

Episcopal Church Women

In the last twelve months, the ECW Board has continued to make a positive impact on the Diocese of West Missouri. The women on the Board exhibit amazingly determined energy that has remained constant all year long. Our year of good works began with the 2008 Annual Fall Conference at St. James' Church, Springfield, last October and continues today. In the past year, ECW:

- Awarded five Continuing Education Scholarships totaling \$3,700.
- Announced Merry Volk, from Church of the Transfiguration, Mountain Grove, as the Diocese of West Missouri Honored Woman.
- Reported 2008 United Thank Offering contributions from the diocese of \$8,240.
- Announced that our annual fundraiser, Mothers' Hearts for Haiti in support of Maison de Naissance in Haiti, raised \$11,000.
- Accepted a proposal from the diocese to underwrite the purchase of the Emmaus Celebration Cross as a memorial to The Rev. Dorothy 'Dottie' Frazell in dedication to the Church Women of the Diocese.
- Sent a \$200 donation to the National ECW Board to help fund the building of a Jericho Road House in New Orleans.
- Accepted an invitation from St. Paul's, Clinton, as the site for the 2009 ECW Annual Fall Conference.

We rang in the new year at the first meeting of 2009 when we accepted a request from Maison de Naissance to let them assume our fundraising program, Mothers' Hearts for Haiti. The ECW made a five-year commitment to support the Haiti Birthing Center and will continue that support by other means until 2011.

In June, the Board provided two breakfasts for the women of the Diocese of West Missouri and guests. Founders' Hall, Grace and Holy Trinity Cathedral, Kansas City and Christ Church, Springfield were our hosts where we entertained almost 200 ladies representing 36 parishes. These Celebration Breakfasts were to bring together the talented and dedicated women of this diocese and to honor them and thank them for all they do and all they are in their faith. We shared information about outreach projects and the passion they generate. Old friends reconnected and new friends were made. Each gathering was treated to a performance by St. Augustine's Liturgical Dancers, which drew standing ovations.

In July, we sent four delegates to the 69th Triennial Meeting of the Episcopal Church Women in Anaheim, CA. The Most Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori spoke on the first day, and she blessed and presented an ECW cross to the 370 delegates.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, The Most Rev. Rowen Williams, visited the convention. I quote from his address to the ECW Triennial Meeting delegates:

“It is clear that the women of faith are among the most effective leaders of lasting and prophetic change. They are the people that will bring about the Millennium

Development Goals or whatever need is determined. Thank you for keeping your eyes on the things that need transforming.”

An estimated 10,000 people attended the Eucharist gathering on UTO Sunday. ECW representatives from each diocese presented the presiding bishop with certificates of donations for the past triennium that totaled \$6.7 million. The offering was \$28,168.92 and added to the \$2.1 million granted for 2009.

The National ECW Board presented Elisabeth von Trapp to all in attendance at the General Convention and Triennial Meeting in a benefit for Jericho Road Episcopal Housing Initiative. The standing room only performance raised nearly \$ 5,400.

It is the desire of the ECW Board of the Diocese to build a network of communication to inform and to learn from each other and grow in our service to ‘The Word of the Lord’. We welcome all Episcopal Church Women – and yes, men, too – to join us in our journey.

Respectfully,
Judy Turner, President