



Rose Longmire

In the 1990's an announcement was made during a Sunday service at the Church I was attending that there was going to be a meeting to dissolve the ECW because some women didn't think it was really needed anymore. They felt that now that women were Deacons and Priests, girls and women were Acolytes, women were serving on the vestry (some were even Sr. Wardens) why bother. The time for women's groups had come and gone, outdated by the new era we were living in now. Also, most women were working outside the home and just didn't have time for meetings, weren't interested in cooking, knitting and whatever else those women still involved in ECW were doing.

I attended the meeting that evening and decided that night not to let a tradition begun by faithful women, back in the 1800's, just like myself be dissolved. I was amazed at the large turnout of women so willing to extinguish the light of Jesus Christ through the ministry of the Episcopal Church Women. I wondered then and still do to this day "how something rooted in the history of your Church can just be thrown to the wayside or dissolved?" That night I became the President for our ECW and over the next 12 or so years was proud to perform other duties as required. The opportunity to share the light and love of Christ and devote my time and talent to women's ministries by being actively involved as an Episcopal Church Women has become my passion.

The ongoing experience of being actively involved and in fellowship with other strong women of faith has been a wonderful blessing and journey. My faith in God and the promises offered through the resurrection of His son our saviour Jesus Christ have guided me as I strive to see the light of Christ in the women I meet along the way. The road traveled has not always been easy but the rewards have always been great. The future of ECW is having the women who attend Episcopal services understand that by the virtue of God creating them as women they are numbered among many laywomen and ordained who in their daily life serve God by serving others. ECW is not club or guild but a powerful service ministry within the Episcopal Church which allows the Holy Spirit to touch our hearts so that through us many hearts will be touched.