

Episcopal Church Women

During the past year, the women of the church in Connecticut continue to live their faith through dedicated service to others, enriching their lives through occasions that provided opportunities to grow in the Spirit. One such event was our 133rd Annual Meeting which was held on May 1st, 2014. It was attended by almost four hundred people representing forty-eight parishes in our state and representatives from Province I. The keynote speaker was the Right Reverend Michael B. Curry, Bishop of North Carolina who as expected inspired all in attendance with his message.

Another event that was well attended was the Open Board meeting which was held at Trinity Church, Nichols, and hosted by our chaplain, the Reverend Ellen Kennedy, and ECW members of the parish. The Holy Eucharist was celebrated, later all in attendance participated in creating floral arrangements before enjoying a delicious lunch. The board meeting followed, but it was also a day when women not only worshiped and worked together, but had a fun and in many instances, networked with each other.

On a rainy Saturday, several Latina women, braved the stormy weather to gather at the Church of the Good Shepherd in Hartford to learn more about ECW. This is one segment of our church community that was not connected to ECW. Thanks to the work and effort of the Rev. Alba Perez, the gathering was a beginning. In attendance were the Rt. Rev. James E. Curry, and the Rt. Rev. Laura J. Ahrens, Bishops Suffragan. We were warmly welcomed by Rev. Perez, the Rev. Valerie Miller, Assisting Priest and ladies of the parish. The visit was especially meaningful to us as the first Diocesan ECW president, the late Elizabeth Hart was a member of the Church of the Good Shepherd. This was a beginning, and it is with prayerful hope we look forward to growing the relationship with Latina women in our Diocese.

Another area where ECW has focused attention, is advocating for victims of violence in our society. We are deeply grateful to the spirit, knowledge, tenacity and determination of our Christian Education Program Leader, Dr. Mary Decker, who has been a strong advocate for victims. She has worked through agencies and people to seek help, improve awareness, and impact legislation on their behalf. In addition, through ECW's White Envelope Program, preteens/adolescents, adults, couples and families will receive scholarships to attend group therapy at the Christian Counseling and Family Life Center, in Shelton. These are only a few of the accomplishments of Connecticut's ECW members. I would like to invite all to take the time to read our Annual Report, or the **Connecticut Communiqué** to learn more.

The ECW members in Connecticut continue to perform amazingly in so many areas, and we are indeed proud to work together as sisters in Christ. We are very grateful for the continued support of our Bishops and clergy throughout our Diocese. It is our prayer that God will continue to lead us and be our Guide as we continue in His service in the days ahead.

Valzie V. Peterkin
President