Episcopal Church Women

During the past year, ECW members throughout Connecticut continued to demonstrate commitment to fulfill our purpose, which is to work together to accomplish the ministries to which we have been called, and to “To affirm each other’s gifts and to use them in God’s service to others.” The officers and members of the board met for scheduled meetings and in so doing identified opportunities to support and serve. Three areas of these areas were:

a. Violence in our community including Human Trafficking
b. Hunger Outreach
c. Health and Wellbeing.

We say “Thank You” to the women in parishes; because of your work, commitment, dedication and faithfulness, programs such as United Thank Offering, White Envelope, Scholarships, and Emergency Assistance continue to be successful. A very special thanks to Dr. Mary Decker, retired Christian Education Program Leader for her work as an advocate for victims of Human Trafficking. Tirelessly and with tenacity, she brought awareness of their suffering to people in the pews and in the halls of government.

Feeding the hungry among us is another ministry to which we as Episcopal Church Women are committed. We are deeply involved as cooks, servers, cleaning staff and through grants from the Diocesan budget, provide financial assistance to several Episcopal parishes involved in this ministry.

Our 134th Annual Meeting was held on May 7th, 2015, at Aqua Turf in Plantsville, Connecticut. 362 persons including our Bishop Diocesan, The Rt. Rev. Ian T. Douglas and Bishop Suffragan, The Rt. Rev. Laura J. Ahrens, attended. The keynote speaker was, The Rev. Barbara Cawthorne Crafton, an Episcopal priest and author as well as The Geranium Farm, an institute for the promotion of spiritual growth.

In June, six representatives were sponsored by the Diocesan Board to attend the Triennial Meeting in Salt Lake city, Utah. Delegates and visitors were, Elizabeth Silva, Nancy Wilson, LaDene Monegan, Sylvia Corrigan, Gloria Rogers and myself.

Also attending Triennial was Shirley Greiman, ECW National Vice-president, and Jean Kelsey attended the Altar Guild association meeting. As always, it was not only
learning, but also an inspiring experience. We will always treasure the memory to be an observer at General Convention when it was announced that the first African-American, The Rt. Rev. Michael Curry, Bishop of North Carolina, was selected as the Presiding Bishop Elect.

The Diocesan Board has been blessed with dedicated board members through the years. We acknowledge with regret the passing of several past board members during the past year, they include, Joyce Davis, Judy Nelson, Ellen Anderson, Barbara Anderson, Carolyn Dukenski, Elizabeth Kyle, and Dot Smith. We give thanks to our God for their service. We also give praise and thanks to Him for the service and leadership of the women who currently serve. May he continue to guide us as we continue to serve His people.

Submitted by:

Valzie Peterkin
President
ECW Diocesan Board