



New England **WELCA**
Newsletter

Spring
Summer
2020

A Note from the Editor:

In these unprecedented times of the Covid-19 pandemic many things have changed. Our church buildings have been closed but the Work of the Church continues. We are challenged to live the Gospel. Women around New England are stepping up to the task. As we follow government guidelines, we also have been hearing regularly from our Bishop, Rev. James Hazelwood. If you have not seen his videos or read his letters to his flock, I encourage you to ask your Pastor. You can also visit www.nesynod.org for up to date information. ELCA Bishop, Elizabeth Eaton, has also made some statements that are also worth reading: www.elca.org

In the pages to follow you will hear about things that have been postponed, losses we are facing, challenges that are being made, and other things pertinent to New England Women of the ELCA. Liz Burgess, past president and current churchwide board member, does a great job of updating the New England Women of the ELCA Facebook page. I encourage you to “like” us.

Although we cannot meet face to face right now, I encourage you to reach out to friends who are struggling with loneliness, loss, fear, food instability, etc. Sometimes a friendly voice on the other end of the phone is all it takes to make the day a better one for someone.

What have you been doing during the pandemic? Are you an essential worker? Health care, emergency response, cashier, food service, volunteer? Perhaps you are unemployed and have begun a project that you’ve wanted to get done. You’ll read stories of what some women have done. Share your stories with us.

I continue to be amazed with the variety of worship services seen throughout the seasons of Lent and Easter. Our pastors and lay leaders are an inspiration to many in

these troubling times. I know this will continue as we enter the season of Pentecost. What is commonly known as Ordinary Time in the church, promises to be anything but ordinary!

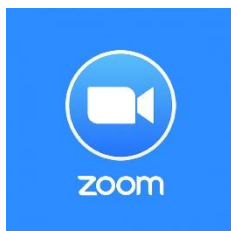
As our Mission Statement challenges, we must continue to “mobilize women to act boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ.” Share with other

women of the New England Synod how you are doing that! I’d love to hear from you!

Paula Rosenbeck teetee108@yahoo.com

New England WELCA Newsletter editor

**New England Women of the ELCA
Board Meeting via Zoom June 20th 9-11am**



Do you have a question or a comment for the board? Feel free to contact Alice Carlson, President, to have her add it to the agenda! Might you like to join in to see what is done at a Board Meeting? Email [Liz Burgess](mailto:Liz.Burgess) for link to the Zoom Board Meeting

New England Women of the ELCA Newsletter Spring-Summer 2020

A Word from Our President, Alice Carlson



Oh my, how our society has changed so quickly! For me as I still mourn our loss of Stephanie, I have a lot of empathy for the disciples-following Good Friday then the astonishingly amazing Easter event. The lessons of this season make the ancient stories more relevant.

Mobilizing women to act boldly on our faith in Jesus Christ is the mission of Women of the ELCA. Stephanie true to the mission of WELCA, supported so many of us in our callings so gracefully that I am reminded of Isaiah finding power of God in a still small voice. This is why we gather and form a community of women. This is why help each other grow in faith and offer our God given gifts as we engage in so many

ministries.

All of our conference gatherings have been postponed to 2021.. The same for July's Triennial Convention and Our New England Biennial Convention in October.

All events were not cancelled; they were moved to 2021. God knows our need to support each other as we are called to discipleship in Jesus. We, similar to those who gathered in the Upper Room 2000 years ago, are empowered by the Holy Spirit. So, as we promote healing in our society and the world by doing our part to prevent the spread of this particular virus, we grow in faith and trust in the part of us that is made in the image of God...



I encourage each of you to connect to the many resources offered by WELCA, subscribe to Gather or offer to join the New England Women who form a board to plan and connect all of New England to their faith in Jesus Christ. On the last page of this newsletter we have included contact information for you to call, text or email.

Alice Carlson (508) 697-3445

IN MEMORIAM

Stephanie Sherry has been an integral part of New England Women of the ELCA for over 30 years. She was a member of the SWO Board serving many terms as board member, secretary, and vice president over the years. Stephanie served as newsletter editor for many years. However, last fall, after Ade Monareh's seven-year term on the board ended, Stephanie was appointed President. She couldn't have been happier to serve the organization that has had a place in her heart for so many years! We were all so happy for her!



Each February there is a Conference of Presidents, usually in Chicago, where synodical presidents gather with the staff and members of the Churchwide board. Stephanie was so excited to be a part of that meeting. Liz Burgess, a member of the CWO Executive Board, was also at that meeting and she witnessed Stephanie's excitement! Liz says the smile never left her face during the entire weekend!

The following week there was a New England Women of the ELCA Board Meeting at Synod House in Worcester, MA. Stephanie presided over her first full-fledged board meeting and did a great job! We left the meeting with discussion of Spring Gatherings in the forefront. She was going to get a newsletter published in the next few weeks with all of the information on the gatherings as well as the Biennial Convention, set for October. There would be last-minute details on the Triennial Convention in Phoenix, AZ. She left the meeting feeling good. Stephanie participated in a conference call on March 17th when plans were made for the Biennial

New England Women of the ELCA Newsletter Spring-Summer 2020

Convention. A follow-up call was planned for April.

On March 29th I got a message on Facebook from former SWO Board Member Katie Gehner. She wanted to be sure I knew that our friend Stephanie had died. She knew only a few details and put us in touch with Pastor Kari Keyl. Liz Burgess spoke to Pastor Kari who told us about Stephanie's unexpected sudden death. To say we were stunned would be an understatement! Stephanie was a constant presence in NE/WELCA. If something needed to be done, Stephanie volunteered! She served on countless convention committees and took minutes at so many board meetings that she could probably do it in her sleep.

Stephanie was a daughter to Dorothy & Frank Scholz. Many of you will remember Dorothy who also was a board member on several occasions over the years. Dorothy has been living with Stephanie and her family for a couple of years now. Dorothy oftentimes attended board meetings with Stephanie where she got to renew old friendships. Stephanie joins her Dad in their Heavenly Home.

She leaves behind her husband Bill and three children. She will be sorely missed by everyone who knew and loved her. Stephanie and I shared a special bond for many years as a result of our involvement in W/ELCA.

On a more personal note, Stephanie and I became fast friends. Several years ago I was a "frequent flyer" at Yale New Haven Hospital. I appreciated Steph's walks across campus on her lunch breaks to visit. We could talk for hours about what was probably nothing of utmost importance, but we did enjoy each other's company. The women of the Naugatuck Valley Conference were among the first to meet Stephanie's newborn daughter, Rachael, when they attended our Spring Gathering at St. James, Southbury, only a few weeks after Rachael's birth.

I rest assured that when Stephanie arrived in her Eternal Home, Jesus proclaimed, "Job well done, Good and Faithful Servant." Stephanie's memory will live in the hearts of many.

If you wish to make a memorial donation in Stephanie's name, see the form in this newsletter.

Paula Rosenbeck

"Heavenly Father, we pray to you for peace, strength, and understanding as we mourn the sudden death of Stephanie. We rejoice in the resurrection even as we mourn the death of our friend and co-worker in the faith.

Obituary



- Stephanie Sherry at the Conference of Presidents, Lutheran Center, Chicago February 2020

Stephanie S. Sherry, age 64, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, March 24, 2020, at Yale New Haven Hospital, in CT. Stephanie was born in Akron, Ohio on November 24, 1955, a daughter to the late Frank and Dorothy Miller Scholz. Steph, as she was lovingly known, is survived by her husband of 37 years, Bill Sherry, her children, Randall (Kristen), Christopher, and Rachael, her siblings: David (Maureen), Johanna, and Catherine, her mother Dorothy, and many nieces and nephews. She was a beloved wife, mother, sister, sister-in law and aunt.

A graduate of Point Pleasant High School, West Virginia, Steph attended West Virginia University where she earned a B.S. degree in Library Sciences, then furthered her education at Southern Connecticut State University, earning her Master's Degree. Soon after graduation she began a 40-year-long career at Yale University in the Rare Book Preservation Department.

She was very involved in the Lutheran Communities and Churches across the country. She was also involved in many nonprofit programs to help humanity where/whatever the needs were. She belonged to several groups including the 4-H Clubs of America, where she won state champion awards twice! She was always ready to volunteer in a split second to help anyone in any need. She comforted folks when someone had worries and always went the extra mile to ensure things were the best that they could be in all situations. Cont'd on pg 4. .

New England Women of the ELCA Newsletter Spring-Summer 2020

As so many knew her, she was a truly kind and warm caring person. She is and will be dearly missed.

Stephanie loved to travel, the color purple, Disney World vacations, days at the spa with her daughter, finding lost coins, cooking, and life in general! She has touched the hearts of so many people. Steph's." Mom says, "She has now been re-assigned for a bigger and needed job, assisting our lord." Also, that Steph, "Need not to worry about anything longer..

All funeral arrangements are private, and in care of West Haven Funeral Home. A memorial service to celebrate Stephanie's life will be announced at a later date. # # #

IN LOVING MEMORY ...

The New England Women of the ELCA Board is inviting Congregational Units and Individuals to make a donation in Loving Memory of Stephanie Sherry. Memorial donations will be divided between the Women of the ELCA Churchwide initiative, *Raising Up Healthy Women and Girls*, and the Yale University Campus Ministry's, *Luther House*, of which Stephanie has been an integral part for many years.

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Congregation name _____

City/State: _____

Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Send donations (made payable to **NE/WELCA**) to:

Donna Hudson, Treasurer

45 Durant Road, South Weymouth, MA 02190-2745

HUDSONDONNA9@GMAIL.COM

Churchwide Executive board postpones triennial convention, gathering until August 2021

by [Women of the ELCA Gathering 2021, News, Triennial Convention 2021](#)



With no Covid-19 vaccine on the horizon, Women of the ELCA's executive board voted to postpone the organization's convention and gathering until August 2021. The executive board met by video on April 25.

"We are postponing not canceling," said Linda Post Bushkofsky, executive director of Women of the ELCA. The Eleventh Triennial Convention scheduled for July 14-16, 2020, in Phoenix, Arizona, is being rescheduled for August 3-5, 2021. And the 2020 "Just Love" Gathering, scheduled for July 16-19, 2020, is

being rescheduled for August 5-8, 2021. "We hope that everyone who is currently registered will come next year," Bushkofsky said. "And if they aren't able to come, they could gift their registration to someone else." Staff will be working out final arrangements with the Phoenix businesses and communicating directly with all who are voting members-elect for the convention and who have registered for the gathering.

New England Women of the ELCA Newsletter Spring-Summer 2020 Eleventh Triennial Convention



Postponing the convention means that the current executive board will serve another year until “replacements are elected and installed,” Bushkofsky said. Then, the board elected in 2021 will serve a two-year term. For the 2023 convention, “we would be back to our three-year cycle. That works best with the churchwide assembly, the youth gathering, and the rostered leaders’ event.”

Oremus



Laurie Gaudette, daughter of Marci Sharp, former SWO president, as she struggles of a recurrence of cancer that was originally diagnosed 18 years ago.

Kathy Boor, Holy Trinity, Trumbull and former Southern CT Conference officer, as she struggles with cancer.

All those affected by Covid-19: those who have been diagnosed with the virus; those who have lost a loved one; those who have lost their job as a result of the pandemic; and all those affected in any other way. By God’s Grace, we rejoice with those who have recovered from the disease.

For scientists and researchers, working diligently to come up with a vaccine against the corona virus.

We remember essential workers: doctors, nurses, health care workers, emergency response personnel, educators, fire fighters, police, truckers, and retail workers.

For our Bishops, Elizabeth and James, and all other *clergy within the ELCA*, who work diligently to bring the Word of God to their flock and make concrete plans for reopening our churches for worship, service, and fellowship.

We remember the **Women in the Southeastern Minnesota Synod**, our partner synod, as they face the same obstacles we face here in New England.

As this newsletter is about to be published, we are faced with the reality of Racism. We mourn the death of **George Floyd** in Minneapolis, MN, but we also pray for peace for all affected by racism.

In Memoriam

Allison Steeves



It is with heavy heart we announce the death of Allison Steeves, former Secretary of the New England Women of the ELCA board. Allison died unexpectedly on Wednesday, May 20th at her home in Torrington, CT. Few details are known at this time but we encourage prayers for her only child, Zack Boutot, and his Dad, Paul, Allison’s Dad, Allen Steeves, and her friend, Jim Sherman. Allison leaves behind many friends and business acquaintances around the country. Cards of condolence can be sent to Zack Boutot at 26 Andre Drive, Northfield, CT 06778.

New England Women of the ELCA Newsletter Spring-Summer 2020 Gifts in Tribute Program

Is there someone special that you would like to honor or memorialize? Perhaps you would like to remember your Secret Sister; is there someone in your Congregational Unit that goes above and beyond; does someone have a special birthday or anniversary celebration upcoming? Would you consider sending a gift of \$10, \$20, \$25 or more to “Gifts in Tribute?” Your gift will be acknowledged by the treasurer to the person/family who has been recognized.

Through the “Gifts in Tribute” Program, contributions are made to the New England Women of the ELCA Educational Scholarship Fund. A scholarship is awarded each year (as applications are submitted) to a mature woman who is continuing her education.

Complete the form below and return it with your donation, made payable to NE/WELCA.



SAVE THE DATE

12th Biennial Gathering at Camp Calumet!
Scheduled for October 29-31, 2020 is

Do you have interest in helping to plan the Convention? Contact: Ade Monareh at 603-866-6556 or ade234@msn.com or Alice Carlson at 508-697-3445 or pcarlson99@comcast.net **Postponed Into October 28-30, 2021**



SPRING GATHERINGS 2020

All postponed to Spring 2021.

Conferences Officers & Shepherds should discuss plans on how to carry out plans for 2020 in 2021. Can you keep the same location? What date is available at the host church? Are speakers still available for that date?

TRIENNIAL CONVENTION & GATHERING

Postponed to August 2021

Convention August 3-5, 2021

Gathering August 5-8, 2021

(See announcement in this issue)



REGION 7 TRIENNIAL GATHERING

Scheduled for Spring 2021

Has Been Postponed to Spring 2022.

Watch for details and opportunities to help with planning.

Check [Region 7 Facebook page](#) for updates.



New England Women of the ELCA Newsletter Spring-Summer 2020

Doris Norman, Board Member Appointee, responded as a member of St. Matthew Trinity Lutheran Church in Pawtucket, RI, this is Doris and her church's response to: What are we doing in our congregation during this COVID-19 pandemic is "**Keeping connected**" Here are a few of the ways:



- * *Women's knitting group* has been making prayer shawls and donating them to members affected by COVID-19 and recovering.
 - * *Food pantry* continues to be opened to the community on Thursdays and Friday each week.
 - * Women are helping plant flowers (*gardening*) at the church
 - * *We also Stay connected* through phone check-ins and prayers.,
 - * *Zoom Bible studies* on Monday evenings and *Zoom Sunday service* weekly with women (Ministers) assisting with services (music and reading).
- Doris Norman personally serves as an assisting minister & Head of the African community in the church. Finally is keeping busy by *making face masks* for family members, frontline workers, homeless and friends.

Challenges:

- * Members that are affected by the virus cannot be physically visited (loneliness).
- * Members losing other family members to COVID-19 (grief and loss).



Reassurance:

Romans 4:21-and fully being assured that what He had promised He was able to perform.

He has promised a plan for us: Jeremiah 29:11- For I know the plan I have for you declares the Lord, plans to prosper you, and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

Song: [*Blessed Assurance Jesus is Mine.*](#)

Suggested recipe from Donna Hudson, our synodical treasurer

Veal Supreme

- 2 eggs, beaten
- 4 veal cutlets
- 1 cup bread crumbs (I use Italian)
- 1/4 cup olive oil
- 1 can condensed golden mushroom soup
- 1/2 cup sherry
- 1 cup sliced mushrooms
- 1 cup muenster cheese, grated
- lemon slices



Dip veal cutlets into an egg batter, then into a seasoned bread crumb mixture. Sauté cutlets in olive oil until browned. Place cutlets in a shallow baking dish. Cover with undiluted mushroom soup. Sauté mushrooms in small frying pan, add sherry and let the sherry cook for 3-5 minutes. Pour sautéed mushrooms and sherry over cutlets and sprinkle cheese over top. Garnish with lemon slices. Cover with foil and bake 30 minutes at 350^ oven. I serve this with long grain and wild rice (Uncle Ben's regular) and fresh string beans. Enjoy! *Donna.*

75,000 Mask Challenge

Please send your face masks as soon as possible so we can start shipping. We hope to have all masks before **October 1, 2020**, though we plan to continue to accept masks after the deadline. Please visit the LWR website for FAQ's, mask making tutorial and more- <https://lwr.org/masks#8453>



DEAR FRIEND IN CHRIST



Want to sustain the community that is a hallmark of [Women of the ELCA](#)? Then join Dear Friend in Christ, a unique letter-exchange project to which all participants are invited.

How does it work?

1. Write a letter. Use the "Dear Friend in Christ" salutation. Fill a page or two, however you are inspired. Among other things, please share your thoughts on these questions: How is your faith in Jesus Christ sustaining you during the global pandemic? What words of encouragement can you offer the person who receives your letter?
2. You can handwrite or type the letter.
3. You could include a drawing, a photo, or a recipe, anything that fits into an envelope.
4. Offer up a prayer for the recipient.
5. You may include your mailing address in the letter if you do not wish to remain anonymous.
6. Print and sign the Dear Friend in Christ release form. If you don't have access to a printer, please use our online form. We cannot exchange letters without a release.
7. Mail your letter and signed release form to Dear Friend in Christ, Women of the ELCA, 8765 W Higgins Road, Chicago IL 60631. Deadline for mailing letters to the churchwide organization is October 15, 2020.

What else do I need to know?

1. When you write to Dear Friend in Christ, your letter will be swapped with a letter from another writer. They will get your letter; you will get their letter. The exchange is anonymous (unless you provide your contact information), so you can share as little or as much information about yourself as you like.
2. Dear Friend in Christ is open to all participants, although writers under 18 must have parental consent. Download the release form.
3. Letters are paired at random, and we will try to match participants with someone in a different geographical part of the ELCA. Women of the ELCA staff read all letters before the exchange happens.
4. Letters will be mailed to participants on a rolling basis, beginning in June 2020. We will continue exchanging letters received through All Saints Day, November 1, 2020.



Every summer **Gather Magazine** makes its summer Bible study available for free download. This year's study, "Just love," examines how love compels us to act for justice in the world. With the murder of George Floyd in Minneapolis by police how fitting that we have the opportunity to study together and take action for to create a just world for ALL of God's people. Simply sign-up or confirm your subscription for our free e-newsletter, and we'll send you the link to download all three sessions! <https://www.gathermagazine.org/summer-2020just-love-by-gladys-moore-and-christa-compton/>

New England Synodical Women's Organization Board



President
Alice Carlson
1245 Summer Street
Bridgewater, MA 02324
(508) 697-3445 H
♥ pcarlson99@comcast.net



Leah Seleman
760 Plymouth Road
Harwinton, CT 06791
(860) 307-7881 C
♥ leahseleman@charter.net



Doris Norman
34 Knowles Street
Pawtucket, RI 02860
(401) 288-2779 H
♥ dnorman12@gmail.com



Treasurer
Donna Hudson
45 Durant Road
South Weymouth, MA 02190-2745
(781) 331-4506 H
(781) 812-8791 C
♥ HUDSONDONNA9@gmail.com



Pat Kelly
249 Maple Street
Bangor, ME 04411
(207) 249-5573 H
♥ pekelly@roadrunner.com



Marilyn Pearson
155 George Washington Blvd.
Hull, MA 02045
(617) 823-3205 H
♥ mdp414gw@gmail.com

Synodical leaders are needed to complete our board. If you feel called to serve, contact Alice Carlson (pcarlson99@comcast.net) to speak about opportunities.

Leaders are needed to serve an appointed term from June 2020 until the next election at the Fall Synodical Women's Organization Convention in October 2021. Most meetings will continue to be held via Video Conference Calls.

Churchwide Board Member



Elizabeth (Liz) Burgess
(207) 622-3570 H
(207) 622-2001 C
♥ weburgess@gmail.com