

THE EAST TENNESSEE EPISCOPALIAN

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Church women award two UTO grants and scholarship

A service of Holy Eucharist celebrated by Bishop Charles vonRosenberg began the annual meeting of the Episcopal Church Women of the Diocese of East Tennessee on Sept. 13 at Church of the Ascension, Knoxville.

The bishop installed new board members of the diocesan ECW following the service. Board members installed were: Pat Brake, president-elect (term to begin Jan. 2010); Ginny Golphin, Treasurer; Elizabeth Steifel, Altar Chairman and Courtney Zirkle, UTO Coordinator.

In the official meeting after the service, Mollie Tucker scholarship chair, Cheryl Jones, introduced Sarah Grace Dean, who was selected as this year's recipient of a \$1,500 scholarship. Sarah is attending Pellissippi State Technical Community College where she is enrolled in the Communications Graphics Technology program as her next step toward becoming a professional graphic designer.

2008 United Thank Offering coordinator, Elizabeth Stiefel of St. John's Cathedral, Knoxville, reported that two agencies had been awarded UTO grants in East Tennessee this year, and, with Bishop vonRosenberg, presented a \$25,000 grant to Barbara Simmons, Executive Director of Morristown Hamblen Central Services and a \$20,000 grant to Brenda Hughes, Executive Director of the Bradley Initiative for Church and Community in Cleveland, Tenn.

The scheduled keynote speaker Kay H. Meyer, National President for the Episcopal Church Women, was not able to be present at the gathering due to the impact of Hurricane Ike on travel to and from Meyer's home in Georgia.

Bishop vonRosenberg and his wife Annie, spoke about their experiences at the once-a-decade Lambeth Conference of Bishops, held in Canterbury England July 16 - Aug. 4. The bishop began by expressing his profound gratitude for the opportunity to participate in this unique and wonderful experience. He said that the United States has a PR problem in the rest of the world, and noted that The Episcopal Church is painted with the same brush. He said the conference was an opportunity to be face-to-face with folks and expand the images they have of us and that we have of them. He talked about the wonderful experience of hospitality he found throughout the trip and also described his and Annie's dormitory residence at Kent University where the conference was held.

Annie spoke about the concurrent Spouse's Conference at Lambeth. She said it was wonderful to get to know women from all around the world and also talked about the challenges of trying to communicate in groups where many spoke different languages. In answer to a question about what was her favorite part of the trip, she said she loved Canterbury, the hospitality of the people, and Canterbury Cathedral. She said the beauty and sense of history in the cathedral were awe-inspiring.

ECW: www.etdiocese.net/ecw/index.htm.



Photo by Dick Varner

East Tennessee 2009 ECW Diocesan Board: Left to right - Back row: Betty Quave, Bishop Charles G. vonRosenberg. Center row: Alice Payne, Nancy Bosson (president), Cathy Varner, Katie Piper, Courtney Zirkle, Elizabeth Stiefel. Front row: Nancy Tanner, Ellen Hartsfield, Pat Brake (president elect); Cheryl Jones.



Photo by Brian Bosson

Brenda Hughes (left), Executive Director of the Bradley Initiative for Church and Community in Cleveland, Tenn., poses with the Rt. Rev. Charles G. vonRosenberg (center), and Barbara Simmons (right), Executive Director of Morristown Hamblen Central Services. Ms. Hughes was presented with a \$20,000 grant and Ms. Simmons was presented with a \$25,000 grant from the United Thank Offering (UTO) program of the Episcopal Church for the mission of the whole church, funded and administered by women since 1889.



Photo by Vikki Myers

Sarah Grace Dean thanks the ECW for a \$1,500 Mollie Tucker scholarship. Sarah is attending Pellissippi State Technical Community College where she is enrolled in the Communications Graphics Technology program as her next step toward becoming a professional graphic designer.