

Scholarship Committee Report 2006

The 2006 Scholarship committee represented all convocations throughout the Diocese.

Nancy Thompson, Chair – Advent/Birmingham
Marilyn Atkins – St. Peter's/Talladega
Sue Haygood – Holy Trinity/ Auburn
Jane Elliott – Holy Comforter/Gadsden
Cathy Blackney – Good Shepherd/ Decatur
Darrah Stewart – St. Paul's/Greensboro

The goals for ECW Scholarship this year were to increase awareness of the scholarships throughout the diocese and to grow the ECW Scholarship Fund by memorials, honorariums and gifts. Articles regarding ECW scholarships and gift giving were placed in *The Apostle*, as well as, on our website. A few parishes have begun to accomplish both of these goals with fundraising gifts from their ECW's and by honoring their graduates with Senior Day at their parishes. Although many parishes honor their graduates in some way, it is a hope that with a Diocesan wide Graduate/Senior Day, we could draw more attention to the ECW Scholarship Program and the ECW Scholarship Fund. We felt this year was a good start and look to build on it in the future.

This year all applicants were requested to send their information to the chairman of the committee by April 29th. Representing parishes from across the diocese, we received twenty-nine applications. The chairman of the committee sent copies of all applications and church involvement surveys to committee members prior to our scheduled May 16th meeting.

On May 16th a majority of the committee members met in Birmingham and worked diligently through the selection process. Our ECW President, Alleen Cater also attended and was very helpful. Twenty-eight of the twenty-nine applicants met the designated criteria. Our list of recipients was then sent to Bishop Parsley for approval.

This year we awarded approximately \$9,800 to 28 students. Recipients were informed by mail of their scholarship and were requested to send information to the ECW treasurer regarding the address and name of their college or university and its financial office. By late August we had heard from all but a of the few recipients and reminder emails went out to them with a deadline to send their information to the treasurer. Past scholarship

reports have indicated that some students never picked up their award. This is an issue and will be addressed this year.

Goals for 2007 include a continued push for scholarship awareness, continued growth of our scholarship fund with more participation throughout of diocese, and the restructure of our scholarship criteria so there will be clear, concise and consistent requirements from year to year. In order to administer the scholarship funds effectively, we need clearer guidelines.

We continue to receive much benefit from our Diocesan ECW website: www.alabamaecw.org.