



VOICES OF WOMEN

EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN OF THE DIOCESE OF LONG ISLAND *Spring 2025*

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear ECW Sisters

Happy Spring!

Although we are still in coats and scarves and gloves, the Church calendar reminds us we are in the season of renewal. As we approach Lent and the cleaning of our proverbial spiritual closets, we know things are about to change. We have turned the corner.

We are already reviving. Brooklyn ECW is already on the upswing, hosting the Annual Quiet Day. Queens, Nassau and Suffolk have taken the steps to travel collectively to the event; our first communal field trip since Covid and there are more to come. This Spring, take a bold step and reconnect with a neighboring chapter for a joint event. Get in touch with those members you haven't seen since the onset of winter and remind them of your upcoming events.

Diocesan ECW has already started a new policy of accepting electronic payments. A first for us! Your CPC representative has already reached out to begin visitations to your churches. Plan a Spring UTO event to augment participation in your chapter. Try something new or revisit a successful theme.

Set goals to grow and strengthen ECW. Become bigger and better this. Have a membership drive or a renewal Sunday to get your members back. Please send us pictures and articles of your events, so we can share the good news. No event is too small or insignificant. Send the information to your Area Presidents or to the Voices of Women directly. Don't keep your momentum under a bushel.



Debbie Richberg
Diocesan ECW President
631 816-1717



Lent, the six-week celebration that helps Christians prepare for Easter through prayer, fasting, and penance. During Lent, we have a new opportunity to be reenergized in our Christian faith. Most people know the tradition of abstaining from something during the season, and may ask “what are you giving up this Lent?” We as Christians are asked to practice self-discipline, and fast throughout the season. In addition to this, we are called to share God’s gifts, not through the giving of money, but through the sharing of our time and talents.

We have been hit very hard the past four years by the COVID-19 pandemic, and find ourselves alone, frustrated by being indoors, anxious at the unknown – what happens next, afraid of contracting the virus, and talking to our friends and family members via electronic media. When last can we say we hugged our loved ones?

During this Lent, we have plenty of opportunities to pray for the many blessings we have; to pray for peace in our nation and around the world; to pray for those affected by COVID-19; to pray for a return to normalcy; and to pray that we will realize our short comings and ask God’s grace and mercy on us.

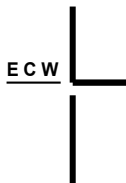
Now is the time to focus more on kindness, sympathy, compassion, and *LOVE*.

Stay safe my sisters!



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Vernese Smith
Editor

**Diocese of Long Island****The Episcopal Church Women Scholarship Application****2025 – Application Instructions**

This application is to be completed by any woman (not just H.S. seniors) who wishes to pursue higher education and has been accepted for admission to an accredited college, community college, or vocational/trade school, in the United States for fall 2025. One scholarship will be awarded to each county.

Scholarship recipient will receive a financial award of \$500.00. Winners will be notified by June 1, 2025.

To be eligible for the Scholarship, you must:

- Be a Baptized Member of an Episcopal/Anglican Church.
- You must have a High School or GED Diploma.
- Required to be in a parish within the Diocese of Long Island.

You must submit a complete application packet with the following:

- Personal Information Form (See attachment)
- One letter of recommendation written by your Priest or Church Warden
- A typed written essay of 300 words or less of your involvement with your parish and/or the Episcopal Church

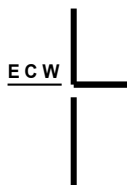
Completed application packet **must be postmarked or emailed by**

Friday, April 26, 2025 to: Ms. B. Taylor
190-17 Nashville Blvd.
Springfield Gardens, NY 11413

I certify that all of the information contained within this application is accurate.

Applicant's Name (Please Print) _____

Applicant's Signature: _____ Date _____

**Diocese of Long Island****The Episcopal Church Women Scholarship Application****Personal Information**

Print or type your responses in the following information

Applicant's Name (Please Print):

Mailing Address:

Phone Number: Home _____

Cell _____

Email:

Circle Birth Range: 18-26 25-35 36+

Name of Church _____

County _____

Intended Major:

Institution to which you have been accepted:

Career Goal (50 words or less):

DIOCESAN ECW QUIET DAY

“Come to Me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.”

2025 Diocesan Quiet Day was held March 15th at the beautiful St. Paul’s Church in the Village of Flatbush, Brooklyn. There were 110 registrants from across the Long Island Diocese, from the east end of Long Island to the south shores of Brooklyn. This year 21 churches were represented. The facilitator was the Rev. Canon Karen Davis-Lawson, from St. David’s Church in Cambria Heights.

The ladies communicated with each other throughout the day as we participated in many sessions encouraging us to take care of our souls and bodies. After each meditation, we were encouraged to share ideas and experiences with laughter and joy. Denise Grey-Stewart, Advent, Westbury and Nassau ECW President, shared these pictures.



The registration team

Eileen Buckner - St. Phillip, Brooklyn
Sheryl Edwards - Epiphany & St. Simon, Brooklyn
Sharon Tucker – St. Alban the Martyr, Queens



Welcome – President
Debbie Richburg – St.
Boniface, Suffolk



Canon Karen
Davis-Lawson



Ancilla Friday from the
host church who pulled it
all together



Participants sharing with each other

DIOCESAN ECW QUIET DAY con't

Congregants attentively listening to Canon Davis-Lawson as she delivered her message.

When the service ended, there was plenty of food for thought throughout this Lenten season.

***This Lenten Season, let us
Look back and Thank God
Look forward and Trust Him!***

Pictures by
Vernese Smith
Editor

**My recollection of the Diocesan Quiet Day**

St. Paul's Church, Flatbush hosted the Diocesan Quiet Day on March 15th. The theme was "Come Away and Rest". The scripture quotation supported the topic very well. "Come to Me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest". Matthew 11:28

The invited speaker was the St. David's rector, Rev. Canon Karen Davis-Lawson who laid the ground rules that would ensure respect for all present and a reasonable request for confidentiality. We had a little more than 100 ECW women that represented Brooklyn, Nassau, Queens and Suffolk.

This retreat offered a sacred space for rest, contemplation and fellowship. The spiritual intent was meant to prepare our hearts for the Lenten season. We were treated to a sumptuous breakfast and later a light lunch. The day ended on a high note, The Holy Eucharist in the historically rich St. Paul's Church. As visitors, we all admired the high Victorian Gothic architecture. We left with a feeling of exhilaration and spiritual strength to face the up-coming Easter season, the Queen of all Episcopal church seasons. *Amen!*

Submitted by
Irene Blackburn
Chaplain - ECW St. David's Church

QUEENS ECW NEWS

ST. JOHN'S, SPRINGFIELD GARDENS

The ECW of St. John's sponsored their annual International Brunch and Nickel Social on January 25, 2025. A ticket to the event entitled the holder to the meal and 20 raffle tickets.

The menu for the brunch included breakfast staples such as scrambled eggs, sausages and pancakes. The lunch items were many and varied and included Roti, chicken prepared three different ways, escovitch fish, mac and cheese, peas and rice, vegetables and so much more.

Following the all you can eat meal; participants enjoyed the raffle event in which prize tickets were drawn for all of the prizes on display. A good time was had by all!

Submitted by
Barbara Taylor
Co-President

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ST. GABRIEL'S ECW, HOLLIS



Left to right:
Lynette Schwartz, Hazel Walcott,
Germaine Ottley, Rosemarie Carr,
Robin Adams, Millicent Fountain, and
ECW President, Cicely Liverpool

At our last Quarterly Meeting held on March 9th, 2025, we reviewed our activities that were planned for our ECW's calendar year (Oct. '24 - June'25), bearing in mind our Ice-cream & Cake Banquet scheduled for Easter Day, April 20th 2025 - Alleluia! At the end of our meeting's Agenda, we banded ourselves together to recite a poem entitled, "Servants of God." From this poem, we are acknowledging God's grace given to us, and our gratitude for the manifold gifts He has so graciously, bestowed upon us. May we continue to love and serve Him on this side of His vineyard.

Poem

Servants of God

Servants of God, we pledge to uphold
In dance, song, and what'er you behold.
Let us strive, to spread, your word, Oh God
For with you in our midst, our lives will be fulfilled.

Submitted by
Cicely Liverpool
President

QUEENS NEWS Cont'd

ST. JOHN'S, SPRINGFIELD GARDENS

On Saturday, March 15th St. John's held its annual Women's Day Luncheon. It was held in the beautifully decorated church undercroft.



The theme was ***“Lessons in Faith: Faith, Strength, and Wisdom”***. Our speaker was Mrs. Vanya Moses Bollam, the very talented wife of our priest-in-charge, the Rev. Moses Bollam. She began her presentation with an interactive session on women of the Bible. Much fun took place as the guests tried to figure out which women she was talking about. Following that portion of the program, she explained about the faith, strength and wisdom of Rahab, Sarah's slave girl. It was very enlightening.

Another part of the program was the installation of our ***“Women of Wisdom”***, those ladies who have reached their 80th birthdays.

Appetizers preceded the meal. A delicious menu of chicken, roast beef, peas and rice, macaroni and cheese and salad was served, along with corn bread, rolls and beverages. Dessert of cake and ice cream completed the menu. The afternoon ended with music and line dancing.



Sharon Hunter - co chair
and Vanya Bollam -
speaker

Below: Fr. Mose Bollam -
opening prayer



Vanya Bollam making her
presentation

Submitted by
Barbara Taylor
Co-President

*UTO NEWS***March 24, 2025**

Dear Clergy and UTO Parish Coordinator,

I bring you greetings with a thankful heart from United Thank Offering. The United Thank Offering (UTO) which dates back to 1883, encourages us to practice gratitude giving. 2 Corinthians 4:15 tells us “All this is for your benefit, so that the grace that is reaching more and more people may cause thanksgiving to overflow”. Let us therefore with a thankful heart change the world by supporting projects that address the needs of people around the world.

As we prepare for the 2025 In-Gathering, it is suggested that the Spring in-gathering take place on a Sunday close to the Ascension of our Lord in May; and the Fall In-Gathering, on a Sunday close to All Saints Day, November 1st. You may schedule the In-Gathering to suit your own Parish needs and calendar. If you participate in the Spring In-Gathering, you may send the checks or money order, made out to UTO to my attention at the address stated below. The funds may also be kept in your account until the Fall-In-Gathering, at which time you would present it at the diocesan convention in November.

However, I should receive all UTO funds no later than the end of November to be credited for 2025.

I thank you for your unwavering support over the years and pray that God will continue to bless you.

Should you need me to do a presentation at your Parish Church, please let me know.

To order UTO supplies for your congregation, please visit
<http://episcopalmarketplace.org/Products/United-Thank-Offering>.

May your blessings be a blessing to others through your offering and your prayers as you
“expand the circle of thankful people” fulfilling your work in Mission and Ministry.

Yours in Thanksgiving,
Ancilla Friday,
UTO Coordinator
651 East 77th Street
Brooklyn, NY 11236
Phone (718) 251-3339
e-mail: friday5@verizon.net



Save the Date

The Diocesan Altar Guild A Celebration

The Diocesan Altar Guild will celebrate its 90th Anniversary on **Saturday, September 27**. Bishop Provenzano will preside at the Celebratory Eucharist at the Cathedral at 11:00 a.m. A lovely Luncheon reception will follow in the Tent. It is hoped that the clergy from every parish will support their Altar Guilds and join us. This will give long-term and new members an opportunity to share their ministry with Altar Guild members from parishes throughout our Diocese.

Jane Ames

Diocese of long Island

Altar Guild

janeames913@gmail.com

516-554-7989

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SPRING



For the flowers that bloom at our feet;
For tender grass, so fresh, so sweet;
For the song of a bird, and the hum of a bee;
For all things fair we hear or see,
Father in heaven we thank Thee!
For the blue of a stream and blue of the sky;
For pleasant shade of branches high;
For fragrant air and cooling breeze;
For beauty of the blooming trees,
Father in heaven we thank Thee!

-- Ralph Waldo Emerson --

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Happy Easter Everyone

Team Barbara and Vernese



This newsletter will be published once every quarter for distribution in the months of April, July, October, and January. We welcome any questions regarding the role of the Episcopal Church Women in the Church. In order to research and answer your questions in a timely manner, questions must be received by the **15th day** of the month after publications. We will certainly do our best to address all questions received. You may also send us suggestions on things you would like to see or comments on the helpfulness of this newsletter. We certainly hope you have enjoyed reading the newsletter, and may God bless you as you continue your ministry in the world.

Questions may be sent via email to the committee members:

Editor: Barbara Taylor tylbrb@gmail.com

Editor & Publisher: Vernese Smith vern.bert@verizon.net



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WOMEN