



Dioceses of Central PA ECW Annual Report

September 19, 2018

MISSION AND VISION STATEMENT OF THE COMMITTEE: Episcopal Church Women exists to support all women in their Mission and Ministry. Our vision for all women of the Episcopal Church is that we become a vibrant blend of all ages, coming together as a peacemaking, healing part of the Church and sharing the love of Christ.

Annual Meeting was held on November 4, 2017. New ECW Board members were elected: President, Cindy Mohr; 1st Vice-President, Eileen Sullivan; 2nd Vice-President, Shirley Wagner; Secretary, Judy Funk; and Treasurer, Amy Swiernik. Alyce Peiffer will serve again as UTO Coordinator and Kim Morrow as Custodian of the Book of Remembrance.

Following a suggestion at the annual meeting, the ECW decided to engage in a service project. It is a widespread problem in Africa that girls miss school and stay at home because of menstruation. Through "Little Dresses for Africa" we will be assisting with this hygiene matter by sewing and supplying Sani-Panties which at distribution starts discussion with the girls about good hygiene. This continues to be an on-going project that continued during our women's retreat this month.

Cindy Mohr headed the delegation for Triennial 2018 in Austin, Texas. Alyce Peiffer, UTO Coordinator, Eileen Sullivan and Shirley Wagner, were the other three delegates. Shirley Wagner received the Distinguished Woman Award for the Dioceses of Central Pennsylvania. Cindy Mohr will be serving as the Province III representative on the ECW National Board for the 2018-2021 Triennium. Keynote speaker Steven Charleston, retired Bishop of Alaska, was an inspiration to all and continues to be as many of us read his postings and books. Other speakers included Canon Stephanie Spellers, Canon for Evangelism, Reconciliation and Creation and Yewande Austin, social impact leader, cultural leader and activist who empowers vulnerable youth through her humanitarian organization. We were inspired by the work at Community First! Village, a ministry of Mobile Loaves and Fishes in Austin. The Diocesan ECW Board was able to supply a donation to this united gift. We also made a donation to the Trinity Shower Ministry at St. David's Episcopal Church. There they supply a private and secure shower program for homeless woman. We also made donations of hygiene supplies. We amended Bylaws, passed resolutions and elected officers to serve for the next 3 years.

It is hard to explain the feeling community at Triennial and Convention. A feeling that you know everyone in the room but yet have never met before. What was there that stood out? There was Presiding Bishop Curry's homilies, daily Eucharist, the Texas Night Revival, the sermons, the great diverse music, making bags of food and toiletries for distribution to the homeless, the hospitality of the people of Austin, the bats, and the walking.

This year the annual ECW retreat, "Three Mystics, Three Objects, Three Practices", was held September 14 through 16, 2018 at the Claggett Center in Maryland. Due to an unfortunate accident with nature,

Rev. Barbara Hutchinson was unable to lead the retreat as planned. The Rev. Canon Kate Harrigan came to the rescue! It was a great weekend of fellowship and learning. Friday evening opened with an exercise on gratitude followed by a session on the writings in the "Medicine Wheel" by Steven Charleston. Saturday sessions were on the three mystics, three objects and three practices. Saturday evening was spent making journals. Sunday retreat goers were asked to read a passage from the "Medicine Wheel" that spoke to them. Eucharist followed. From the weekend, we have interest from in assistance with starting a Facebook page as well as starting some ECW social activities.

We are now preparing for Diocesan ECW Annual meeting to be held on November 3, 2018 at St. Paul's Harrisburg. All women of the Episcopal Church are invited to attend.

Submitted by,

Cindy Mohr, President
Diocese of Central PA ECW Board
