



Episcopal Church Women

Diocese of Chicago

St. James Commons

65 East Huron Street

Chicago IL 60611

www.ecwchicago.org

Spring 2018

Greetings!

The Episcopal Church Women in the Diocese of Chicago are working to connect all women of the diocese in their ministries and service. To continue our work in our Diocese and beyond, we need your support – by participating in our programs and by financially supporting our organization. Please help us “to do the work God sends us out to do” with your ***Annual Voluntary Financial Contribution*** to the Episcopal Church Women.

Your voluntary financial contribution supports ECW activities and programs and helps us connect women throughout the Diocese. The Episcopal Church Women have been a part of women’s ministries for over 130 years, and we look forward to sharing our faith for many more years to come.

Please use the form included with this letter which is to be sent to:

ECW St James Commons 65 E Huron Street Chicago IL 60611

We are working to have a closer connection to the women in our Diocese, the Province and the Nation. Here is a review of our activities in 2017 as well as a preview of our plans for 2018.

Annual Meeting

The 2017 ECW *Annual Meeting & Convention* was held at St. Thomas, Chicago was the host church for our “Women of Legacy, Women of Faith” presented by Monica Moss, United Church of Christ. Our day together was joyous and filled with faith and fellowship.

St. James, West Dundee is the 2018 host featuring Bishop Lee as our keynote presenter on the topic of leadership. Our “Called to Lead” will present sessions on communications and avoiding the burn-out of leadership. We also will be celebrating the Honored Women of the diocese, outstanding leaders from across the diocese. This was our first year for the program and we were pleased with 13 nominees.

Altar Guild Conference

The Altar Guild Conference for 2017 was held at St. John, Naperville. Our featured presentation was on silversmithing. The purpose of the conference is to help build the network of altar guild members across the diocese and to share in educational programs and fellowship. The Conference is open to all interested individuals in the Diocese.

The Church of the Holy Comforter, Kenilworth, will host the 2018 Conference. Barbara Kreski from the Chicago Botanic Garden will be our keynote speaker.

Women’s Fall Retreat

We returned to DeKoven in 2017 for “Nurturing the Spirit: Women’s Spirituality Through the Ages”. The Rev. Mollie Ward, Diocese of Springfield, was our retreat leader. For our third annual retreat, we will again be gathering in October at DeKoven.

Diocesan Convention

We continue to connect through the *knittogether* knitting ministry and meet our friends and distribute our materials at the ECW display in the exhibit hall. In 2017, we had a breakout room where we were able to present several women's outreach projects, hear from our 2017 grant recipients and gather for lunch. This break out space was so popular, we are planning on expanding our offerings in 2018.

Communications

We continue to print our publication, "*The Mirror*," which is mailed to members by request. Many of our members receive an emailed version of "*The Mirror*" and each edition is posted to our website as well.

Our website has been expanded to provide the most up to date information on women's ministries throughout the Diocese. www.ecwchicago.org. We are continuing the e-newsletter that provides brief news items and updates between issues of "*The Mirror*".

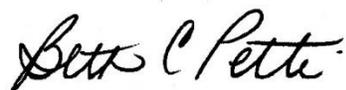
Our new directory was published in 2017 and was available at the Diocesan Convention. We have additional copies for each church office available by request. They also will be available at our annual meeting in April.

Meetings

Representatives of the diocese continue to support the work of Province V by attending quarterly meetings and the Annual Meeting which this year was hosted by the Dioceses of Wisconsin at DeKoven Retreat Center.

Three delegates will attend the national meeting of the ECW, Triennial, during General Convention in July of 2018. One woman from the Diocese of Chicago is honored as the Distinguished Woman and she is honored at Triennial at a special luncheon for all the Distinguished Women. This year, Angela Watkins of Messiah-St. Bartholomew, will represent Chicago. Angela was chosen by a committee from the Honored Women nominees.

There are women in every church and they are members of the Episcopal Church Women organization. Supporting their issues and service strengthens our Church. Thank you for supporting the ECW and the women of the Diocese of Chicago.



Beth C. Petti
President
Episcopal Church Women
Diocese of Chicago

Enclosure