



Episcopal Church Women -- Diocese of Pennsylvania  
240 South Fourth Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19106



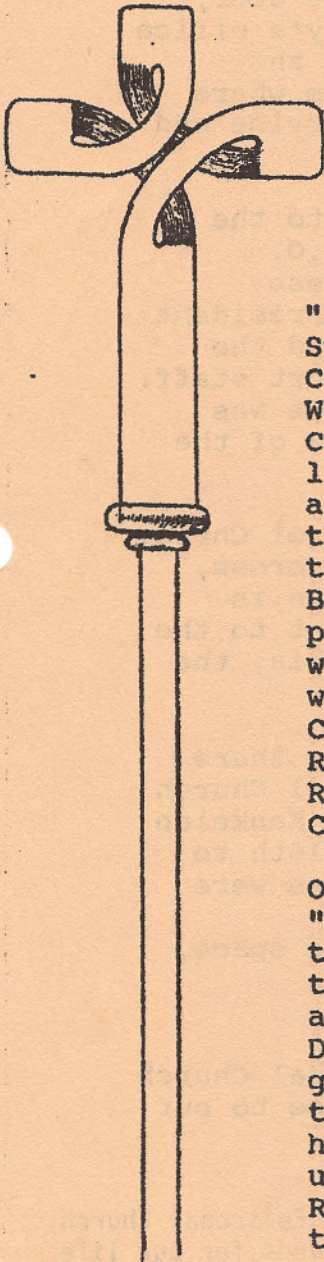
### THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN'S OFFICE

Moving to Fourth and Locust Streets prompted many questions about the space assigned to the Episcopal Church Women. The current president could only say "I do not know." However, this is a summary of what others have found or remember.

Glenn Colliver, Diocesan Archivist, found the following in his research:

"In 1917, the special committee on the Fiscal System of the Diocese recommended to the Diocesan Convention that the Church House located at 12th & Walnut Streets be sold and a new location be found. Convention approved. However, it was not until 1920 that an acceptable offer was received, and an agreement was negotiated that required turn over of the building on May 1, 1921. It was decided to use the Bishop's residence despite the inconvenience to Bishop Rhinelander and the fact that "no adequate provision could be made for the growing women's work." However, before the planned alterations were started, members of the family of Alexander J. Cassatt, former president of the Pennsylvania Railroad, offered to sell the family residence on Rittenhouse Square to the Diocese for use as a Church House.

One of the advantages of the Cassatt residence was "that by making certain changes, a large garage in the rear could be suitably arranged for the use of the Supply Department to the Church Service League and the other activities of the Women of the Diocese... it will be our purpose to have the garage... increased to three stories for the use of the Women's work of the Diocese." Miss Mary Coles had left a bequest of \$10,000 for women's work, under the control of the bishop. Bishop Rhinelander agreed to use this for these alterations.



At the old Church House, at 12th and Walnut Streets, all of the Diocesan organizations that used space there had to pay rent for the privilege. After the move to Rittenhouse Square, the Custodians of the Church House, who were responsible for the operation of the Church House, believing "that the Diocese ought to furnish accommodations without cost to all that are doing its work." The women's organizations no longer had to pay rent for the use of Diocesan headquarters."

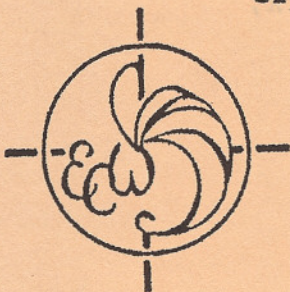
Past Presidents, Nancy Lea, Marion Hood, and Catherine Van Horn remember the Mission Shop at the front door, the Executive secretary's office, the secretary's office on the first floor. The large meeting room on the second floor, above that a smaller meeting room where lunches were served, cutting room for World Service and in the top lots of storage.

Ann Robb Smith sent the exact date for moving to the 16th floor of 1700: November 6, 1972. All U.T.O. supplies were held and distributed by the Diocese. These went to St. Luke and the Epiphany. The President shared an office with the Diocesan treasurer and the secretary was lined up with others of the support staff. It was after this move that the E.C.W. president was asked to attend staff meetings, becoming a part of the Diocese rather than being a separate entity.

During the tenure of Bette Forrester, a member of Christ Church and St. Ambrose carved the processional cross, pictured on the front of this summary. This was in thanksgiving for the United Thank Offering grant to the first Spanish Project in the city of Philadelphia, the Franklinville Community Project.

By the time Elouise Yarrington became President there was again an individual office for the Episcopal Church Women. Nancy Ritter, Karey Smith, and Roberta Kenkelen each experienced a move within 1700, from the 16th to the 26th floor, and from room to room. Archives were selected and files reduced with each of these transitions. This made the last move into more space, rather than decreased space, less difficult.

Within the past Triennium, the National Episcopal Church Women selected the logo which is at the entrance to our offices and at the bottom of this page.



Roberta Kenkelen added the stained glass logo of the Episcopal Church Women (ECW) which was adopted in 1986. The cross stands for our life in Christ and serving Christ in the world. The circle stands for the hope for wholeness in our lives and for others. The outflowing lines from the center symbolize the many works of ECW going out into the world. The lines intertwined with and coming out of the center of the cross show our lives centered in Christ.

Amy S. Lancaster  
May 6, 1989