



# EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN



## The Episcopal Diocese of New York Newsletter

*“Growing Deeper into Mission and Ministry”*

Volume 8 – Number 1

March 2010



### A MESSAGE FROM THE RT. REV. MARK S. SISK

As you gather in prayer and offer concentrated focus on the importance of mission, I send my greetings and blessings to the ECW of the Diocese of New York.

The Church’s fundamental mandate to reach out to the world is immeasurably strengthened by your work and witness. You give glory to God as you give mercy to the world. You not only take Christ into the suffering of life, but also you serve Him in the cries and needs of those who only know despair. I thank you.

I am proud and grateful for your participation in the life of our great diocese and in the Anglican Communion.

May you continue to strengthen and renew your commitment to witness, nurture and worship.

Faithfully yours,

The Rt. Rev. Mark S. Sisk  
Fifteenth Bishop of New York  
March 2010

### A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Sisters,

For nearly 200 years the women of the Church have been carrying out the spirit of mission. The roots of the Episcopal Church Woman (ECW) are traceable to the request of Presiding Bishop William White in 1811 that lay auxiliaries be established in the parishes in support of the Church’s mission. Of the initial eleven auxiliaries formed eight were designated by the parishes as women’s auxiliaries.

Sixty years later the service of the women was recognized on the national level by the organization of the Women’s Auxiliary to the Board of Missions. At the 1985 Triennial Meeting bylaws were adopted to form the Episcopal Church Women, Episcopal Church U.S.A.—successor to the earlier Women’s Auxiliary.

Your service today as ECW officers and members in this diocese is reflected in the reports and articles in this Newsletter. On your behalf I am most appreciative of the continuous support of ECW’s ministry and mission received from our bishops and priests, as well as, diocesan and parish staffs.



See Visit to Tanzania, page 5.

God bless you all,

Virginia Lief  
ECW President

**Greetings!**  
**Margaret A. Cash**  
**Province 2 Representative**  
**[Province2@ecwnational.org](mailto:Province2@ecwnational.org)**  
**National Episcopal Church Women**

Happy New Year! Blessed Lent

It is indeed a privilege and a pleasure for me to greet you on behalf of the National Episcopal Church Women and our sisters and brothers in Province 2.

As you are aware, the worst Earthquake in 200 years struck Haiti which is the poorest country of this hemisphere. We mourn the overwhelming loss of life and the deep suffering that our sisters and brothers have experienced and continue to endure. We are thankful to God for the amazing outpouring of love from people throughout the world. We are also grateful for the miracles and blessings He has bestowed upon His children. The Diocese of Haiti is in Province 2.

I have just received the heartwarming news that one of our Episcopal Church Women leaders in Haiti, Carmel Valdema, was alive and providing prayers and solace to her neighbors. Carmel is a Public Health Nurse who is the Founder and Director of Lespwa Timoun (Hope for Children). It is an education program that Province 2 has helped to support. Carmel has asked for our prayers which I am sure we will do to honor the strength, courage, wisdom, compassion and grace that she and many other women in Haiti embody. She was in a building in Port-au-Prince at the time of the Earthquake and barely made it out before it collapsed. Several friends of her children died in the destruction of the Episcopal School.

I urge you to continue to give to the relief effort for the Haitian people. Episcopal Relief and Development has disbursed emergency funding to the Diocese of Haiti and is ready to support the ongoing recovery and rebuilding efforts of the country in the days ahead.

Marilyn Rishkofski, Vice President for Communication and Information and Christine Budzowski, Episcopal Church Women Webmaster, have worked diligently to enhance our communication capabilities as we forge ahead in the 21st Century. We invite and encourage you to provide information and photographs for the Communiqué and our website. Your Communiqué and website information should be sent to me at [Province2@ecwnational.org](mailto:Province2@ecwnational.org) and I will forward it to the designated persons.

I would also like to encourage you to subscribe to the monthly e-Communiqué via email. The electronic

newsletter will be sent monthly to subscribers to keep you up to date on events and happenings of Episcopal Church Women. Please go to [www.ecwnational.org](http://www.ecwnational.org) to subscribe to the electronic newsletter.

The Episcopal Church Women Starter and Renewal Kits are also available online and may be downloaded from the national ECW website [please see below].

Province 2 will serve as the Host for the meeting of the National Episcopal Church Women Board from November 3-9, 2010 at the Stony Point Conference Center, Stony Point, New York. More details to follow.

I am deeply grateful to The Rt. Rev. Catherine S. Roskam, Bishop Suffragan, Episcopal Diocese of New York for allowing me the opportunity to greet and meet Dr. Jane Williams, wife of the Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams, during her recent visit to New York City. We shared stories of our service in mission at home and abroad and spoke about the possibilities of future collaborative efforts.

In closing, I would also like to express my heartfelt thanks and appreciation to the women of the Diocese of New York for your love and support which I believe was a catalyst in my being awarded the Bishop's Cross at the 2009 diocesan Convention. I am deeply humbled and grateful for this awesome recognition.

As we continue our work in mission and ministry, let us continue to ask God to order our footsteps in the paths of righteousness and keep us in His grace.



## ECW Starter & Renewal Kit

Among the items in this kit which can be ordered at [www.ecwnational.org](http://www.ecwnational.org) are:

- ❖ A Vision for Episcopal Church Women
- ❖ Sample Bylaws
- ❖ Generational Values Impacting our Organizations
- ❖ Recruitment
- ❖ Promotional Quips for Bulletins and Newsletters
- ❖ Several Ideas for Planning Event

**REPORT FROM STATEN ISLAND**  
**FOOD MINISTRY**

The Episcopal Church Women, Staten Island District, have always taken as a top priority the care and feeding of needy members of the community. Members help to serve Saturday luncheon at Trinity Lutheran Church, collect food to support the various feeding ministries, and help to stock the food pantry run by the Rev. Beverly Neuhaus. In recent years, the number of people needing help has increased greatly as a result of problems in our economy.

Each Thanksgiving, **St. Martha's Guild at Ascension Church, Staten Island**, has collected food from the parish to provide a full holiday meal, plus extras, for five needy families. Each year a parishioner, who is a nurse at a clinic, identifies families in need, and delivers the food packages to them. Projects similar to this are carried out at other parishes as well, so that a large number of needy families are served by the women of the ECW on Staten Island.

Rosemary Loffredo  
Staten Island District Representative

**47th SCHOOL OF WORSHIP**  
**TUESDAY, MARCH 16**

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, NYC  
2067 Fifth Avenue (at E.127<sup>th</sup> Street)  
The Rev. T. Allan Jackson, Priest-in-Charge

***Meditation: The Story of the  
New York Altar Guild—  
past, present & future***

**Barbara N. Lindsley  
President, New York Altar Guild**

- 10:00 A.M. Registration
- 10:30 A.M. Holy Eucharist, Celebrant  
The Rev. Canon James Elliott Lindsley
- 11:45 A.M. Lunch –  
(Please bring your lunch;  
dessert and beverage provided.)
- 12:15 P.M. Meditation with Mrs. Lindsley
- 1:30 P.M. Dismissal

(Fee: \$7.00 in advance; \$10.00 at the door)

**United Thank Offering Report: 2009**



“The Mission of the United Thank Offering is to expand the circle of thankful people....The UTO will significantly impact the lives of women and children because of Christ's love.”

In spite of the many challenges thrust upon us, 2009 was a relatively good year for **the Ministry of the United Thank Offering (UTO)**. We gathered gifts from forty-five churches totaling \$32,198.27. Of this amount, the total available for grant year 2010 is **\$29,946.56** which was forwarded to the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society.

Two UTO Ingatherings were held. The Spring Ingathering was held at Holy Cross Church in Yonkers with the Rt. Rev. Herbert Donovan and the Rev. George Anthony Hoeltzel while the Fall Ingathering was held at the Church of the Intercession Manhattan with the Rt. Rev. Mark S. Sisk presiding, and the Rev. José R. Gándara and the Rev. Jerry Keucher. There were two luncheon speakers: Ruth Faircloth of the Rural and Migrant Ministry in the Spring and in the Fall Pamela Stewart, UTO National Board Member-at-Large.



Pamela Stewart, Fall UTO speaker.

I would like to extend special thanks to the clergy, UTO parish coordinators, and the Episcopal Church Women of Holy Cross and Church of the Intercession—our host parishes—for their kind hospitality, hard work, love and support.

I once again had the privilege to present our gifts on behalf of our diocese at the Eucharist Service of the United Thank Offering at the 76<sup>th</sup> General Convention held in Anaheim, California.



Fall UTO Ingathering luncheon.

As I leave office this spring, I will leave enriched by the many gifts I received, the gifts of love, the gifts of your time in working as partners in this powerful ministry which is dear to my heart; the many opportunities I had to work closely with our bishops and clergy; the wonderful luncheon speakers who enlightened me on so many issues; and serving with the members of the diocesan board. I will remember the work we shared and I will continue to give of my very best as I pass the baton to the next runner as we continue to expand the circle of thankful people.

Mavis Dowdie  
Diocesan UTO Coordinator

CHURCH PERIODICAL CLUB



In 2009 as in years past the Church Periodical Club (CPC) of the Episcopal Diocese of New York provided a book grant to each postulant from our diocese enrolled in the first year of seminary. The grant size each year is dependent upon the total amount of the gifts received. Whether you are a long-time or new CPC contributor your gifts are always greatly appreciated. Donations also provide the funding for contributions made by the diocesan CPC to the CPC National Books Fund –

([www.nationalcpc.org](http://www.nationalcpc.org))

“to make the word of God fully known”

COLOSSIANS 1:25

A Tribute to Viola Tapper

A Champion for the Girls’ Friendly Society  
St. Luke’s Church, Bronx, New York

Viola Tapper, part of the Girls’ Friendly Society (GFS) for more than fifty years, died on Christmas day this past year. Since 1955 she was a GFS leader and advisor to the girls at her parish, Saint Luke’s Episcopal Church, Bronx, New York. She also served on the GFS Board of the Episcopal Diocese of New York as vice president of programs and on several committees of the GFS National Board.

Mrs. Tapper’s played a significant role in keeping the GFS alive in her parish and in this diocese—this is her legacy. She truly bore the society’s motto “Bear Ye One Another’s Burden.” She served with dignity, grace, resilience, respect and finesse.

Starting in 1966 Mrs. Tapper traveled nationally with members of this organization and beginning in 1975 internationally to World Council meetings. Her objective was to enrich the lives of the girls at her branch by having them experience the friendship and culture of GFS members around the world. It has been a privilege to have known Viola Tapper who will be missed as a champion for the Girls’ Friendly Society. Our tribute should be to keep GFS alive.

Patricia Byrant, President  
 Girl’s Friendly Society  
 Episcopal Diocese of New York  
[p.bryant2@gmail.com](mailto:p.bryant2@gmail.com)  
 Home: 718.324.3509

**Please send your contribution to:**

Margaret Moses  
 Diocesan Church Periodical Club Chairperson  
 11 Park Avenue Apt. 71  
 Mount Vernon, NY 10550

My check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed.

**Check payable to the Church Periodical Club.**

Parish \_\_\_\_\_ Town \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

*Thank You!*

About The Girl’s Friendly Society:

The Girl’s Friendly Society is a national organization in the Episcopal Church for young women from the ages of 5 to 21. Diocesan and local branches develop and create their own programs with the commitment to serve the needs of young women. The GFS began in England in 1875. The first United States chapter was organized two years later in 1877 by Elizabeth Mason, the rector’s daughter of St. Anne’s Church, Lowell, Massachusetts. For additional information see [www.gfsusa.org](http://www.gfsusa.org)

## Episcopal Church Women 46<sup>th</sup> Stony Point Conference Report

Last year's 46<sup>th</sup> Stony Point Conference was held Friday and Saturday, October 23 and 24, 2009. Our theme Growing in Grace: Remembering our Past to Shape our Future was a huge success. All who were present felt that it was a *real winner*.

On Saturday our keynote speaker and workshop leader, Dr. Nell B. Gibson, Chair of the Diocesan Reparations Committee (see: [www.diocesen.org/Social Concerns](http://www.diocesen.org/Social_Concerns)), guided all the conference attendees through the new training manual: The Diocese of New York Examines Slavery and the Episcopal Church with a Dialogue on Reparation Repair and Reconciliation. The discussions which ensued were very informative and thought provoking. Truth, confession, apology, forgiveness and reconciliation were among the topics presented to ponder and share.

Our workshop sharing took place in small group discussions at round tables as well as amongst the larger group facilitated by five Reparation Committee members: Carla Burns, Holy Innocence, NYC; Diane B. Pollard, Crucifixion, NYC; Gary Ryan, St Peter's NYC; The Rev. Maria Santiviago, St. Ann's, NYC; and Dr. Gibson, St. Mark's, NYC. The overall exchange between us was lively, enthusiastic, thought provoking and spiritually meaningful.

Already plans are underway for our 47<sup>th</sup> **Stony Point Conference, Friday and Saturday, October 22 and 23, 2010**. Save this date. We look forward to seeing each of you again or for the first time.

Gloria M. West  
Vice President-Program

## MANHATTAN NORTH REPORT

### St. Andrew's, Harlem, New York City Celebrates 180 Years

**Congratulations to St. Andrew's Episcopal Church on celebrating their 180<sup>th</sup> Anniversary 1929-2009**—one hundred and eighty years of servanthood and ministry to each other and the community of Harlem. The anniversary theme was, "We've Come this Far by Faith,"—yes, through believing in God and relying on their integrity, strength, ability and confidence in each other.

As an invited guest I attended their 180<sup>th</sup> Gala Celebration held on November 13, 2009 at the Glen Island Harbour Club, New York. It was an evening of elegance, cocktail reception, dinner and dancing. The Master of Ceremonies was Margaret Cash, a vestry member of St. Andrew's and past President of the Episcopal Church Women. Distinguished Honorees were, The Rev. T. Allan Jackson, The Rev. Gerald W. Kucher, Shirley L. Fickling, Annette Y. Mack, Thomas R. Brock and Sylton B. Warden. "My Prayer," was sung by Karen Ash Simmons. Beautiful! Beautiful! Beautiful!

On November 28, 2009 St. Andrew's had their 180<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration at their church with procession and Holy Eucharist at 11:00 a.m.; a reception followed. The Rt. Rev. Mark S. Sisk was the celebrant and The Rev. Canon Cecil A. Scantlebury preacher.

Manhattan North please do not hesitate to report all the magnificent events happening in your church. I am here to serve you.

June Beckett  
Manhattan North Representative

### *Visit to Tanzania:*

I have had the opportunity to travel on a pilgrimage led by our diocese to Tanzania, Africa twice—in 2008 and 2009. My visits there took me to the three villages sponsored by St. Luke's Church in the Bronx: *Iringa Mvumi/Nytuka/Mvumi Muungano*. We sponsor a total of 152 students by providing porridge (hot cereal), uniforms, shoes, socks and soap. Our children are able to get porridge in the mornings on school days. Each village has a cow with calf that provides milk for the porridge. There is a well in each village that has fresh, clean water for the villagers. It costs 50 Tanzanian Shillings for a container. That's about 4 cents US. We were given bottled water to drink; it wasn't wise to drink theirs. The active women in the church are called *Women's Union*, which is equivalent to the ECW. They and the children gave us a warm welcome.

These visits touch my heart and made me tearful. The kids entertain you and look at you with gratitude in their eyes as you distribute gifts to them. The other kids in the village look on with happiness for their peers, no envious looks. I wished that I had enough for every child in each village. I will always remember and support the Carpenter's Kids in Tanzania, Africa. [see: [www.carpenterskids.net](http://www.carpenterskids.net)]

✠ Francilla Moore

# REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

We are pleased to present the following nominations for the ECW Annual Elections on May 15, 2010:

## Three Year Terms – Class of 2013

President 2 <sup>nd</sup> Term	Virginia (Ginger) Lief
Vice President Administration	OPEN
Vice President Program 2 <sup>nd</sup> Term	Gloria West
UTO Coordinator	OPEN

## Unexpired Terms – Class of 2012

Vice President Communication	OPEN
Social Concerns Chair 1 <sup>st</sup> Term	Fredericka Kellman-Lowe
Assistant Treasurer 1 <sup>st</sup> Term	Stephanie Harris-Ash

## One Year Term – Class of 2011

Nominating Committee Chair	Margaret Cotterell
----------------------------	--------------------

**Virginia Lief** is a past vestry member of St. Michael's Church, Manhattan where she serves as a lector and the parish ECW president, and volunteers at the Saturday Kitchen – Pilgrim Resource Center. Prior to serving the past three years as the diocesan ECW President she served six years as the ECW Vice President-Program. Her work experience includes thirteen years in central administration at Columbia University where she developed skills valuable to her service on the ECW diocesan board.

**Gloria West** is completing her first term as ECW Vice President Program. A member of the Church of the Intercession, Manhattan, she serves as a representative to the Manhattan North Inter-Parish Council, and her parish ECW secretary and president. She has served as a Sunday school teacher and parish lector. Ms. West's employment history includes her work as Assistant Director for family services at North Presbyterian Head Start as well as many other community related resource positions.

**Fredericka Kellman-Lowe**, a member of St. Andrew's Church, Castle Hill, Bronx, is her parish ECW president.. She is also a member of the gospel choir and the usher board, and coordinates some of the events for other church groups. She has more than thirty years experience in the field of food services management, catering menu and

event planning. Ms. Lowe utilizes Microsoft EXCEL, as well as, many other computer and budget monitoring systems.

**Stephanie Harris-Ash** is a parishioner of St. Simeon's Episcopal Church, Bronx where she is a member of the Social Action Committee, IPC representative, lector and member of her parish ECW chapter. At present she is on the staff of the Memorial Sloane Kettering Cancer Center where she is an interventional radiographer. She is a multi-tasker with an avid interest in taking on more and varied jobs in the service of others.

**Margaret Cotterell** is a member of St. Michael's, Manhattan. She has held many parish positions including: vestryperson, warden and the chairperson of the Outreach Committee. At present she is a member of the Stewardship Committee, and serves as an usher and a lector. She is the chairperson of the parish Discernment Ministry Committee. Margaret Cotterell has an extensive career as staff nurse, faculty nurse and nurse practitioner on the staff of the New York Weil Cornell Medical Center.

Respectfully submitted,  
Diane Pollard, Nominating Committee Chairperson

## **UTO SPRING INGATHERING ECW ANNUAL MEETING - Annual Elections -**

**SATURDAY, MAY 15, 2010**

**ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH**

82 Prospect Street, White Plains, NY  
The Rev. Gawain F. de Leeuw, Rector

**MEETING BEGINS: 10:00 A.M.  
HOLY EUCHARIST: 11:15 A.M.**

CELEBRANT

**The Rt. Rev. Mark S. Sisk**  
Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of NY

LUNCHEON SPEAKER  
**Dr. Hellen Grace Akwaii-Wangusa**  
Anglican Observer and Personal Representative of  
The Archbishop of Canterbury at the UN

Please Bring a Sandwich.  
Coffee & Dessert Will Be Provided.

# CALENDAR — 2010

## ECW CHRISTIAN SOCIAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE REQUESTS

### GUIDELINES FOR PROJECT GRANTS\*

Project requests must be submitted by the sponsoring parish or the ECW district officer:

1. Project requests are granted based on the goals and objectives to meet the needs of a large segment of the community and/or parish. Projects must be on-going and provide written material to substantiate their worth.
2. Seed money may be granted for a new project.

### LIMITATIONS

The Committee will not entertain requests for:

- Salaries for project staff
- Repetition of one-time grants

### DEADLINES FOR REVIEW BY THE BOARD'S FINANCE COMMITTEE:

- May 15<sup>th</sup> and October 15<sup>th</sup>

\*\*\*\*\*

### GUIDELINES FOR SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIPS

All school scholarship requests must have the endorsement of the Christian Social Concerns and/or district chairwoman and the parish priest.

- School scholarships are granted to first-year students on the undergraduate level.

### LIMITATIONS

The Committee will not entertain requests for:

- More than three applicants from one parish
- More than two applicants from the same family
- Scholarships to children, grandchildren or other family members of active members on the ECW diocesan board

### DEADLINES FOR REVIEW BY THE BOARD'S FINANCE COMMITTEE:

- Fall Term 2010 School Scholarship - May 15<sup>th</sup>
- Spring Term 2011 School Scholarship - October 15<sup>th</sup>

**For Application Forms for Project Grants and/or School Scholarships please write or e-mail:**

Fredrica Kellman-Lowe  
Christian Social Concerns Chairperson  
2771 Bainbridge Avenue # 6H, Bronx, NY 10458  
e-mail: foodspec56@hotmail.com

### January 19 (Tuesday)

6:00 p.m. Board Meeting  
*Diocesan House – Donegan Hall*

### February 16 (Tuesday)

6:00 p.m. Board Meeting  
*Diocesan House – Donegan Hall*

### March 16 (Tuesday)

47<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL SCHOOL OF WORSHIP  
10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist – *St. Andrew's, NYC*  
11:45 a.m. Luncheon Meeting

### April 23 - 25 (Friday – Sunday)

ECW PROVINCE II ANNUAL MEETING  
Hosted by the Diocese of New Jersey  
*Holy Cross Monetary, West Park, NY*

### April 20 (Tuesday)

6:00 p.m. Board Meeting  
*Diocesan House – Donegan Hall*

### May 15 (Saturday)

10:00 a.m. UTO INGATHERING &  
ECW ANNUAL MEETING  
*St. Bartholomew's, White Plains, NY*

### May 18 (Tuesday)

6:00 p.m. Board Meeting  
*Diocesan House – Donegan Hall*

### **June- August – No Meetings**

### September 21 (Tuesday)

6:00 p.m. Board Meeting  
*Diocesan House – Donegan Hall*

### October 22 - 23 (Friday – Saturday)

47<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL FALL CONFERENCE  
*Stony Point Center, Stony Point, NY*

### November 4 (Wednesday)

10:30 a.m. FALL UTO INGATHERING  
11:45 a.m. ECW SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING  
*Location to be announced.*

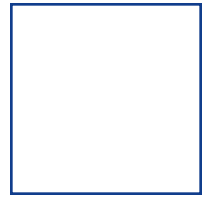
### November 16 (Tuesday)

6:00 p.m. Board Meeting  
*Diocesan House – Donegan Hall*

### December — No Meeting



Episcopal Church Women  
1047 Amsterdam Avenue  
New York, NY 10025-1798



---

ECW BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Virginia (Ginger) Lief  
*President*

Rosemary Loffredo  
*Vice President Administration*

OPEN  
*Vice President Communications*

Gloria M. West  
*Vice President Program*

Francilla Moore  
*Secretary*

Shirley Thompson-Nelson  
*Treasurer*

Stephanie Morris-Ash  
*Assistant Treasurer*

Mavis M. Dowdie  
*United Thank Offering Coordinator*

Astor Benjamin  
*Devotional Life Chairperson*

Fredrica Kellman-Lowe  
*Christian Social Concerns  
Chairperson*

Margaret Moses  
*Church Periodical Club  
Chairperson*

Diane Pollard  
*Nominating Chairperson*

Violet Dawkins  
*Bronx District Representative*

June Beckett  
*Manhattan North District  
Representative*

Nancy Coleman  
*Rockland District Representative*

Rosemary Loffredo  
*Staten Island District Representative*

Dorothy Rock  
*Westchester Central District  
Representative*

(Open):  
*Dutchess District Representative;  
Orange, Sullivan, Ulster District  
Representative;  
Putnam District Representative*