilyn Rishkofski, VP/Information & Communication. Her mailing address and email address are on the last page of this publication.

– Elizabeth Campbell

**ECW National Board
Contribution Form
2009-2012**

Copy this form for contributions from individuals, parishes or dioceses. (This is not used for United Thank Offering or Church Periodical Club donations.)

Name of Donor or Organization:

Address:

Contribution designated for:

| | Amount |
|--|--------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Annual pledge | _____ |
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This gift is an Honorarium
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An acknowledgement may be sent to

(Name and address)

Please make your check payable to
The Domestic & Foreign Missionary
Society (DFMS)

Send to Sandra Powers
ECW National Treasurer
3 Adoracion Circle
Hot Springs Village, AR 71909



Episcopal Church Women Communicate

The Communications Committee strives to distribute current innovative and instructional information to Episcopal Church Women using the most effective means of printed and electronic communication available.

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For more information contact
vpinformationcommunication@ecwnational.org
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Calendar of Events

Information for this calendar comes from ECWs throughout the church. If your group or diocese has plans for meetings, special events, special missions or other happenings, please send all pertinent information for inclusion in the next edition of *Communiqué* to: vpinformationcommunication@ecwnational.org

April 8-9 – Diocese of Mississippi 2011 ECW Spring Conference, Duncan M. Gray Conference Center, Canton, Miss.

April 9 – Diocese of New Jersey ECW Quiet Day. Leader: Sister Faith Margaret from the Community of the Holy Spirit.

April 14 – Diocese of Missouri ECW Board meeting at Sister of St. Joseph of Carondelet (motherhouse) St. Louis, MO.

April 16 – Diocese of New Jersey Quiet Day, Holy Trinity, Ocean City.

April 27-May 3 – National ECW Board meeting in Indianapolis at the Benedict Retreat and Conference Center.

April 29-30 – 2011 Diocese of Ohio ECW Annual Meeting, Hilton, Beachwood.

April 29-May 1 – Province II ECW Annual Meeting and Conference, Christ the King Retreat Center, Syracuse, N.Y. Program: “Doing unto Ourselves as We Do Unto Others,” led by Bambi Carkey, professor, Upstate Hospital School of Nursing.

April 30 – Diocese of Chicago ECW Annual Meeting at Redeemer in Elgin.

April 30-May 1 – Diocese of Oklahoma annual meeting and Bishop’s Day.

May 5 – ECW Diocese of Connecticut Annual Meeting and Luncheon, Aqua Turf, Plantsville, Conn. The Rev. Margaret Bullit-Jonas, keynote speaker.

May 5-7 – Episcopal Relief and Development Network Meeting in Cleveland, Ohio.

May 7 – Diocese of Newark ECW World of Women Program, Grace Church, Madison, N.J. noon - 3 p.m.

May 11 – Diocese of Newark annual board meeting, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

May 13-15 – Province V meeting, Concourse Hotel in Columbus, Ohio. Barbara Crafton, keynote speaker.

May 19 – Diocese of Newark ECW Annual Meeting and UTO Ingathering; Trinity-St. Phillips Cathedral, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

May 19-21 – “Gratitude and Grace” health ministry national conference, Mercy Center, Burlingame, Calif. Sara Miles, keynote speaker.

Oct. 21-22 – Diocese of Missouri ECW Annual Meeting, St. Martin’s Episcopal Church, Ellisville, MO.

July 13-19 – National ECW Board meeting, Colorado Springs, Col.

July 5-12, 2012 – 77th ECW Triennial Meeting. Westin Hotel, Indianapolis, Ind.

Triennial Meeting '12**'Paths' to be part of 'Journey' in 2012**

Submitted by **Cordelia Burt**
National Vice President – Programs

The Fall 2010 meeting of the ECW National Board was held at Stony Point Conference Center in Stony Point, N.Y. where we were very busy completing tasks on the Triennial Meeting "to do" list. The Worship Committee reviewed applications for the meeting's chaplain and musician. Nominees were selected and recommended to the full board for approval. While in New York, we also reviewed the mailings from the previous Triennial Meeting and updated printed materials that will be mailed as we move closer to the 2012 meeting.

The first mailing for this Triennial Meeting will be in May 2011 and will go to members of the UTO board, the CPC board, province presidents and diocesan presidents. That is where we can use your help. If new officers have been elected or will be elected by May, please send your province representative the updated names and addresses. If you receive a packet and you are no longer the president of that diocese or province, please pass the packet on to the current president.

As you can see, we are working hard on the plans for your Triennial Meeting and have many projects in various degrees of completion. I will be able to give you more information on speakers, workshops, the Evening of Entertainment and all the other special activities, in the next *Communiqué*.

Keep sending those Bible verses to your province representatives. We are especially looking for those verses that speak to you and to our theme of "Many Paths, One Journey."

Also, if you have ideas for workshop presenters for Triennial Meeting, please send the presenter's name(s) and contact information to the Rev. Nancy Crawford, Province VIII representative

and chair of the workshop presenters committee. Your input and help is greatly appreciated.

Our next board meeting will be held at the Benedict Retreat and Conference Center in Indianapolis, Ind. from April 27 to May 3. This will be a joint meeting with the United Thank Offering Board. We will journey together to visit the Westin Hotel, which is the site for the 2012

Triennial Meeting, so we

can see where meeting rooms, offices and other sites that are part of the meeting's design will be. The Triennial Meeting musician will be attending this meeting for the first couple of days to view the area first hand and make recommendations as to arrangement of the room. The musician will also meet with the Worship Committee to begin plans for the music booklet to be used during Triennial Meeting. We still have to choose the Community Outreach Project and work on the Ministry Fair so if you have ideas for either of those projects, please let us know.

How about a little preview of what is happening at your next meeting? You could mention the site visit, volunteers, more about workshops, the Unified gift recipient (see the article below), and mention that the chaplain and musician will be at the meeting. Share anything you can to help keep interest on the rise.

SAVE THE DATE

The 77th
Episcopal Church Women
Triennial Meeting
Many Paths,
One Journey
July 5-12, 2012
Westin Hotel,
Indianapolis, Indiana

Nets for Life chosen as 2009-12 Unified Gift

Submitted by **Cordelia Burt**
National Vice President – Programs
and the Rev. Irene Miller Radcliff
Member at Large, Social Justice

Remember when we used to come to General Convention and Triennial Meeting with bags of pins or some other trinkets to exchange with others during our stay? We wore vests or hats to display the many treasures and when we got home these treasures were put into a box never to see the light of day until the next Triennial Meeting cycle came again. Finally at the 40th Triennial Meeting in 1991 in Phoenix, Ariz., we encouraged everyone to contribute the money we would have spent on trinkets and souvenir gifts to the Unified Gifts Project.

Enough money was raised that year to make it possible for the Diocese of Navajoland to have a Women of Vision program.

Unified Gift money has been given to our sisters in the five dioceses of Mexico when they became an autonomous province in the Anglican Communion. Unified Gifts help set up a strong network for mission and ministry, development and strengthening of women's organizations in Central America, Minnesota Children's Defense Fund, and last year, the Jericho Road Housing Initiative.

This Triennium your National Board has chosen Nets for Life as the 2009-2012 Unified Gift and we hope you will be as generous with this project as you have been in previous years. Nets For Life is a

program that educates communities and distributes long-lasting insecticide treated nets to combat and prevent malaria.

Malaria is a deadly disease that is caused by a parasite transmitted by mosquitoes that bite victims during the night. Malaria is preventable and treatable, however, nearly one million people die from malaria each year.

Please join us in supporting the 2009-2012 Unified Gift project, Nets for Life.

Please visit the website <www.ecwnational.org> for more information and send your contributions to:

Sandra Powers

3 Adoracion Circle

Hot Springs Village, AR 71909

Please make checks payable to DFMS and specify "Unified Gift."



St. Mary's actors pose for a post-play picture. The group presented a play about Queen Esther as part of the ECW's retreat in October, where those gathered blended Bible study with the fun of a retreat away from home.

Oregon ECW mix study, fun, retreat

Submitted by the Rev. Nancy Crawford
Province VIII representative

The women of St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Eugene, Ore. held their annual retreat in October at a rustic resort located along the banks of the beautiful McKenzie River and Marten Creek.

This year's theme was "Queen for a Day," aptly named by one of our parishioners and leaders, Joelle Rankins Goodwin, who recently completed her year as Mrs. Oregon. While we were intrigued with the theme and looked forward to hearing about her pageant experience, Joelle and her co-leader, parishioner and author Linda Clare, assured us there would be many aspects to the weekend.

They led us in Bible study, with a good introduction on women in the Bible, specifically the queens, and made comment that for the most part the women characters have little coverage in the Hebrew Scriptures, requiring lots of reading between the lines. We then broke into small groups and were given a name to re-

search and report back on. Queen Jezebel, wife of the Jewish King Ahab, was a heathen and no friend to God's people. Prophets of Baal ministered around her and brought shame to Israel and Judah.

The Queen of Sheba (we never discovered her name) heard about the fame of King Solomon and came from Sheba to see for herself. She was impressed with his wisdom and gave him gifts of gold and spices and precious stones before returning to her own country.

From all the women, we discovered traits we admired and could bring into our lives, and traits best left in the stories of the Bible. But the most impressive queen was Esther, the heroine of the book that bears her name.

Through her courage and cunning, she was able to save the Jewish people throughout the Persian Empire from persecution and death. Several of the retreat women then disappeared to learn their lines and put on a play about Esther. Surely the writer of the Book of Esther never imagined our interpretation. It's

hard to take the story seriously when the church's nursery care giver appears in a crown and moustache, and when the evil Hamon can't keep "his" beard on straight!

Other aspects of the weekend included craft time, when we made our own pageant crowns and sashes. We were to name ourselves for our gifts and talents, perhaps Miss Pastoral Care or Ms. Teacher. But also slipping into the group were Miss Behaving and Miss Begotten; it's hard to stay serious when on retreat with new and old friends.

We had time for walks along the river, for conversation by the fire, time to watch the movie *The Queen* (of course), and for chances to read or catch up on sleep.

The retreat concluded with Eucharist Sunday, led by the Rev. Marisa Tabizon Thompson, campus ministry chaplain at the University of Oregon. It was a special time for the women of the parish to come together, to learn about special women in the Bible, and to feel special ourselves for our ministry to each other and all God's people.

NEHM makes plans for third conference

National Episcopal Health Ministries will hold its third annual conference, "Gratitude & Grace" May 19-21 at the Mercy Retreat Center in Burlingame, Calif. This conference has established itself as a way for those in health ministry to gain new program ideas and share with others in the same ministry.

This year's Jean Denton Keynote Address will be delivered by Sara Miles, founder of the food pantry and director of ministry at

St. Gregory of Nyssa Episcopal Church in San Francisco.

The opening evening will also feature a presentation, "Health Care Reform & the Church," with a panel discussion to follow. There are also workshops on a number of topics.

For more information or to register for this conference, visit <http://www.episcopalhealthministries.org/> or call 317-253-1277 ext. 16.

All Hallows Guild helps all enjoy cathedral grounds

Submitted by Meigan Chan
Province III representative

All Hallows Guild at the Washington National Cathedral was formed in 1916 by Florence Brown Bratenahl, wife of the cathedral's dean, to provide for "the care and beautification of the cathedral close." The guild's name "hallows" the land on which the cathedral was built, the life of Bishop Henry Y. Satterlee who was the first bishop of Washington and was responsible for establishing the cathedral, and gifts in memory of loved ones over the years.

In the intervening years, volunteers have worked with the cathedral's horticulture and grounds staff as caretakers and stewards of these 59 acres. Funds derived from memberships, memorials, the Flower Mart, the Herb Cottage, and Tour and Tea Programs enable the guild to carry on Frederic Law Olmsted Jr.'s remarkable vision of a haven of peace and refreshment in the midst of the Capital City.

In 1997, All Hallows Guild launched the Olmsted Woods Restoration as its 80th anniversary project. All Hallows Guild has



The Cathedral Close at the National Cathedral in Washington D.C. attracts many who come to enjoy its outdoor splendor all year long.

undertaken this long-term project in thanksgiving for Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr., first landscape architect of the Cathedral Close.

The Guild is grateful to the many hundreds of friends who have made this project possible.

Visitors are encouraged to walk along the Pilgrim Way and visit the newly restored amphitheater, which was formally dedicated on October 22, 2008.

UTO aids agricultural training facility

Submitted by Pam Stewart
Vice President, UTO Board

During its 2010 granting session, the United Thank Offering board voted to give \$49,250 to an exciting project sponsored by the Nippon Sei Ko Kei (Anglican Communion in Japan). Located in northern Japan, the Asian Rural Institute (ARI) is an international training ground for grassroots rural leaders to learn sustainable agricultural practices. The facility, known as the "farm shop," to date has trained 1,160 rural leaders (at least half each year are women) from 52 countries throughout Asia, Africa and the Pacific. Trainees are organized into groups and given land on which to grow crops and livestock to manage. As they work together, they learn not only about farming but also about leadership, communication and cooperation, allowing them to return to their rural communities to work with and train between 50 and 200 people

each year, changing people from food recipients to food producers.

The current structure on the grounds, used for workshops, experiments in "low tech" technologies applicable to rural communities, and food processing and storage, is in desperate need of replacement and construction is planned for next winter for a total cost of \$526,000. Thanks to UTO, the new facility will be energy efficient and ecologically sound with passive solar air heating and cooling, passive solar water heating and underground water cooling. As a result of the sustainable systems, the new farm will not only serve as a model on the use of clean renewable energy but also allow for the drying, cooling and storing of farm produce and seeds without refrigeration. The new building will also boost ARI's financial security as it will increase their capacity for fee-based training (currently they train Japanese Peace Corps Volunteers and are planning

to expand to University students and NGO workers in Japan).

The Asian Rural Institute has a long and inspiring history of working with students from developing countries and is supported by many groups, including the United Methodist Church, the Church of Canada, American Friends of ARI, the Episcopal Church, and the Young Adult Service Corp which has sent several volunteers in recent years. And now United Thank Offering is delighted to be a part of this endeavor. After considering some of the major criteria in awarding a grant (does it meet compelling human need, does it benefit a number of people and does it impact the lives of women and children?) the board answered in a resounding "yes." The ripple effect from this program is enormous, and I, as the Member-at-Large for Asia and Pacific, was excited to research and present this grant and am thrilled with the outcome.

Ohio: Not your grandma's ECW anymore

Submitted by Nancy Sherwin
Diocese of Ohio ECW president

The Diocese of Ohio's ECW is making a real effort to reach out to all ages. Beginning with our annual meeting in 2010, we will hold our annual meetings on a Friday evening and Saturday, rather than the Tuesday and Wednesday mornings that we had been doing, enabling younger women, working women and teenagers to attend. Yes – teenagers.

We involved a number of teenagers in our programs and they participated in one workshop and led two other workshops. One teenager told about her experience as one of the pilgrims to a mission her parish supported in South Africa. Three teens in another workshop described the drama ministry in their parish and explained the diocesan peer ministry in another workshop.

During all of the annual meeting programs on Saturday, we had a special program for the younger children who came with their mothers. While we had our business meeting, the younger children

created homemade birthday cards for the students at the Lillian Vallely School in Blackfoot, Idaho. Then the children brought these birthday cards up to be blessed by the bishop during the Eucharist.

There were additional programs for the children which involved creating a take-home project as well as filling bags for the homeless.

During our 2011 annual meeting, the younger children will be preparing a play which they will then present to all ECW members as our concluding activity.

We feel it is so important to reach out to not only younger women, but to teenagers as well. They all need to know they are a vital part of ECW. The picture with this story shows three generations (members of St. Paul's, Cleveland Heights) working on their "Baby Bundle" project: two plain diapers, two baby shirts (not "onezies"), a bar of Dove soap, a baby brush, baby lotion and a baby wash cloth are rolled up in a receiving blanket and kept together with two diaper pins. These Baby Bundles are sent through the Central American Medical Outreach to

their hospitals in Honduras and given to mothers who arrive to give birth with nothing to clothe their newborn. This parish, with all ages of women helping, has been assembling 100 to 200 Baby Bundles each year.

I am the immediate past Province V representative to the ECW National Board and currently I am completing the third year of my three-year term as president of the diocesan ECW board. I have spent my term trying to raise the visibility of the ECW and to reach out to all women in the diocese. In addition, my local ministry is with a Cleveland inner-city elementary school, where I recruit and coordinate the volunteers, tutor third and fourth graders once a week and am the liaison between the school and St. Paul's, Cleveland Heights, which allocates outreach money for the school.



Why I am an ECW

Priscilla D. McFarland, Diocese of Rhode Island: "I was born and baptized an Episcopalian. I joined ECW late in the 70's when I was invited while attending Calvary Church in Pascoag, R.I. I felt I belonged right away because of the fellowship and activities shared in the group. I was president for five years. I am now the treasurer of the Diocese of Rhode Island ECW and am in my second term. I am also treasurer of the Province 1 ECW for my first term. I plan to continue serving once my terms have all expired.

Linda Guest, Diocese of Rhode Island: I am an Episcopal Church Woman because I am a member of the Episcopal Church. I've been an ECW member for about 45 years. I started attending meetings with my mother-in-law after I was first married. In those days one of the projects we worked on was sewing cancer dressings and that started my being able to sew. I've always felt connected and that I belonged to ECW.

I am from the diocese of Rhode Island and attend St. David's on the Hill in Cranston R.I. I have held many positions on the ECW board of the diocese, some of which include missions chair, deanery representative, vice president, president and as of Jan. 1, I am now UTO coordinator.

Nancy R. Brown, Diocese of Rhode Island: I have been an Episcopalian all of my life. I grew up with a mother who was very much part of the Episcopal Church, and I learned how important it was to be part of the parish life and also the life of the greater community.

So, I guess that I have always been an Episcopal Church Woman, as my mom led me through the life of growing up and being part of the Episcopal Church. I'd heard about ECW during my years in the church but it was Nora Villanas, who was on the ECW board in Rhode Island, who introduced me to ECW. She would always mention it at our church services and invite our members to be part of the annual meetings, etc. Then she told me that she was moving and asked if I would like to be a member of ECW as a deanery representative. Of course, I said "yes."

I felt that I belonged as soon as I became a deanery representative. I loved the meetings immediately and learned how much ECW contributed to the diocese but also to the greater community. It has been a joy to be involved and when I went to Triennial Meeting a couple of years ago, I was so impressed with the work that ECW is doing. I feel privileged to be a part of this great organization.

Bailey's legacy: Fight discrimination

Written by Jim Naughton
Reprinted from Pathways,
a publication of the Diocese of Atlanta

Lueta Bailey of St. George's Episcopal Church in Griffin, Ga., has made a habit of sweeping discrimination into history's dustbin.

Forty years ago, Bailey, now 90, was a leader in the first class of women seated in the House of Deputies of the Episcopal Church. Their hard-fought victory in a lengthy campaign to secure voting rights for women at the church's General Convention ushered in an era of rapid change which culminated at the 2006 General Convention when the Most Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori became the first woman elected as presiding bishop and Bonnie Anderson became the second woman elected president of the House of Deputies.

At the Diocese of Atlanta's Diocesan Council Nov. 12, Anderson presented Bailey with an award commemorating the 40th anniversary of her seating. "We would not be where we are today without the courage and determination of Mrs. Bailey and her colleagues who worked so hard to help the Episcopal Church understand that its discriminatory policies were not God's will," Anderson said.

Bailey, who went on to serve nine years on executive council and was the first woman to chair the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget and Finance, addressed the Diocese of Atlanta's Diocesan Council and attended a luncheon in her honor with women deputies and others whose work she made possible. By the time she was seated at General Convention, Bailey was a veteran in the campaign against discrimination.

In the mid-1960s, she and her husband, Seaton, along with fellow parishioners at St. George's, played a key role in desegregating two lunch counters in Griffin in the face of Ku Klux Klan opposition. During her leadership in the Diocese of Atlanta, she also helped lead the integration of the diocesan camp and conference center.

The struggle to have women serve as deputies was sometimes a costly one. Bailey was first introduced to the subject in



Lueta Bailey, center, poses with two other national presidents who are from the Diocese of Atlanta, Gini Peterson and Kay Meyer.

1955 at General Convention in Honolulu when she was first a delegate to the Triennial Meeting of the Women of the Church (now ECW). "I heard my first debate about women being seated as deputies and walked out because I was so angry I didn't know what to do." She was, she explained, "in the House of Deputies and could only stand on the outside, you know, looking in..."

By 1967, Bailey was the presiding officer of the women's gathering and found herself in the midst of not just one controversy, but two. Presiding Bishop John Hines had proposed a "special program, a \$9 million initiative which he said would allow the Episcopal Church to "take its place humbly and boldly alongside of, and in support of, the dispossessed and oppressed peoples of this country for the healing of our national life." He wanted the Triennial Meeting to contribute a third of the program's budget.

Because the women of the Triennial Meeting were scheduled to vote on the issue before General Convention considered it, some male deputies complained the women were exercising too much authority. "We were constantly – harassment is not a good word, but you never walked anywhere that some man who was a deputy didn't bring up the subject," Bailey

said. "Some were encouraged but others were not and that's why we kept the doors locked. Because I knew some of those prominent men, and they could come in and influence us." The women's meeting voted to give Hines what he had asked for.

In 1983, Bailey recounted that day to Mary Donovan in an interview for the Archives of the Episcopal Church.

"There had been a great debate over whether I would go if the vote was no. My feeling had been yes, I go no matter what...I was not going to be ungracious. It didn't mean that I had to go in there and say beautiful things to them. I had two speeches.

"I decided early that morning to wear a red silk suit and announce that to the whole Triennial meeting, that if they voted no I was dressed properly for the martyr and if they voted yes I was dressed properly for the celebration."

As it happened, Bailey was dressed for the celebration. "As I walked down the aisle [in the House of Deputies] I'll never forget the mass of men snapping pictures of me going down... It was a great day in the life of the church," she said. "And it was not Lueta Bailey; it was all the women walking down that aisle."

Because the legislation to seat women

Please continue on page 18

Your new ECW

Submitted by Margaret Lester Jordan
St. Paul's, Augusta, Ga.

A year ago, a friend and I attended the Diocese of Georgia's ECW annual meeting. We were so fired up by all we saw, heard and did that, driving home, we drove right past the exit to the outlet mall where we had planned to shop.

That excitement continued after we got home. We soon received our rector's approval and support and began planning our first meeting to revitalize our chapter. We catered an after-work meeting with wine and delicious food. That night, we elected officers and began planning the next meeting. The women attending took the survey adapted from the resources pages of the national site.

We just had our second meeting. Women from St. Paul's met on a sunny Saturday morning to hear from the chairwomen of all the women's ministries and ratified the new bylaws. We are already planning a Quiet Day with a rosary making class led by one of the Sisters from the Convent of St. Helena. We have in the works a Fun and Fellowship Party. We're thinking a Pajama Party. We believe that we can do anything through Christ and that He'd approve us having fun too.

+ Wanted +

During this 140th year of the mission and ministry of the women of the Episcopal church, Inez Harris and Elizabeth Campbell of the Diocese of South Dakota are compiling a collection of Triennial Meeting crosses to present as a birthday gift to the National ECW Board.

It is intended for display at ECW meetings and eventually as an artifact for our archives. A display case has been purchased, and crosses have been obtained and identified for all but the 1985, 1988 and 1991 meetings. The crosses reflect the themes and the stories of the times of our church. There is still time to find the missing crosses and stories.

Questions persist, like "Was there a cross for the Women's Auxiliary?", "Were there crosses passed out at Triennial Meetings before 1982?", and "When did the presiding bishop first visit the Triennial Meeting to bless and distribute crosses?" In the expanded *Short History of Triennial Meetings of the Women of the Episcopal Church*, ECW President Marjorie Burke in 1991 said Presiding Bishop Edmund Browning, "in what has become a tradition, ...blessed and presented to all attending the service a beautiful silver cross...made by Episcopal Native Americans."

If you have, or can identify, the Triennial crosses of 1985, 1988, or 1991, please contact Elizabeth Campbell at 605-722-1066 or via email at <balnamoon@gmail.com>.



All Saints ECW in attendance at the December gathering included from left, front, Joan Chinal, Naomi Lewis, Rose Gibson and Eileen Quick. From left, Brenda Spenser, Marsha Robison, Fr. James Allemeier, Marge Allemeier, Sue Erickson, Betty Larson, Barb Bevauns, Ruth Mehuys, Barb Douglas, Kathy Hand, Dorothy Sapato and Stephanie Blevins.

All Saints ECW distributes funds

Submitted by Sue Erickson
All Saints ECW

The ECW of All Saints, Moline, Ill., gathered in December and distributed \$1,200 in funds to local and national charities. The money was collected during November from sales of crafts and baked goods to the congregation. All items sold were made and donated from members of the congregation as well.

From those funds, the ECW allocated \$200 to Winnie's Place; \$250 to Christian Family Care Center in the Quad Cities; \$250 to the Diocese of Quincy medical mission to Haiti; and \$500 to the National ECW for domestic and foreign missionary funding.

Michigan hosts Spiritual Journey '11

By Marion Randall
Diocese of Michigan ECW President

The late January annual women's retreat in Michigan was again held just north of Clarkston at Colombiere Center. The setting is serene, and we always feel warmly nestled in between the snowy hills where there are hiking trails among the pines, a lovely chapel and other quiet places for reflection.

Women from all four Michigan dioceses were represented among the 85 attendees. This year our theme was "Falling in Love with God All Over Again," and the guided meditations by the Rev. Susan Bock, a healing service, walking the labyrinth, and other activities helped us do just that.

As we said goodbyes, many were heard to say, "See you next year."

Continued from page 17

as deputies amended the Church's constitution, it had to be passed at two successive conventions, so Bailey and her colleagues were not seated until 1970. At that historic convention in Houston, the House of Deputies observed a moment of recognition in honor of the new deputies. "The debate had been so ugly

and so long in the church that there had to be a moment of reconciliation," she said "Let's forget all of those bad words, and they had hurt. You know, stand there and be a woman."

– Jim Naughton is editor of *Episcopal Cafe*.

Mouse Moves

Submitted by Christine Budzowski
Member at Large – Multi-Media

One of the most environmentally friendly things we can do is use email to send files as attachments, rather than printing them out and mailing them or delivering them in person. However, sending and opening attachments can strike terror into the heart of many an ECW born before cell phones were a reality.

This issue of Mouse Moves will take you through the basics of email attachments: What to do with it when you get it, how to save it and how to open it. And you'll learn how to attach any file on your computer, from a photo to the minutes of the last meeting to a new email message and send it off to someone else. Here are the basic steps if you want to:

• **Download and save an attachment using Outlook Mail.** If you use an email program that brings email directly into your computer, the attachments are already downloaded when the email comes in. If you use AOL, Yahoo, or another online email service you may need to read the "help" screens for specific instructions.

Open the email message, move your cursor – arrow or hand – over the attachment title. Right-click to see your options in the little menu that opens up. Click "Save as" and you will then be able to see your folders – My Documents or My Pictures – based on the last file attachment you saved. Choose the folder where you want to save the attachment, or make a new one.

You can keep the name of the file you are saving or rename it at this point. Click "Save," and the file is saved to the folder.

The original attachment will stay with your email message until you delete it. If you save the email you will have a backup copy of the attachment, which is helpful if you forget which folder you saved the attachment into in the first place.

• **Open a file sent to you as an attachment.** Browse to the folder where you saved the attachment and click to open it. Your computer will automatically choose the correct program to open the file provided you have one on your system. If you don't have the right program, you'll see an error message that says "unable to open" and may offer you a choice of programs to use to open the file. That's probably not going to be very helpful at this point, so I suggest the following steps:

1. Be sure you have an up-to-date version of Adobe Reader on your computer. It is a free download from <http://get.adobe.com/reader/>

2. If the file you are trying to open is not a PDF file, ask the person who sent it to you to please resend the file as a PDF. Download and save the resent file as above and then click to open.

• **Send the file on to someone else as an attachment.** Open a new email. Make sure you put a descriptive title in the subject line so the recipient will know what you are sending. Subject: minutes – not good; Subject: Minutes of the September ECW meeting – excellent

Locate the paperclip icon on your toolbar and click on it to open the browse window and navigate to the file you want to send. Click on the file name and then click "open" to attach it to the email and return to your email message. Put something in the message further describing what you are sending, and then send your message

as usual. If you leave the subject or the message area blank, there's a good chance your email message will end up in the junk mail folder or never get through at all. The spam filters will reject it.

• **A couple of cautions for safe, virus-free computing.** Unless you know what you are doing, only open files with an extension (the last three or four letters at the end of the file name) you recognize. The extensions .pdf .doc .jpg (picture) are all typical files and safe to open.

Never open an attachment with a .exe file extension – or anything else you don't recognize – EVEN if it appears to be sent by someone you know. Email addresses can be used by others and masked so that they appear to be legitimate. Don't let that fool you. If in doubt, contact the sender by email or phone to verify that she actually sent the file in question.

Could someone get your email address and use it without your knowledge? Absolutely.

Is there something you and I can do to prevent this happening? Yes. Start today to make sure every time you forward an email message to more than one person you protect your friends' privacy by using Bcc: (Blind Carbon Copy) for multiple addresses, putting your own address in the "Send to" line. If you absolutely MUST send something that's been around a few times and carries a list of other email recipients with it, do everyone a favor and remove the previous recipients before you send it on.

If we all do our part and clean up our emails before we send them out we'll carry on the Girl Scout's ideal of leaving things better than we found them. Together we CAN make a difference.

Massachusetts helps launch Beijing Circles in Province I

Submitted by Betty Murray
Diocese of Massachusetts ECW president

The ECW in the Diocese of Massachusetts hosted a Beijing Circles workshop for women in Province I on Saturday, Nov. 13 at the Diocesan Center in Boston.

Jane Cutting and Deborah Scarff were the facilitators and provided all attendees with instruction and materials.

In addition, illustrations and commentaries were shown on DVDs.

This workshop will enable the women to present Beijing Circles in their parishes and/or ECWs.

The workshop included lunch and there were handouts to take with them, for future reference. A Beijing Circles blog has been established for Province I.

It was a high-energy, driven meeting.

Indianapolis EWM new leadership takes over for 2011

Submitted by Marilyn Day
St. David's, Bean Blossom
Publicity, EWM

The Episcopal Women's Ministries in the Diocese of Indianapolis recently announced new leadership for the organization beginning in January.

Charlene Watson and Lisa Matucheski were introduced as the new co-leaders by the outgoing chairs, Bev Ruebeck and Janet Higbie, during the Nov. 6 meeting in Lafayette, Ind. Charlene and Lisa will serve as co-chairs for three years, with additional terms available as voted upon.

Other appointments in leadership are: Treasurer, Ann Durkos; Publications/Literature, Esther Weaver; Episcopal Church Women (ECW), Janet Higbie (liaison to national ECW); Daughters of the King (DOK), Pam Sebura; The Episcopal Community (TEC), Bev Ruebeck; United Thank Offering (UTO), Janet Higbie (interim); Church Periodical Club (CPC), Dorothy Jones; Publicity/Secretary, Marilyn Day; EWM Website, Janet Higbie;



New leaders of EWM in Indianapolis, right photo, include, from left, Janet Higbie, Bev Ruebeck, Charlene Watson and Lisa Matucheski. Above, members work on new and ongoing projects during the EWM's January meeting at St. Paul's in Indianapolis.



and Outreach, Esther Weaver.

Episcopal Women's Ministries is the umbrella group for all of these organizations in the Diocese of Indianapolis. Every woman in the Indianapolis Diocese is welcome to join in our service to others.

All future meetings and/or events are publicized through the EWM website at <http://www.ecw.indydio.org/>.

'Bundles' help Honduran babies

Submitted by Nancy Sherwin
Diocese of Ohio ECW president

Have you tried to buy diaper pins or baby shirts lately? Mothers of newborns in Honduras prefer baby shirts and cloth diapers to some of the more popular items used in the United States. The women at St. Paul's, Cleveland Heights in the Diocese of Ohio, assisted by women from St. Hubert's, Kirtland Hills and St. Timothy's, Massillon, have scoured local stores, the internet and the manufacturers in order to gather the supplies for "Baby Bundles."

Baby Bundles – two plain flat diapers, two shirts, baby soap, baby lotion, a baby hair brush, all folded up within the receiving blanket and secured with two diaper pins – are sent throughout the year to the Central American Medical Outreach, Inc. for distribution to new mothers in Honduras. Sammy Dyer, a woman from St. Paul's, Cleveland Heights, has a remarkable ministry with the inmates at the Marysville Prison for Women, and has helped them develop the "Stitching Post" so they can sew infant shirts and receiving blankets for the bundles.

Recently a group of women gathered at St. Paul's, Cleveland Heights, and assembled 103 Baby Bundles for delivery to Honduran mothers.

The women in the Marysville prison, even though they are incarcerated, want to give something back to the community, and they are helping the ECW with a very valuable outreach project. Baby Bundles are assembled several times a year – as the necessary items are acquired.



After the December Province V/Diocese of Chicago ECW board meeting, members visited the Art Institute of Chicago to view the Sept. 11, 1893 speech advocating religious tolerance given by Hindu Monk Swami Vivicananda displayed on the main staircase in lights. Attending from left are Maryfran Crist, Province V parish health ministry; Nancy Fifield, CPC, Diocese of Chicago; Judy Greaves, ECW secretary; Dee Norris, member at large; Beth Petti, treasurer; Susan O'Brien, member at large; Kate Milliman, member at large; and Jonnie Newton, vice president.

Parliamentary Tidbits

Submitted by **Connie Skidmore, RP,**
Parliamentarian, National ECW Board

Sometimes people don't ask questions in a meeting because they feel they will make a procedural mistake and embarrass themselves.

That does not have to be the case if you learn the parliamentary ways to ask your question. These are called either Parliamentary Inquiry and/or Point of Information. Here's a short explanation of each:

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

A Parliamentary Inquiry is a question directed to the presiding officer to obtain information on a matter of parliamentary law or the rules of the organization bearing on the business at hand. It is the chair's duty to answer such questions when it may assist a member to make an appropriate motion, raise a proper Point of Order, or understand the parliamentary situation or the effect of a motion.

Example:

MEMBER: "Madam President, I rise to a parliamentary inquiry."

CHAIR: "The member will state the inquiry."

MEMBER: "Is it in order at this time to move the previous question?"

There is no appeal to the Chair's reply as she is only giving an opinion, not a ruling.

POINT OF INFORMATION

A Point of Information is a request directed to the chair or through the chair to another officer or member for information relevant to the business at hand but not related to parliamentary procedure.

Example:

MEMBER: "Mr. President, I rise to a point of information."

CHAIR: "The member will state the point."

HOW TO SAY IT RIGHT!

To bring a motion to the floor:

INCORRECT USE: I make a motion.

CORRECT USE: I move.

To close debate:

INCORRECT USE: I call the question or Question.
(when wanting to vote)

CORRECT USE: I call the previous question.
(indicates mover wants to close debate)

Postpone vote on a motion:

INCORRECT USE: I move to table the motion.
(only used in an emergency, not to postpone a decision on a motion)

CORRECT USE: I move to postpone this motion to the next meeting.

MEMBER: "This motion calls for a large expenditure. Will the treasurer state the present balance?" OR "Mr. President, will the member yield for a question?" This should be used if information is desired of someone who is speaking.

Another useful meeting tool is knowing the correct way to use a Point of Order. A Point of Order is the right of every member who notices a breach of the rules to insist on their enforcement. If a Point of Order is to be raised, it must be raised promptly at the time a breach occurs.

This could be that the presiding officer has not asked for nor has the assembly heard a "second" to a stated motion by a member. The Point of Order has to be

raised before the presiding officer has stated the motion for the breach of the rules to be prompt.

Example:

MEMBER: "I rise to a Point of Order (or, "Point of Order")"

Chair then asks the Member to state his Point of Order.

MEMBER: "I make the Point of Order that no second was made to the motion."

Chair then decides whether "Point of Order was well taken" or "is not well taken" with reasons why the decision was made. These remarks are to be recorded in the minutes.

This decision of the chair can be appealed.

The next edition of *Communiqué*, "Many Paths, One Journey," publishes in early summer and focuses on the many and varied women's ministries in the Episcopal Church. Deadline for submissions is May 15. To submit content or for questions regarding this upcoming issue, contact Marilyn Rishkofski, 186 Little River Road, Hampton, NH 03842, 603-926-0443, vpinformationcommunication@ecwnational.org

Congratulations!!

Jericho Road ECW contributions exceed goal

Submitted by Sandra Powers
National ECW treasurer

Our formal involvement to help provide affordable housing in New Orleans through the Jericho Road Episcopal Housing Initiative comes to a close.

Our initial goal of contributing \$110,000 was met and exceeded through your generous gifts.

We encourage your continued support of this worthwhile project by participating directly with Jericho Road Episcopal

Housing Initiative, 1631 Seventh Street, New Orleans, LA 70115.

JERICO ROAD CONTRIBUTIONS July, 2010 – December, 2010

- Province IV Altar Guild
- Holy Trinity ECW, Nashville TN
- Kathy Mank
- Brenda Perry
- Kathleen Gosselin
- Barbara Owens
- St. Thomas ECW, Vernon NJ
- St. Mark's Teaneck, NJ
- NJ and Janet Sommerrock

- Diocese of New Jersey, ECW
- Diocese of New York, ECW
- Diocese of Washington, ECW
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On Our Way Rejoicing

Submitted by Margaret A. Cash
Province II Representative

As in the words of the beautiful hymn, “Rejoice, ye pure in heart,” by E. H. Plumptre, the women of Province II continue to move “through life’s long path, still chanting as ye go, from youth to age, by night and day, in gladness and in woe.” Yes, we are striving to hold our standards high as we utilize many paths on our one journey.

Province II was honored to serve as host Nov. 3-9 for the fall meeting of the National ECW Board at Stony Point Conference Center in Stony Point, NY. We were especially pleased our Province IX Representative the Rev. D. Digna Suyapa Rodriguez, who hails from Honduras, was able to join us. Women from several dioceses within Province II joined the board for the celebration of the Holy Eucharist presided by the Rev. Joan Grimm-Fraser, rector of Holy Trinity in Hicksville, NY, chaplain of the ECW Diocese of Long Island board and a member of the Anglican Women’s Empowerment board. She was ably assisted by NECW Board members, the Rev. D. Digna Suyapa Rodriguez and the Rev. Irene Miller Radcliff. During their stay in New York, the board visited the Episcopal Church Center and was graciously received by the staff who provided an overview of their role and the operations of the center. We also met with the Rt. Rev. Catherine Roskam, bishop suffragan of the Diocese of New York, and members of her staff, who joined the board for lunch and presented an overview of two of the diocese’s signature programs: Carpenters Kids and the Global Women Fund. Bishop Roskam also arranged for the group to have a tour of the Cathedral of Church of St John the Divine. Following a delightful journey to NYC, the board returned to Stony Point and joyfully completed all of the tasks assigned for that day.

I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to two of our Immediate past diocesan presidents – Daphne Small of the Diocese of Long Island and Greta Brown of the Diocese of New Jersey – for their steadfast commitment and dedication to the mission and ministry of ECW. Moreover, I would like to congratulate and welcome the two newly elected presidents; June Gerbracht, Diocese of Long Island and Eugenia Wilson, Diocese of New Jersey.

It is with deep regret that we mourn the passing of two of our faithful and longtime ECW leaders: Judy Walkes, district president in the Diocese of New Jersey, and Judy Moore, president of St Andrew’s ECW chapter, Bronx, NY. Both died unexpectedly during the late summer. Judy Walkes was a longtime and devoted member of our beloved organization and participated in all of its levels, including being a delegate to Triennial Meeting. She graciously welcomed me to my first provincial meeting and served as an inspiration and mentor to me for many years. Judy Moore attended a planning meeting on the Thursday evening prior to the annual Women’s Day Service and festivities and died suddenly the next day. Thanks to her tireless leadership and loyalty, the activities for the day were conducted with grace and love by those who served as they mourned her loss. As the speaker for the day,

it was one of the most challenging assignments for me. However, with God’s blessings, we carried out Judy’s wishes.

This edition of *Communiqué’s* focus is on our environment and how we are caring for it. I am convinced that we are all concerned about God’s creation and are individually and/or collectively involved in being good stewards of this precious gift. Fear not, we remain anxious to hear your stories in this area as well as in any area of importance to you. Eugenia Wilson, president of the Diocese of New Jersey, responded by saying she looks forward to receiving this issue as it will help her gain ideas on how she and others might respond to environmental concerns.

I would like to recommend a publication I found entitled, “How Many Lightbulbs Does It take To Change A Christian?” A statement on the cover also read as follows: “A Pocket Guide to Shrinking Your Ecological Footprint.” This book offers practical ideas for our consideration. Authors are: Jan Nunley, Claire Foster and David Shreeve and the book is recommended by The Most Rev. Rowan Williams, Archbishop of Canterbury.

Congratulations to the Diocese of Rochester on becoming a part of the Carpenter Kids Program which began within the Diocese of New York. I would also like to congratulate the Diocese of Western New York and the Diocese of Rochester on becoming recipients of a UTO grant for their new mission initiatives.

The 47th Annual Stony Point Conference of the Episcopal Diocese of New York held Oct. 22-23 was based on the theme “Mission and Ministry: The Time to Participate Is Now.” The Keynote Speaker was The Rev. Canon Titus Pressler, who is the author of a new book entitled, “Going Global with God.” and who conducted an informative and inspirational presentation.

It was an honor and a privilege to serve as a guest at the Diocese of Central New York’s convention and receive such wonderful hospitality by the Women’s Commission. The commission, led by Province President the Rev. Jennifer Kenna, sponsored the evening of entertainment for the convention. Lay and ordained women were actors in the play, “Yet We Persist,” which was written by Katerina Whitley. It was a spectacular performance which was well received by those in attendance. Many expressed surprise and amazement at the history, challenge and accomplishment of the women of the church.

It was great to learn of the consistent work occurring between the diocese and the Sisters of St. Margaret of Haiti. Maria Dawson, one of our ECW leaders, traveled to Haiti with the sisters prior to the convention.

I wish to express my sincere appreciation to the women of Province II for your ongoing support of the mission and ministry of our organization. Your prayers, support and response to our sisters and brothers in Christ in Haiti, The Jericho Program, The Season of Prayer for the Sudan, The Episcopal Church’s 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence Campaign, Nets for Life, and the Women to Women Program has brought comfort and relief to those impacted by your gifts. I sincerely hope that you will continue to offer your prayers and support for the programs in your diocese, province and the wider Church.



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