

Annual Report to the 2025 Convention

Episcopal Church Women (ECW), Diocese of Virginia

Highlights from 2025

Lenten Retreat — March 19, 2025

Bishop Goff led our Lenten Retreat at Grace and Holy Trinity Church, Richmond. Her theme, “The Desert Shall Rejoice: Hope in a Troubling Time,” was inspired by Isaiah 35:1: “The desert shall rejoice and blossom.” She reflected on the wilderness we enter during Lent and the unexpected wildernesses of illness, death, and loss. The retreat concluded with a Eucharist celebrating the Feast of St. Joseph (whose feast day coincided with March 19) and a meal of traditional lentil soup. Sixty participants attended this inspirational community event.

Spring Meeting — May 1, 2025 (May Day)

Our annual Spring Meeting was held at Varina Episcopal Church in Henrico, Virginia. The Rev. Whitney Edwards, Vicar of Varina, served as both speaker and celebrant. Her theme, “Knowing God as Wise Women,” focused on connecting with God to live authentically. Participants described the event as “over the top” and “moving,” with many deeply touched by the Eucharist that followed her talk.

Juneteenth Celebration — June 19, 2025

On Juneteenth, three Richmond churches — St. John’s, St. Peter’s, and St. Philip’s — organized a joint celebration. ECW members joined Bishop Stevenson in a march from St. John’s in Church Hill to the Peter Paul Development Center, singing along the way. The event featured a keynote address by B. K. Fulton, a nationally recognized author, filmmaker, and philanthropist, and a performance by Ezibu Muntu African Dance Company. The celebration concluded with a joyful community picnic at St. Peter’s Church.

Scholarships — July 15, 2025

This year, the Diocesan ECW awarded nine scholarships of \$750 each to youth from the Diocese of Virginia who are attending or planning to attend college, junior college, or technical school. Applications for the 2026 scholarships are available online at ecwvirginia.org.

New ECW Diocese of Virginia Website — July 31, 2025

The ECW Diocese of Virginia launched a new website, ecwvirginia.org, on July 31, 2025. This was a collaborative effort, and we continue to learn how to maintain and update it. Please send any corrections or updates to catherineperrin@comcast.net.

Afternoon Tea — September 27, 2025

The Central Richmond Region hosted an Afternoon Tea at the Church of the Epiphany to benefit the ECW Gifts and Scholarship Fund. Fifty-one women attended, and the event raised \$1,550 for the Fund.

Fall Meeting — October 11, 2025

Our annual Fall Meeting was held at Pohick Church, Lorton, with 46 women representing 13 churches in attendance. Bishop Stevenson spoke on “Along the Way — A Journey of Faith.” He offered a thoughtful reflection on faith and transformation, reminding us that while tragedies are not God’s plan, God’s grace enables us to grow through them. He encouraged us to live by six simple words:

- ***Love Jesus***
- ***Embody Justice***
- ***Be Disciples***

Respectfully submitted,
Catherine Ogle Perrin
President, ECW Diocese of Virginia