

ECW WORKS

The Newsletter of the Episcopal Church Women Diocese of North Carolina
www.ecw-nc.org



Becoming Enlightened



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As I write this it's mid-April and that means it's the middle of visiting season. The women of faith in the convocations that comprise the Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina are coming together in spring gatherings and I am fortunate enough to have been invited to be with them. While each of these events has a very unique flavor -- demonstrating again there's no one way, no "right" way, to do ECW business -- there are commonalities.

First and foremost, the meetings are moving and energizing because those in attendance have the characteristics of true believers as outlined in the fifth chapter of the Gospel of Matthew. Through organized sisterhood committed to worship, study, service and fellowship, they let their light shine before others so that good works can be seen and glory given to our Father in heaven.

I am proud of what Episcopal Church Women have accomplished with and through the ministry of the word, the Church Periodical Club; the United Thank Offering, which begins with small offerings made during thanks-filled prayer; the Lex Mathews Scholarships, a program aimed at adult women in our diocese seeking to improve their lives through education; the Harris-Evan Conference, a triennial event dedicated to furthering an well-informed, faith-based approach to

social outreach issues; Altar Guild festivals; spiritual retreats; and literacy programs. The list goes on.

I am proud, yes, but I am not complacent. As women of faith in a diocese that has been challenged by its bishop time and again to be mission oriented, to go into the world as disciples to make disciples and make a difference, we can do more. We should ask ourselves on a regular basis if we are doing everything we can to let Christ's light shine in us and through us.

If we did that the most honest answer would most probably be, sometimes. We get inspired, then we get tired. That's natural. That's human. But we must be ever vigilant because we have been told to not hide our light. The national leadership understands this. That is why the theme for this triennium has been "A New Light is Shining." And without giving away too much, I can share that the next triennium, which begins in 2006, will also have a theme related to light.

Inherent in the sharing the light is a call to action. In parishes both big and small we have the ways and the means to help so many of our brothers and sisters in Christ, not to mention ourselves, from groping in the dark. Let's be sure to use them all. Let's get creative.

If we do as John tells us, if we "walk in the light and have fellowship with one another," Jesus will take care of the rest. What a wonderfully challenging yet reassuring message that is for all who want to find their way into the light and to stay there.

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"You Don't Know Me" *Domestic Violence and the Church's Response*

The 2005 Harris Evans Conference Re-scheduled for October 7-8, 2005

It is again time for the tri-annual Harris-Evans Conference sponsored by the Episcopal Churchwomen of this Diocese. Since its inception many years ago, thanks to the generous gifts of several of our members, this conference has focused our attention on a topic of social justice of interest or concern to women. Past topics have included medical ethics, ministry to those in prison, and broadening Hispanic ministry in the parish.

The conference is entitled **You Don't Know Me: Domestic Violence and the Church's Response**. The title comes from an annual meeting devotion heard several years ago when Mary Mitchell of Salisbury was Devotion Chair. In it women stood up throughout the congregation and read brief statements about what was really happening in their lives, even though they smiled and were gracious when you met them in the pew. Each statement began and ended with the phrase "You don't know me" and it had a powerful effect on my life and my response to others since then. I decided to incorporate those words into the conference title, as we often do not realize what is happening in the lives of those who worship together.

The Conference is October 7-8 at The Summit. It will begin with an overview called Domestic Violence 101 on Friday afternoon and end with a Healing Eucharist on Saturday afternoon. Sharee Fowler, the coordinator for the Domestic Violence Community Council for Forsyth County Family Ser-

vices, will give our overview session and a session on how the faith community can respond to Domestic Violence. Sharee has a committee in Forsyth County called Faith in Action that brings together leaders from all faiths to work on violence issues through their community. Members of St. Anne's and St. Paul's Episcopal Churches are active with this group. Sharee recently was awarded the Winston-Salem Echo Foundation 2005 award for community service. She is passionate about working to stop the problem of domestic violence and she will inspire us with her enthusiasm and knowledge.

The Rev. Brian Suntken, rector of St. Patrick's, Mooresville is the keynote speaker. He grew up in a violent household and has worked against domestic violence with men's groups to take responsibility for family safety throughout our diocese and our state. He will share from his unique perspective. Our closing Eucharist will be celebrated by the Rev. Dr. Sarah Rieth, a counselor and therapist associated with St. Peter's, Charlotte. She has worked with victims and survivors for many years. Sarah will close our time together with opportunities to pray for healing. In between our speakers, workshop leaders from across the state will share their personal stories and tell us about programs to help know what to do in our own churches and communities.

Workshops include information on the impact on children as witnesses, helping teenagers avoid violent situations as they date, elder abuse (one of the fastest growing areas of abuse as the

population ages), a legislative update, and fostering healthy relationships in families.

Domestic and intimate partner violence is a societal problem that crosses all barriers of occupation, education, neighborhood, church affiliation, and economic status. Domestic violence is defined as coercive control of another person by an intimate partner, violence which predominantly impacts women and children across our country. Coercion can be physical, emotional, financial, or sexual and the statistics are disheartening:

- Nationally, 588,490 women per year – an average of 67 women every hour – are victimized by an intimate partner.
- In North Carolina, 30% of all adults and just under half of all women have been physically abused by a partner at some point in their lives.
- Between 2002 and 2003 in our state there were over 90,000 calls to domestic violence prevention programs and over 12,000 adults and children spent time in a shelter.
- In 2004, 65 murders were identified as domestic violence related in our state, where we rank 17th for females murdered in single offender/ single victim homicides.

- Nationwide the cost of this violence is over \$6 billion per year in medical expenses, lost wages, and other costs, which does not take into account the impact on such things as school attendance, ability to study and function, and self esteem.

Many of us would be prone to say that domestic violence happens to others but not in our congregations. There may, in fact, be no evidence of family struggles in those you meet, and yet, statistically, it is highly unlikely that incidences of violence are not happening in many of our parish families and going unnoticed and unreported.

Our 1984 Diocesan Convention passed two resolutions connected to domestic violence – one on the training for clergy and laity to provide the needed help in our churches and one on the adoption of the Pledge of Nonviolence from the Institute of Peace and Justice as we become model for peacemaking. The church in fact is compelled by Canon Law to protect and promote the physical safety of those involved in marriage in the church community. In order to do this, Church leadership must be trained to recognize the signs of abuse and coercion and know how to respond with education, prevention, referral, and support that will not further endanger people in their personal relationships.

Brochures for “You Don’t Know Me”: Domestic Violence and the Church’s Response have been mailed. If you haven’t seen one, please contact the Diocesan offices, the ECW, or The Summit. There is still time to add your name to our list. I urge you to both consider personally attending this event and pass the information on to leaders in your parish and your community. If you have any questions, please contact me at christianeducation@ecw-nc.org.

“**You Don’t Know Me**” will be an important beginning for our Diocese in dealing with the problem of domestic violence. Don’t miss out.

The registration deadline is September 19.



By June 10, Send the Spring 2005 Ingathering Offering to :

**JEANNE KUTROW
ECW DIOCESAN TREASURER
1305 KINGSCROSS DRIVE
CHARLOTTE, NC 28211**

Grant awards for 2005 will be announced in the next issue of ECW Works.

For information, call Eva Morriss at (252) 237-5020 or e-mail uto@ecw-nc.org



Mark your calendars now for the Annual Meeting of the Episcopal Church Women of the Diocese of North Carolina, which will be hosted by the women of the Raleigh Convocation.

Date: November 11-12, 2005
Place: Christ Church-Raleigh
Theme: "You Have Been Called"

In the coming months, look for more information about the meeting on the web site, www.ecw-nc.org, and in the next edition of ECW Works.

When I Call...Answer Me!

This was the theme for the spring meeting of the women of the Greensboro Convocation. It was borrowed from a Taizé song by the same name. The meeting, held on April 2 at Holy Trinity Church in Greensboro, was hosted by Duana Cisney, Secretary of Christian Social Ministries for the Diocesan ECW and member of Holy Trinity.

Duana and Bernice Foster, chairwoman of the Greensboro Convocation for ECW, were very pleased that attendance at this year's gathering increased by 47% over last year's meeting. This rise is attributed to the diligence put forth in contacting each parish personally through phone calls, written invitations, bulletin inserts and announcements from the pulpit.

At the gathering, everyone joined together for worship, fellowship and interactive activities. As the overarching theme was communication, all were encouraged to share information and build a network between individual parishes. To set the tone for that, all attendees were assigned random seats in order for all to greet new faces.

The meeting opened with a devotion seeking wisdom and understanding in the renewal and mission of God's church. Following that, all present engaged in activities to promote cross-conversation, team-building and the knowledge that we must rely on each other to accomplish a greater task. One of those activities involved assembling cross necklaces together with a partner, as each person had one part of a cross and had to go in search of its mate. Some wrestled with super glue, but in the end we were all smiles and donned some new jewelry!

Then came a time for sharing. Julie Hayes, president of the ECW at Holy Trinity, shared stories of growth, talent and stewardship in the many outreach projects and activities that are currently happening. Two of the items that are new this year to Holy Trinity are: *A Women's Retreat and Women's Evenings Out*. As Julie said, "Part of our goal should be to also care of ourselves."

Joan Foster of St. Christopher's in High Point noted that they have are renewing their commitment to building their ECW branch. Their first meeting was in late February with just over 20 women in attendance. They will be meeting on Saturday mornings in order to give young women with small children an opportunity to attend and be involved.

Dr. Faith Cosby, a pediatrician and parishioner at St. Andrew's in Greensboro, presented information about a program entitled "Parents as Teachers Faith Community Network." The program, she explained, is "based on the belief that parents are their children's first and most influential teachers and that the early years lay the foundation for children's success in school and in life."

Also discussed was the Harris-Evans Conference. Scheduled for October 7-8 at The Summit, it will examine the ways faith communities can and should respond to domestic violence. The Rev. Virginia Herring, who is very supportive of Harris-Evans, a triennial event, related a bit of the history behind the conference. She then shared stories of both pain and compassion, relating instances of women and children who had silently suffered domestic violence. These, she said, are the same women who sit beside us in the pews every Sunday. "You Don't Know Me" is the title of this year's conference. Everyone present was encouraged to attend.

The keynote speaker was our own **ECW President for the Diocese of North Carolina, Lisa Towle**. As always, Lisa was able to captivate completely her audience. As she thanked all the women present, she also encouraged them to "go tell it on the mountain!" Hers was a message of communication and sharing; of finding your own gift and not keeping it to yourself, but sharing it

Thanks to all who were in attendance.

God's peace to you all,
Duana Cisney



The Lex Mathews Scholarship Fund Challenge

Honoring a life, building on a legacy

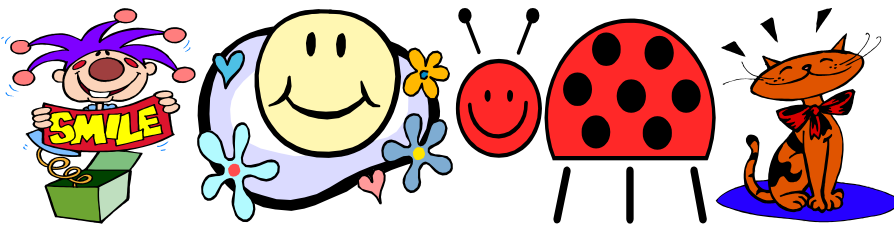
December, 2005 marks the 20th anniversary of the death of the Reverend Lex Mathews. In order to mark this milestone and honor his legacy, the family of Rev. Mathews along with the Lex Mathews Scholarship Committee is asking that Episcopal Church Women in the Diocese of North Carolina, either individually or as a group, make a special gift to the Scholarship Fund in December of this year.

This way of celebrating Rev Mathews' life and work will provide an opportunity for fellowship and outreach as ECW chapters organize and participate in a Scholarship Fund fund-raiser appropriate for their parish. Even more important is the fact that it will help change the lives of women and children, and restore hope.

In 2004, twelve women received Lex Mathews scholarships; only fifteen parishes in the diocese contributed to the fund. A Primary goal of this challenge is to get more ECW chapters involved with this ministry of education. Keep in mind that even small amounts Multiply, and many good deeds together accomplish great things. It is hoped that enough money will be raised so that at least sixteen women can get education scholarships for the 2005-2006 school year and continue their journeys to self-sufficiency.

Please prayerfully consider taking advantage of this opportunity to celebrate the life of a faithful and giving Episcopalian.

If you have questions, contact Velma Bradshaw, chairwoman of the Lex Mathews Scholarship Committee at lexmathews@ecw-nc.org or (252)823-4266.



For miles of smiles..... Visit

<http://www.diocesewma.org/events/convention/convention04/macgougantextconv04.htm>

From the web site of the Diocese of Western Massachusetts, the convention address of Comedian Mark MacGougan.

About the Lex Mathews Scholarships

The Diocesan ECW administers and helps fund the Lex Mathews Scholarship program, named for the Rev. Lex Mathews who advocated for women's issues and headed Christian Social Ministries for the Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina before his death in 1985. The scholarships are geared to women of the diocese, age 23 and older, who are seeking either:

- ◆ Specialized training in vocational or technical skills
- ◆ A degree or certification below the masters or doctorate level
- ◆ Continuing education courses for upgrading job skills

While preference is given to Episcopalians, non-Episcopalians may apply so long as they are sponsored by a member of an Episcopal church. The amount awarded each year depends upon how the selection committee evaluates each application as well as the financial interest generated by the scholarship fund. Generally, scholarship amounts run between \$500 and \$2,000 for one academic year.

Members of the Lex Mathews Scholarship Committee are Chairwoman Velma Bradshaw of the Rocky Mount Convocation; Julia Elsee-Raleigh Convocation; Marjorie Northup-Winston-Salem Convocation; Deborah DeBourg Brown-Durham Convocation; Marcia Kephart-Charlotte Convocation; and Jenny Haase-Raleigh Convocation



To Donors of Property to the Summit:

Although most of the Summit's furnishings and equipment are included in the sale of the Summit, there are some items, mostly of a religious nature, that are not included. The disposition of property not included in the sale will be determined by the Summit board with counsel from the Bishop. Some donors have indicated a desire to have their donated items returned. This may be possible under the following conditions:

- ◆ The item is not included in the sale property
- ◆ Clear proof of donation must be demonstrated
- ◆ The Summit Board must receive a written request for return

Written requests for return of donated items may be addressed to Jonathan Frederick at the Summit. The deadline for such requests is June 1. The Summit Board will review each request individually, determine appropriate action, and notify the donor of the decision. Should the return be possible, it is the sole responsibility of the donor to make mutually convenient arrangements for the item's return at no cost to the Summit or the diocese. In addition, the donor assumes any tax liability incurred. The ability to remove property is not guaranteed until the Summit ceases to operate as an Episcopal center.

Thank you for your support of the Summit.

Sincerely,

The Board of Directors of The Summit
[The Summit's mailing address is:
PO Box 660, Brown Summit, NC 27214]

BRIGHT IDEAS

Projects, programs and other sources of inspiration from one ECW branch to another. If there's something happening at your parish that you'd like to be considered for posting in Bright Ideas, then send the information to president@ecw-nc.org.

An "Evening in Parish" Allows ECW to Reach Out

About 15 years ago, the women of St. Michael's in Raleigh hatched a novel idea: an evening of adult fellowship to raise money for outreach. It was christened **An Evening in Parish** (EIP), and that inaugural event brought together a few dozen people who raised a few thousand dollars. By April of 2004, EIP, which had already grown so large it was forced to move from private homes to the church grounds, was setting records:

- ◆ 235 parishioners attended - 80 more people than ever before;
- ◆ Close to 200 items, representing over \$20,000 in goods and services, were presented at silent auction and raffle;
- ◆ Over \$25,000 was raised for outreach.
- ◆ Parishioners of all ages contributed to the success of this event. Elementary age children donated hand-crafted items for the silent auction. There were adults with a knack for interior design who dressed the parish hall; those with the sensibilities of chefs who selected, taste-tested and assigned recipes to 45 volunteers; those in charge of beverage preferences and quantities; those who coordinated auction and raffle offerings; those with an administrator's mind-set who handled reservations and pre-event finances; and finally, those who kept an eye on post-event finances.

On the morning after Evening in Parish '04, a parishioner handed over a generous check to the ECW. "I had so much fun last night," she explained, "that I never got around to bidding. Add this to the pot."

Those benefiting from Evening in Parish funds have included: Episcopal Farmworkers Ministry, the Alliance Medical Ministry, Interact (which assists victims of rape and domestic violence in Wake County), missionaries, St. Michael's music program, and St. Michael's EYC mission trip.

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WHO ON THE ECW BOARD.....? And Answers

1. Baby sat for Caroline Kennedy? (**Susie Small**)
2. Is thankful and excited about her 70th Birthday on February 24 (**Mary Hawkins**)
3. Won a Bible for correctly reciting all of the books of the Bible as a child? (**Mina Hampton**)
4. Won a "Miss Howard Johnson" beauty pageant in high school? (**Polly Redd**)
5. Cooked chitterlings for Louis Armstrong (**Bernice Foster**)
6. Graduated from college with a BS in Medical Technology (**Sylvia Nash**)
7. Used to find horseback riding a fun activity (**JoAnne Marshall**)
8. Met Mother Teresa (**Lisa Towle**)
9. Attended wedding of Lyndon Baines Johnson's daughter and was a California Raisin for the Summit (**Pat Barnes**)
10. John Glenn's son was a high school friend when Glenn went into space for the first time (**Anne Butler**)
11. Was hugged by Paul Newman, Tom Cruise, Alabama and more (**Vivian Edwards**)
12. Loves yard work and rescued her "spoiled" cat from the street (**Velma Bradshaw**)



Another Quiz?

Can you spot the square for the ECW Diocese of North Carolina?

Check the National ECW website for a color photo of the quilt.

ECW WORKS is a publication of the Episcopal Church Women, Diocese of North Carolina. To order a subscription to ECW WORKS, please send your name, address, and \$4.00 check (payable to ECW) and mail to Jeanne L. Kutrow, ECW Treasurer, 1305 Kingscross Drive, Charlotte, NC 28211. To correct or change a mailing address for ECW WORKS, please send information to Lisa Towle, ECW President, 110 Dutchess Drive, Cary, NC 27513-4209 or email: president@ecw-nc.org. To submit articles for ECW WORKS, send to Mary Hawkins, ECW WORKS EDITOR, 1805 Primrose Place, Durham NC 27707 or email: communications@ecw-nc.org