



ECW NEWS

Go tell it on the Mountains

Newsletter for Episcopal Church Women Diocese Western North Carolina

January/February 2026



Mary Ann Ransom

This morning I looked out my window and see the sun streaming through the trees. I think. **Thank God** for a new day which welcomes in a New Year.

We, as Episcopal Church Women Diocese Western North Carolina are starting off a new day and new year. As we mark this beginning of the new year, I am reminded of our faith grounded in Christ's love.

As we moved forward this year, I hope we will adopt these six suggestions listed from the recent National ECW New Blast.



When we meet on March 18th at the Diocesan Office, 900 Centrepark Dr. B, Asheville NC, please bring your ideas and ways you think we can put these six items into practice. I know some of your ECW are already doing some of these. Please share these ways when we meet in March.

- 1) **Renewed Spiritual Formation:** Opportunities for prayer, study, and reflection that deepen our walk with Christ and strengthen women's leadership in the Church.
- 2) **Continued Advocacy and Justice Work:** Ongoing commitment to addressing violence against women and girls, supporting Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women initiatives, and amplifying the voices of the most vulnerable.
- 3) **Connections Across the Church:** Strengthening relationships among, parish, diocesan, provincial, and national ECW groups through gatherings, shared resources, and collaborative ministry.
- 4) **Equipping and Empowering Women:** New tools, conversations, and leadership development opportunities that help women respond faithfully to the needs of their communities.
- 5) **Faith in Action:** Meaningful service projects and partnerships that reflect Christ's love through compassion, generosity, and justice.
- 6) **Joyful Witness:** Celebrating the stories, milestones, and faithful work at Episcopal Church Women across the Church, encouraging one another in hope.

With God's guidance, the new year invites Episcopal Church Women to continue shining Christ's light—faithfully, courageously, and together.

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

Events from National ECW - National ECW offers many events and information about the upcoming zoom meetings, Facebook events etc. Please visit ecwnational.org to read about what our National ECW has to offer. Also, please register your ECW or Women ministry at <https://ecwnational.org/register-your-ecw/>



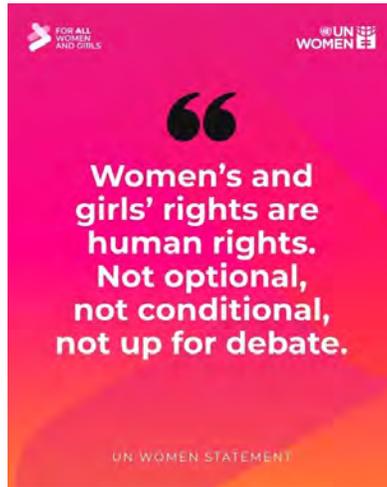
Once you register your ECW you will received various information as to how National ECW can help.

Mary Ann Ransom, ECW Diocesan President

nanaransom43@gmail.com and 828.230.0557



Visit National ECW Facebook Page



Save the Date: Triennial 2027

July 3 to 8 at Phoenix, Arizona



Please send me your events, photos etc. so I can put them in ECW's newsletter. We are working with our new media person designing our website, setting up our Facebook page etc. Thanks for your help is getting our diocesan ECW stories out for others.

Please send me the names of your officers, team leaders as well so we can put together a directory. We have not had a directory for a few years, however, I hope we can change this with your help.

Mary Ann Ransom

nanaransom43@gmail.com

You Are Invited...

To plan goals (1-6) from front page, and which ones we wish to choose and ways to implement these goals.

I am inviting the women from around the diocese to come to a planning session, **March 18, 2026 from 11 am to 1 pm** at the Diocesan office, 900 Centrepark Dr. B, Asheville NC 28805.

Free Box lunches will be provided. (Turkey, Ham, or Vegetarian)

When you RSVP please let me know if there are any food allergies. In your RSVP, please let me know your lunch choice.

Car Pool if possible. I look forward to seeing you.

Mary Ann Ransom nanaransom43@gmail.com or 828 230 0557.



RSVP: By March 9, 2026.

Mark your calendars...

Episcopal Church Women (ECW) Diocese Western North Carolina

Invites all women in diocese to join us to welcome National ECW President Lisa Bortner on April 11, 2026 at St. John's Episcopal Church, 290 Old Haw Creek Road, Asheville NC 28805.

Lisa will be our keynote speaker and topic will be about the role of ECW in today's world.

Lisa Bortner has been involved in women's ministry for over 20 years, first at the parish level, then at the Diocesan and now at the National level as President of the National Episcopal Church Board. She has also served at the parish and Diocesan levels with the Daughters of the King and is a member of the Myra McDaniel Union of Black Episcopalians where she served as the correspondence secretary. Lisa is a past mentor and graduate of Education for Ministry and has presented numerous workshops in the Episcopal community.

Lisa credits God's grace for her strong organizational skills and passion for service. She's seen those skills used by God to encourage others. She believes it is by engrossing ourselves in the church community through our various ministries that we find our true fulfillment in Christ. It is her hope that through the National ECW, people we meet will be touched by God and that they in turn, may encourage others to grow in the spirit of God. It is through this lens that Lisa will share the National ECW's current initiatives and how all Episcopal women may participate in the broader church.

April 11, 2026 (Saturday), St. John Episcopal Church, 290 Old Haw Creek Rd., Asheville, NC 28805

10:00 AM to 2:00 PM - (Registration Form on page 3)

RSVP: March 31, 2026



Lisa Bortner,
National ECW President



Join us! Come and Meet the National Episcopal Church Women (ECW) President, Lisa Bortner on April 11, 2026.

Lisa will talk about the role of ECW in today’s Church and the World.



(For more information email Mary Ann Ransom, ECW WNC President at nanaransom43@gmail.com or 828.230.0557}

Saturday, April 11, 2026 - 10:30 am — 2 pm

St. John’s Episcopal Church, 290 Old Haw Creek Rd., Asheville NC 28805

\$25 per person - Luncheon

10:30 AM—Registration & Socializing. Coffee, donuts.

11 am to 12 noon—Program

12:30 Luncheon

2:00 Depart

Mail in your registration form today! Bring a friend. **Registration Deadline: March 31, 2026**

Make check payable to ECW/WNC, please Send your check to Diane Mance, Diocesan ECW Treasurer, 105 Poppy Lane, Asheville NC 28803

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

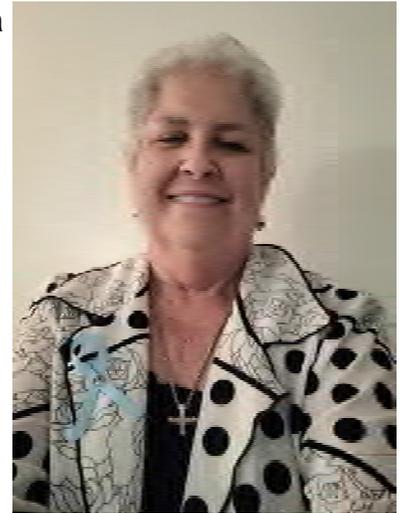


Western North Carolina ECW is planning a fall event with Province IV ECW President, Andrea Geiger who will be our keynote speaker.

Andrea will address how we in Western North Carolina are part of Province IV and let us know how we all come together to do mission and ministry.

A date for this is forthcoming.

Province IV is the largest of the nine provinces in the Episcopal Church. Our province has 9 states and 20 dioceses.



Andrea Geiger, Prov. IV ECW President

An annual retreat is being planned by the Province IV ECW Board the first week in June. Material will be sent out to all our women in WNC when retreat information is available. In the past many of us had attended these retreats when they were at Kanuga. This is always a fun time to meet the women from Province IV and hear about their ministry and mission. Hope we in Western North Carolina will be able to get a group to attend this June 2026 annual retreat.

Mary Ann Ransom
Diocesan ECW President
103 Two Wheel Dr.
Hendersonville NC 28792
828-230-0557
nanaransom43@gmail.com

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Diocese of Western North Carolina

