Discerning Hearts

Newsletter of The Episcopal Community

"We are marked as Christ's own for ever." ***Volume: 2026 Issue 11***

Getting out the Vote

This article was originally published in the ECW News

Dear Sisters,



One of our fundamental rights and responsibilities as citizens of the United States is to vote. I ask you to consider the privilege and honor it is to have our voices heard.

As women, we have not always been able to vote. In 1920 (just a mere 106 years ago), women gained the right to vote, but poll taxes, literacy tests, and violence blocked many in the South until the Voting Rights Act of 1965. Immigrants waited until 1943 (Chinese), 1947 (Filipino, Indian), and 1952 (Japanese, Korean, others). Native American women became citizens in 1924, but states kept blocking the vote. Utah was the last to allow it, in 1957.

Although it is very important to communicate with our elected officials when they are in office, the ultimate affirmation that we appreciate their efforts is in the actual election or re-election. There is an organization that works year-round to educate and encourage women to participate in politics and the voting process, with chapters throughout the United States: the League of Women Voters.

Questions are always welcome. They are non-partisan.

Voting is a major contributing factor that leads to social justice. Listen to the candidates and their platforms. Vote your heart and your mind.

Honor those who never had the chance.

Do not waste the opportunity to vote!

Kathleen Nyhuis
in her capacity as member-at-large
for social justice for Province VIII ECW

Event Calendar

Meetings are on Zoom. All times Central time.

2026

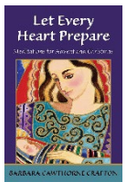
- Saturday - Vespers 10 PM
- Sunday - Vespers 6:00 PM
- Tuesday - Social Hour 4:00 PM
- Friday - Morning Prayer 9:00 AM
- **Sunday, November 15 – Annual Meeting & Plenary** 3:30 Eastern, 2:30 pm Central, 1:30 pm Mountain, 12:30 pm Pacific
- Tuesdays beginning December 1- Advent Book Study (see article)

Advent 2026

A gift from our President

An Advent gift from the President: In addition to the TEC Advent book study, I have arranged for members of The Community to receive daily Advent meditations published by the Seminary of the Southwest. More information on how to receive these either via email or in hard copy form, will be forthcoming. Our own Bp. Diane will be doing the Christmas Day meditation.

Book Study



Our Advent book study begins on Tuesday, December 1 at 7 pm Eastern, 6 pm Central, 5 pm Mountain, and 4 pm Pacific.

This year we are reading Barbara Cawthorne Crawford's book, "Let Every Heart Prepare: Meditations for Advent and Christmas." Based on beautiful seasonal hymns, Crafton's daily meditations on faith, prayer, forgiveness, and healing for Advent and Christmas make an excellent companion for the season.

Barbara Cawthorne Crafton, is an Episcopal priest, spiritual director and author of many books as well as of the celebrated "Almost Daily eMo from the Geranium Farm", read by thousands worldwide.

AdventWord

#AdventWord is a global, online Advent calendar. Each day from the first Sunday of Advent through Christmas Day, #AdventWord offers meditations and images to inspire and connect individuals and a worldwide community of believers to the themes of Advent. You are invited to participate by posting your own images using the hashtag #AdventWord and the word of the day, for example, #journey. Individuals, congregations, organizations, and institutions can all participate. You can stay up-to-date by signing up to receive #AdventWord emails here, visiting AdventWord.org, and following the project on Facebook and Instagram.



Vespers

1-Nov	Lorna Mac Donald
8-Nov	Martha Estes
15-Nov	Barbara Willis
22-Nov	Barbara Harris
29-Nov	BB Vaughn & Carol Putnam

The office of Vespers is the evening office of the day. We see this as a time to check in and be together for just a little while. It is a joyful time, and we hope you will join us! If you would like to lead compline, please contact Lorna MacDonald at worship@theepiscopalcommunity.org

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November Birthdays

Karen Roberts

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"Advent Calendar"

Rowan Williams

He will come like last leaf's fall.
One night when the November wind
has flayed the trees to the bone, and earth
wakes choking on the mould,
the soft shroud's folding.

He will come like frost.
One morning when the shrinking earth
opens on mist, to find itself
arrested in the net
of alien, sword-set beauty.

He will come like dark.
One evening when the bursting red
December sun draws up the sheet
and penny-masks its eye to yield
the star-snowed fields of sky.

He will come, will come,
will come like crying in the night,
like blood, like breaking,
as the earth writhes to toss him free.
He will come like child.

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Community News.

Does your group or circle have news to share? Please send an email to communications@theepiscopalcommunity.org

Do you need a snail mail copy of Discerning Hearts? Contact Barbara Harris at communications@theepiscopalcommunity.org

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Recipe of the Month

Mama Stamberg's Cranberry Relish

Contributed by Lorna MacDonald

My family loves this form of cranberry relish. It is good not only with turkey but pairs well with roast beef.



2 cups whole raw cranberries, washed
1 small onion
3/4 cup sour cream
1/2 cup sugar
2 tablespoons horseradish from a jar ("red is a bit milder than white")
Grind the raw berries and onion together. ("I use an old-fashioned meat grinder," says Stamberg. "I'm sure there's a setting on the food processor that will give you a chunky grind — not a puree.")
Add everything else and mix.
Put in a plastic container and freeze.
Early Thanksgiving morning, move it from freezer to refrigerator compartment to thaw. ("It should still have some little icy slivers left.")

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PayPal makes it easy!

Whether you are paying your dues or making a gift to one of the Funds of the Community, PayPal makes it easy.

When paying by check, please designate which fund or annual dues in the memo line.