



Episcopal Church Women
Diocese of Virginia
Cindy Helton, President

Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received. I Peter 4:10

September 2019

Dear Women of the Church and All Clergy,

Greetings in Christ! It is my great joy to invite you to attend the 129th ECW Fall Meeting and 130th United Thank Offering Ingathering on Saturday, October 19, 2019. I deeply appreciate the invitation of **the Reverend Dr. Lynn Ronaldi** to hold this meeting at Pohick Episcopal Church, Lorton, and I am grateful for the participation and support of Pohick Senior Warden, Beth Altman, as well as Edwardene Pitcock, Connie Meyers and Helen Parker, of the Women of Pohick.

We'll begin with registration and a time of fellowship, coffee and breakfast at 8:30 a.m. This will also be a time to greet exhibitors, view displays, and learn more about ministries from around our diocese.

A brief business meeting starts at 9:30 a.m., followed by the program. An important action of this meeting will be to vote on the amended ECW Constitution and Bylaws. The ECW Board of Directors has approved the proposed amendments, and a copy is enclosed for your review. The board expresses gratitude for the hard work performed during the summer by the Constitution and Bylaws Review Committee, which was ably led by Anna Lou Flynn, with support from members Dale Brittle, Jodie Pully and Kay Holmes.

One of the highlights of the meeting will be a report on the youth pilgrims and the trip to Ghana this summer, as part of the Diocese's Triangle of Hope. During the past two years, as you may recall, diocesan youth from both Liverpool and Richmond have visited in the hometowns of each other. This year marked their inaugural trip to Ghana, where many conquered tribes were sold into the Trans-Atlantic slave trade.

The *Viva Voce* recipient for 2019 will be the "Triangle of Hope," as the Diocese continues efforts to expand the youth pilgrimage to Kumasi in Ghana, Liverpool in England, and in Virginia. This endeavor to educate and to involve our youth in the hope of repentance, reconciliation, and commitment is led by a number of dedicated individuals, including **the Reverend Jeffrey "Rock" Higgins, St. James The Less, Ashland**, who will speak about this project. By continuing our support of this work, we seek to expand the efforts of the ECW "to advocate for justice and for an end of all modern-day slavery and human trafficking."

"Hope and Healing," the Church's response to the Opioid Crisis, will be presented by the Diocesan Addiction and Recovery Team of the Diocese of Virginia. What is being done and what we can do as a faith community in addressing this crisis will be the focus. We are grateful that Barbara Ambrose, Karl Colder and Amanda Kotval have arranged their schedules to give this presentation.

Communion Alms will be designated to **Hope for Humanity** and the **ECW Gifts and Scholarships** in our diocese. We believe that education is the best way to help people grow and become self-sustaining. Suzanne Hicks is the Executive Director of Hope for Humanity, and the work in South Sudan at the Hope and Resurrection Secondary School and other locations is part of our ECW mission.

Through the ECW Gifts and Scholarships, we have the opportunity to promote education in our own Diocese. The Book of Remembrance and the Book of Life will be on display in the exhibit area. Your gifts to this program make possible scholarships for students of the diocese. We hope to expand the scholarship program to make funds available to those who are attending community colleges and trade programs. Please see the enclosed description of this program and bring to the meeting or mail your donations to the Communion Alms, following the directions on the sheet.

The Holy Eucharist and UTO Ingathering will follow our luncheon. Please ensure that your UTO Representative is present, or please send someone in her place to participate in the service. The UTO report is enclosed for your review. We value the presence of our clergy, and we invite all clergy to vest and process for the service. UTO stoles or white/festive stoles are appropriate.

Please register by October 9. The registration form is enclosed and can be found on E-Communiqué and on our Website at www.ecw.thediocese.net. Please duplicate registration forms if more are needed. We hope every church can be represented.

I look forward to seeing you at Pohick Church on October 19.

With thanksgiving,
Cindy Helton
ECW President

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