

The Way of the Cross  
Diocese of Georgia, Episcopal Church Women  
May 20, 2006

As our Diocesan members and representatives met with the lovely ECW Women of Province IV each year, we were enthralled with the lovely crosses the Diocesan Presidents wore. Each lady told of the passing on of the cross they were wearing to the next Diocesan President. Each told of the history behind the cross.

Jane Pressly, my predecessor as ECW Diocesan President of the Diocese of Georgia, and I decided that we too in Georgia needed to have a President's cross to wear proudly as president and to hand down to each ensuing President.

Our ECW in the Diocese of Georgia have a lovely and unique sterling silver alms basin which is used across the Diocese for our UTO Offering. The Ladies Auxiliary of the Episcopal Church (the predecessor of our ECW) crafted this basin in 1956. Ladies giving their silver pieces donated the silver across the Diocese. We were thrilled with this idea and decided to invite ladies across our Diocese to donate gold pieces that were unusable, to fashion a cross for our President to wear. Women joined hands across our Diocese and donated gold pieces for the cross. Items such as single earrings, rings, broken bracelets and chains and even gold dental crowns were put into the cross.

The cross was designed by the 2003-2006 ECW President, Marcie Chéreau, and immediate past ECW President, Jane Pressly, 2000-2003. The cross is 14K and 18K yellow gold, 2.5" by 1.5" and is engraved with "ECW" on the triangle of the cross. In the tradition of the Celtic cross, the cross is in the shape of the fleur-de-lis with arms outstretched to create the cross. The circle on the cross symbolizes the great endlessness of God's love shown through Christ's crucifixion. The woven latticework on the cross is symbolic of the fish "be ye fishers of men". The gold triangle in the center symbolizes the trinity "Father, Son and Holy Spirit".

A smaller cross in the form of a lapel tie tack, a replica of the original cross, is being created. It measures 1.25" by 1", and may be presented to outgoing presidents as a memento of service to the Diocese of Georgia, ECW.

By Marcie Chéreau, President ECW Diocese of Georgia, 2003-2006