

EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN

The Episcopal Diocese of New York

Newsletter

“Growing Deeper into Service and Ministry”



Volume 12 Number 1

May 2017

What Is Pouring Out of Your Heart?

“What is pouring out of your heart? Is the water of Jesus still pouring out or is it drying up? Are you looking for healing and resuscitation?”

It is in the center of your heart, people’s heart! The power of the woman’s voice and spirituality can make rivers flow. Do not allow the spirit to be blocked! Lift up each other and empower each other through the telling of all our stories and making new stories of our own. There is always turmoil before great renewal; God’s mission will not be stopped. We have to be the source and continuum of that living water.”

These were some of the provocative and timely words delivered by The Right Reverend Allen Shin at our Diocese of New York Episcopal Church Women Annual Meeting in May 2015. Often enough we tend to lose our steam, dry up and fail to exist because of life’s incessant beatdowns. Family life, work life church life, play life can all take its toll on individuals; and when this happens we want to throw our hands up and be done with it ALL. We forget the grit that comprises us; we forget the power that dwells within us and foremost we forget that we are never alone in this journey. These words though delivered some time ago are so ever appropriate and relevant today; as are our individual parish Women’s groups. These groups are being constantly challenged but as Bishop Shin has told us we ought to lift up each other and in doing so we lift up, arm and strengthen our own selves. If we accept this challenge one day a time, then the challenge becomes diminished and the work ahead does not seem so insurmountable. Take a look inside and see how persons within our Diocese are defeating, embracing and loving the challenge.





President's Message

May 2017

It is spring, a time of rebirth and renewal. It is Easter a time of resurrection. It also marks a rebirth of our ECW Newsletter. It has been some years since our last issue. The many mandatory obligations of life keep us from doing many things we want to do, such as publishing our ECW Newsletter. Our Newsletter Committee decided to add one more project to our busy lives and we present to you our labor of love, our ECW Newsletter.

Since our last issue we have elected a new Presiding Bishop, Diocesan Suffragan Bishop and Diocesan ECW President and gained a new Diocesan Assistant Bishop; in addition, we have also filled some vacancies on our Diocesan Board of Directors. We have mourned the passing of some of our faithful members and simultaneously celebrated the rebirth of a new ECW chapter. We have continued the School of Worship, the Fall and Spring UTO Ingatherings and Annual Meetings along with the Fall Stony Point Conference. All thanks to you!

We are back and hope you have been waiting for us. We encourage your feedback and suggestions which you can email to info@ecw.diocesenyny.org. It is good to be back with our sisters and friends.

Dianne Roberts



Approximately, one year ago the National Episcopal Church Women (NECW) Board informed us that Go! ECW Share the Word: **E**very Day, **C**omunicamos, Every **W**here will be its theme for Triennial 2018. The

next General Convention of the Episcopal Church will be held in the Live Music Capital of the World, Austin, Texas. The Triennial Meeting, in conjunction with General Convention, will take place *July 5-13, 2018* at the Austin Convention Center. The NECW Board is exploring new and wonderful ways to make our Triennial Meeting a learning and spirit-filled experience. This logo was designed by Daryl Storey. In addition to being the winner of the logo design contest, she is a retired graphic artist who now does most of the graphics for her parish, St. Margaret's Episcopal Church in Bellevue, Washington. She says the inspiration for the logo design was to illustrate the sweeping, swirling breadth of the Holy Spirit, which she hopes conveys the thought to "go forth, evangelize." The color symbolizes the fire of Pentecost and the birth of the Holy Spirit, which is what she envisioned after being informed of the theme. In addition, she hopes her artwork will encourage others to develop a desire to become even more closely acquainted with God.

Other Triennial 2018 principal participants will be the chaplain, the Reverend Catherine "Cathy" Boyd and the musician, Dr. Linda Patterson. Chaplain Boyd is a lifelong Episcopalian. Over the course of her professional ministry, she proudly shares that her favorite times have been spent in retreat and fellowship times with clergy spouses and women's groups. In addition, she loves opportunities for small-group spiritual conversations. She further adds, "When we make these spaces in our busy lives, the Holy Spirit is revealed and we see Christ's love for us in the face of others." Dr. Patterson lives in Texas where she is active as an accompanist, teacher and organist. At St. Peter's, she leads a comprehensive music program for toddlers through adults including youth and adult choirs and a recital series.

DID YOU KNOW?

National ECW Board guides our steps

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Provincial ECW Board reports to the National Board

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Diocesan ECW Board reports to its Province Representative

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Individual Parish ECW reports to its District Representative to the Diocesan Board

↑↓

YOU

All ECW groups at each level have a governing body.

The parish level ECW is where the fundamentals are fostered and cultivated; these levels are the grassroots. Here is where the basics are taught and learned and one may be encouraged to forge ahead and seek leadership roles. For example, one might desire to be a district representative whose role would include interpreting the program of the Episcopal Church Women through her District/Area Board to the parishes in her District/Area so as to meet their needs. In addition, she shall report to the Diocesan Board on all aspects of the work carried out within her District/Area.

The Episcopal Diocese of New York [www.dioceseny.org] extends from Staten Island, in the south, to rural Sullivan County, in the northwest including the boroughs

of Manhattan, The Bronx and Westchester, Rockland, Putnam, Dutchess, Orange, and Ulster. See the back cover for a listing of the EDNY ECW Board of Directors.

Within our vast Episcopal Church there are nine provinces. Our diocese is in Province II which is also known as the International Atlantic Province [www.province2.org]. Geographically, the province includes the 6 dioceses of New York (Western New York, Rochester, Central New York, Albany, New York and Long Island), the 2 dioceses of New Jersey (Newark and New Jersey) and the off-shore dioceses of Haiti, the Virgin Islands and the Convocation of Episcopal Churches in Europe. Our Province II Representative to the National Board is The Reverend Jennifer Kenna and our Province II president is Pamela Stewart.

The NECW [www.ecwnational.org] Board of Directors consists of President, Lisa Towle [Province IV], First Vice President (Program), Linda Guest [Province I], Second Vice President, Virginia (Ginger) Lief [Province II], Secretary, Pat Wellnitz [Province VI], Treasurer, Karen Patterson [Province IV], Beblon Parks, Member at Large-Social Justice [Province III] and Member at Large- Multimedia, Mayra Brown [Province IX].

AN ABBREVIATED MEETING WITH LISA

EPISCOPAL WOMEN ARE ABOUT MAKING SPACE AND TIME FOR THE EUCHARIST OF THE ORDINARY TO HAPPEN. IN THOSE ACTS OF SHARING AND FELLOWSHIP, STUDY AND WORSHIP, EXTRAORDINARY THINGS HAPPEN. When Lisa is asked by clergy and laity: 'Is ECW a ministry or what is the ministry of ECW'? Initially she thinks that people want to hear a tidy answer that the women raise money for good works, or that they are dedicated to prayer and spiritual growth or even that the women advocate for peace and justice. As women of the Episcopal Church (collectively and individually) and as members of the sprawling Anglican Communion the women DO ALL these things and more because well, one size does not fit all.

As written by Lisa Towle for the Communique, Fall 2016 /winter 2017 edition

WRAP-UP: 53rd Annual Fall Conference at Stony Point, NY

What a remarkable weekend for learning and fellowship. On Friday, October 21st, 2016, Episcopal women gathered for the Annual Fall Conference at Stony Point. They had travelled from Rockland County, Mount Vernon, The Bronx, Staten Island and Manhattan. Friday's 'meet n greet' with introductions and singing allowed the women to open up and affirm that they were among friends. Friday night's movie did not disappoint; we watched "*Water*"; a movie about the forgotten women – widowhood in India. It tells the story of two women, each trying to discover a sense of self-worth and purpose while trapped in a seemingly endless life of forced confinement. The vibrant post movie discussions which were led by Ms. Lynnaia Main, Officer, Global Relations, EDNY almost extended late into the night after Compline.

Saturday's morning program began with Morning Prayer. Ms. Marcia Smith, the EDNY ECW Secretary delivered a self composed biblical interpretation of 'Woman, Behold thy Son'. Ms. Main maintained the energy with her keynote address which dealt with Sustainable Development Goal number 5: goal of promoting gender equality and empowerment of women. The discussion opened with each person being asked to select one picture of a woman from among a group of famous and ordinary women. With picture in hand, each person was to determine if that woman was empowered, yes or no and what makes her empowered or not. How does one determine another's empowerment status? After listening to each other we realized that attempting to determine one's empowerment status is both complex and objective and it varies by faith, generation and traditions. For example, a prostitute might feel she is empowered because she embraces her skill and knows the control (quasi in reality) she has over her customers. In addition, we agreed that one person's empowerment may be another's imprisonment. We were encouraged to read the book, 'Reading Women' by Stephanie Staal.

On September 25th 2015, countries adopted a set of 17 goals to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure prosperity for all as part of a new sustainable

development agenda. Each goal has specific targets to be achieved over the next 15 years. The Episcopal Diocese of New York has responded by praying for discernment, practicing self esteem and self love which is the key to whether we give up or move forward and through its Global Women's Fund which empowers Anglican women across the world. It seeks to effect positive societal change by educating Anglican women for the transformation of themselves, their families, their local communities, and the world. The offering collected during the Eucharist was donated to the Global Women's Fund. Donations may be sent by check payable to: EDNY and earmarked for Global Women's Fund. The afternoon session involved expression through adult coloring; 'Communicamos: Our Inner Rainbow'. This exercise was very therapeutic and all were encouraged to submit their final artwork for the wall hanging display. Mother Rhoda Treherne Thomas, St. John's, S.I. concluded the day with Eucharist.



“Woman behold thy son” (John 19: 26-27)

“When Jesus therefore saw his mother, and the disciple standing by, whom he loved, he saith unto his mother, Woman, behold thy son!”

Hold up! Screech! Full Stop! Oh No He didn't! Here we go again. Not Mother, Mama, Mommy or even Imah, Hebrew for Mother, but Woman.

When Jesus was attending the wedding in Cana and Mary approached her son with a catering crisis, the bar had run out of drink, no more wine. Instead of saying, Mother, don't worry, I got this. Jesus replied “O Woman, what has this to do with me? My hour has not yet come.”

I didn't hear any nagging. A little testy, if you ask me, it seems before performing his first miracle.

But, Mary ignored his outburst knowing what her son was about and told the servants, “Do whatever he tells you.”

Over two millennia later, this really bothers my 21st Century feminist sensibilities. When exactly did the term "woman" become such a derogatory word? I started thinking about this the other day. People call a guy "man" and we don't think anything of it. "Hey man, how's it going?" or "Man, grab me a soda on your way." However, "Woman, bring me a drink while you are up." or "Woman, what on Earth are you thinking?" The result will probably be sleeping on the couch or being called a male chauvinist pig or more than likely, reported on the 11:00 o'clock news. What has caused the word "woman" to be viewed in such a negative connotation and with a sense of disrespect and dishonor? So, I turned to Technology's Bible, I googled, “Was Jesus being disrespectful to this mother by calling her Woman?”

Answer: The word in Hebrew means ‘madam’. It was a term of respect. ***Hum. Okay. But if I called my mother Madam, I could not have ducked fast enough.***

I googled on.

Answer: In Genesis 3:15, after banishing Adam and Eve from the heavenly paradise, God made a promise or more like a threat to the serpent. He said "I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.”

At the very beginning of our salvation history, God promised to send a "Woman" whose

offspring will crush the head of the serpent. That "Woman" is Mary, and the "offspring" is Jesus. Whenever Jesus calls Mary "Woman", therefore, He exalts her by pointing out to us that Mary is the fulfillment of the prophecy and promise that God made at the very beginning of human history. Mary is the "Woman" who will crush the head of the serpent! In that she is the victorious "Woman" who gives birth to Jesus, her Offspring, who triumphs over Satan.

Interesting. Sounds good.

But, probably due to the centuries on centuries of fighting to be recognized as more than a second class entity on the earth, being subjugated, abused, belittled, objectified and treated as chattel; it still subconsciously rankles at being called just woman.

Jewish men and boys, in their morning prayers, have said this "blessing" for generations: They begin with **Baruch Atah Adonai Eloheinu Melech Haolam**: "Blessed art Thou, O Lord, our God, King of the Universe. One of these blessings ends with **“shelo asani isha”**: who hath not made me a woman." I've got a real problem with that.

Could it be that they could not conceive of having the spiritual strength and fortitude, basically, up to the task of being a woman?

Yiddish writer Isaac Bashevis Singer wrote a play called Yentl, the Yeshiva Boy, which was later adapted into the Barbara Striesand movie, Yentl.

In Russia in the early 1900s, Yentl, the only child, daughter of a widowed rabbi, secretly studies with her father as if she were his son. Her father says, "Yentl -- you have the soul of a man." She asks, "So why was I born a woman?" He replies, "Even Heaven makes mistakes."

See what I mean. Misogyny 101. Stays with me a while. I'm going to get to the reason for my momentary digression.

When Yentl's father dies, she cuts her hair and disguises herself as a young yeshiva student named Anshel and begins studying the holy books. Her study partner Avigdor see her as a scholar, therefore is fully convinced she is a man. Yentl secretly falls in love with Avigdor and when she later revealed herself as a woman, Avigdor is appalled even thinking her a demon. When he asked her why the deception, she explained of her thirst for knowledge, especially since it is forbidden to her as a woman to study, and she needs to know more. Avigdor tries to explain that they were born into a world of specific gender roles set forth by God or at least interpreted by learned rabbinical scholars, but he was born a man, a shell to be filled with knowledge and, with good deeds, he will hope to

be considered a righteous man. A woman, on the other hand, is filled at birth with the grace of God to help create, to carry and nurture life. She knows instinctively the nature of the world, common sense and the inner strength and patience to suffer fools. She entered this world on a higher plane and is thus closer to God. She is born with the wisdom of the ages and knows everything important to life before ever having opened a book. He cannot convince Yentl just how blessed she is to be a woman. ***But, he did not have to cook and clean or suffer the pains of Eve in childbirth.*** Remember she also prayed **shelo asani isha** every morning beside him as a yeshiva student. So she decides to keep studying and will ultimately find in the dusty ancient texts filled with commentaries on every law, the knowledge she has always had, her divinity as a woman.

So at this darkness hour of sacrifice, as Jesus negotiates, pleads with and questions His father on the cross, suffering the agony of all agonies for a world that had not yet come to know him fully, he peers down on his mother. She has borne the weight of the knowledge of his destiny since his birth, the only one on earth who knows the full reality for his being. I think if Jesus had asked Mary to intercede for him to save him from the cross, she would have told him that His Father's will be done despite the heartache of knowing she will lose Him here on earth.

This was a strong woman. This was all women.

As his destiny unfolds, what could Jesus leave His earthly mother, he whose last material possession is now being gambled for by Roman soldiers. For all those years, this hour, this shadow, he had seen fleetingly in his mother's now sorrow-filled eyes. ***"Woman, here is thy son."*** ***"Son, here is your mother."*** (You are my most beloved disciple, take care of her, take care of the Woman, my most precious treasure on earth. Through her I was made man, and she is the part of the world I take with me to meet my father).

Then Jesus died to save the world, and His mother wept. She had seen her son fulfill the purpose of His life, and although it was the will of God, it still caused her to grieve. Rivulets of blood trickled down the wood of the cross and mingled with the ocean of tears that she had held inside her for over three decades. Tears and blood welled at her feet and in the darkness of the hour flowed over the land to eventually bring light to the world.

Jesus, have I wandered so far away from the cross that I have lost sight of your pain because of pettiness over a word. You did so honor and love your mother. In my modern day ignorance, forgive me for my blasphemous thoughts and doubts.

In the Talmud, there is a passage which reads, “Be very careful if you make a woman cry, because God counts her tears. The woman came out of a man's rib. Not from his feet to be walked on. Not from his head to be superior, but from the side to be equal. Under the arm to be protected, and next to the heart to be loved.”

I understand now. I am a woman. Women. It is a wondrous word. It is a glorious name. You can call me such. Jesus did.

Written by: Ms. Marcia Smith
Church of the Intercession, Harlem NY

December 3, 2016:

Talladega College Alumni Association Scholarship Luncheon— Our past-ECW President, Margaret Cash, was honored by her Alma Mata, Talladega College Alumni Association, at its Annual Scholarship Luncheon. The special event was held at the Antun’s Restaurant. We are proud of our sister, **Margaret A. Cash**, and extend our congratulations for all the important work that she has done and continues to do.



*Thanks to ALL for their continued support of United Thank Offering
and Church Periodical Club; your donations*

GO A LONG WAY!

WRAP-UP: 54th School of Worship:

“Who do we think the other is? We are the other to each other.”

Due to inclement weather, this program had to be rescheduled from the initial date of March 14, 2017 to April 18, 2017.

Holy Eucharist was held in the St. James Chapel of the Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine at 10:30a.m. The Reverend Cheryl Parrish, Interim Priest at St.. Paul Episcopal Church, Spring Valley, New York served a celebrant and preacher. There were thirty five persons in attendance. Meditation and lunch followed at Cathedral House. Mother Parrish was the luncheon guest speaker as well.

Mary Magdalene was bold, committed, loyal and fearless. She was the first to see the risen Lord, Jesus Christ and according to John’s Gospel, she was the first to tell the others the ‘Good News’.

Jesus was her friend and companion; he healed her from mental illness. Complete healing was found for Mary as Jesus chose her for her first resurrection appearance.

As a friend she went to the tomb with the others but could not find him. Suddenly a voice called her name, “Mary” and she knew.

Acknowledging a person’s name acknowledges their humanity and shows that you respect them enough to get it right.

“Love one another as I have loved you”. *John 13:34.*

“I see you”.

By June Beckett

EDNY Devotional Life Chair



Mission Outreach Programs that are supported by our Diocese:

Global
Women's
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Youth Programs

Adult
Literacy
Programs

Immigrant Ministry

Prison
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Programs

United Thank
Offering

Church
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Episcopal Charities –
Food and Other
Programs

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ECW Province II
Grants – Women and
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Anglican Women Empowerment (AWE)
and
United Nations Commission on the Status
of Women (NCSW)

Rural and
Migrant Ministry



EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN
Episcopal Diocese of New York
NOMINATION FORM

This form is to be used for nominations for positions on the ECW Diocesan Board. Please print clearly. Please use the other side or extra sheets of paper if needed for additional information.

I. Position being nominated for _____

Nominee's name _____

Nominee's mailing address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Email _____ Home Telephone # _____

Mobile Telephone # _____ Occupation status: Fulltime: Y ___ N ___;

Part Time: Y ___ N ___; Retired: Y ___ N ___ Occupation _____

Parish, City _____

Regional or Diocesan Activities _____

Parish and/ or Community Activities _____

II. To be filled out by the parish priest, member of the Diocesan Episcopal Church Women Board or a Regional Representative of the Diocesan Board. In addition, please submit a brief explanation expressing why you believe this nominee will be suitable for this position.

I, _____, am nominating this person for the aforementioned position. My address is _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Home telephone # _____ Mobile telephone # _____

Email _____ Parish, City _____

III. By signing this form, the nominee confirms:

1. Knowledge of the duties of the position for which she is applying
2. Awareness of the board meetings she is expected to attend.

Nominee's signature _____

Nominator's signature _____

Please note that this form must be completely filled out and signed before submitting. Each board term is three years in duration, (Nominating Chair, one term). Diocesan Board meetings are held monthly from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. on the third Tuesday September thru May except for March and December. Please return completed form to: Mrs. Joanne Potanovic, 597 Old Gate Hill Road, Stony Point, NY 10980; jpotanovic@gmail.com or call 845-942-8912.

REGIONAL REPORTS

Going Green at St. Luke's, Bronx:

On Monday, January 16th, St. Luke's hosted this year's **Annual celebration of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.** The event was well attended and thoroughly enjoyed; with the implementation of strategically placed overhead monitors one was encouraged to sing robustly and worship without the encumbrance of bulletins or books. Way to Go! The service collection is earmarked in support of the college bound youths in The Bronx. Bishop Dietsche was the celebrant and Reverend Canon Calvin McIntyre was the preacher.

Source of encouragement to our youth:

This past Saturday, May 13th, the Bronx District Episcopal Church Women celebrated their **8th Annual Pre Mother's Day Spring Luncheon.** This year for the first time Mrs. Sherry Herbert, Grace Church, West Farms, Bronx served as the mistress of ceremony. Ms. Herbert's vulnerability in expressing the struggles of being a working mother in today's society with its many challenges did not go unnoticed. One could hear and feel the honesty and humbleness in her delivery. Additionally she encouraged everyone to continue to be a '*mother*' to our youth by correcting them, encouraging them and selflessly offering oneself for it truly takes a village to raise a child. A portion of the funds from this event have been pledged to the Bronx Council's MLK Scholarship Fund. One of the highlights of this year's event was the steel band performance from the United Moravian Church group.

Sense of Safety Prevailed:

Free Evening Concert for Refugees at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine held on Sunday, February 17, 2017. There was an anticipated attendance for fifty people but it appeared that eight times that amount supported. This concert with the sounds of Bach, Brahms, Mendelssohn, Mozart and Faure was organized to show support for refugees and to reaffirm our nation's commitment that immigrants make America great. The mournful music and uplifting voices of the choir provided a moving experience. A host of countries were represented and the sadness, fear and concern were evident in the body language of many who attended.

Save the date

54th Annual Episcopal Church Women
Fall Conference
at Stony Point
on Friday, October 20 - Saturday, October 21, 2017



EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN
Episcopal Diocese of New York

DIOCESAN PLEDGE FORM

Date: _____

Parish, City: _____

Name of ECW contact person: _____

Email: _____ Phone #: _____

Enclosed is a check or money order in the amount of \$ _____ which is to be applied in the following way:

a. DIOCESAN EXPENSE AND PROVINCIAL FUND \$ _____

b. CONVENTION AND CONFERENCE FUND \$ _____

c. CHRISTIAN SOCIAL CONCERNS -PROJECTS \$ _____

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Please mail this portion of the form with either check or money order payable to:

EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN DIOCESE OF NEW YORK (ECW EDNY)

and addressed to:

Mrs. Shirley Thompson-Nelson, ECW EDNY, Treasurer

1469 Needham Avenue

Bronx, NY 10469

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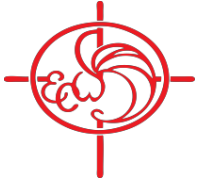
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EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN DIOCESE OF NEW YORK (ECW EDNY)

With THE CHURCH PERIODICAL CLUB on the memo line and addressed to:

Ms. Marie McCullough, 779 Concourse Village East 1D, Bronx, NY 10451



Stephanie Harris–Ash
1022 Nelson Avenue
Bronx, NY 10452-5102

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