



VOICES OF WOMEN

EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN OF THE DIOCESE OF LONG ISLAND
Winter 2024

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Happy 2025! We are one quarter into this new century. In some ways, it feels just like the last one. A new flu, political discord, economic uncertainty.... It seems like the same old, same old. As we move on in years, many of us become disenchanted with the hoopla surrounding a new year. We refuse to make resolutions or promises to improve. No lists of trying to lose 10 pounds, give up reality TV or some other habit we would like to break. I'm suggesting a more positive approach this year. Here are a few things you may want to consider:

1. **Read something from your Bible daily** or add an additional 5-10 minutes to your daily Bible regimen. If you don't have a daily Bible regimen start one.
2. **Make a change in your prayer habits.** Establish a prayer corner at home or a traveling prayer folio or folder that you can take with you. Put it in your suitcase. Use the 10 or 15 minutes you wait each day for children getting off the bus or part of your commute to add prayer time.
3. **Join a Religious Book Club.** Start or join a Book Club based on books in the spiritual genre. Instead of murder mysteries or popular culture, explore your faith. Read a Christian Book for a change.
4. **Be Content With What You Have.** Every day we are bombarded with things we just "can't do without". Pick a day each week or each month that you "Don't Open Your Wallet". See how much you save on those days when you spend no money. You can put the money you save into CPC. As you are shopping, just say "No" or "Do I really Need this?" Add up what you didn't spend.

Take a look around and see if you can make one little improvement this year. Discuss some of these changes at your chapter meeting this month. Making one or some of these changes may be easier than you think.

Debbie Richberg
Diocesan ECW President

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR ANNUAL DUES?

Our ministries are funded by dues received yearly from the parishes around the Diocese. Parishes are asked to contribute \$150.00 per year



Finance Chair Sheryl Edwards (left) and Historian Barbara Taylor (right) team up to remind attendees that the work of ministry has to be funded in order to continue. GOD is good and has blessed us with many talents, and opportunities to do His work here on our earthly pilgrimage.



IMPORTANT NEWS

Throughout the years, each quarter, the Diocesan Team has been reporting to you all the exciting things we have done each year, all the interesting articles and pictures received from our area Presidents and representatives from the churches in our Diocese. I have received lots of compliments and words of wisdom from some of you and have responded with gratitude that the contents of our Newsletters and peaked interest and raised awareness among you, our parishioners and friends who have shared.

For the next quarter, Barbara and I would like to dedicate the **ENTIRE** Newsletter to **YOU**, our readers. Yes, very, very interesting!

We are asking all of you to submit an article that you would like to share with the members in the Diocese. Pictures must have a caption. Events must have occurred January through March 2025. Make each event as interesting, colorful and funny as you can.

Name of participant

Title (your position in the church, even if it is just member)

Email address

Church, and Area (Brooklyn, Nassau, Queens, Suffolk)

Please, please invite all ladies in your congregation to participate.

*Barbara Taylor
Vernese Smith
Your Newsletter Team*

BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE
Diocese of Long

From the desk of the retired ECW Diocesan Board Book of Remembrance Chairperson

Valerie Brandford-Pierre

**This is the day which the Lord has made
Let us rejoice and be glad in it. Amen.**

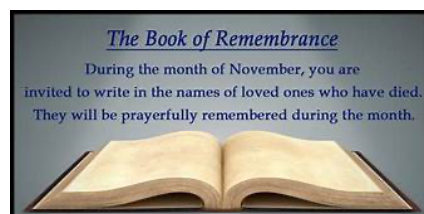
I am honored to be presented with this distinguished award from President Debbie Richberg and the ECW Diocesan Board members. Thank you for the recognition. It makes me feel special. It makes me feel appreciated. It makes me feel blessed. It says, you have done your job. You have done it well. You have given it your all, and for that, I am glad.

Ten years ago, I accepted the invitation, from the ECW President June Gerbracht, to join the ECW Diocesan Board as Chairperson of the Book of Remembrance. It was scary, I must admit, but I plunged right in, and did the best that I could. I welcomed the scary opportunity to serve.

This was not a solo journey. I had exceptional mentors along the way: Sharon Tucker, the former BOR Chairperson who held my hand and led the way, and my co-partners Ancilla Friday, Cynthia Stephens, Jane Ames, Sally Bergmeyer, and Joan Derle. This award is being accepted in honor of you. Your broad shoulders kept me afloat, and my husband, Bossuet's patience gave me strength. **Thank you!**

I also want to thank the clergy and staff at the Cathedral who paved the way for the success of the BOR service: Bishop Lawrence Provenzano, Canon Michael Delaney, Deacon Majorie Boyden-Edmonds, and Deidra Beaman, and you, the ECW Diocesan Board members and President Lois Johnson-Rodney, without your support at the service, it would have been complete chaos. Thank you. I hope that my tenure on the Board will inspire others to serve. Thank you, again.

With all my love!



The Episcopal Church Women of the Diocese of Long gathered at the Cathedral of the Incarnation on Friday, November 1, 2024 for the Annual Book of Remembrance Service. There were representatives from across the Diocese. Bishop Lawrence Provenzano presided, and the Rt. Rev. GERALYN WOLF gave the sermon.



At the service



More from the service at the Cathedral

The names of loved ones who departed this life over the past year were read. The annual service is a tribute to those members who paved the way and for the current ECW women who are an integral part of parishes across the Diocese.



Photography by **Teddy Byrne**.
 Pictures can be purchased here
<https://dioceselongisland.smugmug.com/Diocesan-Celebrations-services/2024/ECW-Book-of-Remembrance-Mass-Annual-Meeting>



Following the service, Bishop Provenzano installed the new members of the Diocesan ECW board, commissioning them to continue their work in ministry and mission.



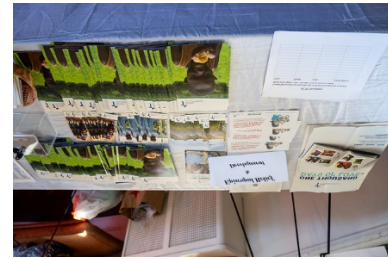
The Annual meeting and luncheon followed at the Garden City Casino where a scrumptious meal was prepared, and elections were held.



Mrs. Valerie Brandford Pierre, parishioner of St. James, Brookhaven, was awarded the 2024 Episcopal Church Women Service Award in appreciation for her "dedication, time, talents, perseverance, and commitment to excellence to the diocesan board, and the communities, parishes, and people in the Diocese of Long Island." Valerie was Chair of the Book of Remembrance celebrations for the past 9 years.

Pictured left: Valerie and President Debbie Richberg

Ministries on display



Submitted by Vernese Smith
 Publisher



H	A	R	A	B	E	H	S	H	T	A	B	N	A	M
H	A	X	E	E	U	O	D	I	A	S	A	H	A	W
R	A	R	N	H	R	U	T	H	J	O	T	I	A	Z
Q	E	L	O	R	A	U	M	F	M	R	R	E	Z	A
U	A	B	I	B	S	B	S	I	A	I	I	C	I	R
E	R	W	E	L	E	L	Q	M	M	D	Y	M	P	E
E	I	E	N	K	E	D	J	O	A	N	N	A	P	P
N	H	L	E	P	A	D	D	O	O	L	B	R	O	H
S	P	L	V	Q	H	H	D	I	N	A	H	Y	R	A
H	P	Y	E	A	R	E	S	T	H	E	R	W	A	T
E	A	M	G	A	E	L	I	Z	A	B	E	T	H	H
B	S	A	C	S	A	R	A	H	A	R	U	T	E	K
A	R	H	J	R	E	H	T	O	M	S	E	S	O	M
K	E	H	A	E	L	L	O	T	S	W	I	F	E	O
L	P	O	T	I	P	H	A	R	S	W	I	F	E	T

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4. Women in the Bible

BATHSHEBA
 BLOOD
 DEBORAH
 DELILAH
 DINAH
 ELIZABETH
 EUODIAS
 ESTHER
 EVE
 HAGAR

JOANNA
 KETURAH
 LEAH
 LOTSWIFE
 MARTHA
 MARY
 MIRIAM
 MOSES MOTHER
 NAOMI
 POTIPHARSWIFE

QUEENSHEBA
 RACHEL
 REBEKAH
 REHAB
 RUTH
 SAPPHIRA
 SARAH
 WELL
 ZAREPHATH
 ZIPPORAH

Submitted by Barbara Taylor



SEAMEN'S CHURCH INSTITUTE (SCI)

Christmas at Sea

TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE! CHRISTMAS-AT-SEA is the longest continuous charity knitting program in the US, supporting men and women in the maritime industry, under the auspices of the Seamen's Church Institute. It was founded by the Episcopal Church in 1898! On behalf of the ECW Diocesan Board, **THANK YOU** to all the participants throughout our diocese who donated over **1,100** knitted or crocheted hats, scarves, cowls, and socks to the 2024 **CHRISTMAS-AT-SEA** Program of SCI! These gifts are given to the mariners of cargo ships who come to our ports to deliver 90% of the goods we buy in our stores! A big **THANK YOU** also to the ladies who sew ditty bags and to those who save Christmas card fronts to make labels for the gifts! The toiletries and candies are so appreciated and added to the ditty bag gifts. To all you beautiful and talented ladies: **Please CONTINUE** your good work in 2025 for this cause of Christ, and may God bless you all abundantly!

Love and Peace!

Please call or text **Angie Morris at 631-626-9012** if you have any questions about SCI or if you would like a church visit about SCI and Christmas-At-Sea after a church service or during an ECW meeting. I have a 15-minute video that explains the program. I also am willing to teach how to knit, crochet, or sew ditty bags! If you need some extra yarn, just call or text me to arrange to meet during the year.

The delivery helpers pictured below are: Joanne Bartosik, Director of Christmas-At-Sea, and Long Islanders Bill and Angie Morris of Trinity Church, Northport, Debbie Richberg, ECW Diocesan President, of St. Boniface, Lindenhurst, and Donna Austin of St. James Church in St. James.



Angie Morris
SCI Liaison
631 626-9012

Our Trust Funds at work



Thank You for Your Support!



We Are Full With Gratitude

As the year draws to a close, we want to take a moment to express our heartfelt gratitude to each and every one of you for your unwavering support. Your contributions have been vital in keeping our doors open and allowing us to continue our programs. Despite the many challenges we have faced this year, our dedicated staff and enthusiastic students have shown remarkable resilience. Their eagerness to learn and strive for excellence is stronger than ever, and it is all thanks to your generosity. On behalf of our board, staff, and students, we extend our sincerest thanks to you for being an integral part of our community.

We are looking forward to celebrating you at our annual gala on March 28, 2025.

Submitted by Sheryl Edwards



Team Barbara and Vernese



This newsletter will be published once every quarter for distribution in the months of April, July, October, and January. We welcome any questions regarding the role of the Episcopal Church Women in the Church. In order to research and answer your questions in a timely manner, questions must be received by the **15th day** of the month after publications. We will certainly do our best to address all questions received. You may also send us suggestions on things you would like to see or comments on the helpfulness of this newsletter. We certainly hope you have enjoyed reading the newsletter, and may God bless you as you continue your ministry in the world.

Questions may be sent via email to the committee members:

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Editor & Publisher: Vernese Smith vern.bert@verizon.net



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