

2026 Annual Report and Ministry Fair - Episcopal Church Women

Mission Statement

The Church Women of the Diocese of Virginia, with the Holy Spirit share the love of God by making Christ known in the world through prayer, education, concern for others, and joyful service.

In 2026 the Episcopal Church Women (ECW) of the Diocese held the four yearly mandated board meetings. The two closed board meetings were held on February 3, 2026, and August 11, 2026. The open Spring Meeting and the open Fall Meeting were held on May 5, 2026, and October 17, 2026, respectively. The Fall Meeting and the Spring Meeting are open to all Episcopal women in the diocese. In addition to these four mandated meetings, we held an ECW Board Retreat, a Lenten Retreat for all the women in the Diocese of Virginia, and a Tea open to the community at large in support of the Gifts and Scholarships Fund.

November 11-12, 2025: Diocesan ECW Board Retreat at Roslyn

Along with brainstorming sessions about ECW procedures and a workshop to update job descriptions, it was a time of fellowship, reflection, and worship.

February 3, 2026: Closed Winter Board Meeting via Zoom

Inclement weather conditions required pivoting from meeting at St. James the Less in Ashland to meeting via Zoom where preparations for the the Lenten Retreat and Spring Meeting were discussed along with other business items.

March 3, 2026: Lenten Retreat with the Rev. Dr. Sarah Kye Price at Christ Church Episcopal, Glen Allen

The theme for this interactive retreat was, 'Hallowing our Days: Sacred Spaces and Prayer Practices for Everyday Living.' Sarah introduced different practices to help focus our prayer life like prayer beads, walking the labyrinth, creating sacred spaces in our homes, and visiting "thin" spaces. She also helped us make prayer beads with materials she provided. It was a very mindful experience.

May 5, 2026: The Spring Meeting with Dr. Mark Biddle at St. Martin's Church, Henrico

The subject of Dr. Biddle's talk was, "De-Mystifying the Bible." The take-away from this talk was that the Bible was extraordinarily complex and needed study. Except where Jesus is actually speaking, the Bible was not the "Word of God," but was from authenticated sources speaking to the word of God. We should read the Bible for ourselves and know what we

read in our Bible as our truths can also be found in other religions/beliefs, like Judaism and Islam.

August 11, 2026: Closed Summer Board Meeting at St. Margaret's, Woodbridge

There were lively discussions about what needed to be done for upcoming events. Delegates to the Triennial Convention in July were elected.

September 26, 2026: Annual Gifts and Scholarships Tea at the Church of the Epiphany, Henrico

This was the third year in a row that the Tea was held at the Church of the Epiphany. About 50 women were in attendance. It was a very enjoyable affair where good food and fellowship was the order of the day.

The whole point is to raise money for our Scholarship Program. Every year we accept applications from young people in our Diocese who are going to attend or are attending undergraduate programs, community colleges, or technical schools. The applications are due June 30th. Scholarships are awarded in August. This year nine scholarships were awarded with an average distribution of \$565 each.

October 17, 2026: The Fall Meeting with Dr. Lisa Kimball at Grace and Holy Trinity Church, Richmond

Dr. Lisa Kimball treated us to an inspiring, down-to-earth conversation about how to live into our baptismal covenant. In it she emphasized the importance of community in being a part of the body of Christ. She underlined that reading the Bible was also important. By the end of the talk, everyone was very moved by her inspirational words.

Respectfully Submitted by,
Catherine Ogle Perrin
ECW President
Diocese of Virginia
October 19, 2026