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Episcopal Church Women

Diocese of Chicago

Spring 2023

Connections

Dear Lord Jesus, bring your family together in your love until all the world is one family. Amen

ECW-Springfield Retreat - March 24-26

Columbia, Illinois



Four of your ECW-Chicago board took a road trip to Columbia, Illinois to the Toddhall Retreat Center (about 15 miles south of St. Louis): Maryfran Crist, Diane Edwards, Jane Schenck and Linda Toberman. The event was planned and hosted by the ECW-Springfield (Jan Goossens) and many of the 30+ people who attended were from the Springfield Diocese, but not all. Kathy Mank, President of ECW-Province V, drove from Ohio to attend.

The main speaker for several of the segments was the new bishop of Springfield, Brian Burgess. His message focused on the importance of Christian women in the formation of Christian gentlemen, and that it was up to us to set expectations of our male contemporaries, children and communities in order for the Episcopal Church to reverse its decline and thrive.

either the Episcopal Church or ECW, we did achieve the theme and implied goal of the retreat: experiencing the joy of regathering.



The retreat organizers were Jan Goossens (top row 5th from left in pink), Rev. Molly Nord, Chaplain to ECW-Springfield (standing at lecturn) and Rev. Sherry Black (right of Molly), and the main topic was the future of ECW generally.

The retreat opened on Friday night with a SWOT analysis (**S**trengths, **W**eaknesses, **O**pportunities, **T**hreats), a tool of business used for both tactical and strategic planning. While this wasn't how I had hoped to spend the evening after a large plate of Penne in Vodka Sauce from Boccardi's Restaurant, it was probably an overall useful exercise to analyze how the women at the retreat see the ECW and its future. No conclusions were reached at this point.



Left: Kathy Mank, Maryfran Crist, (seated) Peggy Graham, Linda Toberman
Right: Rev. Molly Nord, Jan Goosens and Rev. Sherry Black conferring

2023 Annual Meeting and Altar Guild Conference - April 22

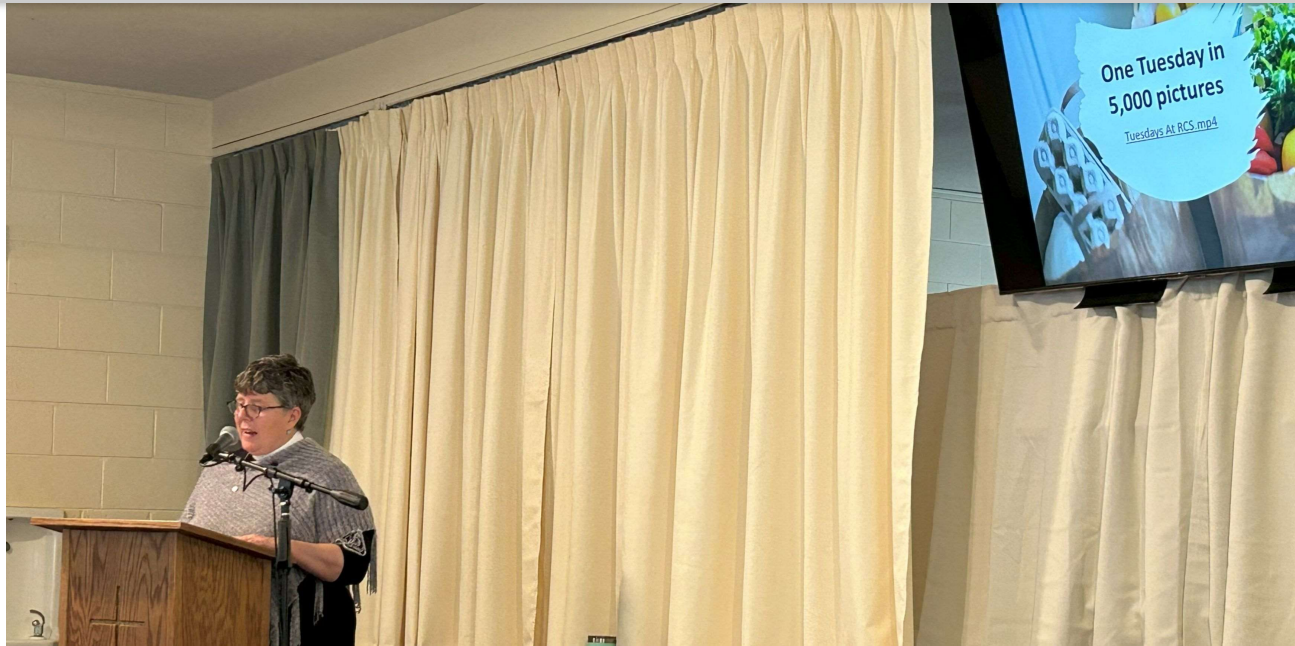


On April 22, 2023, 33 people gathered for this event at All Saints-Western Springs. The meeting was a hybrid with two people on Zoom viewing the event. The All Saints-Western Springs Rector, Fr. L.D. Wood-Hull, also attended to show his support for ECW, to hear Mtr. Courtney Reid speak and to attend the Eucharist.

We invited Bishop Paula Clark, but was unable to attend due to her schedule of confirmations and parish visits, she sent us this recorded greeting instead. [Click](#)



The main business of the Annual Meeting was to elect Laura Brady as Treasurer. The usual approval/acceptance of written reports and the minutes of the 2022 Annual Meeting also passed. Voting was conducted by paper ballots with Diane Edwards first declaring that we had a quorum of 14 parishes represented at the meeting, and later announcing the results (unanimous for election and



Mtr. Courtney spoke for an hour about the history, and especially the current ministries of All Saints-Chicago's feeding ministry which grew into Ravenswood Community Services, a separate 501 (c) 3 organization which serves its northside Chicago neighbors both with groceries, hot meals-to-go and access to social workers who help clients access social services. She showed a couple of videos: "Every Tuesday" and another about the expanded food pantry partnerships with three local grade schools. This later program was publicized with the Annual Meeting, so there were some food and cash offerings to RCS in addition to the ECW-Chicago Ministry Partner gift.



From the left: Alexis Reece, Laura Brady (Treasurer), Maryfran Crist, Judy Greaves, Linda Toberman, Diane Edwards, Peg Newby (Secretary), Wanda Norris (top row), Helen Mensing (bottom row), Deacon Trilby Murray, Rev. Courtney Reid, Jane Schenck (President)

The group then celebrated the Eucharist with Mtr. Courtney presiding, assisted by Deacon Trilby Murray. The officers and board of ECW-Chicago were commissioned for another year as part of the liturgy. Mara Leonard, the All Saints Music Director, provided organ music for the service.

After the Eucharist, the attendees enjoyed a lunch of quiche and salad in the All Saints parish hall (main venue of the event), supported by the All Saints Fellowship team. All the morning, lunch and afternoon bakery foods were sourced from Sweet Ali's in Hinsdale, a gluten-free bakery.

Altar Guild Conference Event Report – Jane Schenck

from California. She spoke movingly about the sacred in the ordinary activities of life, as well as Altar Guild work, reminding us that

After the keynote speech, the group was given an Altar Guild trivia “quiz” authored by Mary K. Torgler and Dorothy Richmond of All Saints. The exercise was amusing and enlightening.



Anne Valentin, May Anstee, Nancy Nix

The final segment of the day was an Altar Guild Panel discussion which focused

and Jane Schenck from All Saints - Western Springs, and May Anstee from St. Mark's – Glen Elynn. Each participant introduced a topic and engaged the other attendees to add their perspectives. The topics were: wine distribution during and post-COVID, recruiting new members, the use of less fussy materials for church linens and decorations and floral arrangements. There was much sharing of current practices, especially regarding wine distribution.

National ECW Board Visits Chicago

The National ECW Board chose Chicago as the diocese to visit in Province V on Friday, May 5 through Sunday, May 7, and the ECW-Chicago Board members participated in some of their activities.

On Friday, the NECW Board visited the Renaissance Collaborative in Bronzeville, and was joined by Jane Schenck, Linda Toberman, Maryfran Crist and Chaplain Trilby Murray for a tour of the transitional housing facility at 3763 S. Wabash, which is as th first YMCA to serve African Americans is a historic building, led by Executive Director Emeritus, Patricia Adams. This was followed by a presentation of the history, vision/mission/values of the 30-year old organization by its current Executive Director, Oji Eggleston and his staff.

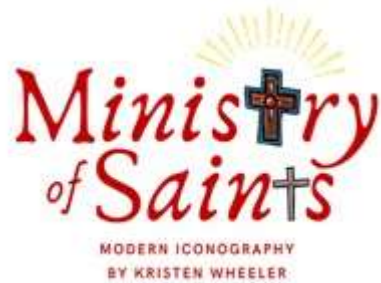
On Saturday, eight members of the ECW-Chicago board met over lunch at the Embassy Suites, meeting the NECW board members and introducing themselves. We shared information about our personal and organizational ministries and strengthened our bond to the national board.



On Sunday morning, the NECW Board visited All Saints-Western Springs for a pre-service gathering to acquaint All Saints members with the work of the NECW, and to join in worship with them at the regular 10AM service. The service was followed by the "Eight Sacrament" coffee hour for more informal chatting. I asked Karen Patterson, the president of the NECW Board, if they had accomplished their objectives for the visit, and she said that they had.



Province V ECW Annual Meeting
Friday, June 2 – Sunday, June 4, 2023
Lindenwood Retreat Center, Plymouth, Indiana



Visit <https://www.ecwprovince5.org> for more information

Registration Eventbrite Link:

[ECW-Province V Annual Meeting and Retreat Tickets, Fri, Jun 2, 2023 at 5:00 PM | Eventbrite](#)

The Hunger Paradox - Fall Speaker Series

Diane Edwards, our Membership Chair, is developing a 3-part speaker series on hunger issues, which will be presented online (Zoom). She plans 3 separate weeks of presentations, providing 1) an overview of the hunger paradox revisited, 2) community garden resources, and 3) container gardening and hydroponics. An emphasis on weeks 2 and 3 is how these methods would help alleviate hunger.

Maryfran Crist noted that the newly-released information on hunger shows that 11.5% of Illinois is without adequate food sources. This is an increased percentage. If you have any suggestions for speakers or have information resources, please email the to Diane, membership@ecwchicago.org. Dates for this series and registration information will be announced when available.

Please let us know your thoughts, questions, fondest dreams for ECW at your parish and your diocese, or even at the province or national level (yes, those levels exist, too).

By the way, you don't have to join the ECW Board to get involved with events. Email me if you want to help at president@ecwchicago.org.



23 UTO Report January Newsletter for ECW

Thank you so much for all the UTO generous Ingatherings last fall! I appreciate all the hard work of the UTO coordinators. Also, I am grateful for everyone's daily attitude of gratitude!

Important information: **Deadline for United Thank Offering Grant Applications this year is Feb. 14, 12 p.m.**

One more Drop-in Q&A time is: Thursday, February 16 at 5 pm.

You must register for this webinar.

UTO is now taking submissions for their next Prayer Book.

Think about getting a group of adults or children together to write prayers.

Anyone with the gift of prayer can write and submit a prayer to UTO for the next book of prayers. For more information, please contact me.

We have new materials for Lent:

40 Days of Gratitude

Noticing and Giving Thanks for Small Things in Our Daily Life

*Visit unitedthankoffering.com/Lent to sign up
for a daily gratitude text during Lent (and no
spam!)*

This year, our Lenten Challenge will be issued via a daily text message every morning. While this is different than anything we've ever done, we hope that you will give it a try and encourage your congregations to do the same! The texting service we're using is *very* safe, and UTO is in full control of the texts sent—this means you can guarantee that you will only receive **one text** every day during Lent 2023 and no more! We figured it was time to adapt to the ways of the world; since everyone almost always has their phone nearby, why not use it as a tool for gratitude?

Here's how you can help others sign up:

1. Visit <https://unitedthankoffering.com/lent/> to sign up and share this link with others.
2. Share the graphic above in your bulletin and newsletters.
3. Ensure others that this is safe and that they will only receive one text a day for 40 days and nothing else
4. Just a reminder, our materials for families or faith formation are also available to download and use.

Register your Parish with UTO!

Does your parish participate in UTO? Let us know! Registering your parish will give you access to newsletters, materials and more. It will allow UTO to keep up communication with you. **Please register here.** If your parish doesn't participate in UTO, but you're interested in learning more, please fill out the form, and we will contact you.

UTO is not just another group in The Episcopal Church asking for money. Our mission is to the whole church first and then to the whole world. An attitude of gratitude is part of the foundation of a joyful, abundant, Christian life. Let's all try to live that and see what happens when we share this message with our families, friends, parishes and dioceses.

Please remember to send all ingathering and personal checks to:

The United Thank Offering
DFMS – Protestant Episcopal Church
P.O. Box 958983
St. Louis, MO 63195-8983

Gratefully,

Your Chicago UTO Coordinator,
Linda Toberman



Ministry of the Written Word

Church Periodical Club (CPC) is an independent affiliated organization of the Episcopal Church dedicated solely to providing free literature

through an annual grant process and who have no other source for obtaining them.

Have you ever wondered why the ministry of Church Periodical Club (CPC) continues, after all it started with one woman's observation that there was a need for printed materials by Mary Ann Drake Fargo who went to her Bishop with a proposal, was told yes and with that she a small group of women started a club to do this ministry in **1888**. The need has not changed, but now we grant for all forms of the written word.

Now go back to Diocese of Chicago. Did you know we were a CPC entity from the first annual meeting in **1892** by Mrs. Clinton Locke who lived on Indiana Ave. The following churches were involved St. Peter Lakeview, Christ Church Woodlawn, St. James Chicago, St Paul's Kankakee, Emmanuel La Grange, Christ Church Joliet, Trinity Aurora, St. Mark's Evanston, St Luke's Evanston, Epiphany Chicago, Emmanuel Rockford, Grace Chicago, St. Paul's Kenwood (Hyde Park), Grace Oak Park, Grace Galena, St. Luke's Dixon, and Christ Church Ottawa.

Fast forward, **this year**, only four churches and diocesan ECW sent funds to CPC and none of the founding churches. Maybe you forgot or didn't know we still exist. Yet, our diocese and our province received both child/youth grants as well as adult grants in 2022. Help us strength an old but still vital ministry. Attached are the adult grant requests for 2023 adults, with four from our diocese.

**Will your church sponsor one or several of these?
Every donation no matter the amount provides hope and
access to the written word.**

Need help and information to get started????
Maryfran Crist CPC Diocese of Chicago
Maryfrancrist64@gmail.com 815-257-7012

2301 – 9 Episcopal Seminaries: General (NYC), Bexley- Seabury (Chicago), Berkeley at Yale (New Haven CT), Virginia (Alexandra VA), Seminary of the Southwest (Austin TX), Church Divinity School of the Pacific (Berkeley CA), Nashotah (Nashotah WI), University of the South -Sewanee (Sewanee TN) **Amount to be determined.**

Domestic Grants

- | | |
|---|---------|
| 2302 - Church of the Transfiguration – Silver Springs MD
(Diocese of Washington)
Use in outreach and adult formation | 1566.07 |
| 2303 - St Anne’s – Hallandale FL
(Diocese of SE Florida)
Lift every voice and Sing Replacing tattered books | 920.30 |
| 2304 – Province V Anti-Trafficking Taskforce Novi MI
(Diocese of Michigan)
Books for women at a home for healing from trafficking | 692.27 |
| 2305 - St Mark’s – Beaver Dam
(Diocese of Milwaukee)
Provide resources for faith formation for a growing congregation | 1724.24 |
| 2306 - Church of the Transfiguration Palos Park IL
(Diocese of Chicago)
Books for prayer service and gatherings | 686.90 |
| 2307 - One in Christ – Prospect Hts IL
(Diocese of Chicago)
First EFM Korean program now in 4 th year and need additional Korean resources | 286.10 |

Provide money to establish a little free library for adult spirituality, theology and justice

2309 - ECW Diocese of Chicago Food Insecurity (Diocese of Chicago) 669.00
Provide participants with a resource to continue education on the Hunger Paradox

2310 - St Paul's Salem Oregon (Diocese of Oregon) 670.10
Add books to library re: LGBTQ+

Overseas Grants Rewritten as one grant with four parts

*2311 - Kiponzero Parish (Diocese of Ruaha) 2740.50
(For Parish Ministry)
(For ministry to Women)
(Bibles and Prayer books)
(Evangelism) Iringa Tanzania

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