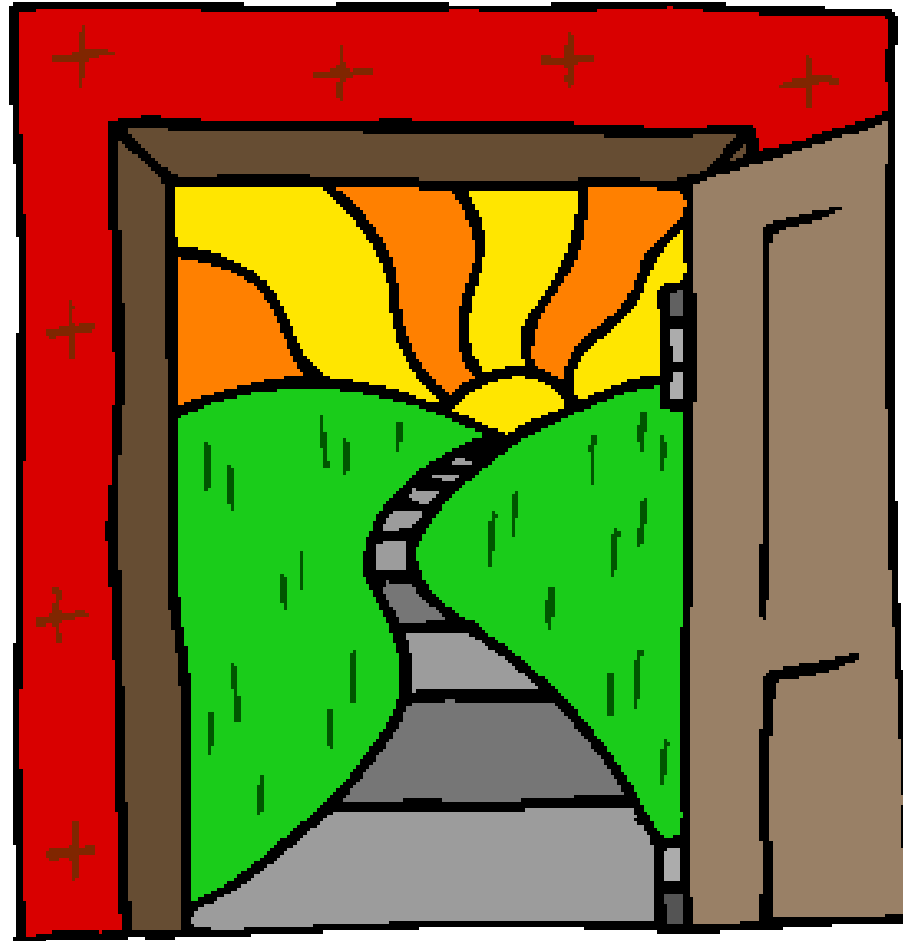


Welcoming the Stranger



"Do not forget to welcome the stranger, for thereby some have entertained angels unaware"
(Hebrews 13:2)

Alabama ECW Mission Statement

To empower, motivate, and nurture the women of the Diocese of Alabama in utilizing their gifts and talents to serve Christ in this world.

ECW Mission Statement

We are Episcopal Church Women committed to one another and called to be witnesses of Christ. Our challenge is to provide a safe place where every woman is free to become the person Christ created her to be. We are called.

We are different. We are one body.

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2012 Calendar Theme *Welcoming the Stranger*

I chose the theme "Welcoming the Stranger" as I knew we would be welcoming a new Bishop to our diocese. However, Bishop Sloan is no stranger to us and I am very glad indeed to welcome him as the 11th Bishop of Alabama. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Bishop Parsley for his wonderful support over the past 15 years. On behalf of the ECW I wish him and Becky a long and very happy retirement. Although I swore after last year's calendar that I would not solicit information from your parishes, I found myself doing that again and I am so grateful to all of you that took the time to share your stories with me. A total of five parishes told of their welcoming ministry involving the giving of bread but sadly I could only use one example. My apologies to those who were not included. I hope you will all enjoy reading the monthly stories. You will see Christ's love shining out as you read of the young and old, rich and poor who are being shown how much they are cared for. I am quite sure that as you open your doors and hearts you are indeed entertaining angels.

Fiona Watts

My thanks to Heather Watts and Sally Sinclair for their technical assistance.

"O God, when I have food, help me to remember the hungry; When I have work, help me to remember the jobless; When I have a home, help me to remember those who have no home at all; When I am without pain, help me to remember those who suffer; And remembering, help me to destroy my complacency; bestir my compassion, and be concerned enough to help. By word and deed, those who cry out for what we take for granted Amen.
Samuel F. Pugh

Welcoming the Stranger

A stranger is someone we do not know, a person who is different or other than ourselves. Natural instinct tells us to be wary of the stranger. We feel safer and more at ease with those we know and who are “like us.” It is tempting to live in our familiar circle of family and friends. Tempting but inadequate.

Biblical teaching runs counter to our natural instinct. Deuteronomy says, “God...loves the strangers, providing them with food and clothing...you shall also love the stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt” (10:18-19). Hebrews exhorts us, “do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some have entertained angels unawares (13:2). Jesus says in Matthew 25, “I was a stranger and you welcomed me.”

These texts call us to see God’s presence in those we do not know and who differ from us. When you see the stranger on Sunday morning or in a shop or on the street as Christ it changes things. Possibilities open up for you both.

One of my favorite stories is about Abraham and Sarah welcoming the three strangers by the oaks of Mamre. It is these who bear the message of Isaac’s (Laughter’s) coming and they in whom tradition has found none other than the mystery of the Holy Trinity.

Not only do strangers need our hospitality and friendship, they often have a gift, a message, which we need to receive. Like most of God’s rare gifts, this comes from “outside the box” of our familiar lives.

An old friend recently sent me the book *Same Kind of Different as Me*. It is the story of a friendship between an affluent family and a street person whom they met in a church soup kitchen. Their unlikely relationship is life-changing for both and literally for a whole community. It happened because the family stepped out of their box of familiarity and because both they and their friend from the street reached out over a chasm of difference. They moved past their fears and discovered the power of agape, the love which is gift.

To be open to such experience it is important to remember that each of us is a stranger in our own way. We know what it

is like to be alone and to feel that we do not belong. As George Steiner put it, “we are, at key instants, strangers to ourselves, errant at the gates of our own psyche. . . within the *terra incognita* of our own selves.” When we are honest, we know what it feels like to be different and disconnected. We know what it is badly to need a friend, someone to reach out to us.

Out of this self-awareness comes the compassion to reach out to the strangers in our midst, whether in church on Sunday or in the office or soup kitchen. For in such loving of the other we find not just our neighbor, we find ourselves.

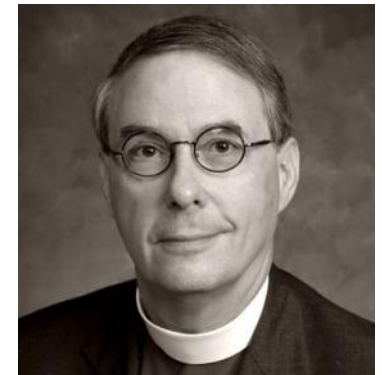
Here is how Frederick Buechner once said it in a sermon called “*Pontifex*.”

Island calls to island across the silence and once, in trust, the real words come, a bridge is built and love is done—not sentimental emotional love, but love that is *pontifex*, bridge-builder. Love that speaks the holy and healing word which is: *God be with you, stranger who are no stranger. I wish you well.* The islands become an archipelago, a continent, become a kingdom whose name is the kingdom of God.

Bridge builders arise! It can change your neighbor’s life and your own.

Faithfully in Christ,

The Rt. Rev. Henry N. Parsley, Jr.



ECW DIOCESAN BOARD

PRESIDENT

Fiona Watts (Mrs. Raymond G.)
2940 Clydebank Circle
Birmingham, AL 35242
205-991-2884 H 205-913-6334 C
rgw2940@aol.com

PRESIDENT-ELECT

Brenda Mayhall (Mrs. Terry)
418 Briarwood Ave.
Albertville, AL 35950
256-878-1166 H 256-571-1531 C
bmayhall@hospicemc.org

DEVOTIONALS

Cheri Blair (Mrs. Bryce)
110 Cordell Drive,
Horton, AL 35980
256 878 5950 H 256 673 5079 C
blair110@earthlink.net

RECORDING SECRETARY

Jolai Jenkins
801 Phillips Drive
Tuskegee Institute, AL 36088
334-724-0956
jolaij@aol.com

TREASURER

Paula Bird (Mrs. Archie)
602 Green Oak Road
Forkland, AL 36740
205-393-1639 C
epaulabird@yahoo.com

Birmingham

Diane Weatherford
3917 Montevallo Road,
Birmingham, AL 35213
205 879 0894 H 205 960 7896 C
dewbham@aol.com

Black Belt

Pearl Slay
665 CR 12,
Forkland, AL 36740
334 287 0401 H 334 507 2179 C
sewwhatis@yahoo.com

UNITED THANK OFFERING (pg. 36)

Linda Kennedy (Mrs. John)
3611 Redmont Road,
Birmingham, AL 35213
205 324 7116 H 205 305 0858 C
lindakennedy17@gmail.com

PARLIAMENTARIAN

Gethryn S Giles
27561 County Road 89
Mentone, AL 35984
256-634-3661
ggiles@tds.net

MISSIONS and MINISTRIES

Joan East (Mrs. Jones)
107 Chatham Circle
Madison, AL 35758
256-325-1418
joaneast@knology.net

ASSISTANT TREASURER

Sallie Lowe (Mrs. R. W.)
4405 Linwood Drive
Birmingham, AL 35222
205 595-6298
sallielowe@bellsouth.net

SCHOLARSHIPS (page 37)

Adelaide Cherry (Mrs. James)
603 Main St.
Greensboro, AL 36744
334 624 0466
addiecherry@yahoo.com

Cheaha

Jane Wood
1956 Canterbury Square
Anniston, AL 36207
256-831-1258
jbeautyme@aol.com

East Alabama

Andrea Peacock
1892 Cathy Circle,
Alexander City, AL 35010
256 329 0667 H 256 749 1134 C
Andreapeacock60@gmail.com

CHURCH PERIODICAL CLUB (P.38)

Marilyn Atkins (Mrs. Stanley B.)
880 Old 231
Cropwell, AL 35054
205-525-4403 H 205-405-1283 C
marilynatkins@centurytel.net

NOMINATING

Memily Colvin (Mrs. Ed)
3580 River Bend Road,
Birmingham, AL 35243
205 979 8684 H 205 307 9802 C
Memily.colvin@gmail.com

ARCHIVIST

Valerie Burnes (Mrs. Brian)
P. O. Box 1056
Livingston, AL 35470
334-300-5766
VBurnes@uwa.edu

CLERGY LIAISON

The Rev. Rebecca DeBow (Mrs. Mike)
3519 W. Lakeside Drive,
Birmingham, AL 35243
205 969 3162 H 205 410 5779 C
rdebow@st-lukes.com

DAUGHTERS OF THE KING (pg. 39)

Dr. Yolanda Seawright
700 Farmington Lane,
Pike Road, AL 36064
334-356-7703 H 334-303-6744 C
bamateedok@yahoo.com

WEBMASTER

Sally Sinclair
1200 Wickford Road
Birmingham, AL 35216
205-492 0532 C
webmaster@alabamaecw.org

PUBLICITY

Anne Burke (Mrs. John)
3353 S. Brookwood Lane,
Birmingham, AL. 35223
205 970 2041 H 205 790 4677 C
atcburke@gmail.com

EX-OFFICIO

The Rt. Rev. McKee Sloan (Tina)
Carpenter House
521 North 20th Street
Birmingham, AL 35203
ksloan@dioala.org

TRUST ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Jill Whitten
P.O. Box 284
Mentone, AL 35984
256-634-8089
jillwhitten@centurytel.net

Convocation Coordinators

Montgomery

Mitzi Waldo
311 Lindsey Road
Coosada, AL 36020
334-224 8045
mitzichesser@hotmail.com

Mountain

Pat Clanton
400 Third Street,
Oneonta, AL 35121
205 559 4769 C
pat14clanton@yahoo.com

Tennessee Valley

Sally Marsh
1519 Peach Orchard Road,
Hartselle, AL 35640
256 227 9655 H
jsmarsh@charter.net

The Diocese of Alabama

Annual ECW Fall Conference

Each Convocation hosts Fall Conference once every seven years.

2012	Mountain
2013	Black Belt
2014	East Alabama
2015	Birmingham
2016	Tennessee Valley
2017	Cheaha
2018	Montgomery

ECW Standing Committees

NOMINATING COMMITTEE – Memily Colvin Chair

Memily Colvin (All Saints, Birmingham) Birmingham Convocation

Bea Strong (Christ, Tuscaloosa) Black Belt Convocation

Cheaha Convocation

Martha Dee White (St. James, Alexander City) East Alabama Convocation

Anne Kimzey (Ascension, Montgomery) Montgomery Convocation

Barbara McLendon (Resurrection, Rainbow City) Mountain Convocation

Lisa Gruner (St. Stephens, Huntsville) Tennessee Valley Convocation

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE – Adelaide Cherry, Chair

Bethe Ensey (Grace, Birmingham) Birmingham Convocation

Adelaide Cherry (St. Paul's, Greensboro) Black Belt Convocation

Cindy Whetstone (Grace, Anniston) Cheaha Convocation

Phyllis McAnally (St. James, Alexander City) East Alabama Convocation

Becky Broadfoot (Ascension, Montgomery) Montgomery Convocation

Betty Green (St. Phillips Ft. Payne) Mountain Convocation

Cate Hewitt (St. Matthew's, Madison) Tennessee Valley Convocation

UTO COMMITTEE – Linda Kennedy, Chair

Sharon Likos (St. Stephen's Birmingham) Birmingham Convocation

Maggie Noland (St. James, Livingston) Black Belt Convocation

Rita Barham (St. Simon Peter, Pell City) Cheaha Convocation

Andrea Peacock (St. James, Alexander City) East Alabama Convocation

Margie Sellers (St. John's, Montgomery) Montgomery Convocation

Angela Anderson (Resurrection, Rainbow City) Mountain Convocation

Jeanne Burch (St. Matthews, Madison) Tennessee Valley Convocation

EACH CONVOCATION:

- Elects a coordinator to serve a term on the ECW Diocesan Board.
- Elects other officers for affairs of the convocation.
- Plans convocation meetings, special projects, etc.
- Meets twice a year for worship, study, and fellowship.
- Hosts Annual Fall Conference once every seven years.

Convocation dues are payable on the following basis:

Birmingham: Sept. 1 to Susan Waller, 3823 River Oaks Drive, Birmingham, AL 35243. wallerfam@mindspring.com

Black Belt: Jan. 1 to Bea Strong, 1518 Bellwood Lane, Northport, AL 35476. gtr113@aol.com

Cheaha: Jan 1 to Lisa Baggett, 21 Morning Glory Drive, Pell City, AL 35128. lisabaggett@mindspring.com

East Alabama: Sept. 1 to Nancy Granger, 16956 Central Plank Road, Eclectic, AL 36024. grangerhill@windstream.net

Montgomery: Jan. 1 to Nancy Boston, 8360 Wexford Trace, Montgomery 36117 (no email)

Mountain: Jan. 1 to Jill Whitten, P.O. Box 284, Mentone, AL 35984. jillwhitten@centurytel.net

Tennessee Valley, Jan 1 to Beverly Peneranda, 705 Wade Road, Owens Roads, AL 35768; bpen7@hotmail.com

FALL CONFERENCE is an annual event featuring a speaker, sharing time for parishes, fellowship and dinner, a business meeting and time for prayer and relaxation. Each parish sends two delegates to the business meeting. Information and registration forms are available from your convocation coordinator or from www.alabamaecw.org. **Fall Conference is open to all people of the diocese. Clergy are encouraged to attend.**

ALABAMA ECW WEBSITE

www.alabamaecw.org, includes a webpage marketplace for posting information on parish projects such as cookbooks, tea towels, CE's, etc. that are available for purchase on an ongoing basis.

O gracious and loving God, you work everywhere reconciling, loving, and healing your people and your creation. In your Son and through the power of your Holy Spirit, you invite each of us to join you in your work. We, young and old, lay and ordained, ask you to form us more and more in your image and likeness, through our prayer and worship of you and through the study of your scripture, that our eyes will be fully opened to your mission in the world. Then, God, into our communities, our nation, and the world, send us to serve with Christ, taking risks to give life and hope to all people and all of your creation. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen

Convocations by Parishes

BIRMINGHAM

Alabaster	2002	Holy Spirit
Bessemer	1887	Trinity
Birmingham	1872	Cathedral Church of the Advent
	1928	All Saints'
	1953	Ascension
	1889	Grace
	2003	Iglesia de la Gracia
	1961	St. Alban's
	1904	St. Andrew's
	1935	St. John's for the Deaf
	1949	St. Luke's
	1891	St. Mark's
	1887	St. Mary's on-the-Highlands
	1955	St. Michael's
	1973	St. Stephen's
	1991	St. Thomas
Chelsea	2009	St. Catherine's in Chelsea
Fairfield	1929	Christ
Hoover	1995	Holy Apostles
Jasper	1922	St. Mary's
Leeds	1980	Epiphany
Montevallo	1860	St. Andrew's
Indian Spr Vill	1980	St. Francis of Assisi
Trussville	1942	Holy Cross

BLACK BELT

Aliceville	1995	All Saints
Boligee	1852	St. Mark's
Demopolis	1834	Trinity
Eutaw	1845	St. Stephen's
Faunsdale	1844	St. Michael's
Uniontown	1837	Holy Cross
Fayette	1969	St. Michael's
Forkland	1834	St. John's in-the-Prairies
Gainesville	1879	St. Alban's
Greensboro	1830	St. Paul's
Livingston	1836	St. James
Marion	1838	St. Wilfrid's

BLACK BELT (cont'd)

Selma	1838	St. Paul's
Tuscaloosa	1951	Canterbury
	1828	Christ
	1961	St. Matthias'

CHEAHA

Alpine	1917	Trinity
Anniston	1881	Grace
	1887	St. Michael and All Angels
Childersburg	1949	St. Mary's
Heflin	1980	Messiah
Jacksonville	1844	St. Luke's
Pell City	1975	St. Simon Peter
Sylacauga	1896	St. Andrew's
Talladega	1850	St. Peter's

EAST ALABAMA

Alexander City	1946	St. James
Auburn	1848	Holy Trinity
	1957	St. Dunstan's
Opelika	1858	Emmanuel
Roanoke	1955	St. Barnabas
Seale	1951	St. Matthew's in-the-Pines
Smith's Station	1955	St. Stephen's
Tuskegee	1912	St. Andrew's

MONTGOMERY

Carlowville	1838	St. Paul's
Clanton	1995	Trinity
Lowndesboro	1856	St. Paul's
Millbrook	1953	St. Michael and All Angels
Montgomery	1957	All Saints'
	1909	Ascension
	1900	Good Shepherd
	1864	Holy Comforter
	1834	St. John's
Mount Meigs	1893	Grace
Prattville	1859	St. Mark's
Tallassee	2008	Epiphany
Wetumpka	1947	Trinity

MOUNTAIN

Albertville	1978	Christ
Fort Payne	1955	St. Philip's
Gadsden	1888	Holy Comforter
Guntersville	1905	Epiphany
Mentone	1972	St. Joseph's on-the-Mountain
Oneonta	2002	Calvary
Rainbow City	1971	Resurrection
Scottsboro	1879	St. Luke's

TENNESSEE VALLEY

Athens	1867	St. Timothy's
Cullman	1949	Grace
Decatur	1995	Good Shepherd
	1890	St. John's
Florence	1962	St. Bartholomew's
	1836	Trinity
Hartselle	1985	St. Barnabas
Huntsville	1955	Holy Cross - St. Christopher's
	1843	Nativity
	2000	St. Columba in the Cove
	1963	St. Stephen's
	1958	St. Thomas
Madison	1991	St. Matthew's
Sheffield	1887	Grace



Annual Diocesan Contribution

Your Annual Contribution to the Diocesan ECW is payable in January. Each year, your parish should consider the amount they can contribute by their ABILITY and WILLINGNESS to give. The more money given results in more good works the Diocesan ECW can do in the diocese, the nation, and the world. Your contribution provides for Administration, Education, Information and Inspiration; and the Corporate Gift. Annual gifts are also given to the ECW College Scholarship Fund, the Women at the Well Scholarship Fund and the Church Periodical Club. **If you do not pay in January, please notify the ECW Treasurer of the amount and expected date of payment.**

Please make your checks payable to Episcopal Church Women, marked "Proportionate Giving" in the lower left hand corner, and mail your checks to: Episcopal Church Women, Diocese of Alabama, 521 North 20th Street, Birmingham, Alabama 35203-2611. The percentage of your contribution provides for the following: 20% Administration; 40% Education, Information and Inspiration; and 40% Corporate Gift.

The Corporate Gift allows the Diocesan ECW to make a significant contribution to a need larger than most parishes can accomplish alone. The Corporate Gift is determined by the Board after consultation with the Bishop. Past recipients include: St. John's for the Deaf, St. Dunstan's, Kairos Ministry, the Diocesan quilt, the Diocesan Banner, the Bishop Stough Scholarship Fund for Camp McDowell, the Sawyerville Project, and a Celtic cross for Carpenter House in memory of Bishop Stough. The 2011 Corporate Gift was given toward the ECW Pledge to the ACTS2 Campaign.

Your ECW may also elect to give to the ECW College Scholarship, the Women at the Well Scholarship, UTO, CPC, or other important local, diocesan, national or international organizations or missions.

ECW Trust Advisory Committee

This committee administrates the ECW Trust Funds with the advice of the Diocesan Finance Officer and the Diocesan Trustees.

Jill Whitten, Chair
Fiona Watts
Paula Bird
Gethryn Giles
Bishop Kee Sloan

National Organization of the ECW

The purpose of this organization shall be to assist the women of the Episcopal Church to carry on Christ's work in the reconciliation in the world and to take their place in the life, governance and worship of the Church.

Who we are: Women of all ages, ethnic origins, socioeconomic backgrounds in the Episcopal Church USA, who choose to participate: homemaker, working mother, career woman, ordained, single, married, widowed, divorced. ECW provides a framework for joint ventures with the many sister organizations within the Episcopal Church USA.

- National Association Diocesan Altar Guilds
- United Thank Offering, see page 36
- Episcopal Women's Caucus
- Girls Friendly Society
- Episcopal Society Ministry to Aging
- Commission on Black Ministries
- Women in Seminaries
- Fellowship of Church Secretaries
- Black Women's Task Force
- Church Periodical Club, see page 38
- Daughters of the King, see page 39
- Episcopal Women's History Project
- Religious Orders
- Asian Ministries
- National Committee on Indian Work
- Women in Deaconate
- Council for Women's Ministries
- Women in Integrity

In addition, ECW works with female members of the Episcopal Communicators Network, Executive Council and Overseas Development Office.

EPISCOPAL MEDIA CENTER, <http://www.episcopalmedia.org>. CD's and study guides are available for purchase on a rich variety of subjects. Catalog is available upon request. 3379 Peachtree Road, NW, Atlanta, GA 30326, 1 800 229 3788.



About our logo: The Cross represents Christ and our service to Him in the world. The Circle stands for our hope for wholeness. The lines out-flowing from the center depict the many works of the Episcopal Church Women, going out into the world. The intertwined lines represent our lives centered in Christ.

Episcopal Church Women Past Presidents

Mrs. S. T. McMillan	1904-08
Mrs. Frank Stollenwerck	1909-16
Mrs. Charles Henderson	1917-21
Mrs. D. E. Wilson	1922-27
Mrs. Albert Wilson	1928-33
Mrs. B. F. Baldwin	1934-36
Lilian Long (Mrs. J. C.)	1937-39
Lititia Arant (Mrs. Douglas)	1940-42
Augusta Inge (Mrs. Frank J.)	1943-45
Mary McLemore (Mrs. A. J.)	1946-48
Lucy Smith (Mrs. Herbert E.)	1949-51
Margaret Ladd (Mrs. Frank M., Jr.)	1952-54
Isabel Grayson (Mrs. Richard J.)	1955-57
Polly McQueen (Mrs. William N.)	1958-60
Liza Horsefield (Mrs. Basil, Jr.)	1961-63
Anita Davies (Mrs. Frank W.)	1964-66
Connie Melrose (Mrs. Ivan G.)	1967-69
Elane Lamberth (Mrs. Wade)	1970-71
Louise McQuiston (Mrs. John)	1972-73
Mrs. Wm. H. Johnston	1974-75
Jean Voigt (Mrs. Lawrence A.)	1976-77
Mary Lou Johnston (Mrs. Eugene T.)	1978-79
Edna Ledyard (Mrs. Robert E., Jr.)	1980-81
Betty Potts (Mrs. Thomas S.)	1982-83
Lucy Ware (Mrs. Joseph)	1984-85
Sissie Richardson (Mrs. Luther)	1986-87
Kathleen Banks (Mrs. Phil)	1988-89
Jeannie Self (Mrs. John)	1990-91
Kathleen Petznick (Mrs. George P.)	1992-93
Josephine Walton (Mrs. Allan W.)	1994-96
Alice Tyson (Mrs. Thomas M.)	1997-99
Tora Johnson (Mrs. David E.)	2000-02
Olivia Weingarten (Mrs. W. E.)	2003-05
Alleen Cater (Mrs. Lyle Hohnke)	2006-07
Dee Buzby (Mrs. Brian)	2008-09
Gethryn Giles (Mrs. Gene)	2010-11

Publicity

All parishes are encouraged to send information (including photographs) to the Publicity Chair for any ECW event/activity .

- The preferred method to send information is electronically in a document attached to an e-mail or typed in the body of an e-mail.
- Digital photographs in .jpg format are preferred. If not sent electronically, information may be submitted by postal mail.
- For The Alabama Episcopalian the Diocesan Newsletter, which is printed every 2 months, information must be received by the Publicity Chair by the first of the month preceding the month in which it will appear.
- For the Diocese of Alabama ECW website (www.alabamaecw.org): Information can be sent at any time to the Publicity Chair. Please allow at least a week for this to be posted.
- **The Publicity Chair, Anne Burke, can be reached at: atcburke@gmail.com or 205 970 2041**

Post items for sale at Marketplace at www.alabamaecw.org

Publications

EPISCOPAL LIFE, 815 Second Avenue, New York, NY 10017
<http://www.episcopal-life.org>

LIVING CHURCH, 407 E. Michigan Street, Milwaukee, WI 53202
<http://www.livingchurch.org/>

FORWARD DAY BY DAY, 412 Sycamore, Cincinnati, OH 45202
<http://www.forwardmovement.org/>

ANGLICAN DIGEST, 805 CR 102, Eureka Springs, AR 72632
<http://anglicandigest.org>

CATHEDRAL AGE, quarterly magazine, Washington National Cathedral, Massachusetts and Wisconsin Avenues, NW, Washington, DC 20016-5098, (202)364-6616, www.nationalcathedral.org. A catalog is available from the Museum Store, which has a wide-ranging selection of books and gifts, and slide presentations on a number of historical, educational and inspirational subjects relating to the National Cathedral from needlepoint to church Christmas decorations. (800) 319-7073.

The National Cathedral Association representative from Alabama is Bettye Benjamin, (334) 278-3381, bettyeb@htcnet.net.

COMMUNIQUE, The Quarterly Magazine for ECW. To subscribe send check for \$12, payable to the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society, Elizabeth Campbell, ECW National Treasurer, 234 West Kansas St., Spearfish, SD 57783. You can subscribe online at www.ecwnational.org

Checklist for Parish Presidents

****IMPORTANT**** When new ECW officers in your parish are elected, please promptly complete the annual Parish ECW Information Sheet. See <http://alabamaecw.org/ParishECWInfoSheet.htm> for how to complete this form online or by mail.

Calendar Handbooks are distributed at Fall Convocation meetings and at Fall Conference. Two calendars are given to each parish. Additional calendars may be ordered at cost from the President-Elect, no later than August 1 for the next year; see page 4.

Parish ECW leaders have responsibilities at the parish, convocation, and diocesan level. Keep yourself and your parish informed of Convocation and Diocesan deadlines, events and activities by staying in communication with your Convocation Coordinator, reading and distributing your Diocesan ECW Calendar Handbook, and visiting the website for announcements/What's New. There are events throughout the year for Parish ECW leaders and other members to attend. Please work within your parish ECW to find the appropriate leaders and/or members to designate to attend. Please inform the women of your parish of these events and encourage attendance of as many of your members as possible.

Every seven years, your convocation will host a Fall Conference. Please ask your Convocation Coordinator how your parish ECW can help. The schedule for these events is listed on page 5 of the Calendar Handbook.

If your parish is among those attending a function at the Cathedral (such as sponsoring a seminarian for ordination), your participation is expected and is deeply appreciated. Contact the Bishop's Guild Chairman at The Cathedral Church of the Advent, page 38, or the Birmingham Convocation Coordinator, page 4.

The timetable below is provided as a convenience for parish officers. For specific dates, please consult the website and/or your Convocation Coordinator.

- Anytime** Post notices of items for sale (cookbooks, tea towels, etc.) on the 'Marketplace' section of www.alabamaecw.org. Important: As soon as you know of any change in your Parish ECW leaders, please complete the annual Parish Information Sheet. This can be found on the website at www.alabamaecw.org.
- Send notices of events to Publicity Coordinator; details on page 8.
- January** Attend the organizational convocation meeting for parish presidents arranged by your Convocation Coordinator.
- **Parish Annual Diocesan Contributions** to ECW Diocese of Alabama are payable. See page 7.
- Spring**..... Attend the spring meeting of your convocation. Convocation Coordinator will have exact date.
- April 30** ECW College Scholarship Application Deadline
- First Sunday in May** **CPC Sunday** (Church Periodical Club); see page 38. Arrange in advance with your rector.
- May 15**..... **UTO Spring Ingathering** deadline for sending collection to the diocese; see page 36. Arrange date in advance with your rector.
- July 31** Deadline to send information to President-Elect for next year's Calendar Handbook and for ordering extra Calendar Handbooks.
- September 15** Memorial Roll listing due; see page 41.
- Second week in October**..... **Attend the annual Fall Diocesan ECW Conference.** Pick up Diocesan ECW Calendar Handbooks; read and distribute to your parish ECW leaders. Each parish sends two voting delegates and as many visitors as wish to go.
- September** Send names of parish college students to appropriate chaplains in the diocese.
- Fall**..... Attend the fall meeting of your convocation. Convocation Coordinator will have exact date. Get new Calendar Handbooks.
- November 15**..... **UTO Fall Ingathering** deadline for sending collection to the diocese; see page 36. Arrange date with your rector for a Sunday prior to this deadline.
- December 31st** **UTO Grant Application Deadline**; send to Carpenter House, page 36.

EPISCOPAL CHURCHWOMEN CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

ARTICLE 1. The organization shall be called Episcopal Church Women, Diocese of Alabama.

ARTICLE 2. The purpose of the organization shall be to unite the women of the Diocese in allegiance to their Lord Jesus Christ and in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, through a program of worship, study, gifts and service, which shall deepen and strengthen their own spiritual lives and lead them into Christian service in the parish, the community, the diocese and the world.

ARTICLE 3. All parishes may affiliate with the Episcopal Church Women, Diocese of Alabama, by first obtaining the consent of the rector in charge, securing a contact person and notifying the diocesan President of their intention to work with the organization.

ARTICLE 4. Diocesan officers shall be President, President-Elect, Secretary, Treasurer and United Thank Offering Coordinator. These officers comprise the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE 5. The officers listed in Article 4 shall be elected by the Episcopal Church Women, Diocese of Alabama in conference assembled, to serve a term of two years and shall be ineligible to serve two consecutive terms in the same office. The term will commence in January, following their installation at the Annual Conference.

ARTICLE 6. The President shall preside over all Annual, Called and Board meetings and shall notify members of board meetings. She shall serve as an ex officio member of all committees. She shall serve as a delegate to Triennial.

ARTICLE 7. The Secretary shall write and distribute the minutes of Annual, Called and Board meetings. She shall be responsible for receiving and recording all ballots pertaining to the Episcopal Church Women, Diocese of Alabama, including those submitted electronically.

ARTICLE 8. The Treasurer shall be responsible for receiving and disbursing all monies pertaining to the Episcopal Church Women, Diocese of Alabama; and shall oversee all monies in compliance with current accounting standards. She shall make a complete report of all income and disbursements at each Board Meeting and at the Annual Conference. The books (financial records) of the ECW shall be professionally audited annually; the results of this audit are to be reported at the Annual Conference. The Treasurer shall enter names in the Book of Remembrance and make them available for the Memorial Roll.

ARTICLE 9. The President-Elect shall preside in the absence of the President, shall assist the President in every way possible and shall succeed to the Presidency in the event of a vacancy in that office. She shall prepare and publish the Calendar Handbook.

ARTICLE 10. The United Thank Offering Coordinator shall be responsible for generating contributions, disseminating information and identifying potential grant applicants. She shall chair the UTO Committee comprised of a representative from each convocation.

ARTICLE 11. The Episcopal Church Women, Diocese of Alabama shall be divided into seven Convocations. Each convocation shall select a coordinator to serve on the Board. Her term of office shall be for two years; she may succeed herself, provided that she has first made a good-faith effort to secure a successor, but that effort has been unsuccessful. Coordinators shall take office in January following their election with the responsibility to integrate the planning and work of the women of their Convocation with the program of the Episcopal Church Women.

ARTICLE 12. The Diocesan Board shall be comprised of the Executive Committee described in Article 4, plus seven Convocation Coordinators elected by their respective Convocations. The Bishops shall serve as ex officio members. The President shall appoint additional Board members to Standing Committees and other positions. A simple majority of those present shall constitute a quorum for the Diocesan Board.

ARTICLE 13. The President shall appoint a Nominating Committee. The duties of this committee shall be as follows:

- A. To secure nominees for any vacancies that may occur among the offices, except that of President, in which case the President-Elect assumes the Presidency. The President shall make temporary appointment for a vacancy in the pending election at the next Annual Conference.
- B. To secure a slate of officers for election at the Annual Conference one year before the expiration of the President's term of office said officers-elect to take office one year after election.
- C. To secure nominees and alternates for Triennial delegates to be elected at the Annual Conference before Triennial. The number of delegates will be in accordance with current directives from the National ECW Board.

ARTICLE 14. The Annual Conference of the Episcopal Church Women, Diocese of Alabama shall be held on a date to be decided by the President.

ARTICLE 15. The Annual Conference is open to everyone. Each parish shall be entitled to have two voting delegates, selected by their parish.

ARTICLE 16. A simple majority of those present shall constitute a quorum for the Annual Conference.

ARTICLE 17. Any articles of this Constitution may be changed by a simple majority vote of the parishes present at any Annual Conference, provided written or electronic notice of such changes is given to all parishes at least 90 days prior to said meeting.

BY-LAWS

1. The President shall be responsible for all trust funds of the Episcopal Church Women, Diocese of Alabama. These funds will be administered by a Trust Advisory Committee appointed by the President. This committee shall consist of the President, Treasurer and one additional member.
2. The President shall prepare the Annual Report which is given at the Diocesan Convention.
3. The parishes are encouraged to make annual contributions to the general work of the Episcopal Church Women, Diocese of Alabama, as outlined in the Calendar Handbook.
4. The Convocations shall entertain the Annual Conference in the following order: Birmingham, Tennessee Valley, Cheaha, Montgomery, Mountain, Black Belt and East Alabama.
5. Whenever financial support is requested to fund a proposed project, written or email notice will be sent to each parish president or contact person. Notice will specify the calendar date on which voting will close. Each parish is entitled to two votes and will be asked to respond within 30 days. Delegates' names must be included in the response.

Approved October 2009.

January



Welcoming the New Bishop

It is with great delight that we welcome Bishop John Mc Kee Sloan as the 11th Bishop of the Diocese of Alabama. As most of you know Bishop Sloan has been the Bishop Suffragan since 2008. Prior to that he served as rector at St. Thomas' Episcopal Church in Huntsville for 14 years. He came there from the Diocese of Mississippi which is where he was born. We are also pleased to welcome the Bishop's family, his wife Tina, and their children McKee and Mary Nell.

Bishop Sloan will be our speaker at the 2012 fall Conference in Albertville.



January 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 <i>New Years Day</i>	2	3	4	5	6 <i>Feast of The Epiphany</i>	7 <i>The Investiture of the 11th Bishop of Alabama</i>
8 <i>Epiphany 1</i>	9	10	11	12	13	14
15 <i>Epiphany 2</i>	16 <i>Martin Luther King Jr.</i>	17	18 <i>Confession of St. Peter</i>	19	20	21
22 <i>Epiphany 3</i>	23	24	25 <i>Conversion of St. Paul</i>	26	27	28 <i>Outreach Summit St. Stephen's Birmingham</i>
29 <i>Epiphany 4</i>	30	31	<p><i>Good and gracious God, the light of the faithful and the shepherd of souls, you set your seroant Kee to be a Bishop in your Church to feed your sheep with your word and to guide them by his example; give us grace to keep the faith he taught and to follow in his footsteps.</i></p> <p><i>A New Zealand Prayer Book</i></p>			

February



St. James, Livingston- "Welcome Baskets"



If you should be so lucky as to move to Livingston you will get a big surprise. The ECW at St James' will deliver a welcome basket to you. This lovely basket contains many items such as, dishcloths, soaps, picture hanging kits, coffee mugs, coffee or tea, something homemade from the bakery, various tools, candles, menus from local restaurants, materials from the public library, some literature from the church and always a little flower or a plant.



These baskets have generated a great response from new community members.

February 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><i>No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted. Aesop</i></p>			1	2 <i>The Presentation of Our Lord</i>	3	4
5 <i>Epiphany 5</i>	6	7	8	9	10	11
12 <i>Epiphany 6</i>	13	14 <i>Valentine's Day</i>	15	16	17 <i>181st Convention of the Diocese of Alabama Huntsville</i>	18 <i>Diocese of Alabama</i>
19 <i>Last Day of Epiphany</i>	20 <i>Presidents' Day</i>	21 <i>Shrove Tuesday</i>	22 <i>Ash Wednesday</i>	23	24	25
26 <i>Lent 1</i>	27	28	29	<p><i>Jesus said, "Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me." Matthew 10 v40</i></p>		

March



Church of the Epiphany, Gunterville

On Good Friday The Church of the Epiphany welcomes the community to a lakeside "Stations of the Cross" At each station actors and readers tell the story. As the pilgrims progress from station to station Taize chants are sung. People of all denominations join with Epiphany members in this very special worship service.



March 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><i>Lord Jesus Christ, As we kneel at the foot of your cross, Help us to see and know your love for us, So that we may place at your feet all that we have and are. A New Zealand Prayer Book</i></p>				1	2	3
<p>4 <i>Annual Tea and Fashion Show. St. Stephen's Birmingham.</i> Lent 2</p>	5	6	7	<p>8 Cursillo #181 →</p>	9	10
<p>11 <i>Cursillo #181</i> Lent 3</p>	12	13	14	15	16	<p>17 St. Patrick</p>
<p>18 Lent 4</p>	19	20	21	22	23	<p>24 PLTE</p>
<p>25 Lent 5</p>	<p>26 <i>The Annunciation</i></p>	27	28	29	30	31

April



St. Stephen's, Birmingham- Community Picnic After Tornados

The Cahaba Heights community in Birmingham sustained a lot of damage to homes and businesses from the April 27th Tornado. Power was out for several days. St. Stephen's church opened their doors to the community, providing a resource center where residents could come and get supplies. A few days later the church hosted a community wide picnic attended by over 500 people including the mayor and his wife, the principal and counselor from the community school, the chief of police and his officers and the power company workers who took it in turns to attend.



April 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 <i>Palm Sunday</i>	2	3	4	5 <i>Maundy Thursday</i>	6 <i>Good Friday</i>	7 <i>Holy Saturday</i>
8 <i>Easter Sunday</i>	9 <i>Easter Monday</i>	10	11	12 <i>Cursillo #182</i> →	13	14
15 <i>Cursillo #182</i>	16	17	18	19	20	21
<i>Easter 2</i>						
22 <i>Easter 3</i>	23	24	25	26	27	28
29 <i>Easter 4</i>	30 <i>ECW Scholarship Application Deadline</i>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>May I become at all times, both now and forever</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>A protector for those without protection A lamp for those in need of light</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>A guide for those who have lost their way A place of refuge for those in need of shelter</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>A ship to those with oceans to cross And a servant for those in need</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>A bridge for those with rivers to cross A sanctuary for those in danger</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>The Dalai Lama</i></p>				

May



Grace Church, Woodlawn-

"You shall treat the stranger who sojourns with you as the native among you, and you shall love him as yourself, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God." Leviticus 19:34

Marion Wright Edelman, in her book Lanterns: A Memoir of Mentors, tells a story (p.16)...

"All my young life Daddy kept in the middle of the bulletin board of our church vestibule a newspaper cartoon of a group of affluent White people sitting at a table filled with food. All around them stood hordes of emaciated hungry Brown people gazing at them as they ate. The caption of the searing cartoon was: **"Shall we say grace?"**"

We do what we can to, as the BCP prayer says, help "all sorts and conditions" of God's children, brown, black, white, and all the other labels our society can affix to those on the margins of our society and church. Grace Church operates a weekly United Way supported food pantry, a daily ministry, Grace by Day and is one of the host churches of Community Kitchens. Community Kitchens operates 365 days a year feeding a hot meal to the homeless and working poor. Grace Episcopal Church welcomes everyone, everyday.



May 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<i>Treat all the people that you meet with respect.</i> <i>Confucius</i>		1	2	3	4	5
6 <i>CPC Sunday</i> <i>Easter 5</i>	7	8 <i>Dame Julian of Norwich</i>	9	10	11	12
13 <i>Mother's Day</i> <i>Easter 6</i>	14	15	16	17	18	19
20 <i>Easter 7</i>	21	22	23	24	25	26
27 <i>Day of Pentecost</i>	28 <i>Memorial Day</i>	29	30	31 <i>Visitation of the Blessed Virgin</i>	<i>Kind words can be short and easy to speak, but their echoes are truly endless.</i> <i>Mother Teresa</i>	

June



Church of the Nativity, Huntsville

The Russell Erskine Hotel in Huntsville was renovated to make apartments for senior citizens, many of whom qualify for Section 8 housing. The residents are from all over the USA and many have no family close by. Many Nativity members feel a strong affinity to the Russell Erskine property which is only a few blocks from their church and decided to form a relationship with the residents there. The residents were invited to "Brunch with our Neighbors". 50 residents attended and were served a delicious meal. Boxed meals were taken to those unable to be there. Entertainment was provided by the Nativity choir and musicians. When the guests got back to their apartments they found gift bags containing new pillows and various handmade items. This was such a success that another event was planned, a cookout with Bluegrass music and dancing. And a good time was had by all.



June 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<p><i>"Truly I tell you: anything you did for one of my brothers here, however insignificant, you did for me."</i></p> <p><i>Matthew 25 v40</i></p>				1	2
3 <i>Trinity Sunday Pentecost 1</i>	4 <i>Province IV ECW Conference, Kanuga</i>	5 →	6	7 <i>Cursillo #183</i>	8 →	9
10 <i>Cursillo #183 Pentecost 2</i>	11	12	13	14	15	16
17 <i>Father's Day Pentecost 3</i>	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 <i>Pentecost 4</i>	25	26	27	28	29 <i>St. Peter & St. Paul</i>	30

July



Cathedral Church of the Advent. Thursday Morning Worship Service



Every Thursday morning a group of dedicated ladies (and a few good men) invites the local community to worship with them. With musical assistance from members of the 5 O'clock Band, the Thursday Morning Worship Service is a joyous place to be. As each person arrives they are greeted with a smile and a hug. Some worshippers are happy to be there, others look tired and glad of a cool place to rest, and others are carrying what looks like their worldly possessions in their arms and the weight of the world on their shoulders. They find their seats, some sitting alone, some sitting with friends, some, moved by the music, stand up front with the musicians and sing.



It is a simple service consisting of music, a scripture reading, prayer and a short homily. Each person there is told how much God loves them and how great it is that they have chosen to be there that morning. Following the Blessing the guests get up and leave. There are smiles all around as they hug each other and the ladies at the door, each one hoping to be there next week.

And they will be, because, the Thursday Morning Worship Service is definitely the place to be.

July 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 <i>Pentecost 5</i>	2	3	4 <i>Independence Day</i>	5	6	7
8 <i>Pentecost 6</i>	9	10	11	12	13	14
15 <i>Pentecost 7</i>	16	17	18	19	20	21
22 <i>Pentecost 8</i>	23 <i>St. Mary Magdalene</i>	24	25	26	27	28
29 <i>Pentecost 9</i>	30	31 <i>Last day to order extra calendars.</i>	<i>I give you a new commandment: love one another; as I have loved you, so you are to love one another.</i> <i>John13 v34</i>			

August



Christ Church, Albertville . A loaf of bread.

It is a custom at Christ Church, Albertville to welcome the stranger with a loaf of homemade bread. Our greeter ministry identifies any visitors during the Sunday worship services. The greeter is responsible for obtaining contact information from our visitors after the service. Normally on that same Sunday afternoon the greeter makes a visit to their home. A fresh loaf of homemade bread is simply dropped off and usually the greeter is invited in for a visit. The loaf of bread is tagged with a message. It reads:

Thank you for visiting with us at Christ Church.

Bread is a universal symbol of nourishment and is also a symbol of hospitality. But that is not all. When we, as Christians, break bread together in the Name of Jesus Christ, we are reminded that we are being fed by the Power of His Presence in that Bread of Heaven. This is the Power that enables us to serve His hungry and broken world as we go about our lives. Please accept this loaf of bread as a token of our hospitality. We would be very pleased to have you break bread with us every Sunday.

It is not uncommon to hear new members say that simple gesture of delivering a loaf of bread with the very meaningful message helped to make them feel welcomed and loved.

Other parishes that shared their bread ministries were:

St. Luke's, Scottsboro
Holy Comforter, Gadsden
St Philip's, Fort Payne
St Michael's and All Angels, Anniston



August 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><i>This is the bread which came down from heaven; it is not like the bread which our fathers ate; they are dead, but whoever eats this bread will live forever. John 6 v 58</i></p>			1	2	3	4
5 <i>Pentecost 10</i>	6 <i>The Transfiguration</i>	7	8	9	10	11
12 <i>Pentecost 11</i>	13	14	15 <i>St. Mary the Virgin</i>	16	17	18
19 <i>Pentecost 12</i>	20	21	22	23	24	25
26 <i>Pentecost 13</i>	27	28	29	30	31	

September



Grace Episcopal Church, Cullman. Grace Café

Grace Café opened its doors for the first time in May, 2009. It has since nourished thousands of people with delicious food, warm fellowship, and God's amazing love. Open on the 4th Tuesday of each month the Café is a gift to the community with no cost and no strings attached.

The underlying idea is that different people need different things at different times. Some may be hungry and just need a meal. Others are lonely and need to feel loved and connected to something or somebody. Still others are looking for help finding, renewing, nurturing or relishing their relationship with God.

Grace Café is an effort to fill these three universal needs for anyone brave enough to gather around our parish hall's tables.

Amazingly, people from every facet of our community have come: rich and poor, professionals and unemployable, business owners and laborers, and those from every age, racial and ethnic group in our city and county. It has been a wonder-filled amalgamation of people talking, singing and breaking bread together.

A video that tells Grace Café's story from seed to fruit is available by searching "Grace Café" on YouTube. It also provides a window into the joy shared among its guests and volunteers each month.

Our hope is that in less than 10 minutes this story will start you thinking about how a similar ministry might be planted in your community. If not, we hope you enjoy it nonetheless and are perhaps inspired to go ahead and begin that "something different" you feel led to tackle.



September 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><i>Then taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, said the blessing over them, broke them, and gave them to the disciples to distribute to the people. Luke 9 v16</i></p>						1
2 <i>Pentecost 14</i>	3 <i>Labor Day</i>	4	5	6 <i>Cursillo #184</i>	7	8
9 <i>Cursillo #184 Pentecost 15</i>	10	11	12	13	14	15
16 <i>Pentecost 16</i>	17 <i>Memorial Roll Deadline</i>	18	19	20	21	22
23 <i>Pentecost 17</i>	24	25	26	27	28	29
30 <i>Pentecost 18</i>	<p><i>They all ate and were satisfied; and the scraps they left were picked up and filled twelve baskets. Luke 9 v17</i></p>					

October




St. Peter's, Talladega Every Child deserves a playground

In 2010 The United Thank Offering awarded a grant of \$17,750 to St. Peter's church to build a handicapped accessible playground. The playground is always open to the public except during the morning hours when the St. Peter's Day School is in session. All children and their families are welcome to visit the playground after school hours, in the evening and on weekends. The playground has some equipment designed especially for mobility challenged children and has a wide sidewalk running through it for children in wheelchairs. Our hope is that St. Peter's will be known as a caring community for all God's children.



October 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4 <i>ECW Fall Conference Christ Church Albertville</i>	5	6
7 <i>Pentecost 19</i>	8	9	10	11 <i>Cursillo #185</i>	12	13
14 <i>Cursillo #185 Pentecost 20</i>	15	16	17	18	19	20
21 <i>Pentecost 21</i>	22	23 <i>Watercolor Workshop.</i>	24 <i>Camp Mc Dowell October 21-26</i>	25	26	27
28 <i>Pentecost 22</i>	29	30	31 <i>All Hallows Eve</i>		<i>The Rt. Reverend John McKee (Kee) Sloan 11th Bishop of the Diocese of Alabama Fall Conference Speaker</i>	

November



St. John's, Montgomery, Family Promise

The Family Promise organization provides daycare, employment training, educational services, and administrative support for the guests in the program. In rotation, the participating congregations open up their facilities to the program one week at a time, allowing guests to spend the night in unused Sunday school classrooms. During the daytime, the families go to work, school, or employment training sessions, returning to the church each night for supper and a safe place to stay. Since the fastest growing segment of the homeless population is families with children, Family Promise is designed to meet an important, often unaddressed need in the community, and it enables individual congregations to use their resources to make a difference in their community.

St. John's opens it's doors to these worthy families in rotation with 17 other Montgomery parishes. During the week that they act as host they offer opportunities for the adults and children to participate in various activities . These families enter as strangers but leave as friends.



November 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><i>Contribute to the needs of God's people, and practice hospitality.</i> <i>Romans 12 v13</i></p>				1 <i>All Saint's Day</i>	2	3
4 <i>All Saints</i>	5	6 <i>Election Day</i>	7	8	9	10
11 <i>UTO Ingathering</i> <i>Veteran's Day</i> <i>Pentecost 24</i>	12	13	14	15	16	17
18 <i>Pentecost 25</i>	19	20	21	22 <i>Thanksgiving Day</i>	23	24
25 <i>Last Sunday after Pentecost</i>	26	27	28	29	30	

December



St. Michael's, Fayette .Baby Basket Ministry

Our mission is to serve those mothers in our community who are in need of assistance with a layette for their newborn infants. We hope to bring to these mothers not only the basic supplies which they so desperately need, but to reach out to those who have no real knowledge of God's Love and bring them into His family as well.

Wicker laundry baskets are decorated and filled with baby supplies including diapers, diaper cream, baby powder, baby wash, face cloths, pajamas, summer onesies, teething rings, thermometers, nail clippers, wipes, socks, blankets, soft toys and pacifiers.



December 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><i>"And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn." Luke 2 v7</i></p>						1
2 <i>Advent 1</i>	3	4	5	6	7	8
9 <i>Advent 2</i>	10	11	12	13	14	15
16 <i>Advent 3</i>	17	18	19	20	21	22
23 <i>Advent 4</i>	24 <i>Christmas Eve</i>	25 <i>Christmas Day</i>	26	27	28	29
30	31 <i>New Years Eve</i>		<p><i>Son of God, light that shines in the dark, Child of joy and peace, help us to come to you And be born anew this holy night</i></p> <p><i>A New Zealand Prayer Book</i></p>			

United Thank Offering

The mission of the United Thank Offering is to expand the circle of thankful people. To achieve this mission, we encourage daily prayers, offerings, and awareness of the abundance of God's blessings.

The United Thank Offering was begun in 1889 by two far-sighted, mission-minded women, Julia Emery and Ida Soule, when the General Convention of the Episcopal Church looked to them to begin the Women's Auxiliary as part of the Board of Missions. They began the offering to show the connection between giving thanks and giving money, united praying, and sharing. UTO's simple purpose has remained constant; offerings are given in thankfulness for the everyday blessing of life. Individuals in each parish take part spiritually by offering prayers of thanksgiving and by actively dropping coins in the "Little Blue Box." These coins are gathered twice a year at each church and then united with others from all over the country.

The **UTO Memorial and Gift Trust Fund** is separate and apart from UTO Ingathering donations. Earnings from this fund assure income for administration and granting costs for the UTO committee, defrays the cost of UTO materials, especially the free materials including unlimited Blue Boxes, and supplements Blue Box offerings that are given as grants. The names of those who are honored or memorialized through this fund are permanently recorded in a book that is kept at the Episcopal Church Center in New York and is displayed at each Triennial Meeting. Contributions to the Memorial and Gift Trust Fund should be marked #852 and mailed to Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society, UTO, Box 12095, Newark, NJ 07101. A Memorial and Gift Trust Fund brochure/envelope may be used for this gift.



Ingathering Arrange dates with your Rector for two **UTO Ingathering Sundays**: Spring, before May 15th and Fall, before November 15th. Publicize the meaning of UTO several weeks before these dates. As soon after the Ingathering as possible, please mail a parish check (no cash or personal checks) payable to **Episcopal Church Women and marked UTO to: ECW, Diocese of Alabama, 521 North 20th Street, Birmingham, Alabama 35203-2611**. Any other UTO donations received at any time should be sent in promptly; checks should not be held in your account. The interest earned on all offerings increases the amount that can be granted. **PLEASE DO NOT SEND CHECKS TO NY OR NJ.**

A beautiful **UTO Alms Basin**, made of silver and gold gathered from women of the Diocese of Alabama many years ago, is used at the Annual Fall Conference. It may be borrowed by any parish for an Ingathering or for a parish ECW meeting by contacting Hallie Rawls 205-226-3510, at the Cathedral Church of the Advent.

Grant Application Each year every diocese is asked to send grant applications to the national UTO Committee for consideration. Grants are awarded both for domestic and outreach in cooperation with a companion diocese. These are to support projects that address compelling human needs and/or expand mission and ministry. This outward expression of thankfulness takes action around the world in places where there is urgent need. The United Thanks Offering has instituted an online grant application. In October of each year applications are available online at www.episcopalchurch.org/uto. The website will include the criteria and guidelines for applying. The deadline to submit the application to the diocesan office is **December 31st** for selection and approval by Bishop Sloan. The process includes sending a draft copy to the diocesan office at rmorpeth@dioala.org and lindakennedy17@gmail.com prior to deadline for review and selection. Attachments may be uploaded to the application. The application will need to remain in draft mode until and if it is selected for submission to national for consideration. At any point in the process, you can email utoapps@episcopalachurch.org, call the UTO office at 800-334-7626 (Claudia Conner, ext. 5130; Paul Thorson, ext 6022) with questions or contact Linda Kennedy at lindakennedy17@gmail.com.

Supplies for the parish needs should be ordered from the Episcopal Marketplace at www.episcopalmarketplace.org and enter "UTO" in search box. You may also call 212-716-6117 to place your order.

Diocese of Alabama Scholarships

College Scholarships

Over the last decade or more, the Diocese of Alabama ECW has awarded more than \$100,000 in scholarships to students in the Diocese of Alabama.

The ECW College Scholarship Program was born perhaps just prior to 1900 with a request from Bishop Richard Hooker Wilmer to John Ward Noble, the builder of St. Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church in Anniston, AL to enable daughters of diocesan clergymen to attend the Noble Institute, a school for girls.

Since that time other funds have been established in recognition of people who have taken to heart the education of young people in our diocese; several of those funds include restrictions in addition to the policies of the ECW Board and Scholarship Committee. In recent years these named funds have been augmented significantly by the ECW General Scholarship Fund, which is derived from the diocesan and parish ECW budgets, memorials, alms and other gifts. In addition to Bishop Wilmer, the donors whose dedication and vision continue to inspire us include Edith Buell Wilson, Isla Hall Hilderbrand, Elizabeth Blair Pannell, Sarah Sterret Porter, Bishop Onell Soto and St. John's Church, Ensley.

All scholarships are based on need (40%), church involvement and activities (40%), and merit (20%). Applicants should be able to document information regarding their family's financial status (Form 1040). An application for a scholarship may be made every year a student is in college; however, an award to any one person is limited to a maximum of two years. Granted funds are mailed directly to the registrar's office of the college of the recipient's choice.

Seminarians are helped with CPC funds and are ineligible for ECW scholarships.

All applications and church involvement forms must be complete and postmarked by April 30th. All applicants must be a communicant of the Diocese of Alabama. The awards will be announced in June. Each application must be accompanied by a transcript, a photograph and a church involvement survey completed

by the applicant's parish priest (or senior warden, if there is a vacancy). Incomplete applications will not be evaluated. If applying for a second scholarship, an evaluation by college chaplain is acceptable. Scholarship applications and Church Involvement Surveys may be downloaded on www.alabamaecw.org or requested from the Scholarship Chairman, Adelaide Cherry, 603 Main St, Greensboro, AL 36744, addiecherry@yahoo.com

Contributions to the Diocese of Alabama ECW College Scholarship Fund may be sent at any time to ECW, Diocese of Alabama, 521 N. 20th St., Birmingham, AL 35203-2611; please note on your check ECW Scholarship Fund.

In 2011, scholarships totaling \$12,450 were awarded to 21 applicants.

O God, you have given us a full measure, a generous helping, poured into our hands, more than we can hold. Inspire us, we pray, to emulate your generous spirit.
Amen.

Women at the Well Scholarships

All women in the diocese (both lay and clergy) are eligible to apply for a Women at the Well scholarship in order to receive help with spiritual refreshment. Each recipient can receive no more than \$400. Contact Adelaide Cherry, Chair, Scholarship Committee, p.4.

O Eternal God, bless all schools, colleges, and universities, that they may be lively centers for sound learning, new discovery and the pursuit of wisdom; and grant that those who teach and those who learn may find you to be the source of all truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen



Episcopal Ministries & Resources

THE CHURCH PERIODICAL CLUB is dedicated solely to providing free printed material to those in need. CPC was founded in 1888 by Mary Ann Fargo, wife of a member of the Wells Fargo Express firm. On a trip to the Dakotas with her husband, she learned of the great need on the frontiers for Bibles and other spiritual literature. Mrs. Fargo and friends in her church in New York sent their bundles of books and periodicals westward to missionaries and pioneers via stagecoach. From this small beginning a great network of CPC has spread throughout the American Church.

The First Sunday in May is designated as CPC Sunday. Special prayers, a sermon on the ministry of the printed word and a special collection for CPC may be given on this Sunday. The funds collected are divided, at the discretion of the Diocesan board, between the diocese and the national church for distribution as needed. Hospitals, retirement homes, prison and juvenile facilities need books, magazines, Braille Bibles and other materials. Also our seminarians need textbooks. The money given buys printed material which, along with prayers, helps to “open the hearts” of many through preaching, teaching and healing. **After CPC Sunday please mail a parish check to the ECW, Diocese of Alabama, 521 North 20th Street, Birmingham, AL 35203 marked “CPC/ECW.”** CPC handouts and ordering forms as well as a resource film, are available by contacting Marilyn Atkins, 880 Old 231, Cropwell, AL 35054, the CPC Coordinator listed on page 4.

In 2011 \$2407 was collected for CPC.

CURSILLO is an ongoing Christian renewal movement highlighted by a weekend experience at Camp McDowell, sponsored by the diocese five times each year. Contact your Rector or visit the Cursillo website at <http://www.alabamacursillo.org/calendar.htm>.

EPISCOPAL RELIEF AND DEVELOPMENT, 815 Second Avenue, New York, NY 10017. Applications for grants are awarded twice a year with deadline to the diocese February 15. Contact Judy Quick, the Diocesan Coordinator for ERD at jgquick@bellsouth.net, 205-669-6862.

HAPPENING is for young people. For more information contact Jill Smith at jilley_mize@yahoo.com.

AID TO INMATE MOTHERS is a prison mission project directed toward mothers in prison, concerning visitation of their children. 207 Montgomery Street, Montgomery, AL 36014, (334) 262-2245.

KAIROS MINISTRIES

KAIROS INSIDE - Well-organized and well-trained teams of men and women present an introductory 3-day weekend inside a prison. It is described as a short course in Christianity. This inter-denominational team of Christian volunteers—both clergy and laypersons - works with up to 42 “inmate leaders” in cooperation with the Institution’s Chaplain. A follow up program is part of this ministry.

KAIROS OUTSIDE is a 2-day Christian weekend retreat designed to support the female family members and friends of men, women, and juveniles who are or who have been incarcerated. In a safe environment with loving people, women interact with other women who are in similar situations and learn to form small groups to support and give them strength for the challenges they face.

KAIROS TORCH FOR YOUTHFUL OFFENDERS is not yet in the Diocese of Alabama, but is being considered. This program offers unconditional love and acceptance, encouraging young men and women to share their life’s journey through participation in a long term mentoring process. It begins with a weekend retreat inside a prison or youthful offender facility. Torch team members commit to a weekly or bi-weekly mentoring process with the youthful offenders for at least six months after the weekend.

For more information about Kairos email Inez Thompson or Diane Criss at dmcriss@hiwaay.net or phone 256-883-8199 (Inez home) or 256-461-9701 (Diane home).

THE BISHOP’S GUILD, formed in 1982 by the ECW of the Cathedral Church of the Advent, includes the Birmingham ECW Convocation. Its primary function is to coordinate receptions held in conjunction with the ordination of priests and other diocesan events held at the Cathedral. Some funds are provided by the ECW of the Cathedral, supplemented by donations from other parishes directly involved. If your parish is among those attending a function at the Cathedral, your participation is expected and is deeply appreciated. Contact the Bishop’s Guild Chairman at The Cathedral Church of the Advent or the Birmingham Convocation Coordinator, page 4.

Almighty God, in giving us dominion over things on earth, you made us fellow workers in your creation: Give us wisdom and reverence so to use the resources of nature, that no one may suffer from our abuse of them, and that generations yet to come may continue to praise you for your bounty; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Book of Common Prayer, p. 827

Triennial

Every third year, ECW representatives from all the dioceses in the Church meet at a national meeting known as Triennial. This meets simultaneously with General Convention. The next meeting will be held in the summer of 2012 in Indianapolis, IN. What is now considered the first Triennial took place in 1874 when some 66 women from five dioceses met for one afternoon in New York City. They became the Women's Auxiliary to the Board of Missions of the Episcopal church. The auxiliary concept remained for many years. It was applauded in an 1892 report from the Board of Missions to the General Convention as "the true idea of essential relations of the sexes." Not until 1958 was the "auxiliary" concept finally shed and the Episcopal Church Women was born.

Throughout the past 40 plus Triennials, Episcopal women have expressed their concern in many areas. As the Triennial Meetings do not have canonical status and are thus unable to make decisions binding upon the whole church, the women have felt free to be the innovators, the educators, the reconcilers and the missionaries.

They also feel at liberty to express themselves in various ways and to influence the actions of the General Convention by their presence and their concern. The Triennial is often called "the heart of the convention."

At Triennial, UTO Grants are made, leadership training is given and the women attending learn first hand what is happening in the national church. Study guides, program ideas, inspirational and educational materials of all kinds are brought from Triennial back to the dioceses where they are available to convocations and parishes wishing to use them.

NATIONAL ECW

www.ecwnational.org

National and Province IV ECW contacts are on page 40.

Almighty and ever living God, source of all wisdom and understanding, be present with those who take counsel in the Triennial and the General Convention for the renewal and mission of your Church. Teach us in all things to seek first your honor and glory. Guide us to perceive what is right, and grant us both the courage to pursue it and the grace to accomplish it; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Book of Common Prayer, page 818

Other Resources

THE DAUGHTERS OF THE KING is an Order for laywomen of the Episcopal Church. Every member pledges herself to a lifelong rule of prayer, service and personal evangelism, dedicated to the extension of Christ's kingdom and to strengthening the spiritual life of her parish. Contact information is listed on page 4. Motto: "For His sake...I am but one, but I am one. I cannot do everything, but I can do something. What I can do, I ought to do. What I ought to do, by the grace of God I will do. Lord, what will You have me do?"

WILMER HALL Episcopal Children's Home, 3811 Old Shell Road, Mobile, AL 36608, (251) 342-4931; www.wilmerhall.org. It was founded in 1864 to help children orphaned by the Civil War. Today it includes The Murray School, foster care and transitional living.

OUR COMPANION DIOCESE. The Diocese of Haiti, and the Diocese of Alabama officially entered into a companion relationship in January of 2006, the goal of which is to support each other in ministry. We focus on the six churches in the Croix des Bouquets parish for partnership in areas of education, healthcare, and potentially soil conservation.

For more information contact Companion Diocese co-chairs CJ VanSlyke Cjenkinsro@aol.com, or The Rev. Deacon David Drachlis, (256) 881-9302. ddrachlis@dioala.org

THE UNIVERSITY OF THE SOUTH, Sewanee, Tenn., 37375, (931) 598-1000, Fax (931) 598-1145. Contact Sewanee or your Rector for information on education and ministry.

WOMEN OF VISION is a national ECW Leadership training course, with presenters available in the diocese to come to your parish. Contact Cecil P. Williamson, 1904 Marengo Drive, Demopolis, AL 36732, (223) 289-0577 (day), (334) 289-4952 (night), cpw@westal.net.

KANUGA CONFERENCE CENTER is located in the Blue Ridge Mountains on 1200 wooded acres. Conferences are scheduled during the year and a Guest Period is mid-July to August. P.O. Box 250, Hendersonville, NC 28793, (828) 692-9136, (828) 696-3589 fax; www.kanuga.org.

Organization of the Episcopal Church

EPISCOPAL CHURCH CENTER www.ecusa.anglican.org

CONSTITUENCY: 118 dioceses

GENERAL CONVENTION is held every three years to decide the general program for the Church. This legislative body is composed of two houses: HOUSE OF BISHOPS and HOUSE OF DEPUTIES. The membership of the House of Bishops consists of all bishops in The Episcopal Church (active or retired). The membership of the House of Deputies consists of four clergy and four lay deputies elected by each diocese and jurisdiction.

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL carries out church policy between conventions; this 41-member body meets quarterly.

TRIENNIAL is the meeting of the ECW, held concurrently with General Convention. See page 39.

GEOGRAPHICAL DIVISIONS

A **PROVINCE** is a number of dioceses in general proximity. There are nine provinces in the Episcopal Church. The Diocese of Alabama is in Province IV, which also includes the dioceses of Kentucky, Lexington, Tennessee, West Tennessee, East Tennessee, Western North Carolina, North Carolina, East Carolina, Upper South Carolina, South Carolina, Atlanta, Georgia, Mississippi, Central Gulf Coast, Louisiana, Florida, Central Florida, Southwest Florida and Southeast Florida.

A **DIOCESE** is a number of congregations within a geographical area, under the jurisdiction of a Bishop.

A **CONVOCATION** is a number of parishes in a general geographic area, meeting and working together. The Diocese of Alabama has seven convocations. See pages 4, 5 and 6.

A **PARISH** is a community of people who worship and work together. A parish is generally self-supporting.

Almighty God our heavenly Father, guide the nations of the world into the way of justice and truth, and establish among them that peace which is the fruit of righteousness, that they may become the kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Book of Common Prayer, p. 816

Diocesan and National Contacts

The Directory of the Diocese, published annually, includes Charter and Canons, Reports from the Annual Convention, a complete listing of Carpenter House staff, diocesan departments and officers, parishes, clergy and parish ECW officers. It is available from your Rector.

CARPENTER HOUSE

521 North 20th Street
Birmingham, AL 35203
205-715-2060; www.dioala.org
The Rev. Rob Morpeth, Deputy for
Finance and Administration, Ext. 311

CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF THE ADVENT

2017 Sixth Avenue North
Birmingham, AL 35203
205-251-2324; FAX 205-226-3518
www.adventbirmingham.com
The Very Rev. Frank F. Limehouse, III,
Dean

EPISCOPAL BOOK STORE

Cindy Funderburk, Manager
2015 Sixth Avenue North
Birmingham, AL 35203
205-323-2959
ebsinfo@episcobooks.com
www.episcobooks.com

CAMP McDOWELL

The Camp and Conference Center for the Diocese of Alabama. Located in Winston County, just off AL 195, between Jasper and Double Springs, it boasts beautiful woodlands, hiking trails and Clear Creek for canoeing.
The Rev. Mark Johnston, Director
105 DeLong Road
Nauvoo, AL 35578
205-387-1806; FAX 205-221-3454
www.campmcdowell.com

THE ALABAMA EPISCOPALIAN

Norma McKittrick, Editor
2156 Kent Way
Birmingham, AL 35226
205-979-2680
apostledit@aol.com

EPISCOPAL CHURCH CENTER

815 Second Avenue
New York, NY 10017
212-867-8400 800-334-7626
www.ecusa.anglican.org
The Rt. Rev. Katharine Jefferts
Schori, Presiding Bishop

NATIONAL ECW PRESIDENT:

Marcia Himes
45 Farview Circle
Riverton WY 82501
Phone: 307-856-5934
president@ecwnational.org

PROVINCE IV ECW PRESIDENT

Jackie Robe (2009-2012)
9044 Robin Nest Drive
Hudson, FL 34669
727-992-2336 (c)
jrobe18413@aol.com

PROVINCE IV UTO REPRESENTATIVE

Georgie White
6945 Cainwood Drive
College Park, GA 30349
770-996-9081(h) 404-310-8479(c)
georgiewhite@bellsouth.net

Prayers

ECW PRAYER

Almighty God, we pray that You will bless our work in mission and ministry in the world. Help us to pray fervently, labor diligently and give liberally to make known the power of your love given through your Son Jesus Christ. Let us not forget the lessons from the past nor fear the challenges of the future. Anoint us with your grace and shine in our hearts as we reflect your light throughout the world. **Amen.**

THE CHURCH PERIODICAL CLUB PRAYER

Bless, O Lord, the Church Periodical Club that it may be an instrument for the spread of your word throughout the world. Grant to its officers wisdom and patience, to its members perseverance and the spirit of sharing that asks no return. Bring many more to take part in its work of service. Bless our gifts and those who receive them to the enrichment of individual lives that we may all be servants of the risen Lord. **Amen.**

UNITED THANK OFFERING PRAYER

Gracious God, source of all creation, all love, all true joy; accept, we pray, these outward signs of our profound and continuing thankfulness for all of life. Keep each of us ever thankful for all the blessings of joy and challenge that come our way. Bless those who will benefit from these gifts through the outreach of the United Thank Offering. This we ask through Him who is the greatest gift and blessing of all, Jesus Christ. **Amen**

CLOSING PRAYER

May God be within us to refresh us; around us to protect us; before us to guide us; above us to hold us up; Who lives and reigns, One God, world without end. **Amen.**

PRAYER FOR A WORLD WITHOUT HUNGER

Give us grateful hearts, our Father, for all your mercies, and make us mindful of the needs of others; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

A PRAYER FOR AN END TO GLOBAL POVERTY AND INSTABILITY

Merciful God, you have bestowed upon us gifts beyond our imagining and have reminded us that all we have belongs to you alone and is merely held in trust by human hands: we give you thanks for those moments of reconciliation and grace we see in our world, of wrongs that are made right, knowing that in your love all things are possible. Inspire in our nation, its leaders and people a spirit of greater sacrifice and devotion in the use of our treasures for your use in the world; that in forsaking wealth and giving up ourselves to walk in the way of the Cross, we may find it to be none other than reconciliation of life and peace. God of love, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Memorial Roll

Names of church women who died after September 1 of the previous year should be sent to the ECW Diocesan Treasurer, page 4, **between September 1 and 15.** Please print or type name in capital letters (given name, maiden name and husband's name). Gifts accompanying the name(s) will be added to the **ECW College Scholarship Fund and should be sent to ECW, Diocese of Alabama, 521 North 20th Street, Birmingham, AL 35203. Please make checks payable to the Episcopal Church Women and mark "Memorial Roll" in lower left corner.** The **Book of Remembrance** will be on display at the Annual Fall ECW Conference and names will be read during the closing Eucharist.

Memorial Gifts

Parish and individual gifts to the ECW College Scholarship Fund will be acknowledged according to the information furnished, as on the sample card below. Some parishes send a designated amount each year in memory of their departed parishioners.

Please make checks payable to ECW and send to ECW, Diocese of Alabama, 521 North 20th Street, Birmingham, AL 35203. Mark "Memorial Gift" on your check.

*A gift has been made to the Diocese of Alabama
Episcopal Church Women Scholarship Fund*

In memory/honor of

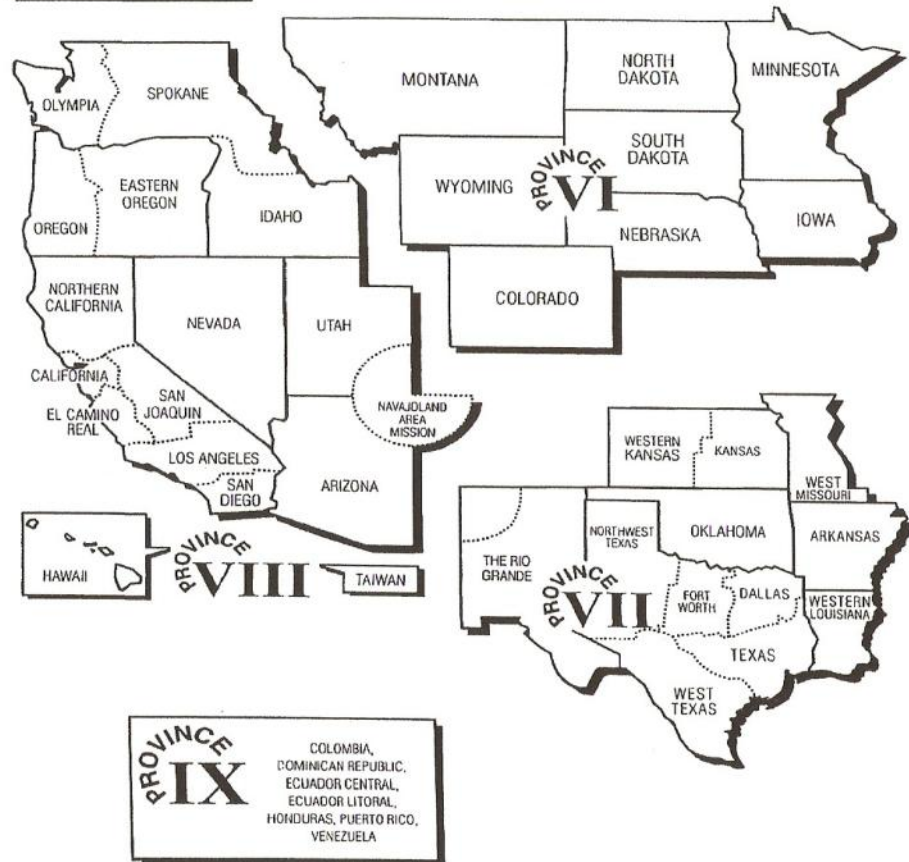
Please notify _____

Address _____

Given by _____

Address _____

Provinces of the Episcopal Church



**Convocation of American Churches
in Europe**
Belgium: Brussels France: Paris
Germany: Frankfurt, Weisbaden, Munich
Switzerland: Geneva Italy: Florence, Rome

HAITI and the VIRGIN ISLANDS

**The Office of the Suffragan Bishop
for the Chaplaincies**
Under the Direction
of the Presiding Bishop

**The Episcopal Church in Micronesia
The Convocation of the American Churches
in Europe**
Under the jurisdiction of the Presiding Bishop

*God be supervising
My sleeping and my rising
God be with me waking
Bless each undertaking*

*God's almighty powers
Keep my daylight hours
God's Spirit strengthen
My days as they lengthen.*

David Adam