



## A Celebration with a Purpose...

*For the past 151 years, (ECW - The Episcopal Church Women of the Diocese of Western North Carolina) has been serving others through its mission and ministry. We hope you will come and join us and share your stories with the women of our churches. As Katerina K. Whitley said in her ECW report, "...it is good to also connect with the wider diocesan family of women. We are a family and we are a powerful family when we meet and work together. We receive energy and inspiration from one another."*

*So, please plan to be with us for this historic event as we raise up the women who came before us in the early years, 1872 to the present women of today and with the women of tomorrow.*

*ECW Diocesan Board of Western North Carolina*

*Saturday, June 3, 2023; 10 am— 2 pm; Lake Lure Inn & Spa, Lake Lure NC*

*([www.lakelure.com](http://www.lakelure.com))*

*\$25 per person - Luncheon*

*Mail in your registration form today! Bring a friend.*  
[2023](#)

[Registration Deadline: Tuesday, May 23,](#)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Town: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone/Cell No. \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

*Send your check to Diane Mance, Diocesan ECW Treasurer, 105 Poppy Lane,  
NC 28803 To Pay by using PayPal (go to our website: [www.ecwwnc.org](http://www.ecwwnc.org))*

More information  
on back of this  
form.

**Event information:**

10:00 am - Guests arrive / registration

10:30 am - Cash bar is open (Mimosas - \$5 per glass )

11:15 am - Welcome and Invocation

11:30 am - Buffet opens

12:45 pm - Presentations after lunch and Raffle

2:00 pm - Departure

**Buffet Luncheon - 11:30 am**

Mixed Garden Salad with Ranch and Balsamic Dressings; Applewood Ham - Sliced in a Buffet Chaffer; Grilled Chicken Breast with Sun Dried Tomato Basil Cream Sauce on the side; Sour Cream and Chive Mashed Potatoes; Vegetable Sautee Squash, Zucchini, Tomato, Onion, Spinach; Rolls and Butter; Peach Cobbler with Ice Cream.

***Room Reservations to stay at Lake Lure Inn & Spa:***

Please make your room reservations by May 6, 2023 if you intent to stay overnight on Friday, June 2, 2023. Please let them know you are with ECW for 10% discount. Visit website [www.lakelure.com](http://www.lakelure.com) or call 828-625-2525 for reservations.

If anyone is interested in taking a boat ride tour after our celebration event on Saturday, June 3, 2023; 10 people can book a tour and pay it all together at the group rate of \$17 per person. The Marina will be open to schedule tours after the middle of April, 2023. Marina's number is 828-625-1373.

The Irongate Spa is open Thursday - Saturday 10 am—4 pm and by appointment only. Some of the ladies were interested in the Spa so their number is 828-625-2525 Ext. 116 to make an appointment.

***Join ECW Board on Friday, June 2, 2023 for dinner and drinks at 5:30 at Lake Lure Inn, Lake Lure NC***

The Board invites women from parishes to have dinner and conversation the night before our June 3rd event. Please plan to be with us if you can. We have cocktails before dinner. (Dutch treat) If interested, please contact Mary Ann at 828-230-0557 or by email at [nanaransom43@gmail.com](mailto:nanaransom43@gmail.com). Look forward to you joining us.

*Our Vision* for Episcopal Church Women (ECW) Diocese Western North Carolina is that we continue to come together as a community of women to do ministry and mission. To live out our Baptismal Covenant by sharing God's love working as peacemakers, taking care of God's creation, doing social justice work, and aspiring to be a Godspark\*, shining and sharing Christ's love in our communities and around the world.

ECW Board

Episcopal Church Women Diocese Western North Carolina

\*Godspark - from Enneagram: The core self - the part of us made in God's image, the spirit, soul.



# Go tell it on the Mountains

Newsletter for Episcopal Church Women Diocese of Western Carolina

March 2023



**150th year celebration..**

**June 3, 2023**, as Episcopal Church Women (ECW), Diocese of Western North Carolina, we're celebrating 150 years in our 151st year as a women's organization in the Episcopal Church in our diocese. We hope you will join us for this historic event at Lake Lure Inn and Spa, Lake Lure N.C.

Please allow me to present bits of our history from the 1984 publication, *The Highland Churchwoman*, in this issue of our "Go Tell It On The Mountain."

*Mary Ann Ransom, ECW Diocesan president*

On September 26, 1984, two ECW women, Shilda Burns (Diocesan ECW President 1982-85) from Ascension, Hickory and Candy Grooms (Diocesan ECW President 1985-1988) from St. Mark's, Gastonia took on for two years the formidable task of researching and writing our women's history.

They wrote, "This paper is for and about women. It is dedicated to all those women - past, present, and future - who have given their time in the service of the church."

William G. Weinbauer, Bishop, (1979-1989) Diocese of WNC wrote the following for that publication:

*Dear Friends in Christ,*

*The Episcopal Churchwomen in the Diocese of Western North Carolina has come a long way since the early days of its origin. In many respects the history of the Diocese, as the history of so many of our older congregations, parallels the history of the ECW (earlier known as the Woman's Auxiliary). This is true because Episcopalian women have always been at the forefront of parochial life--teaching Sundays Schools, preparing parish meals, raising money and materials to aid mission (at home and overseas) and reaching out to the needs of the local community, enriching it by their enthusiasm, dedication and long hours of labor.*

*I remember with thanksgiving the formative works for the expansion of the Episcopal Church in our western counties of the women in Lincolnton, Blowing Rock, Hickory, Morganton, Asheville and Hendersonville, without whose labors and support the work of the Church would not have progressed.*

*Thus, as you celebrate your history, my dear sisters, I join with you to praise God for your past and present ministries - even as we plan and dream about the challenges and opportunities which lie ahead in but a dimly-perceived future. We look back only to draw strength and courage for the work which beckons us forward!*

*May our gracious Lord continue to bless and prosper your lives, witness and service.*

## Historical Events.. Her Story 1872 to 1984

- February 13, 1872 - Trinity Church, Asheville Diocesan Woman's Auxiliary was formed.
- April 15, 1878 - St. James, Lenoir was organized.
- 1895 - The Missionary District of Asheville separated from the Diocese of North Carolina and organized the Woman's Auxiliary. Miss Fanny Patton was appointed Secretary, as the President was then called. The Presiding Office was the Bishop. The first Annual Meeting of the Woman's Auxiliary of this District was held in Asheville in 1897.
- 1920 - Asheville Woman's Auxiliary urged the U.S. Senators and Congressmen to pass a bill prohibiting salmon fishing in Alaska for canning and export. These women were concerned beyond parochial boundaries. They feared hardship and possible starvation of the Yukon Indians.
- 1922 - The new Diocese of Western North Carolina was formed. In that same year the Woman's Auxiliary became an organization to the newly formed diocese, which was no longer a missionary district. Even so, Bishop Horner insisted on keeping the appointment of President in his hands.
- 1924 - A Constitution was carefully adopted and Mrs. Michael (Rose Few) Schenk of Hendersonville from St. James became the first elected President.
- 1926 - Mrs. Fred (Helen) Thomas was elected and served six years.
- Depression Years - The Diocesan funds of the Woman's Auxiliary provided funds for a missionary to serve Franklin and Highlands areas.
- 1920s and 1930s - The women were paying the salary for a Chaplain and his secretary at Oteen.
- During this time the women bought two acres of land for the new conference center called Kanuga.
- 1959 - At the Annual Meeting, the new name of Division of Episcopal Churchwomen, Diocese of WNC replaced the name Woman's Auxiliary.
- 1967 - President, Mrs. Bess Byerly, held the Spring Planning Day consisting of "leadership workshops to aid the officers of the branch ECWs."
- 1970s - Emphasis of the ECW shifted from missions to Christian Social Concerns. The ECW financially aided Hospice, the Deaf Ministry and Battered Women, and they educated women on the Jail and Prison Ministry, Ministry to the Aging, Child Abuse, and many more social issues.
- 1980s - Emphasis was on World Peace and World Hunger.
- 1983 - The Diocesan Board initiated a new project to help with the problem of world hunger through the Heifer Project to purchase live animals to be given to a hungry family in their care.

(Excerpts from The 1984 issue of The Highland Churchwomen.) Copies of this publication were sent out to all the churches in our Diocese in 2021 by your ECW Diocesan Board. Hope you received your copy. If not, please let us know. Copies will also be available at our 150 years celebration on June 3, 2023, Lake Lure Inn & Spa, Lake Lure N.C.

From its beginning, in 1872, with the organization of a branch of the Woman's Auxiliary in Asheville, to 1984 with 54 organized ECW branches in Western North Carolina, 151 years have passed. The Episcopal Church as it is known in this area today is the result of the labors of women over the past century.

## 1984 to 2023 - ECW Continues its work...

- ◆ ASDMO (All Saints Day Memorial Offering) - Has been used solely within our diocese as a way of funding projects that would improve, enhance or fulfill a need pertaining to parishes. Various churches have benefited and a list of some of them is below.
- ◆ St. Matthias, Asheville
- ◆ St. Gabriel's, Rutherfordton
- ◆ St. Andrew's, Canton
- ◆ St. John's, Marion
- ◆ Redeemer, Shelby
- ◆ Holy Cross, Valle Crucis
- ◆ Our Savior, Lincolnton
- ◆ St. George's, Asheville
- ◆ Valle Crucis Conference Center
- ◆ La Capilla, Hendersonville (ESL & facility)
- ◆ Church of the Advocate, Asheville (kitchen)
- ◆ Clean Slate Coalition, Western Deanery
- ◆ Towel Ministries
- ◆ Kitchen & Chapel in Diocesan Office
- ◆ United Thank Offering (UTO) supporting local and global programs (Local programs just to name a couple:  
In 2007 St Thomas, Burnsville was awarded \$15,000 grant to complete the lower level education/outreach space at the parish's new building. In 2008, UTO grant given to Hospitality House in Boone for \$29,200 to be used to purchase kitchen appliances for the shelter that serves a growing homeless population as well as all individuals and families in need of a meal in the Boone area.)
- ◆ Church Periodical Club and Miles of Pennies funds have provided funds for day care centers, seminarians, and funds for Bishop



Dutta in Durgapur's St. Michael's School for scholarships and education. Diocese of Durgapur was our Companion Diocese at that time.

- ◆ Hope Cancer Center for women.
- ◆ Thompson Child & Family Focus
- ◆ Ministry of Hope since 2011
- ◆ Women Helping Women \$500 Scholarships (Recipients: Brenda Gilbert, Toni Belhu, Alice Rutland, Glenda McDowell, Michele Whitfong just to name a few women).
- ◆ Lambeth Fund - This fund helps send the Bishop's spouse to Lambert every 10 years.
- ◆ ECW Mission Trip to Our Little Roses, Honduras. Joan Summerfield spearheaded this mission trip.
- ◆ Feeding programs i.e. backpack programs, soup kitchens, collecting food for foodbanks
- ◆ St. Philip's Shop, Brevard active since the mid 50s. Their ECW supports community with their funds.
- ◆ Scholarships for Camp Henry
- ◆ Funds given to all three conference centers
- ◆ Sponsoring a drive for the Sisters of Transfiguration's mission, Centro Buen Pastor in the Dominican Republic.
- ◆ Grace's ECW, Waynesville donated \$10,000 to help build room in homeless shelter for Pathways.
- ◆ Migrant Hispanic
- ◆ Bishop's Fund for Continued Education
- ◆ Diocese of WNC/Clergy Assistance
- ◆ Bishop's Discretionary Fund
- ◆ Mother-Baby Camp
- ◆ Presiding Bishop's Fund for World Relief (ERD)
- ◆ Episcopal Radio and TV
- ◆ Cora - Commission on Religion on Appalachia

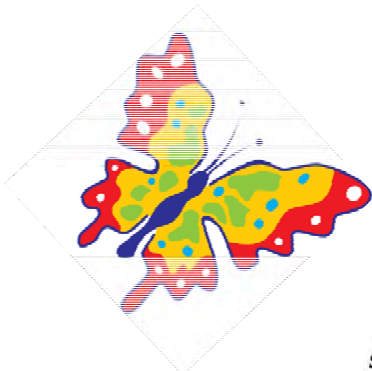
## 1984 to 2023 - ECW Continues its work...

- ◆ Ministry to the Poor
- ◆ Small Church Assistance
- ◆ Clergy Assistance
- ◆ St. Augustine College
- ◆ Ministry to the Poor-kids in Honduras
- ◆ Campus Ministry
- ◆ Episcopal Relief and Development
- ◆ Christian Outreach
- ◆ Towel Ministry
- ◆ Women's Prison Ministry
- ◆ Prayer books for Katrina Victims
- ◆ La Capilla - baby sitting funds
- ◆ Dr. Stephen Post - Missionary in Belize
- ◆ Domestic & Foreign Society - Donation to Prov. IX
- ◆ Church of the Advocate - "The Better to Serve You" project in Asheville
- ◆ Blue Ridge Mountains Dental Project in Cashiers

These are just a few of the many programs and projects the Episcopal Church Women have supported over the years -since 1984.

Mary Ann Ransom President

*God in his time makes  
all things new again!*



*support your ECWs*

## Pictures from our past



The Episcopal Church Women of the diocese installed their new board and officers at the ECW annual meeting Oct. 17 at Lake Logan Episcopal Center. Pictured here, with Bishop Johnson, are (front row, from left) Genevieve Denham, new president Joan Summerfield, Martha Pendley, Bobbye Frost, vice president Barbara Capps, and Martha Chovan; (second row, from left) Spring Allen, chaplain the Rev. Geri Nelson, treasurer Diane Mance, Bishop Robert H. Johnson, Linda Nye, Pat Jullie and outgoing president Lucy Gunn. Secretary Margaret King was not present for the photo. The new board will take office Jan. 1, 2003. (Photo by Karin Kastetter)



Diocesan UTO Chairperson Pat Jollie (third from left) presents grant writer Joann Collins (right) with UTO Grant. Also pictured, from left, the Rev. Augusta Anderson and Bishop Porter Taylor.

**Women's Auxiliary/Episcopal Church  
Women Presidents**

1. Miss Fanny Patton - 1896- Trinity, Asheville
2. Miss Mary E. Horner - 1896-1904 - 2<sup>nd</sup> President of W.A. of Diocese of NC
3. Mrs. Anna (L.R.) Bacon - 1906-1919 - Holy Cross, Tryon
4. Mrs. Rose Few Schenek - 1924 - St. James, Hendersonville - 1<sup>st</sup> elected President
5. Mrs. Helen Thomas - 1926-1933 - Trinity, Asheville (On National Board 1934-40)
6. Mrs. Jean Woolridge - 1936-1939 (preceding WWII) - Trinity, Asheville
7. Mrs. Ethel Etheridge - 1939-40 (1 Year) - All Souls, Asheville
8. Mrs. C. C. Dawson - 1940-43 - St. Mark's, Gastonia
9. Mrs. Mary Stoney - 1943-46 - Grace, Morganton
10. Miss Lucy Fletcher - 1946-49 - Trinity, Asheville
11. Mrs. E. L. Kemper - 1949 -52 - Redeemer, Shelby 1949 Triennial
12. Mrs. Mary T. New - 1952-55 - St. Mark's, Gastonia
13. Mrs. Inah (Walter) Carpenter - 1955-58 - St. James, Hendersonville 1955 - Triennial
14. Mrs. Mary Haden - 1958-61 - St. James, Hendersonville 1955, 1958 & 1961 Triennials
15. Mrs. Sherry (Ralph T.) Isley - 1961-64 - St. Mark's, Gastonia
16. Mrs. Bess (W.G.) Byerly - 1964-67 - St. James, Lenoir
17. Mrs. Margaret [Peg] (W.G.) Fergusson - 1967-70 - Grace-in -the-Mountains, Waynesville
18. Mrs. Betty Early - 1970-73 - St. James, Lenoir 1970 - Triennial

19. Mrs. Pauline Walker - 1973-76 - Ascension, Hickory 1973 - Triennial
20. Mrs. Mary Evelyn Steele - 1976-79 - Trinity, Asheville (I read somewhere that she was the 1976 & 1979 Triennial 22<sup>nd</sup> president)
21. Mrs. Louise Hatch - 1979-82 - Holy Cross, Valle Cruis 1979 & 1982 Triennial
22. Mrs. Sheila Burns - 1982-85 - Ascension, Hickory
23. Mrs. Candy Grooms - 1985-88 - St. Marks, Gastonia - The square for the National quilt was made - each member made a stitch {I read this somewhere but I would have to question this statement but it sounds good}
24. Mrs. Jean Lee - 1989-90 - first 2 year term - St. Mary's, Blowing Rock
25. Mrs. Elizabeth Black - 1991-92 - St. James, Hendersonville
26. Mrs. Becky Whelen - 1993-94 - Redeemer, Shelby 1991 & 1994 Triennial
27. Mrs. Doris Perreault - 1995-96 - St. Phillip's, Brevard 1994 & 1997 Triennial
28. Mrs. Diane Mance - 1997-98 - St. John's, Marion 1997 & 2000 Triennial
29. Mrs. Margaret King - 1999-2000 - St. John's, Asheville 1997, 2000, 2003, 2006 & 2009 Triennial
30. Mrs. Lucy Gunn - 2001-02 - Calvary, Fletcher 2000 & 2003 Triennial
31. Mrs. Joan Summerfield - 2003-04 - Grace, Morganton 2003 Triennial & 2009
32. Mrs. Mary Ann Ransom - 2005- - Transfiguration, Bat Cave, St. James, Hendersonville 2006 Triennial & 2009 as National Officer of ECW - Triennial



**(Many thanks to Joan Summerfield, ECW Board, Grace, Morganton, who compiled this roster.)**



As Diocesan ECW President, I would like to share with you one of the paragraphs Katerina K. Whitley wrote in her report.

“So is ECW necessary? Women are naturally given to organizing. How else can they keep home and children together, cook and dress them, and respond to the many needs of their community? It’s not enough to have an active ECW in a few parishes; it is good to also connect with the wider diocesan family of women. We are a family and we are a powerful family when we meet and work together. We receive energy and inspiration from one another. It is imperative that we make our organized study and ministry attractive to our younger women. The two decades of the 21st century have pointed our need for change. Maybe the young women will show us the way. Please use the play I wrote and donated to the National ECW to teach the history of our ministries and to encourage the young to participate. The play is called, *Yet We Persist*.”

(As of this newsletter, your ECW Board is planning for the 150 year celebration and we hope you will be a part of that planning. Please contact Mary Ann Ransom 828-230-0557: nanaransom43@gmail.com or Diane Mance, 828-275-2972; mancediane40@bellsouth.net or Joan Summerfield 828-448-1071; rjsummerfield@bellsouth.net) if you wish to help.)

**Our Vision** for Episcopal Church Women (ECW) Diocese of Western North Carolina is that we continue to come together as a community of women to do ministry and mission. To live out our Baptismal Covenant by sharing God’s love working as peacemakers, taking care of God’s creation, doing social justice work, and aspiring to be a Godspark\*, shining and sharing Christ’s love in our communities and around the world.

ECW Board

Diocese of Western North Carolina

\* Godspark— from Enneagram: The core self - the part of us made in God’s image, the spirit, soul.

*ECW Board wishes to thank Rachel Carr, Missioner for Communications for the design of our ECW 150th logo.*

### **Did You Know?**

The Episcopal Church Women organized its first Triennial in 1872. The National ECW Board comes together every three years to organize, conduct and provide leadership to the women in the nine provinces of the National Episcopal Church. In 2022, we were to hold ECW 50th Triennial in conjunction with General Convention at Baltimore, Maryland. Due to the pandemic Triennial was cancelled.

Katerina Whitley and Mary Ann Ransom were the two delegates chosen to represent our diocese going to Triennial and Joan Summerfield was chosen as our Distinguished Woman for 2022. Due to the cancelation of Triennial, Joan Summerfield was honored as Our Distinguished Woman in December at Grace’s, Morganton ECW Christmas Party.



L-R: Joan Summerfield , ECW Distinguished Woman, ECW Board member Diane Mance, The Rev. Dr. Marshall Jolly, Rector for Grace Episcopal Church, Morganton



L-R: Diane Mance, Bishop José, & Margaret King  
ECW presents a check in 2022 to Bishop José for Lambeth



## Our Ministries...

### United Thank Offering (UTO)

The Mission of the United Thank Offering (UTO) has remained constant: thankful offerings given for the

everyday blessings of life to provide blessings for others. Individuals in each Parish take part spiritually by offerings prayers of thanksgiving and by actively dropping coins in the “Little Blue Box.” These funds are gathered (UTO Ingathering) twice a year in each Parish at a time arranged with the Rector.

### Why Gratitude?

United Thank Offering is a ministry of the Episcopal Church to encourage gratitude throughout the church and the world – but why? First and foremost, gratitude is a Christian virtue. It helps us love more deeply and be more present to the Holy Spirit at work in the world. Practicing gratitude can have a magnitude of effects on our daily personal, physical, and spiritual lives. There are extraordinary benefits to maintaining a daily practice of gratitude, and we hope to encourage and inspire a daily practice of gratitude for all.

At this time, we do not have a Diocesan UTO Coordinator. Checks (payable to WNC ECW UTO) can be sent to Diane Mance, ECW Treasurer, 105 Poppy Lane, Asheville, NC 28803 (Thanks to the churches who have already done their Ingathering)

If you feel a call to serve in this position, please let us know. To learn more about UTO go to [www.unitedthankoffering.com](http://www.unitedthankoffering.com) (materials can be ordered from website.)



## Church Periodical Club (CPC) & Miles of Pennies (MOP)



### *Dedicated to the Ministry of the Written Word*

*An affiliate of The Episcopal Church*

Our CPC & MOP funds are given to support our seminarians, schools and other groups. CPC Sunday is usually the first Sunday in May. More on this important ministry will be in upcoming newsletters and on our website. Contact Jan Scarborough at [jrscar@charter.net](mailto:jrscar@charter.net) for more information.

### **Women Helping Women (WHW) Scholarship**

is a granting program to assist women in our diocese with funds to pursue or further their religious education or ministry. Applications will soon be on our website.

[www.ecwwnc.org](http://www.ecwwnc.org)

**Lambeth Fund** - This fund helps send the Bishop's spouse to Lambeth every 10 years.

**All Saints Day Memorial Offering (ASDMO)** is a program which helps fund projects that would improve, enhance or fulfill a need pertaining to parishes.

We are re-designing our website ([www.ecwwnc.org](http://www.ecwwnc.org)) and hope you will send your stories, photos and events to share with other women. Announcement coming soon in the diocesan Enews.



## Historical Documents on Display...

On June 3, 2023 at the 150th ECW celebration, to be held at Lake Lure Inn & Spa, Lake Lure, NC, there will be many of our historical documents on display for the women in attendance. After our event, these documents will be deposited at the Pack Place Library to their archive section for future ECW generations.

Diane Mance, Margaret King, Katerina Whitley and I have been going through documents, photos, publications, and books etc. dated as far back as 1872, when we were part of North Carolina, before our diocese came into being.

Lynn R. Hoke, Archivist for Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina has documented ECWs in the early years and continues to update their archives.

We hope at our celebration, women will be able to peruse these documents and even be able to give names and locations to some of the photos that have very little information on them.

### **Did you know?**

April 23, 1985, Verna A. Dozier was the speaker at the ECW Spring Gathering. Her talk that day was *The Propers for All Baptized Christians*.

April 27, 1982, Author Madeleine L'Engle was invited to speak to the ECW. "How did you happen to invite Miss L'Engle?" Mrs. Hatch was asked. "When Mary Evelyn Steele, Ann Enman and I were delegates to the Triennial meeting in Denver nearly three years ago, we heard her speak and we knew we had to have her here," Mrs. Hatch said.

(I know looking over all the historical ECW materials will be an experience many of you will cherish for years to come.) Mary Ann Ransom

### **My prayer for you, as we prepare for our 150th year celebration on June 3, 2023...**

O Lord, you are our dwelling place and have been so for several generations, and will continue to be so, for future generations.

As we wake up every day among these beautiful mountains in this setting, call Western North Carolina, we offer thanks to you, O Creator, for being among us like the mighty trees within these mountains.

O Creator of heaven and earth and of all creatures, we give you thanks for bringing us together as ECW in such a beautiful setting.

We are truly bless to be able to look out upon Mother Earth, and see your kaleidoscope of greens, blues, reds, and browns of your landscape and the flowing waters of your majestic rivers.

We ask you, Dear Lord, no we beg of you, to fill each of us, as your vessels with your Holy Spirit. Create in us a desire to accept the wondrous gift of Grace, you have given to each of us.

Give us the wisdom in our hearts and souls to know we are all linked together, and through this linkage are linked back to You. This linkage is call LOVE. Your love is freely given to us, so teach us ways to show this love to others in your name.

AMEN

(2023, Mary Ann Ransom)



Graphic art created in 1985 from my vision of how we, like roses, are connected to mother earth. mar

## President's Message

My gratitude goes out to the faithful women who have served on the diocesan ECW board with me, Diane Mance, Margaret King, Joan Summerfield, JoAnne Stewart, Jan Scarborough, Katerina K. Whitley. These women have provided me with leadership, friendship and love.

As we come together to celebrate our 150 years on June 3, 2023, my gratitude also goes out to the women who went before us and whose shoulders we stand upon today. Of course at this time, many of our once active ECWs are no longer active, however; the women of the church are always doing mission and ministry.

I have no idea as to what our ECW organization that started in 1872 will look like in the future. However, I do feel the women in our diocese will continue serving others through their love of God.

Many issues have changed since 1872, however; much is still to be done. We are still dealing with world hunger, women's rights, social justice, etc. Our Presiding Bishop calls us all to be active in creation care for our world, work toward racial reconciliation, domestic and global poverty, youth ministries, spreading God's love to others, and serving our churches and communities to help make a difference. Many of our ECWs are doing this work and have always done this work.

My hope for us as women is to find a way to come together to serve and make our world a better place for the glory of God and to make our ECWs even stronger.

My request goes out to all women, young and old to share in this important work. To help bring about God's love as we work to make a difference in today's world. Peace, Mary Ann Ransom, ECW Diocesan President

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Mary Ann Ransom

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## ***Go tell it on the Mountains***

News of the Episcopal Church Women

Diocese of Western North Carolina



[www.ecwwnc.org](http://www.ecwwnc.org)



Time to Bloom!

Grow your ECW for the future!



ECW sows seeds  
watch them grow