

2015 ECW Report

The 111th Annual Gathering of the Episcopal Church Women was held November 7, 2015 at St. Matthew's Episcopal Church in Sunbury. We opened the meeting with a bible study followed by a business meeting. The budget for 2016 was presented and approved. The changes to our constitution and bylaws, sought by the Diocesan Board members, were presented, reviewed and approved. Most of the changes were needed to come in compliance with the National Church.

Eucharist was held at noon. The luncheon was prepared by the Sunbury ECW. A skit entitled "Yet We Persist", a brief history of ECW, was presented by members of ECW. The skit ends at the election of the first woman to become Presiding Bishop. We then honored Audrey as the first woman elected bishop of our diocese. She was presented with a stole designed by one of our board members and sewn by another.

This year the annual ECW retreat was moved to the Claggett Center in Maryland. The new location will require less travel time and, hopefully, give many women a greater opportunity to attend. The Rt. Rev. Audrey Scanlan, presenter, chose "Transitions: Following with Faithfulness where God Leads" as the topic.

The Annual Gathering of ECW will be held November 5, 2016 at St. Thomas Episcopal Church in Lancaster. The speaker for our meeting will be Beblon Parks, National ECW Board Member-at-Large for Social Justice. Beblon served as an Episcopal Church delegate (Non-Governmental Organizations) to the United Nations Commission on the Status Women held March 14-24, 2016 in New York City. She will share with us her experience in various forums and events.

We have been in conversation with youth leaders in the diocese to explore ways in which ECW may support the youth programs. We hope to present ideas at our annual meeting to discuss and vote on.

We continue with our financial support of the Episcopal Home in Shippensburg. Some of our parishes continue to collect supplies for the home.

If I or any of your Board members can be of help to you, please feel free to contact us.

Shirley Wagner