

2008 ANNUAL DIOCESAN CONVENTION REPORT
Episcopal Church Women (ECW)

The Board of the Diocesan Episcopal Church Women continues to be in reflection relative to the growth of the Board as well as stimulus to seek more active participation by the women of the Diocese. Natural attrition and health factors have reduced the Board to a precious few and these Few have been faithful for many, many years. We laud their service and acknowledge that the Time has come for others to accept the charge to engage in the mission of the ECW.

For over 100 years, this Diocesan ECW has been in the forefront of implementing programs established by the National ECW Board as well as programs initiated on the parish level. However, the time has come for the Diocesan ECW to begin to promote the MDG's (Millenium Development Goals). The development of a health ministry program within the parishes is suggested as an avenue to begin to accomplish this. Maryfran Crist, Province V Health Ministries Coordinator, is interested in our developing this program. The Diocesan Health Ministries Rep is Polly Gabbett (St. Anne's).

Another program that we would like to develop is the Angel Tree program. It would have a two-fold purpose: establish an on-going relationship with families of the incarcerated which, in turn, would serve as an opportunity for the recruitment of children for Camp New Happenings Northern Indiana. All that is involved is a Christmas gift to a child of the incarcerated. Such a small but heartwarming act.

In 2012 (late April or early May) the Diocesan ECW will host the Annual Province V conference. All women in the Diocese are invited to work on the planning and implementation of the conference. A date will be set sometime in 2009 after which preliminary planning and committee organization will begin. The Diocesan ECW last hosted this meeting in the year 2000 and, to this day, there are women in the Diocese who positively remember the conference. Hosting the conference will be a large undertaking and we cordially invite and need all women to participate in the of the conference.

A Diocesan ERD representative is sorely needed. This position has been vacant for some time. The same situation is true of the Church Periodical Club (CPC). Currently, the Memorial Fund, Chaired by Delores Bada, awarded a \$400 scholarship to Ellen Wandland (St. Anne's Warsaw). Contributions to the United Thank Offering (UTO) remain constant. Camp New Happenings Northern Indiana received the 2008 UTO grant.

Women interested in serving on the Diocesan ECW Board, working on the Health Ministries program or the 2012 Province V Annual Conference are encouraged to immediately contact Charlotte Strowhorn (219-944-0620) or charlotte1033@sbcglobal.net.

Respectfully submitted,

Charlotte A. Strowhorn, President, Diocesan ECW

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