

Board Member Profile

Note: The Communications Initiative of the Diocesan ECW resumes in this issue of WORKS. You will over the next few years be learning more about the members of the Executive Board, the people elected to act on your behalf. A few paragraphs do not a life story make, of course, but these periodic profiles will provide a sense of the women who serve as your eyes and ears and voice within the greater sisterhood of ECW.

The Board Member Profile was a reluctant item for the writer as it is difficult to choose what to share with readers at the risk of simply reading a curriculum vitae or resume. One suspects a more intimate glimpse would be more interesting. Nonetheless, what follows is a brief look at some life events that have influenced how I am today.

I was the first-born of four children to parents who were employees of a brick-making kiln in Pitt County, North Carolina. Later they became sharecroppers in a farming community producing tobacco, cotton, corn and peanuts. I completed elementary and high school years in a rural, union school (which contained grades 1-12). Thirteen members of my graduating class of 26 students completed college. Though both are now deceased, the Memory of my parents' pride at my rank as valedictorian of the class (and at age 16) has sustained me through the years. Neither of them completed a grade above eight. Following graduation from college, I returned to the same school from which I graduated and taught Biology and the 7th grade for three years. It was a blessing to receive a U. S. Public Health Service Fellowship, to pursue a graduate degree in Public Health Education.

The degree provided me with a variety of skills in community organization and development that were very useful in the position of organizing the community for a Bookmobile Service targeting the African-American Population. Those same skills enabled me to organize and implement guidance and counseling services in the then-five black high schools in Pitt County. Following that position, and another graduate degree, I returned to North Carolina Central University and began a teaching career that has spanned more than four decades.

The teaching career at the University provided numerous opportunities for teaching, research and service. Twice I received the Award for Teaching Excellence, each including a \$2500.00 cash supplement. Twice, I have traveled abroad to assist with the organization and development of training programs for health educators.

I am active in the national professional leadership of Public Health Education. Two professional Organizations have honored me with awards for leadership in the development of a credential for undergraduate health education. I have earned CHES status: Certified Health Education Specialist, following successful performance on the examination.

Some of my gifts and talents have been shared with the Durham community via memberships on Boards of Directors of the NCCU United Christian Campus Ministry, the Durham Council for Senior Citizens, Mental Health, Association of Retired NCCU Personnel, and others.

Spiritual Odyssey

Growing up in the Bible belt of Eastern North Carolina, I had the choice of joining the church with my mother or my father, both in the Baptist denomination. I worshipped in both churches during my residence in Pitt County. My introduction to the Episcopal Church came through The Rev. Richard Ottaway, the Chair of the Pitt County Interracial Committee, which met at his Church. At each meeting, he took the time to answer my questions and invited me to worship. His description of the Episcopal Church was especially appealing to me, as I was searching for meaning and purpose in my life. The search ended when I moved to Durham, and was confirmed at St. Titus' Episcopal Church. There I was able to experience the beautiful liturgy, open-mindedness, diversity and other attractive attributes of the Episcopal Church.



Mary E. Hawkins,
Secretary of Communications

I have served St. Titus' in many capacities, including president of ECW, (three terms); vestry offices: senior warden, (first female warden in the parish) and junior warden; Every Member Canvass Chair, choir member, treasurer, and newsletter and service bulletin editor among others. At the Diocesan level, the service involves delegate to Annual Conventions, member of Diocesan Council and appointment to committees. My service to the Diocesan ECW includes Secretary of Executive Board, Secretary of Communications (including editor of ECW WORKS) and Delegate to Triennial.

My hobbies include cooking, gardening, bowling, solving crossword puzzles, desktop publishing and anything creative. I still remember the impact of my life on many students who confirmed "I can tell you are a Christian". A work I purchased by Michael Podesta sums up my personal philosophy and I share it with you:

DO

*All the good you can
By all the means you can
In all the ways you can
In all the places you can
At all the times you can
To all the people you can
As long as ever you can.*

John Wesley

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long project. Many of the children in the schools selected have no books of their own at home and no one reads to them. Individuals unable to read will make donations for books to be purchased from the Friends of the Library book sale. The books will be distributed to the children.

Two women have been recipients of the Lex Mathews Scholarship. One recipient, Khristy Horne, a young mother of three boys, reports “I was able to take courses required for my degree that were only offered in the summer. Ms. Bradshaw and other committee members offered me encouragement and made the application process run smoothly.”

Khristy is pursuing a degree in Public Administration at North Carolina Central University. She especially values the lessons she has learned about herself and about people who have supported her. After graduation, she wants to work with a non-profit that focuses on education. “I am particularly interested in the education provided to young children and I know I can make a difference,” says Khristy.

Choosing to Grow From Change A Workshop for Women in Transition

Friday, May 6, 2006 from 11:00am to 2:30pm, the Episcopal Church Women of the Greensboro Convocation will offer a workshop designed to help participants learn to both survive and thrive from the challenges, changes and losses that life presents. Participants will learn to apply proven strategies to their own life situation.

The workshop will be held at Church of the Holy Comforter in Burlington. Rhoda Moyer Searcy, a psychiatric mental health nurse will lead the workshop.

For more workshop information, please contact :

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