



Tapestry

December 2019
Volume 32, Issue 6



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Phyllis' Ponderings

My dear sisters,

First, I want to thank our outgoing President, **Tracy Moffatt**, for her outstanding leadership these past two years. Personally, I'm sorry that she was not eligible to continue to serve as our president due to the years she has been on our Board. Tracy has a beautiful sense of humor, an endless amount of energy, has been instrumental in bringing our young ladies to Fall Gatherings, and has a deep love for this organization. She will be missed, but because of her love for WELCA and the impact it has had on her life, we know she will still be involved in some capacity.

You truly humbled me with your vote of confidence in my ability to serve as your SWO President again. As I looked out at those gathered in Maguire Hall, I saw a room of beloved friends, sisters who have loved, encouraged, and supported not only myself, but each other. But sadly, the numbers gathered was fewer than in previous years.

So I have a challenge for those who attended Fall Gathering:

- If you enjoyed this weekend;
- If you felt renewed and refreshed;
- If worship and Bible Study inspired you or caused you to think;
- If you learned something new in a workshop;
- If you had fun at our Table Games;
- If you made new friends;
- If you can't imagine your life without Fall Gathering—

tell your story about how WELCA has impacted your life; especially the time spent with your sisters at Fall Gathering. Encourage more ladies from your Congregational Unit (CU) to come next year.

I know you are up to this challenge. Your participation in our Conference Challenge shows me you are up to any challenge. Teams of 3 ladies from each Conference—most likely not from the same CU—were told they would be creating "something" with unknown items. When each team received their bag of "secret ingredients" (a bag of marshmallows and toothpicks), they were given 5 minutes to plan their creation and 5 minutes to actually make their creation. The variety and diversity of those creations mirrors the diversity of our Congregational Units and emphasizes that each CU (and Conference) does not have to be a carbon copy of another.

FB-SWO Board

President:
Phyllis Wade
secretary@htlc.gccoxmail.com

Vice President:
Lisa Klima
lisamarie274@yahoo.com

Secretary:
Donna Person
dperson7@aol.com

Treasurer:
Laurie Nelson
nlsnlaur@yahoo.com

I learned something from that Challenge, too—sometimes following directions doesn't work! The instructions said it would be better to open the bags of marshmallows at least 24 hours before the challenge—so we did. However, in hindsight, we didn't take into consideration Florida's humidity. Perhaps the person who wrote the instruction lives in a much, much less humid climate?

We can use our experience of the directions not working very well for us in our Conference Challenge as all of us look at ways to grow our Circles and CUs, and remember what works for another CU, may not work for ours—our climate may be different so we need to tweak the instructions. Just because something doesn't work, we shouldn't give up—we need to determine what didn't work and why, then put our heads together and tweak the instructions.

Please continue to lift up your SWO Board in your prayers—that we will be open to new ideas and that we will always have our ears open to God's voice and have the courage to follow Him in all we do.

Your sister in Christ,
Phyllis Wade



SWO Board & Conference Presidents Meeting

January 31— February 2, 2020

Luther Springs, Hawthorne FL

Friday afternoon - Noon on Sunday

Each Conference is invited to send their President or another officer.

Please RSVP to Phyllis Wade.

secretary@htlc.gccoxmail.com - or 850-621-3267



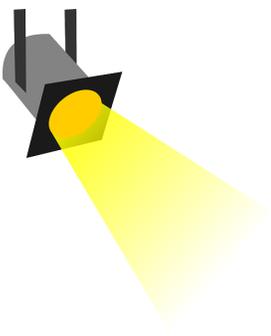
If you haven't registered for the Triennial Gathering 2020 of Women of the ELCA, remember that **Early-bird Registration of \$325 is through January 6, 2020.** After that, registration will be \$375.

If you plan on attending the TG, do I have your contact information (name, e-mail address, preferred telephone number)? If not, please send this to me at dlsic@juno.com.

See you in Phoenix!
Diane Spicer, TG Promoter



WOMEN OF THE ELCA GATHERING
JULY 16-19, 2020 | PHOENIX
WELCATG.ORG



HIGHLIGHTS

2019

FALL

GATHERING

"Come to the Table"



"Come here... and take your place at the table" Luke 17:7

From the opening service to our final service on Sunday morning the theme *"Come to the Table"* was seen throughout the weekend.

We came together as Sisters in Christ around so many tables. There were tables set for relaxation in the lounge area with all kinds of games and puzzles to enjoy fellowship with each other. Each worship service was linked to the Gathering theme *"Come to the Table"*.

Workshops were enjoyed by all who attended. Tables were set for those attending to participate in several of the workshops. There were so many God Moments shared during these times.

The Eucharist Service was fabulous. Sharing Holy Communion around the Altar with the parament depicting the Last Supper with an empty place for each of us to join Jesus and His disciples at the table was so moving.

Both **Pastor Jennifer Kopacz** and **Pastor Joanie Holden** were able to bring the word of the Lord to us in unique ways.

We gathered after our evening worship on Saturday to enjoy a fun time with games. Three members from each conference were given a bag of marshmallows and some toothpicks and asked to build something with them. We certainly do have a lot of creative ladies. The spoon game was a favorite and we have been asked to bring it back next year.

We were blessed to be able to host two ladies from Guyana who shared greetings with us.

Seeing so many friends and making new ones is always a highlight.

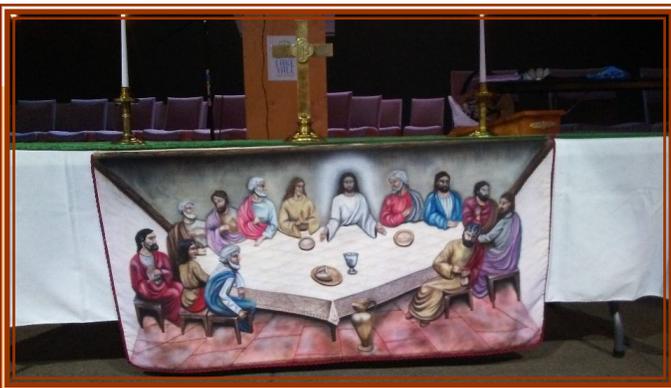
We are thankful for all who served to make this Fall Gathering a big success. We have been blessed.



Elocia Smith & Stephanie Felicia Bowry



*Ann English & Phyllis Wade
2019 Fall Gathering Co-Chairs*



Many of you asked about the Last Supper parament used during Fall Gathering. The parament belongs to Holy Trinity, Fort Walton Beach, and was very graciously loaned to us since our theme was *"Come to the Table"*. The idea for the parament came from **Pastor Emeritus Steve Marko** who served Holy Trinity for 31 years and was painted by a former member, **Kathy Topper**. The parament is used for their Maundy Thursday service each year,

Thanks to Holy Trinity in Fort Walton Beach

and according to Pastor Marko "shows Jesus and His closest disciples gathered around the table at what we know as their Last Supper. As you can see by the open space on the parament, the only one left to join them—is you, and I can just envision Jesus extending a hand of invitation to us, asking us to share this meal with Him now, remembering that whenever we eat of this bread and drink of this cup, He is truly present with us and bringing us the forgiveness of our sins as we look forward to the day when we will all be joined together with Him and each other forever in the Banquet Hall of the Father's Kingdom." Again, our thanks to Holy Trinity for letting us use this beautiful parament. It was placed on our Altar before Fall Gathering began so it was one of the first things you saw when you entered Maguire Hall to register.

Phyllis Wade, Fall Gathering Co-Chair



FLORIDA-BAHAMAS SYNODICAL WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION

2019 Fall Gathering Business Summary

Friday, November 8, 2019 - Sunday, November 10, 2019

Election Results: President: *Phyllis Wade*; Board Members: *Gayle Backiel* and *Karen Weinrich* re-elected; *Jackie Haynick* newly elected. Each woman will serve a two-year term.

SWO Constitutional Changes: More flexibility is needed for a Conference's leadership structure since all Conferences do not have a president, vice president, and secretary. Proposed Constitutional changes were recommended by the SWO Board and sent to Churchwide's staff for review which required further revision. At the Fall Gathering, a motion was approved by SWO voting members that each Conference will be led by a Conference Leadership Team of at least three members, including a key leader(s) so named coordinator, president, co-chairs, or other such term as defined by the Conference. Conference Leadership team members shall be elected at the Conference meeting, serve as participants in a unit or special unit, and shall be voting members of an ELCA congregation. Two readings and voting on these proposed Constitutional changes are required. The proposed amendments will not become part of the SWO's Constitution until after approval by the SWO voting members at the 2020 Fall Gathering.

SWO Budget for 2020 through 2021: A motion was approved to accept the proposed SWO Budget for 02/01/20 through 01/31/21, as prepared by *SWO Treasurer Laurie Nelson* as presented on pages 20 and 21 of the Fall Gathering booklet.

Gratitude Resolution: A Resolution was adopted that was prepared by the Resolution Committee that thanked all who planned, worked, and participated in this year's Fall Gathering.

Submitted by

Donna Person, SWO Secretary

FALL GATHERING OFFERING TOTALS

At this year's Fall Gathering, three offerings were collected:

1. Communion Service Offering: \$1,911.00 (50% will stay in our SWO and 50% will be forwarded to the Churchwide Women's Organization)
2. C.A.L.M. House Love Offering: \$3,727.15 with \$1,350.00 in gift cards totaling \$5,077.15
3. Hurricane Response: \$807.15

In addition, \$225.00 was donated to the Share the Spirit fund and jewelry sales amounted to \$446.00.

Thanks to all of you for sharing your gifts.

Laurie Nelson
FL-BA SWO Treasurer





We could not have done this without you!

Thank you to all who Came to the Table and helped make this year's Fall Gathering so wonderful! **Co-Chairs Phyllis Wade and Ann English** certainly planned and put on an awesome weekend. Thanks to **Sandy Grier, our Churchwide Board Rep**, for all her help and encouragement throughout the weekend and thanks to **Kris Dines** who did an outstanding job as our Av Tech. Special heartfelt thanks to **Anna Hunter**, who after being a youth attendee for many years, took on the responsibility of leading the youth!

Thanks to those who helped with the business meetings:

- ◆ Parliamentarian: **Sharon Koelsch**, Suncoast
- ◆ Timekeeper: **Loraine Van Haecke**, Pinelands
- ◆ Claims and Offerings: **Laurie Nelson**, SWO Treasurer; **Jackie Haynick**, Broward- Bahamas; **Kay Miller**, Pinelands
- ◆ Conduct of Elections: **Judy Welton**, Caloosa, & **Linda Greilick & Phyllis Berlage**, Suncoast Chairs;
- ◆ Credentials: **Kelley Penrod**, Spacecoast, Chair
- ◆ Minutes: **Mary Macaulay**, Gulf Coast, Chair; **Donna Person**, Broward Bahamas
- ◆ Nominating Committee: **Denise Beumer**, Heart of Florida, Chair; **Jackie Haynick**, Broward-Bahamas; **Loraine Van Haecke**, Pinelands
- ◆ Report of the President: **Sallie Haley**, Pinelands, Chair; **Mae Haines**, Gulf Coast; **Bev Conklin**, Pinelands
- ◆ Resolutions: **Diane Spicer**, Spacecoast, Chair; **Denise Beumer**, Heart of Florida; **Denise Coller**, Broward-Bahamas

Also a huge thank you to our Conferences for their parts in the weekend:

- ◆ Broward Bahamas with Miami-Dade/Monroe, Communion Set-up
- ◆ Space Coast with Tradewinds, Credentials
- ◆ Flagler-Volusia, Hospitality Friday
- ◆ First Coast, Prayer/Meditation
- ◆ Heart of Florida with Lake, Morning Devotions
- ◆ Pinelands, Ushers
- ◆ Panhandle, In-Kind Gifts
- ◆ Caloosa, Conduct of Elections
- ◆ Mid-Gulf, Hospitality Saturday
- ◆ Sun Coast with Tampa, Conduct of Elections
- ◆ Gulf Coast, Registration



gather
FOR FAITH AND ACTION

December 2019

Wait, watch, create
An Advent devotional in
Isaiah

This December, visual artist **Vonda Drees** invites us to contemplate the prophecies of Isaiah through artistic practices. Through meditation, prayer and creative journaling geared toward all ability levels, we will learn to see art as meditation, intercession, devotion and inspiration. Everyone can do this! Vonda Drees, a creative contemplative, served as the artist-in-residence for Women of the ELCA's Tenth Triennial Gathering. She and her husband, Jim, are the executive directors of the Grünwald Guild in the Cascade Mountains of Washington. The Guild is a sanctuary for the exploration of art, faith and community. Vonda uses her artistic gifts and passion in the Guild's retreats, workshops and classes.



Thank You Outgoing Board Members

Many thanks to Outgoing Board Members **Debra Lantz** and **Cheryl Semmel**. Debra has been our Love Offering Coordinator for her four years on the Board and Cheryl has been overseeing Social Media and the development and launch of our new website. Cheryl will continue as Webmaster/Website Advisor while Board Advisory Member **Elaine Heine** steps down from that role after 10 years. A huge thanks to Elaine for building and maintaining our first website! Elaine will continue as our photographer and video producer.

Our organization has been blessed to have the ladies at these tables the last several years!

Tracy Moffatt,
Outgoing SWO President



to our new Board



Churchwide Representative of the Women of the ELCA Sandy Grier installs our new Board at our Installation and Sending Service on Sunday, November 10, 2019.

From left to right: Karen Weinrich, Jackie Haynick, Gayle Backiel, Secretary Donna Person, Treasurer Laurie Nelson, Churchwide Representative Sandy Grier, President Phyllis Wade, Mae Haines, Vice President Lisa Klima, Denise Beumer, and Marilyn Kreitzinger,

Not pictured: Board Member Anne Storan



Continuing Members

Denise Beumer Board Member (left)
Mae Haines Board Member (left)
Marilyn Kreitzinger Board Member (right)
Anne Storan Board Member (right)



Continuing Officers

Lisa Klima Vice President (left)
Laurie Nelson Treasurer (right)



Donna Person — Secretary Reelected



Karen Weinrich Board Member—Reelected

Gayle Backiel Board Member—Reelected



New Additions

Phyllis Wade—elected President



Phyllis Wade is a member of St. Paul Lutheran Church in Niceville where she is a member of the Board of Education and teaches the Confirmation Bible Study Class and trains and schedules acolytes. She has been active in Women of the ELCA since 1995 serving as Treasurer and as President of her Congregational Unit. She has also served as Pan-handle conference Vice President and President. She has also served as the Bible Study Leader in her Congregational Unit and the Conference.

Phyllis previously served on the SWO Board, the Planning Committee, was Co-Chair of the 2011, 2012, and 2019 Fall Gatherings, and served as the Bible Study Coordinator for the SWO in 2012. In the past, she has served on the SWO Board several times as a Board Member, the SWO Treasurer, and President. She was elected to again serve as the SWO President in November. She has also served on the Florida-Bahamas Synod for one year as a

Member at Large.

She is employed as the Church Secretary/Business Administrator for Holy Trinity Lutheran Church and has held that position for 20+ years. Prior to that she worked for almost seven years for a CPA firm in Fort Walton Beach. Prior to that she worked for over 20 years as a bookkeeper in a variety of businesses, including a funeral home, a commercial fishing company, a children's clothing manufacturer, and a real estate management company.

Phyllis was born in Scottsboro, Alabama, and grew up in Lakeview, Georgia (near Chattanooga). She travelled to Germany and Okinawa, Japan, with her ex-husband who was in the U.S. Air Force. They were also stationed in California, Florida, and Tennessee. She has lived in Fort Walton Beach (this time) since 1990. In 2008, Phyllis was a Wall of Honor (Okaloosa County Committee on the Status of Women) recipient. Her hobbies include knitting and crocheting, reading, and visiting with friends. She has three children who all live in the Chattanooga, Tennessee area, seven grandchildren, and one great-granddaughter.

New Additions continued

Jackie Haynick—elected Board Member



Now at age 55, I have been married for almost 27 years to my High School sweetheart. We have three children: Matthew (29); Brian (24); and Katherine (20).

I am a beginning quilter and also enjoy reading mysteries as well as bike riding and camping with my family. As a member of St Johns Lutheran of Hollywood since 2000, I became their Financial Secretary in 2001 and have served on Church council, Handbell choir, WELCA , and currently lead a quilting group at church to create tied fleece blankets for our local Children’s Hospital as well as sewing quilts to be presented at Baptisms. I was also a Girl Scout Leader for 13 years for my daughter’s troop until she went off to college at Florida State! Go Noles!

I have always enjoyed being a volunteer and donating my gift of time. I am looking forward to February when my son Brian gets married and our family expands as I gain a “new” daughter.

"We are called!" Winter 2020 Bible study by Kathryn A. Kleinhans

Reformer Martin Luther used the word “vocation” or “calling” to refer to all aspects of human life. **We are called** to respond to God not just in our personal relationship with God but in our relationships with family and friends, in our work, and in our communities. **Subscribe now** to *Gather* magazine to get the Bible study.



From the Editor

From the Editor’s Desk — Linda Greilick

A Challenge to all of us

If you carefully read our newly-elected President’s December message, you saw that she issued each of us a challenge. We are to invite others to join us next year at our Fall Gathering. She gave lots of reasons that could cause you to act (see her article on page one.). I now add another. You see, I was already ahead of her without even knowing it. This year’s Gathering touched me deeply for some reason. I loved seeing friends that I see only once a year, participating in leading and attending workshops, sharing in the “egg” skit with my friend Elaine Heine, playing those fun games, worshipping with my sisters and hearing the Good News from excellent pastors, and coming home refreshed and renewed! So, I have already invited my daughter, daughter in law, and granddaughters to “SAVE THE DATE!” I presented the invite as one of my “bucket list” items—that we need to take the time to do this while I still can. What a wonderful weekend that can be—sharing it with all my sisters in Christ and my family! I don’t want to wait until next spring to ask them. The time is now as we proceed into a new year and they are planning next year’s trips. You should do the same! Invite now!

You're Invited!



Faith can move mountains

I may have all the faith needed to move mountains - but if I have no love, I am nothing.
Corinthians 13:2b GNT

All women are invited to the 2020 Fall Gathering
Hosted by Florida Bahamas Synodical Women's Organization

November 6 - 8, 2020
Lake Yale Baptist Retreat Center, Leesburg, FL

At the Fall Gathering you will find:
Bible Study, Worship, Workshops, Fellowship, and more!



**2020 Fall Gathering
Co-Chairs
Loraine Van Haecke & Ann English**

Church Women United Human Rights Day



by Mae Haines—FL-BA SWO Board Member

Human Rights Day is celebrated on December 10th each year to honor the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights by the United Nations in 1948.

The Church Women United Human Rights Celebration was started in 2006 in the hopes of bringing to light those who have and are working towards equality for all.

As Christians, it is our duty to uphold the dignity, worth, and rights of every person—**No Exceptions**. Lawmakers need to hear a compelling Christian voice for the rights of all people.

Here are some ways you can honor Human Rights Day in your congregation:

Organize an Advent study on how the Bible speaks to human rights,

Hold a candlelight Advent vigil to commemorate those who have suffered human rights abuses and those whose human rights are still being violated.

This is the message that Jesus gave while on earth. When He said, *“Love one another as I have loved you,”* He did not mean for us to love just some people; He truly meant for us to love everyone. This has been the message of CWU since its beginnings in 1943.

Florida Bahamas Synodical Women's Organization Directory

Executive Board 2020

<u>President</u>	<u>Vice President</u>	<u>Secretary</u>	<u>Treasurer</u>
Phyllis Wade secretary@htlc.gccoxmail.com Planning Committee	Lisa Klima lisamarie274@yahoo.com Planning Committee	Donna Person dperson7@aol.com J-Historian	Laurie Nelson nlsnlaur@yahoo.com

Board Members and Missions**

Gayle Backiel rbackiel@verizon.net J-Global Missions	Mae Haines stevemae@verizon.net J-LWR, CWU, Rachel's Day	Marilyn Kreitzinger manyjoys2u@gmail.com S-Katie's Fund, Disaster, Scholarship	Karen Weinrich weinrik@hotmail.com D-Publications
Denise Beumer dbeumer1000@gmail.com J-Anti-Racism, Justice Advocacy	Jackie Haynick jackiehaynick@yahoo.com	Anne Storan astoran46@gmail.com D-Conference Coordinator, Plus One	

Non-Board Members

<u>Registrar</u> Diane Cummings sworegistrar1@gmail.com	<u>Triennial Promoter</u> Diane Spicer dlsic@juno.com
<u>Tapestry Editor</u> Linda Greilick lindag65@verizon.net	<u>Planning Committee Co-Chairs</u> Ann English aenglish228@yahoo.com
<u>Webmaster/Web Advisor</u> Cheryl Semmel clsemmel@gmail.com	Loraine Van Haecke loraine.vanhaecke@gmail.com
<u>Human Trafficking Committee</u> Phyllis Wade secretary@htlc.gccoxmail.com	<u>Churchwide Board</u> Raeann Purcell raeannpurcell@hotmail.com



What does our logo mean?

Our logo—with the cross, water and a white lily—identifies women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America as children of God; baptized, forgiven, adopted into God's family, full of grace and hope in eternal life. It is a reminder of the growth, beauty, and vitality that rises out of that life-giving baptismal water. It is also a reminder of the mission of the church to "Go, therefore, make disciples of all nations; baptize them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit" (Matthew 28:19).

**Missions

D Discipleship
J Justice
S Stewardship



Tapestry

The *Tapestry* is published six times per year. It is available online under the *Tapestry* link of the FL-Bahamas Women of the ELCA website located at www.flwelca.com.

To submit material for publication, contact **Linda Greilick, *Tapestry* Editor**
lindag65@verizon.net

**Please submit *Tapestry* articles
by January 15th for the February issue.**