

EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN

The Episcopal Church Women (ECW) started out 2020 with a bang as we hosted a wonderful bake sale at the Diocesan Convention last year and raised almost \$700 for the Episcopal Migration Ministries' border crisis project.

We worked hard to stay connected during 2020 in spite of COVID-19 and all of the safety limitations associated with it. As with other groups we chose to cancel our Fall Annual Gathering at Trinity Center and all planned District meetings. Instead we turned our focus into updating our annual Handbook and surveying women throughout the Dioceses about ways we are finding to create community when we cannot be together in person. Answers varied from virtual meetings on ZOOM, phone banking, emails, texting, sending printed homilies and bulletins to parishioners without computer access, dropping off meals for some of the more elderly folks, grocery shopping for shut-ins, and sending cheerful cards on a regular basis to keep everyone engaged in the ongoing works of the church as a whole and ECW in particular.

To increase our communication efforts, we gathered names and email addresses and published an e-newsletter to almost 400 women throughout eastern North Carolina. Our hope is to keep growing this list so that we can communicate freely with our membership spreading awareness of our education and outreach programs and our mission to “engage, mobilize and support the women of our diocese to ensure we all have the means to go out into the world rejoicing in the power of the Spirit and serving the Lord.”

In an effort to remain optimistic we have scheduled our 2021 Annual Gathering at Trinity for mid-August and will strive to renew our commitment to the Dioceses, our individual churches, our neighbors and each other.

We thank you for your continued support empowering women for Christ's ministry.

Submitted by,

Lucia Peel, Church of the Advent

Diocesan ECW President