



2021 Honored Women

*A celebration of the women of the
Diocese of Chicago, honoring
their work in their church and communities.*

Episcopal Church Women
Diocese of Chicago

Annual Meeting

May 8, 2021



Episcopal Church Women
Diocese of Chicago

St. James Commons
65 East Huron Street
Chicago IL 60611

www.ecwchicago.org

May 8, 2021

Congratulations to all 18 Honored Women! We are thrilled that you have been recognized for your service to your parish and community and you are wonderful examples of what faith-filled women can accomplish. Your profiles exhibit a wide range of skills and gifts, and are outstanding examples of women in leadership.

Special congratulations goes to the Honored Woman from St. Lawrence, Libertyville, Susie Brock. She has been chosen by the ECW Board as the 2021 Distinguished Woman, and will be honored at the 2022 National ECW Triennial meeting in Baltimore, MD.

The ECW seeks to honor and inspire the women of the Diocese and the depth and breadth of service that you each have provided is amazing. Our parishes are better places for all the love and support you have given them and we are very pleased to honor you at this year's annual meeting.

Thank you for your commitment to women's ministries and the Episcopal Church.

Jane Schenck
ECW Board Convener

Beth C. Petti
Honored Woman Chair



2021 Distinguished Woman

Diocese of Chicago

Susie Brock

St. Lawrence Episcopal Church, *Libertyville*

Every three years, in conjunction with the General Convention of The Episcopal Church, the national Episcopal Church Women hold their Triennial meeting.

One outstanding woman from each diocese is chosen to represent her diocese as the Distinguished Woman during Triennial. The National ECW Board recognizes all of the Distinguished Women at a special reception during the convention.

We are very pleased to honor Susie Brock with this award. She will be honored at the Triennial to be held July, 2022 in Baltimore, Maryland.



2021 Honored Women

Women with Wings: Celebrating Women in Leadership

The following women have been chosen by their parish because their lives reflect their Christian values and they use their God-given talents to serve others.

The depth and breadth of the service of these women is impressive and the Episcopal Church Women of the Diocese of Chicago are pleased to honor them today.



Betty Kilgore

St. Mark's, *Barrington*



Betty is a mother of two, and a devoted grandmother of four. Betty is one of life's great givers. She has a huge heart and loves to be active in the service of others. COVID-19 has been torture for her as she loves to be in the thick of things.

Her service at St Mark's goes back over three decades, and her children went through the parish youth programs and Confirmation path. Betty has served on the Vestry, and recently completed a four year spell as Churchwarden. She was especially helpful connecting with individuals, helping newcomers find their way, and guiding people towards their next step. There are a number of people in the parish who speak of Betty as a saint because she supports them when they are down, visits or finds activities for them to do together. A natural people person, Betty is fun to be with and her dinner parties are the stuff of legend.

Betty also chaired the search committee that brought me to St Mark's 13 years ago. She serves on the Flower Guild and is always available to help with social activities and pastoral matters. Betty is one of our pastoral team who takes communion to shut-ins. She is a regular attendee at Formation programs and an avid lifelong learner.

Betty has served the community in many ways. Recently she has been on the Fundraising Committee for Friends of Good Shepherd Advocate Hospital in Barrington, and chair of their lead fundraising project, 'Art in the Barn'. Betty has also served at its inception, on the board of Barrington Samaritan's Counseling Service. I am sure she has fulfilled other roles over the years of which I am not aware.

Betty's Baptist background served her well in giving her a strong bible knowledge, and one of her favorite parables is the Good Samaritan. I commend Betty, our Good Samaritan, to you for consideration with great enthusiasm. She is a joy to be with, her compassion for people infectious, and her gentle demeanor brings peace and calm.

Rev David Gibbons
Rector, St Mark's



Ruth Denofrio

St. Benedict's, *Bolingbrook*



Ruth Denofrio is one of the most caring and empathetic persons, I personally know. Ruth was a school teacher, teaching 7th & 8th graders for the first three years and then teaching freshmen and sophomores for the remainder of her 34 years of teaching at the Romeoville High School in Bolingbrook. Ruth was married to Robert Denofrio for 42 years, until his passing in October of 2009. She has two sons, Robert and David, both of whom reside in Texas.

After Robert's passing, Ruth was invited to attend church at the Episcopal Church of St. Benedict in Bolingbrook, IL by one of her fellow teachers, who was also a member of St. Benedict. Initially Ruth was considering just coming to church and sitting in the pews, but God and the Rev. Heidi Haverkamp had other plans for Ruth. Ruth was received into the Episcopal faith in May of 2010.

Utilizing her God given talent for teaching since she came to St. Benedict,. Ruth started off by assisting the Godly Play class and she became the primary teacher for ages 4 through 8. She also started helping out in the church office and with setting up the Parish Hall for Coffee Hour every Sunday, special occasions, and for Bible study for which she prepared a small meal for the participants.

Ruth also was the food shepherd for the New Song Church Food Pantry in Bolingbrook and when their Pantry closed, she suggested that St. Benedict support the DuPage Township Food Pantry, Romeoville and she continues to lead this ministry. She also served as the chairman of donations for the St. Benedict's Awesome Auction, for nine years, which was a ministry to help supplement the St. Benedict's budget. Ruth has volunteered at the Morton Arboretum in Lisle and she continues to support the Arboretum as a patron.

Ruth has also served on the Vestry of St. Benedict for 7 years as the Clerk and is currently meeting with the new Clerk to help him get acclimated to the job. She has worked closely with the Supply Priest, the Wardens and Building and Grounds, to keep St. Benedict functioning and open during the Pandemic. Ruth is a Godsend to the Church of St. Benedict and the community of Bolingbrook, as well as DuPage and Will Counties. Her faith is very strong and she gives her all to the Episcopal Diocese of Chicago.

Donnie Williams
Scott Pritchard

Wardens, Episcopal Church of St. Benedict



The Rev. Karen King Holy Cross, *Chicago*



We, the members of The Episcopal Church of the Holy Cross in Morgan Park in Chicago, hereby submit the name of The Reverend Karen Alicia King as our Honored Woman of the Year 2021. We salute her 40 years of dedicated service to the Diocese of Chicago in multiple capacities as well as her service to the global church through the National Episcopal Church.

Reverend King's continued commitment to serving God's people is evident in all of her undertakings. She has moved our weekly Eucharist service to an online traveling community. We have enjoyed services in the yards of people's homes and to places like Rock City/Lookout Mountain, TN; Atlanta, GA; and Montgomery, to name a few. We were able to enjoy services in places our "Seasoned Christian Community" will probably never be able to visit, as many are well over sixty years of age. Rev. King helped us to see the beauty of God on another level through Zoom services with travel.

Her innovative response to the COVID-19 pandemic has helped us experience church in a very different way and enabled us to gain new members. We all thoroughly enjoy her sermons and dedication to the entire parish community. Her tireless effort to assure that every member is visited in person, where allowed, or with a phone call making sure that they know that they are cared for by the whole community.

Rev. King fosters a TEAM concept for the parishioners and acknowledging the value of each member. We have accomplished many community projects and through our new members, we even had a toy drive that served over twenty-five families of special needs children. In addition, she continues to support her seminary students in Tanzania from her time there from 2016 to 2019. Many of the youth in her ministry are adults and still are in contact with her.

Rev. King is no stranger to the Church of the Holy Cross. She worked with Sister Kathleen Marie Wilson in creating a vacation Bible school in 1986 and served as our supply priest in 2014. She has continued to serve our community when she was home from her missionary work in Tanzania. Rev. King currently serves as our long term supply priest and connects us to the rural churches in the LaSalle County Episcopal Ministries (LCEM). She has been a member and our supply priest since her permanent return home from Tanzania in 2019.

We, the Church of the Holy Cross, cheerfully submit The Reverend Karen Alicia King as our Honored Woman of the Year 2021.

Mr. Benjamin Farnandis, *Senior Warden*, Church of the Holy Cross, Chicago



Edna Sanders

St. Thomas, *Chicago*



Family History

Peyton Banks, grandfather of Edna Roi Fox Sanders and two of his friends were the founders of the Church of the Redeemer Episcopal Church, Greenville, MS; the only Black Episcopal Church in Greenville. Edna was christened at Church of the Redeemer, Greenville, MS. At the age of 5 months old, Edna and the family (including older sisters Alverston, Mickey and Peggy) moved to Chicago. The search for an Episcopal Church landed Hattie Fox at St. Thomas in 1939.

Current Ministry/Service Involvement at St. Thomas

Edna has been a member of the Rector's Guild for more than 37 years, many of them as president. Because of her years of distinctive service to the Rectors of St. Thomas and the entire church community, Edna was recently elected to President Emeritus. Her steadfast and heartfelt commitment consistently exemplified the highest personal, spiritual and responsible leadership executed with confidence and humility. Her leadership has been an inspiration in support of the goals and visions of three St. Thomas Rectors with whom she worked side by side. Her love, kindness, selflessness, courage, tenacity, sweat, tears and strength have been integral to building and strengthening the foundation for our community of faith. She is an exemplary role model for the women of St. Thomas. The Rector's Guild was organized in 1941 to serve the church and the Rector. The work of The Guild includes representative participation in the Ministries and organizations of the church and whenever called upon to be of service.

Edna for years served on the St. Thomas Budget and Finance Committee, tended the church garden, the Kitchen Committee and even taught Sunday school. Whenever called upon she provides a significant level of involvement and participation in the activities and business of many of the church ministries and organizations providing a helping hand while enjoying fellowship with her multitude of family and friends and building new relationships.

Edna has consistently demonstrated faithful commitment to the development of the Rector's Guild and provided distinguished service to all aspects of the life and vigor of St. Thomas Church giving freely of her time, talents and resources.

The Rev. Fulton L. Porter, MD

Rector, St. Thomas Episcopal Church, Chicago



Marilyn Cleland

St. Paul's, *DeKalb*



My church life began as a child in a Bible Church in Chicago. I went every week with my mother, grandmother, and sister (of blessed memory). I learned that Jesus loved me. Another influential part of my religious education was living in a three-flat with two Jewish families with whom we had warm relations. When we lived in Oak Lawn, mother took us to Oak Lawn Presbyterian Church. It was beautiful in its austerity, and I continued to learn of the love of Jesus while getting some basic Calvinist theology. I attended until the last semester of high school, when I announced I would not be going anymore. I was not asked why and I don't recall knowing why.

Seventeen years later, I returned to church for two reasons: I missed it, and I had two small children and couldn't bear that they grow up without Church. I had several intellectual and spiritual misgivings, but I found St. Paul's. Or it found me. I returned to St. Paul's because of the beauty and thoughtfulness of the sermons. And for the sense of the sacred which my protestant background had muted. I became active, my children were baptized, my husband joined us, and here I am – along with him – decades later. I have always been in the pew, but found other sources of worship: at the altar as an acolyte, at the lectern as a reader, and in the conference room for adult education. Through the years, I have directed adult education programs, developed with our priest a Lenten retreat, edited our church newsletter, and contributed to our Taize worship. Some of my fondest memories are of welcoming new parishioners and after coffee hour helping clean up with others. I am serving a second term on the vestry. I am an engaged mother and grandmother, and I have had an active professional life as a teacher, now occasionally volunteering as an ESL tutor, life-long learning professor, and currently serve as a board member of our local library.

Additional information about Marilyn

Marilyn is extremely devoted to the ongoing spiritual life and health of St. Paul's. She will sit with visitors at coffee hour until the visitor is ready to end the conversation. Perhaps the most recent example of Marilyn's devotion to St. Paul's was her suggestion (insistence?!) that we consider our parish life beyond what is found on the budget worksheet. What's important to us? What projects and goals should our funds be used towards? We had just started those conversations when Covid put a halt to in-person gatherings. Hopefully, those conversations can resume soon, as they are no less important today than before March of 2020. Thank you, Marilyn, for your devotion to St. Paul's.



Angie McPhillips

Church of Our Saviour, *Elmhurst*



Angie McPhillips is currently the Senior Warden at Church of Our Saviour in Elmhurst. She and her husband have been members of COS since 2001.

Through the years Angie's commitment and passion has seen her serving on many ministry committees which include Outreach, Altar Guild, Finance, Worship and Worship Space when the sanctuary was redesigned. She has been a delegate to the Diocesan Convention and a delegate to the Electing Convention for the new Bishop of Chicago. She was also on the search committee for COS's current rector. Angie has also been a Lay Eucharist Minister and Lay Eucharist Visitor. She has served on the Vestry, been Junior Warden twice and is currently serving a second term as Senior Warden. She also attended the diocesan Thrive meetings.

Angie loves entertaining and planning fundraising events for the church such as pizza parties and spaghetti dinners. Every fall you can find her cooking hot dogs and planning games for the children. This event has included a magician, pony rides, a bouncy house, popcorn, cotton candy and a visit from the Elmhurst Fire Department.

Christmas and Easter she plans events for the church school children. Whether it is crafts, decorating cupcakes for Sunday fellowship or filling 200 Easter eggs for Easter egg hunt, Angie enjoys working with the children. She also started teaching them to pass the offering plate and to take the gifts to the altar.

Angie loves doing hospitality, from fellowship to meals for parishioners (if needed) and to greeter prior to church services as well as being an acolyte. She has made welcoming bags for newcomers and planned several outings for the parish such as bowling night and family baseball games. In 2012 COS celebrated 150 years with a dinner reception and activities planned by Angie.

Angie also coordinates Church of Our Saviour's participation, along with other community churches, in Grace Cafe which provides meals to those in need twice a month.

Angie has been and currently is a very active member of Church of Our Saviour. She has made herself available to whomever and whenever needed. She says that her heart is always filled with joy as she serves the church and its ministries. We are blessed to have her as a member of the parish as she is blessed, loved and appreciated.

The Rev. Shireen Baker
Rector, Church of Our Saviour, Elmhurst



Elizabeth Rice

St. Andrew's, Grand Ridge



Elizabeth Rice has been a lifelong member of St. Andrew's, Grand Ridge, which is a small rural congregation with a long history. She has served on the Bishop's Committee for many years and is currently Treasurer of the congregation.

Beth has also represented St. Andrew's on the board of the LaSalle County Episcopal Ministry (LCEM) and is the Treasurer of that body, bringing her expertise as a lawyer to the congregation and the LCEM as well.

She is a tireless worker who "has done an awful lot for St. Andrew's" according to one of her fellow parishioners. But she is a behind the scenes type person who isn't always visible or prominent. Beth's service is one for encouraging others and supporting them, never wishing to bring attention to herself, but always there.

The people of St. Andrew's, Grand Ridge, are happy to name Elizabeth Rice as our Honored Woman.

The Rev. John Crist

Leadership Views from Women Leaders in the Diocese

Leadership in the Episcopal Church is a true calling from God. I never thought that it was a choice in my case. Hopeful Beginnings wanted me to be the Executive Director of the Agency, but I was quite hesitant about taking on this commitment. I prayed and prayed that somehow God would let me out of this and He didn't. Therefore, I accepted the position with grace and the knowledge that I would be following His wishes. I have always seen myself as a leader as opposed to a boss. A leader is a listener, a teacher, and a mentor for the next generation of leaders. We have very little time to impart our values and philosophy to those in our charge. I always remember to do some hands on clinical work as it keeps me humble and I see Jesus in every client I meet.

Joanne Bratta, *Hopeful Beginnings*, a ministry partner agency of Episcopal Charities



Susie Brock

St. Lawrence, *Libertyville*

2021 Distinguished Woman



Susie Brock and St. Lawrence Church have literally grown together and is now our longest standing parishioner. She was baptized and confirmed here and served as our first female acolyte. She was married at St. Lawrence and both of her children were baptized here. She and her mother were ECW members.

As our Parish Administrator for 17 years, Susie performs her job responsibilities exceptionally well, yet this is the least of her strengths. She practices radical hospitality to all who visit and offers compassion, a sympathetic ear, and collaborative problem solving. Susie develops parishioner gifts to help them grow more fully into leadership and their faith and she is extremely imaginative and resourceful and helpful for a cash-strapped congregation.

In addition to clergy/ministry team support, Susie initiates programs for the women and children of St. Lawrence. Young children enjoy her worship “Soft Space” and at the annual meeting, they enjoy her “Sunday Funday” activities. She started the “Godly Play” program 6 years ago, with the vestry teaching the young children. and organizes the women of the parish to provide potluck dinners and informs parishioners of the United Thank Offering Sunday. Programs that Susie has initiated connects St. Lawrence with Libertyville and beyond. Parish women created 400+ girls’ dresses from pillowcases in the “Little Dresses for Africa” program. The prayer shawl ministry creates/distributes hundreds of shawls knitted in prayer for those in need of spiritual comfort and warmth. For 3 years, the parish fundraiser “Church Street Market” has operated with vendors/farmers selling goods to benefit parish ministries. As an act of comfort and Christianity, Susie always had food available for needier visitors to St. Lawrence. Her simple boxes of graham crackers have grown into providing food to 70+ families weekly through our independent HOPE Food Pantry, partnered with the Northern Illinois Food Bank.

A life-long Libertyville resident, Susie is active in her community. She has volunteered for 6 years with Conserve Lake County. As a small business owner, Susie served on the Board for MainStreet Libertyville and began “Lunch in the Park” which has been held for 23 years!

Susie has contributed to the Diocese and National Church, too. She and The Rev. Vicki Garvey ran the children’s program at the Diocesan Convention for 8 years, and in 2018, she was selected to develop and implement children’s programs for The Episcopal General Convention including care for the children of vendors, General Convention and ECW Triennial attendees in Austin, Texas.

Susie personifies the words of Mother Teresa, “Small things done with great love will change the world”.
The Rev. Daphne Cody, *Interim Rector*, St. Lawrence, Libertyville



Lisa Pardue

Calvary, *Lombard*



I am greatly honored that I have been named as an Episcopal Church Women (ECW) Honored Woman 2021 this year by Calvary Episcopal Church, Lombard.

I have been a member at Calvary for 38 years. I started attending Calvary when I was in college. I was married at Calvary, my kids were baptized at Calvary and they were married by Calvary's priest at the time, Pastor Emily Mellott. Now, my grandchildren have been baptized at Calvary.

In that time, I have served our congregation and Diocese in various ministries. As soon as I graduated college with an accounting degree, I started counting the weekly donations. From there I went on to teach church school starting with the pre-school group and continued all the way up to Rite 13 and Journey to Adulthood groups. One of my most fulfilling roles was as the Rite 13 and Journey to Adulthood leader. The relationships and fond memories of our time together will stay with me for the rest of my life.

I was also the President of Calvary's ECW and served on the Diocesan ECW board and eventually I became the Diocesan United Thank Offering coordinator. I have served on the vestry as the fellowship chair, Senior Warden and Finance chair. Currently, I am the finance chair and the church treasurer. I have also organized and volunteered for numerous fellowship and fundraising events at our church.

The last thing I thought I would be working on at the church is the livestreaming of the service. During the pandemic, I have learned more about livestreaming than I ever imagined possible given that I am not a techy kind of person. However, when things change that we have no control over, we all must pitch in and learn what we can so our worship and ministry can continue even during a pandemic. I wonder what God intends for me to do next.

The Church has meant so much to me and my family for my entire adult life. Calvary is an extension of our family. When I am serving, I feel my relationship with God grows exponentially.



Barbara Plantz

Grace, New Lenox



Barb Plantz is a devoted wife, sister, mother and grandmother, who has become a fixture in the southwestern suburbs of Chicago as a woman of fortitude and Christian discipleship in her community.

Coming to this congregation in New Lenox after years of service as a teacher and as social worker, Barb immediately made a huge impact of the life of our congregation, and in turn her own faith journey has flourished. In her decade at Grace Church, Barb has volunteered in numerous realms of parish life: organizing clothing and food drives for a local mission; serving on the Altar Guild, participating as a devout member of our Bible Study group and Adult Forum courses, cochairing the last Rector Search Committee; and most especially leading the congregation as our Senior Warden for three straight years.

But Barb is perhaps best known for the intangibles, the little things - noticing when someone needs help in the church kitchen, or when to fill in for an absent lector in worship, or helping make deliveries on Ash Wednesday and Palm Sunday to parishioner homes in lockdown. She has cared immensely for a 98-year-old member of our church, walking alongside him as he phased into assisted living and becoming a surrogate daughter in so many respects.

Parishioners and strangers alike know that Barb will drop everything to listen, to pray with them, or to hop in the car and help out in however she is needed. Her ministry to the church is a textbook example of “servant leadership,” and in her own unabashed humility, she would allow that she is simply doing what is need - the right thing, in every instance.

In 2020, just before the COVID-19 pandemic, Barb stood at the altar of our church sanctuary and professed her newly-matured faith as Bishop Jeffrey Lee received her into the Episcopal Church, cementing her as a sacramental and ideological leader in our congregation for all ages and all genders.

Now Barb is helping to design a new outreach program to serve the local community in financial distress post-pandemic. We could not be more proud of her leadership, and her drive to help others and care for all God’s people. When our worship ends with “Go in peace to love and serve the Lord,” the people of Grace know that Barb Plantz embodies that missional cause and lives it out day after day.

The Rev. Gregory L. Millikin
Rector, Grace Episcopal Church, New Lenox



Susan Comins

St. Bride, *Oregon*



St. Bride's Episcopal Church is a small, rural parish that serves approximately 30 active members. It is the only Episcopal Church in Ogle County.

Sue Comins was a blessing to St. Bride's Episcopal Church even before the pandemic but has become even more so now. She has been the go-to person for the last fifteen years. She is a selfless pillar of our church.

Since becoming a pledging member of St. Bride's in 2007, Sue has served as ECW President and on the Bishop's Committee where she is currently secretary. Over the years she has been SCRIP coordinator, convention delegate, and now Zoom host for church services and Bible study. As our number one technologist she designed and maintains our church website and Facebook page. She is currently pledge coordinator which includes recording contributions and providing quarterly statements for each member. She coordinates service music with Father George and downloads and plays hymns on a tablet through the sound system. Sue prepares, prints, and distributes the weekly bulletin and e-mails the weekly announcements. During this pandemic Sue has served as our liaison, coordinating with our priest and the congregation, and has performed a variety of tasks admirably. She is an unpaid general secretary for our priest and our church. When parishioners have needs, she has helped set up computers, phones, security equipment and life alerts in their homes.

In other words, Sue is our rock. She wants nothing in return and will do anything when asked.

What makes Sue so special is that she is always reliable, even when she has personal challenges which have included the loss of her parents, her husband's illness, and caretaking of her grandchildren.

Sincerely,

Rev. Eldred George
Priest in Charge

Steve Pennock
Warden



Karen Donovan

Grace, *Pontiac*



Karen Donovan has been a member of Grace Church, Pontiac for almost 20 years. During that time she has served on the Vestry, she has been Treasurer and Junior Warden. Karen coordinates our annual program which provides gifts to needy families at Christmas time. Karen worked for Futures Unlimited, a community service organization for 29 years. In 2016, she received the Athena Award which is given for outstanding community service.

Senior Warden Jerry Durham says that Karen “is one of a kind; she really makes my job easier.” Karen and her partner Donita Duffy, now live next door to the church and they provide lawn care and mowing for our grounds and generally watch over the building. Karen is also a musician and plays guitar once a month for Sunday worship. She is a member of a band named “She Said So”.

The people of Grace Church, Pontiac, are pleased to name Karen Donovan as their 2021 Honored Woman.

The Rev. John Crist

Leadership Views from Women Leaders in the Diocese ---

This is how I try to lead: Empower those around you, teaching how not to need you by cultivating and nurturing their best qualities. I read an article recently which spoke to leaders managing their program areas as the CEO of their areas. This really spoke to me as to the culture I try to foster. And I am always actively trying to manage the bench in terms of succession planning since developing future leaders is the key to long term sustainability and growth and also leads to a healthy work culture when others can see they too can have a leadership seat.

Kara Teeple, Lawrence Hall, a ministry partner agency of Episcopal Charities



Hilda Eunsoo Lee

One in Christ, *Prospect Heights*



I am recommending Mrs. Hilda Eunsoo Lee, not only an exemplary Episcopal church woman but also an exemplary Christian. She became Anglican in early childhood in Korea and member of One In Christ since 2000. She is an incredible woman like Mary and Martha at the same time. I would like to call her an “all around Episcopal Church woman”.

When the COVID-19 pandemic lock down started, she and her husband, and my wife and myself did worship services and broadcasting for many months. She has been the lector for not only the church service but also for Diocesan conventions and Episcopal Asian Consultation. She comes to church on every Saturday morning service at 7:00am and reads the scriptures and responses together. She has been a choir member, soloist, and a leader of worship dance. She also participates in building and grounds projects. For example, she bended knee and patched cracks in the parking lot last fall.

Sister Hilda was a Sunday school teacher for more than 15 years. She always has been a teacher to prepare most supply and programs for the summer Vacation Bible school. She loves children so much that many people have asked her to be God mother because of her loving care of children. She did voluntary babysitting whenever younger families needed care.

Her loving care reaches beyond age. Whenever we celebrate our life passages and church calendar seasons, she decorates, beautify, and prepares so many things. Her loving care of people is imprinted in many people’s hearts forever.

Sister Hilda is an evangelist like the Samaritan woman. She shared the benefits of good news, and programs to others and brought many people to the programs. She has shared her stories of struggle as an immigrant, her identity in the new country, her marriage life, and faith journey with vulnerability. With her sharing her story, many peoples are encouraged, healed, and stand up for calling. She is also actively participating on social justice and civic engagement, like Anti Rally of Comfort women, Black Lives Matter Movements, and Stop Asian Hate.

She has contributed to the church in an inclusive way, especially sharing a young woman’s perspective with participating on the Bishop’s committee for more than 10 years. Sister Hilda is a true example of the Honored Woman and epitomizes leadership in our community.

She is the sweet fragrance of Christ to spread, and the jewel of the church to shine, and the joyful movement of dancer to splendor.

The Rev, Indon Paul Joo, *Vicar*, One In Christ Episcopal Church



Diane Edwards

St. Charles, *St. Charles*



Diane and her husband joined The Episcopal Church in the early 1990's and attended St. Mark's, Geneva. They then took part in a memorable pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Later that year they welcomed their son Jonathan, a long awaited start to their family.

Diane became active at church as a Sunday school teacher and with the Episcopal Church Women. Her husband passed away in September, 2001 after a 20+ year career in emergency medical services in the Chicago area. Eventually, Diane transferred to her hometown church, St. Charles, where she serves on the Altar Guild and also as lay delegate to the 2020 Diocesan Zoom Convention.

Diane continues to participate in the Diocese of Chicago ECW activities, attending the Annual Meetings, Altar Guild Conferences and Fall Retreats. She joined the Diocese of Chicago ECW Board in 2016 as secretary and currently serves as the membership chair. Diane believes that, as challenging a year as 2020 was, ECW has been working hard to adapt and remain relevant in its ability to serve the women of the Chicago Diocese.

Diana Brown

Junior Warden, St. Charles Episcopal Church, St. Charles

Leadership Views from Women Leaders in the Diocese ---

The best thing a parishioner said about my leadership recently is this – I love “*your style of doing church-logistics -- a style I have characterized for several years now as "giving power away with both hands" – it is RIGHT ON!*” (Kate Kamphausen)

The Rev. Kara Wagner Sherer, Rector, St. John's, Chicago



Jane Hart
Christ, *Streator*



Jane Hart is a lifetime member of Christ Church, Streator. She has worked in many areas over the years from the guilds, ECW member and officer, to serving on the Diocese of Chicago ECW board. She has served on the Mirror publication for ECW in the past. As the church became smaller, these organizations no longer exist. She continues to serve on the altar guild and to promote ECW events, United Thank Offering and the Church Periodical Club organizations.

She is the organist for Sunday services and special services and has served for many years. She assists in organizing the community organ tour, also playing the organ when available to other congregations in Streator. Jane assists with community meals which were held by Christ Church for the last 10 years. These meals are currently suspended due to COVID-19.

Jane is currently on the Vestry having served for several decades including multiple terms as Senior Warden. Her steady presence has guided and sustained the parish as its members have grown older and less able to be active. She has been on the board for the LaSalle County ministry which is the consortium of the Episcopal parishes in La Salle County (St. Paul's-LaSalle, St. Andrew's-Grand Ridge and Christ Church-Streator) Since the LCEM is without a priest, she undertook the training and is a Lay Eucharistic Minister (LEM) traveling to visit members of Christ Church And St. Paul's when supply priests are not available. She is a regular delegate to Diocesan Convention.

Jane worked for 30 years as a teacher and librarian at Streator Township High School and during that time, she was responsible for organizing the Rotary Academic Bowl. She has been active in the teaching sorority Delta Kappa Gamma. Jane has participated in our community theater over the years in many capacities and has also served on the Red Cross board and the Public Library board for 24 years.

The people of Christ Church, Streator are pleased to name Jane Hart as their 2021 Honored Woman.

The Rev. John Crist



Barbara Weaver

St. Peter's, Sycamore



St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Sycamore, is proud to present Barb Weaver as our Honored Woman. When Barb married John Weaver in 1950, she knew being an Episcopalian was in her future; it was a big part of the Weaver family. Prior to being married, Barb received her first communion. Barb and John moved to Sycamore in 1960 and, in 1961, she was confirmed at St. Peter's. Barb studied the canons, the by-laws, and the Book of Common Prayer. Her wealth of knowledge was often called upon, especially at vestry meetings during her 18-year tenure.

Barb was the first female Senior Warden at St. Peter's! John became the organist and choir director at St. Peter's and Barb's beautiful voice became an important part of the choir until her retirement in 2016. Barb was elected to the Diocesan ECW board and served for twelve years: as treasurer for 6 years and president for 3 years. Barb was blessed to meet many people during her tenure and as a delegate to Diocesan conventions and Triennial meetings.

Barb was a Eucharistic Minister at St. Peter's and has been the Directress of the Altar Guild for 45 years. Our altar is always carefully adorned and beautifully kept. As a member of our Worship committee, Barb's knowledge and willingness to serve is invaluable. Barb has been on numerous committees and chairman of many. She can often be seen at the church or in the office, working on projects and assisting our bookkeeper. She can be seen in the kitchen for funeral luncheons, St. Nicholas dinner, and just about any activity that is held.

As an active member of the Sycamore community, Barb is a member of several organizations: PEO, an organization promoting education for women, the Order of the Eastern Star, and Signa Alpha Iota, a professional music sorority. She was a member of the DeKalb County migrant ministry, aiding migrant workers find housing, and the bookkeeper for the Children's Learning Center for 23 years.

Barb is an integral part of the St. Peter's family. Her knowledge, know how, and willingness to serve are unparalleled. A teacher, a friend, a confidant, a manager, an advisor, and a shoulder to cry on, Barb has been all these and more to St. Peter's. We are truly blessed with her presence. The women of St. Peter's unanimously named her as our Honored Woman.



Susan Bennett

St. James, *West Dundee*



Sue Bennett and her husband Mike Hippler joined Saint James over three years ago. Sue is a lifelong Episcopalian. She and Mike jumped right into the life of our parish and she is a Vestry member. Sue is a mother of two boys and the stepmother of two more boys.

Sue made two huge positive impacts on the life of the entire parish in 2020. In January, Sue shared her personal journey of how her eldest son (Nick), was incarcerated due to drug charges. He is serving ten years in the Shawnee Correctional Center in Vienna, IL. Sue shared how the State of Illinois legal system provides little if any support to inmates or their families from court to incarceration. Sue discovered the State of Illinois offers programs for inmates and their families, but they are not funded so technically nothing is available to serve them. Her story left no dry eyes as we felt her pain and frustration as she advocated on her son's behalf. That Sunday the parish decided to make Prison and Justice Reform a part of our social justice ministry. Saint James is developing a program to educate and advocate on behalf of prison and justice reform for inmates and families. We have been in touch with St. Leonard's Ministry and Books@Prisoners, a program collecting and distributing all kinds of reading materials to inmates based on their interests.

Then on March 15, 2020 when Bishop Lee asked the parishes to close to in-person worship due to the pandemic, Sue stepped up and offered to get the parish set up on her Zoom business account for Sunday at home worship. Sue then led a group of talented parishioners that connected the ethernet, our sound system, a laptop, and a webcam to Zoom from the church. Sue has also led the Zoom team in training new people to help broadcast our services. Because of Sue, we did not miss a beat in staying connected as a parish online.

Sue Bennett has helped us to look outside ourselves by serving others through social justice. She also helped us to stay connected as the Body of Christ during these challenging times. We cannot thank Sue enough for her servant actions during this time of COVID-19.

Fr. Don Frye

Rector, St. James Episcopal Church, *West Dundee*



Diane Fox
Trinity, *Wheaton*



Diane Fox was a member of Trinity Episcopal Church from 1985 until her death in September of 2020. Diane first came to Trinity with her husband Russ. She was baptized by Father Mike Klusmeyer in 1997 and confirmed in 1998. She was a pillar of Trinity; an active and upfront leader, but she also served in ways invisible to most.

She led Trinity's team of counters and regularly ushered. She also served on the vestry eventually taking on the role of Sr. Warden. One of the things that gave her great joy was making Trinity's historic chapel available to people looking for a place to get married. Diane appreciated that it created revenue for the parish, but even more importantly, she loved getting to share the sanctuary with people who otherwise might never have found their way to Trinity.

Diane was also particularly passionate about making sure anyone seeking a church home and faith community would experience a gracious welcome at Trinity. She was one of the people who always noticed when someone new was in worship, and never failed to welcome them to coffee hour. As a member of St. Julian's Guild, she could often be found visiting with women who were new to the guild or visiting, helping them feel welcome and a part of the group.

It is hard to express the impact Diane had on Trinity. She was always looking for ways for Trinity to more faithfully live into our mission to Love God, Love our Neighbors, and Change the World. She was a woman of deep and abiding faith as well as a gracious hostess who loved to socialize. Her family was very important to her, especially her brothers and her nieces with whom she was especially close. Moreover, even after her death, as a member of the Trinity's Legacy Society, Diane made an incredibly generous gift to the parish which will provide numerous benefits to the church long after her passing.

We are pleased to name Diane as the 2021 Honored Woman and we were blessed to have her as a member of Trinity Church.

The Rev. Kevin Caruso
Rector, Trinity Church, *Wheaton*

Nancy Moore
Senior Warden, Trinity Church

Leadership Views from Women Leaders



2020—a year that was filled with difficulties and sadness. No one could have foreseen what was coming. It has been since the virus first began to disrupt our lives.

I am so proud of the ECW women who stepped forward to act decisively despite the obstacles. They set an example for others. The easiest path would have been to shut down our operations and wait for all this “to go away”. Instead, they understood the necessity of stepping up when needed and making it happen.

Few choices were easy in 2020. Our members voluntarily stepped forward to sew masks and work in community service, despite all sorts of obstacles and restrictions. Making the individual decision to be a part, to serve, took courage. I am so proud of those who “bounced back” from the pandemic and found myriad ways to aid others in our nation’s time of need. You all have made me very proud to serve during this time.

Karen Patterson, National Episcopal Church Women President 2018 – 2021

I was taught by a predecessor that as a leader, I am in a position of power and it's important to recognize that power. Most of us have the power to affect change around us. I have power over staff employment and income, some of my employees have power over people's housing, others have power over resources that people want. Acknowledging, naming, and not abusing this power imbalance is important.

Sarah Parker-Scanlon, Shelter Care Ministries, a ministry partner agency of Episcopal Charities

I have been a leader at my church for 40 years. I have found that I have been able to get the respect and assistance required to get things done from all the parishioners for most of my years of leadership. Received many kudos for my work. However, what I am finding in the past few years is the sense of a condescending attitude from the younger men (and perhaps even some of the younger women) because of my age. I am in meetings and make suggestions that seem to not be heard unless reiterated by a younger person in the meeting, if they picked up on it. Many times it is a “new” suggestion later on in the meeting that is met with great approval. I do not see this happening with the older men. I feel this is a problem everywhere for women only. Frustrating. I have been working on a specific way to say things and respond in order to be heard. It is quite intentional and requires great focus but it seems to be working.

The Rev. Linda Lutter, Deacon, The Church of the Annunciation of Our Lady, Gurnee



Jesus’ examples of servant leadership inspire me as a church lay leader. It is my goal that all committee members believe their contributions are important and appreciated for true collaborative effort. Most of my past training involved following the examples of good leaders who valued me and were selfless in putting the needs of the organization ahead of their own. Finding Christ in all people drives me to care deeply and spend many volunteer hours to share the light of Christ to the world.

Kathy Mank, President, ECW Province 5

Episcopal Church Women is a community of women supporting each other in Christ-centered ministries.

Episcopal Church Women has 4 levels of organization.

1. The **parish** level serves women in each church. Women gather in service, share their faith, attend educational programs and hold a variety of gatherings suited to the particular needs of the women of the parish.
2. The **diocesan** level provides connection between the parishes through programs and events. The diocesan leaders inform the province leaders of issues and concerns in their diocese.
3. The **province** level reaches out to all the women of the region and the leaders of the dioceses and sends representatives to the national level. All women of the region are invited to attend the annual meeting held each spring. We share the business of our organization, enjoy speakers and workshops and share in the sisterhood of the Episcopal Church Women.
4. The **national** level provides the connections to the provinces and establishes the policies and procedures for all levels of the organization. Every three years the national board hosts the Triennial meeting, which is scheduled during the General Convention of The Episcopal Church. The ECW President of Province 5 attends the Triennial as our representative. The president and the other delegates from each diocese and province conduct the business of the organization and attend educational forums. General members may also attend as observers.

The Episcopal Church Women (ECW) of the Diocese of Chicago have served the women of our diocese for over 135 years through service, sharing our faith, and through our personal relationships with one another. We seek to support all women in our parishes and those who identify as women, without restriction by creating a greater connection between us through our faith and sisterhood with programs of education and service. We ask the Lord for guidance in translating our Christian beliefs into action. Please see our website for our calendar and details of our upcoming events: www.ecwchicago.org



The Province 5 Episcopal Church Women (ECW) organization assists every woman of The Episcopal Church in Province 5 to carry on Christ's work of reconciliation, mission, and ministry in the community, the nation and the world. Our province is the "Province of the Midwest." We include 14 dioceses in 6 states. The Episcopal Church Women of Province 5 serves all the women in our region. Details about activities throughout the region are available on our website:

www.ecwprovince5.org.

Also see the national website: www.ecwnational.org for additional information about women's ministries across the Episcopal Church. The ECW is celebrating its 150th anniversary supporting women and children.

