



Episcopal Church Women and United Thank Offering 2010 Report



Our Episcopal Church Women's board met bimonthly over the last year. We offer a place of prayer and support for women's ministry leaders around the diocese: *Daughters of the King, Church Periodical Club, Altar Guild, Girl's Friendly*, and *The Episcopal Church Women's Quilt Project*. We meet to share information, and encourage one another in our ministries, and we are available to provide information and resources about these ministries to parishes. In an effort to meet with women around the diocese we have been meeting in different corridors. May's meeting was hosted by the Girls' Friendly of St. Peter's Church, Springfield and many women from St. Monica's Guild met with us to share stories and fellowship.

Over the last four years the Episcopal Church Women (ECW) and the Daughters of the King have joined together to sponsor two Quiet Days, one in Advent and one in Lent. We have sensed God leading us to offer leaders, and others, these times of quiet reflection as a respite from our over-busy lives.

For Advent 2009 our Quiet Day theme was "*Meditations, Discussions and Spiritual Refreshment.*" We drew on the writings of Katerina Whitley author of *Waiting for the Wonder: Voices of Advent* to create three meditations and a series of questions; we concluded with a celebration of the Holy Eucharist led by The Rev. Canon Michael DeVine at Christ Church Cathedral.

Our Lenten 2010 Quiet Day, held at St. Paul's Church, Holyoke was titled, "Walking in the Footsteps of Jesus". Using slides from their 2007 trip to Israel and scriptural readings, Mariana Bauman and Phyllis Larson led us on a meditative journey to the Holy Land in the time of Jesus. There was an opportunity for quiet meditation, which wove through the presentation, ending in a celebration of the Holy Eucharist led by The Rev. Barbara Thrall.

As president of the diocesan ECW I sit on the Province 1 ECW board, and I am the Communications and Information liaison to that board. On behalf of the Province 1 ECW, I attended a workshop at the Episcopal Divinity School on Digital Technology and Faith Formation and you can read the report here: www.diocesewma.org/aboutus/ecw-reportdigitaltechworksh.pdf

We continue to prayerfully set aside money for outreach; we sent \$525 for a Native American Mission to the Diocese of South Dakota in honor of the consecration of the Rt. Rev. John Tarrant, formerly of our diocese and \$500.00 to St. Margaret's Convent for their sister convent in Haiti that suffered in the earthquake last January.

This year we have expanded our use of email and webpage communication and we are grateful for the help and advice of the diocesan "web minister", Curt Hahn. We intend to continue reaching out using this electronic venue, and we will focus on women's history this coming year.

The United Thank Offering Mission "To expand the Circle of Thankful People"

The United Thank Offering is a ministry of "Thankful Pennies" with *The Mission "To expand the Circle of Thankful People"*. The fruits of this thankfulness to God can be seen all over the world as grant money is used to build up Christ's Kingdom. The United Thank Offering focuses on approving grants that will implement significant change to alleviate profound human suffering and address the *Millennium Development Goals*.



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And in Our Diocese

the Diocesan Episcopal Church Women's board oversees the United Thank Offering. Every diocese was invited to submit one grant application for the 2010 granting cycle, and one additional grant application on behalf of their companion diocese. We had one grant application submitted on behalf of our companion diocese, Kumasi, Ghana. This grant request was for stewardship training for lay and clerical leader in the Diocese of Kumasi as part of the diocesan plan to become more self-reliant and encourage growth. We were pleased to learn that the grant request was approved by the United Thank Offering Board for \$7,790.

Our combined 2009 United Thank Offering was **\$15,138.78** With 39 Churches participating!
Our combined 2010 mail in Spring ingathering was **\$3,270.74**. Thanks be to God!

Grant applications are available October 1st by calling Cozette Haggerty, Executive Assistant to the Bishop, 413-737-4786, extension 23, or if you would like to receive an electronic copy send your request to ecw.wma@gmail.com with UTO in the subject line. **The completed application must be returned to the Bishop's office by December 1, 2010.**

We would like to remind everyone that there are two ingatherings yearly:

→ **The Fall ingathering will be during the diocesan convention, this year Friday-Saturday, October 22-23, 2010.** Make check to: The Episcopal Diocese of WMA, with UTO in the memo; this offering may also be mailed as below. Please check: www.diocesewma.org/aboutus/ecw for updated information as the ingathering date gets closer, or email: ecw.wma@gmail.com

→ **The Spring UTO ingathering will be MAIL IN.** The UTO Board *suggests* the Sunday after the Ascension, this coming Spring, **June 5th, 2011**, as an ingathering date for parishes. Make check to: The Episcopal Diocese of WMA, with UTO in the memo, and mail by **June 22, 2011** to: The Episcopal Diocese of WMA, ATTN: Esther Barker, Diocesan Accounting Manager, 37 Chestnut St., Springfield, MA 01103.

If you have questions or need information/advice about the United Thank Offering or Episcopal Church Women contact the ECW board at: ECW.wma@gmail.com or check: www.diocesewma.org/aboutus/ecw or call Susan Howland at: 508-248-6112.

Sincerely in Christ,
Susan Howland, Diocesan ECW President
September, 2010