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Episcopal Church Women

Diocese of Chicago

Connections

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

2022 ECW Grant

In December the ECW-Chicago Outreach team awarded a recognition grant to an organization based at St. Thomas-Chicago, "Our Kids, Our Responsibility" for a new program, "Girls 4 Good". The mission is to serve, share and promote growth in marginalized pre-teens, teens and young adult females by providing a community safe space for mentorship, meditative art work, and group sharing, also promoting healthy eating, fitness, social skills, peace circles to combat violence. The target audience is girls ages 10 to 20.

Girls 4 Good

submitted by Jane Schenck



I spoke about the ECW's mission to support women and children, and mentioned the Girls Friendly Society as an affiliated organization (and provided Wanda with more information gleaned from GFS-US's website).

After lunch, a Chicago Police officer, Jamil Brown, spoke about his "Officer Friendly" work in community policing, liaising with faith communities like Greater Zion church.

December 3rd. An activity-packed day was planned by leader, Wanda Norris, starting with an African dance class at a park district field house in Little Village. When I arrived, the class was in full session with the girls learning the dance steps, and I joined in.

Later, we walked across the street to the Greater Zion MB Church where the fellowship hall had been set up with tables draped in pink cloths for gathering to work on crafts (I attempted to teach knitting – next time: crochet), talk and eat.





last speaker was “Rambling Rose”, a retired CPS teacher who was now engaged with a jazz group as a singer, composer and guitar-player. She sang a song and read a story which was her own story about growing up in the rural south, moving to Chicago and learning the importance of applying oneself to one’s school work.

The girls seemed to have fun, and the event broke up at 2. Another gathering is being planned at St. Thomas for January, and I hope to attend again.

2023 Annual Meeting and Altar Guild Conference - April 22



This year's Annual Meeting will be held at All Saints in Western Springs. The Annual Meeting will be in the morning followed by lunch and an Altar Guild Conference.

Plans are being developed, but our keynote speaker will be the Rev. Courtney Reid, Associate Rector of All Saints-Chicago, who will speak about Ravenswood Community Services, a ministry which grew out of the feeding ministry at All Saints-Chicago.

The Altar Guild Conference will focus on the spiritual side of the ministry, as well as some practical information about the vestments, vessels, and basic procedures. There will also be a fun challenge for those present. There will be more details, as well as information about how to register in the late winter and on the ECW website: ecwchicago.org.

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.

A Chat with Barbara Weaver, St. Peter's Sycamore

Submitted by Peg Newby, St. Paul's DeKalb, ECW Chicago Diocese Secretary

I recently spent a most delightful 2 hours with Barbara. My intent was to "interview" her about her past role as ECW Chicago Diocesan President. Our chat went well beyond my prepared questions. Barbara possesses a wealth of information about the ECW and our Diocese in general. She confesses to being a nonagenarian who has been at St. Peter's for about 70 years. She was raised in the faith of the Disciples of Christ but was later

member of the parish, and currently serves as the head of the Altar Guild. Previous positions include being the first woman Senior Warden at St. Peter's, and serving on the Vestry for "at least 5 terms." She was their ECW president twice, and has served as Stewardship Chair many times. Barbara is obviously a vital member of St. Peter's!

Barbara was the President of the ECW Chicago Diocesan Board from 1985 – 1988. She served a total of 12 years on the board, which included 5 years as the Treasurer. Because meetings were held at 65 E. Huron, Chicago, Barbara made many trips into the city from Sycamore. She recalls the ECW was supported a great deal by the Deans. The makeup of the board at that time was President, Vice President (who was not necessarily the President-Elect), Secretary, and Treasurer, along with representatives from the 10 deaneries. Barbara noted that this is an area that concerns her, as the far outreaches of our Diocese are not now actively represented. She also remarked that those without electronic communication equipment or skills are often out of the loop of what is happening across the Diocese. The written word is the preferred (or only) means of receiving information for many parishioners. How can we improve on this?

I was particularly interested with what projects the ECW Board was involved during Barbara's tenure. She remembers a process was created whereby Books of Common Prayer were provided to a women's penitentiary, along with creating a space for the women to worship. The large UTO cross used at services came into being during her tenure. Another project was working with Bishop Scantlebury and his wife for the benefit of the women of Panama.

I enjoyed my chat with Barbara. Please take the time to have conversations with your fellow parishioners. You'll enjoy it and learn a lot!

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

From Our Sister Ministries:



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



An independent, affiliated organization of the
Executive Council of the Episcopal Church



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CHURCH
PERIODICAL CLUB

Ministry of the Written Word

Church Periodical Club (CPC) is an independent affiliated organization of the Episcopal Church dedicated solely to providing free literature (in all available formats) and related materials, both religious and secular, to people all over the world who need and request them through an annual grant process and

We need donations for these funds:

- Children's grants MOP (Miles of Pennies program) of grants up to \$844.80 which is granted throughout the year;
- Adult grants NBF (National Books Fund) which are granted once a year in June which included grants for seminarians through their seminary; and
- General Fund which holds money not designated for other purposes.

For more information, contact:

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