



Entrusted Connections Ministry Newsletter

JANUARY 2021 Volume 1, Issue 4

From the Desk of Bishop Gale LeGrand Williams

HAPPY NEW YEAR!! We are so grateful that God has kept each of us in 2020 and allowed us to see a New Year. I'm sure many of us were hopeful in 2020 that January 2021 would be COVID-19 free, however as we progressed through 2020 and the year began to come to a close, we realized that our hope of a COVID-19 free New Year was not likely. In addition to a pandemic, there was and is so much confusion and unrest in our Nation and this world. However, we must be reminded of the promise of God that He will never leave us nor forsake us. We have a God that is our refuge and our strength, and a very present help in the time of trouble. So, let us remember the words of the Apostle Paul in Philippians 4:6-7 (TLB) and allow them to lead and guide us daily....

"Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything; tell God your needs, and don't forget to thank him for his answers. If you do this, you will experience God's peace, which is far more wonderful than the human mind can understand. His peace will keep your thoughts and your hearts quiet and at rest as you trust in Christ Jesus."

*Thank you for your love, support, and prayers for the Entrusted Connections Ministry, Inc.
"To God Be All The Glory!"*



Entrusted Connections Ministry 14th Annual Women's Retreat

Retreat Host: Bishop Gale LeGrand Williams

Virtual Zoom Conference

Saturday, March 13, 2021 | 9:00 a.m. - 12 noon

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Cindy Trimm

"Renewed Hope"

Online Registration Begins
Jan. 13, 2021



JUSTICE
4
ALL!!!

Social
Distancing

Shelter in
Place!

Wear Your
Mask



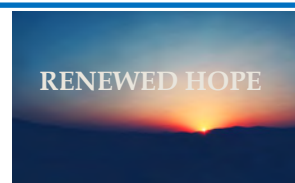
WE BELIEVE

We believe in one God who exists in three distinct persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. We believe Jesus Christ is the Son of God who came to this earth as Savior of the world. We believe Jesus died on the cross and shed His blood for our sins. We believe that salvation is found by placing our faith in what Jesus did for us on the cross. We believe Jesus rose from the dead and is coming again. We believe the entire Bible is inspired by God, without error and the authority on which we base our faith, conduct and doctrine. We believe every believer should be in a growing relationship with Jesus by obeying God's Word, yielding to the Holy Spirit and by being conformed to the image of Christ.

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“Renewed Hope” with the 14th Annual ECM Women’s Retreat



The 13th Annual ECM Women’s Retreat ended on Saturday, March 7, 2020. When the benediction was given, hearts were full, hugs and contact information were exchanged. We were on a spiritual high. Little did we know that the world would forever change as we know it. “It’s Your Time” provided just what was needed for a time such as that.

As I look forward to the 2021 Women’s Retreat, March 2020 although less than a year ago, it seems like eons. God has inspired Bishop Gale with the theme “Renewed Hope”. As we reflect on our world, *renewed hope* is desperately needed. We have had a front row seat to the antics of Washington, DC and voters turned out in record numbers with renewed hope. God provided a shift in the political structure and we felt *renewed hope*. We have been inundated and overwhelmed by Covid-19, shutdowns, mask requirements, social distancing, supply shortage (especially toilet paper), and death. We need *renewed hope*.

The race for the cure and vaccine development have been promising hope and potentialities to one day return to a semblance of normalcy and jumpstart things that have been shut down. A glimmer of hope was experienced on November 3rd when the preliminary election results were reported. As challenge after challenge of certified votes was denied, our glimmer

increased.

Watching the news today and seeing the attempt to dismantle the very democracy that our forefathers fought for, the voting rights that our ancestors died for, hope could’ve been dashed. But our God is greater than any plot, any president, any pandemic. His Word promises *renewed hope*. It is His report that we will listen to, rely on, and build our hope.

As we look forward to March 13, 2021 and celebrating ECM’s 14th Women’s Retreat, we wait with great anticipation. While the buildings are closed, the church is still opened. Although we won’t be at a hotel, we will still retreat and celebrate the good! God is still in control. Our hope is in Him and in Him there is no failure. He will restore, refresh, and provide *renewed hope*!

Then He who sat on the throne said, “Behold, I make all things new.” And He said to me, “Write, for these words are true and faithful.” (Revelation 21:5 NKJV)

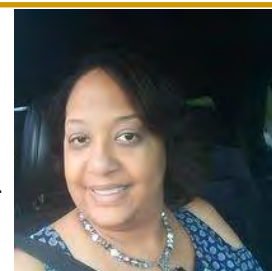
Jane Fox Long - ECM Member



Angel of the Quarter

“People Who Make a Difference in the Kingdom”

Entrusted Connections Ministry (ECM) is proud to announce our 2nd Angel of the Quarter, **Mrs. Nichele Murphy**. Sister Nichele is a member of the Entrusted Connections Ministry, Inc. Staff and serves as the Entrusted Connections Life House (ECLH) Boutique Director. The ECLH Boutique carries clothing apparel, accessories, bedding, bath, toiletries, and other donated items that meet the needs of the women staying at the ECM Life House-One. Since the launch of the ECLH Boutique on September 28, 2019, Sister Nichele has been instrumental in overseeing its operation to include coordinating acceptance and organization of donated items. Despite COVID-19, she has implemented procedures and personally ensured the ECLH Boutique has continued and maintained a safe environment while utilizing various volunteers, fellow ECM Members and others in the community. In addition, Sister Nichele participates in the ECM Daily Devotion calls, weekly Bible Study, semi-annual ECLH Cleaning, and assists at the ECM Annual Women’s Retreat. She not only gives of her time but contributes financially to both, ECM, and ECLH-One. Of special note, Sister Nichele often utilizes her AVON Business to come up with various fundraisers and generously donates her Avon products to support the ECLH-One and other ECM community related events. Her “giving” spirit is one to be emulated. Congratulations to Sister Nichele, Angel of the Quarter!!



ECLH-One Programs

Blessings in the Midst of the Pandemic

Through the challenges of 2020 with the COVID-19 pandemic, God continued to show His faithfulness to the ministry as we seek His face.

Reverend Tarra Taylor (team leader), along with Carol- Ann Benjamin, Sherry Johnson, and Stacy Funches, were willing to continue the Celebrate Recovery lessons on Thursday evenings with the women of ECLH. The lessons, entitled, Life's Healing Choices and Step Study are taught via Zoom. We are grateful to God for the Small Group Ministry team of First Mount Zion!

The prayers to provide meaningful and enjoyable activities for the ECLH women during the pandemic are being answered. In the month of November, Chef Olivia James offered four (4) culinary classes (breakfast, lunch, dinner and dessert). The women enjoyed learning how to prepare delicious new meals for themselves.

Two young women, Ashlee and Londyn, who prepared dinner for ECLH last Christmas, came up with a great idea to support the Life House – a Virtual Bake Sale. The proceeds from this sale would assist the women of ECLH in taking online classes in the areas of their choice. God blessed the event and the Bakers enjoyed it just as much as the customers!

Paula Garrett, State WIC Director, provided the women with a very informative session on nutrition. She covered preparation and proportions of foods, explanation of the food plate and so much more. Did you know that new research shows that people eat less if there is a higher contrast in colors between the plate and the food? So let's start purchasing darker plates for our meals!

Finally, a tradition that has been a blessing to the women of ECLH and the Staff of ECM is having dinner together during Thanksgiving and Christmas, with Zoom. We may not have been able to sit together in person; however, we thank God for the technologies that offered opportunities to gather via Zoom for fun and fellowship.

We praise God for His great faithfulness towards the Entrusted Connections Life House and we give Him all the Glory, Honor, and the Praise!

Overseer Paulette Williams

ECM Programs Director



Entrusted Connections Life House-One (ECLH-One) IMPACT CORNER



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TESTIMONY FROM TAMI KEHL - ECLH-ONE RESIDENT

My name is Tami and I'm a resident of the Entrusted Connections Life House. I was entangled in a life of drugs and abuse of every kind imaginable. I will never forget the daily battles that I fought because they led me to the opportunity of being blessed by the presence of all the ECM women in my life, but most importantly led me to trust and believe in God's unconditional love for me. I lived with so much pain because of all the hurt that I've endured at the hands of others. That pain led to no self-worth and a decision to drown myself in my addiction and falsely disguise my suffering. I let men control, abuse, and imprison me because I thought that's what I deserved. They became my idol because they showed me attention (even though it was never positive). They made me believe their actions were out of love and that's one emotion that I craved to feel. At one period of time, I was literally fed drugs so I wouldn't have the strength or will-power to get up and leave the situation. In the process, I lost everything, including my relationships with my children down to all my personal belongings. Eventually, I lost my freedom for over two years of my life.

Being incarcerated was one of the most difficult and loneliest times in my life until I decided to sign up for the **W.I.N.D.** (*Women In a New Direction*) dorm and asked God to be a part of my life. That's when I began to have hope and realized I had a purpose in life. Praying and reading God's Word were two simple things that I began to do daily and made the biggest change in who I was. I had faith that God was on my side and came to know that ultimately, being incarcerated saved my life. For once in about 7 years, I wasn't staring death in the eyes. I did not worry about not waking up each morning due to my own actions or under the hands of another. I finally found unconditional love that I yearned for in God. A love that forgave all my sins then washed them away. A love that taught me the power of forgiveness when it came to myself and others. The guilt I always felt is diminishing each and every day. I've got a second chance and the sky's the limit thanks to the Life House and all the support and blessings that I continue to receive every day. Bishop Gale and the other women in the ministry truly care and want me to succeed. I never have to go through anything on my own again. These days I rely on my faith in God and the guidance of these amazing women as I move forward and embrace this new chapter of my life. I am not without battles, but the difference now is that I know I'll make it through them with God by my side and come out of everything with amazing joy in my heart and a newfound love for life. During the 8 months that I've been a resident of the Life House, I have completed Forgiveness-The Journey class, Spiritual Victory in the Midst of the Pandemic Session, Self-Awareness Workshop, Business Smart Entrepreneurial Training Workshops and Celebrate Recovery. I am thankful that these opportunities were placed before me and know that this is just the beginning of wonderful things to come.

Entrusted Connections Life House (ECLH)

In 2020, the ECLH Boutique received large quantities of donated items, volunteer support, and funds used to launder clothing, despite the onset of COVID-19. The boutique carries clothing apparel, accessories, bedding, bath, toiletries, and other donated items that meet the needs of the women staying at the ECM Life House 1.



To ensure donations are accepted safely, we moved to a contactless pickup and drop-off service for individuals to schedule request at ECLH1boutique@gmail.com or call 571-275-9960.

Several of the ECM members and other individuals from the community volunteered time organizing donated items as needed. The ECLH Boutique operates as grand central station to address the basic needs of God's people. Our objective is to ensure every person has the outer and inner coverings needed to provide a sound body, mind, and spirit.

If you are interested in donating items or volunteering your services, please contact Boutique Director, Nichele LeGrand-Murphy at ECLH1boutique@gmail.com or 571-275-9960.

For the poor will never cease to be in the land; therefore, I command you, saying, "You shall freely open your hand to your brother, to your needy, and to your poor in your land." Deuteronomy 15:11

Nichele LeGrand-Murphy - ECLH Boutique Director



ECM COVID SUPPORT

A Special Thank You to First Responders

Entrusted Connections Ministry took the opportunity to thank the Westminster Senior Facility Staff and the Veteran's Administration Nurses Staff for their dedication to patients during COVID-19. Beautiful gift boxes were delivered to both facilities filled to the brim with various snacks along with cards as follows:

To the Westminster Senior Facility Staff, Woodbridge, VA
ECM is praying that the angels of God will guard you during this season. May God bless you and protect you and give you His Peace! Stay Safe!

And

To the Hunter Holmes McGuire Veteran's Medical Center, Richmond, VA
Thank you for all that you do and the sacrifices you make to take care of those who are unable to do so for themselves. May God bless each of you richly, and may every touch of your hand and heart be a reflection of the love of God to every person at the Hunter Holmes McGuire Veteran's Medical Center. Your unselfish acts of love are so very much appreciated by the community and Entrusted Connections Ministry.

"We give thanks to God always for all of you, remembering you in our prayers, unceasingly calling to mind your work of faith and labor of love and endurance in hope of our Lord Jesus Christ." (1 Thessalonians 1:2-3)

Entrusted Connections Ministry
www.ec-ministry.com



Entrusted Connections Life House-One (ECLH-One) and Partnerships



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Entrusted Connections Life House Holiday Virtual Bake Sale

Londyn Jackson, an Entrusted Connections Life House volunteer, organized the Life House's first holiday bake sale in December 2020. The goal was to raise funds for the women in the Life House program to participate in classes that will assist them in excelling in their careers. Tanya McIntyre with Sensational Dezzertz sold slices of apple caramel cheesecake. Deacon Varetta Hamlin sold homemade yeast rolls. Ronald Williams, Sr. auctioned off a pound cake. Ashlee Woodson sold banana bread and Londyn Jackson prepared and sold boxes full of treats to include snickerdoodles, sweet potato pound cake and lemon bars. Thanks to the bakers and the many people that participated by purchasing these baked goods and making donations, \$1,000 was raised. The women of the Life House expressed an interest in taking courses focused on peer counseling and driver's education. We look forward to witnessing what God does in the ladies' lives and are excited to host fundraisers in the future.



Ashlee Woodson – ECM Volunteer

Special Delivery



In early December, I received a call to serve, and I accepted wholeheartedly. Everyone that knows me knows that I love road trips and adventures. My version of a road trip is to go somewhere near or far where I have never been and do something that I have never done before. My passion is to make a difference somewhere and build a relationship with someone, no matter where they are. I am so appreciative to be a part of ECM and so happy that *I now get the opportunity to pick-up and deliver food packages to the ACTS Safe House and ECLH-ONE once a month.* Even though I have only made one delivery, that first encounter made me feel like it was my 100th delivery. This gives me the opportunity to build relationships with a small gesture of kindness and a little bit of my time. When you read this, it sounds so simple and the least bit exciting, but this was truly an adventure for me. From the moment I got into my car, plugged the address into my GPS, arrived at First Mount Zion Baptist Church in Dumfries, Virginia, and waited in line for the Share meal boxes to be placed in my car, it made my heart smile to know that my next stop would put a smile on someone's face. I was excited about my first stop but a little hesitant because it's something new, and I wanted to make sure I get this right. When the door opened and our eyes connected, we both smiled and chatted as we carried the food back to the house, I could feel how appreciative the young lady was, and of course, my heart smiles again. We exchange goodbyes, and as I got back into my car and plugged in my next stop, I couldn't help but smile, knowing that this is really what it feels like to serve sincerely, happily, and committed. I am glad I am here, and I choose to serve wherever God sends me. Only God would have known that this was for me, and I am counting the days until my next monthly delivery adventure.

Debbie Dockett – ECM Member



ECLH Transportation Program

Starting in 2020 the ECLH transportation project was started to help defray the transportation cost to and from work for the residents at ECLH.

The Lord has continually blessed this project with donations which make available Uber gift cards weekly. The ladies are so grateful that someone would make this possible for them.

When they make the request for transportation cards, I hear them say comments like "Thank you so much for all you do", and always, "Thank you". I tell them God has ordered their steps and ECM desires to serve Him.

From January 2020 through December 2020 the project has provided \$1,050.00 in rides. We serve an awesome God. We are grateful to each person who has donated and continues to donate to the ECLH Transportation Project.

If you would like to donate to the ECLH Transportation Program, please provide your payment via **CashApp** to **\$ECM2007** and put ECLH Transportation in the "For" Line.

Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. II Corinthians 9:7

"Celebrate the Good"

Deacon Varetta Hamlin

ECM Member Servant Leader of Transportation



Celebrating the Holidays with Westminster

The Westminster Senior Living Facility in Lakewood, VA was blessed by Entrusted Connections Ministry (ECM) at Thanksgiving and Christmas despite COVID-19. Although, ECM was not allowed to go and sing to the Seniors, share a Word of Encouragement, or just love on them and they love on us, we provided items that were being requested by the residents. **For Thanksgiving**, the ladies requested fingernail polish and the gentlemen puzzles. So, ECM provided 30 gift bags filled with cotton balls, nail polish and remover, fingernail files and Word Search Books for the ladies; and dominoes, cards, and Crossword and Word Search Books for the gentlemen. Three large puzzles were also gifted. **For Christmas**, the Seniors needed

lotion and non-slip socks. In response, ECM provided 40 gift bags. During this season of COVID-19, ECM will seize every opportunity it can to do for our Seniors and we ask that you please continue to keep The Westminster Senior Living Facility lifted in prayer!

Elder Designate Jacqueline Woodson

ECM Vice Chair





ECM WEEKLY FAST AND PRAYER CALL

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Entrusted Connection Ministry is a prayer focused ministry. Time of consecration with God is an awesome gift that we should not take for granted and it is a privilege and a Spiritual discipline that we all should strive for.

To prepare for our weekly time of prayer, we begin with a fast which starts on Wednesday Evening at 9:00 p.m. and ends at 12 Noon on Thursday. On Thursday evening at 8:00 p.m. we call in for a time of Corporate Prayer.

Would you consider joining us on our weekly Fast and Prayer Call?

The conference call dial-in information is as follows: (712) 775-7031, Access Code 571493130#

Fasting Scriptures:
I Corinthians 15:57 (NKJV)
Ezra 8:21-23 (NCV)

Blessings,

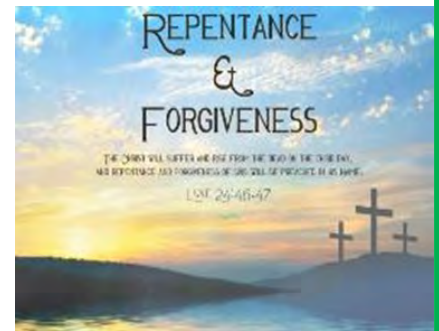
Deacon Varetta Hamlin, ECM Chaplain

"Fasting in faith leads to divine deliverance"
(Bishop Gale LeGrand Williams)



Peace on Earth – Good Will to Men

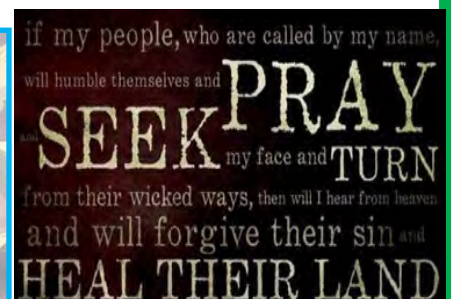
These are the Images God has given me to bring before the ECM Ladies weekly as we come to have a little talk with Jesus every Thursday Evening during the ECM Weekly Prayer Call, after we've spent a day in Fasting and Prayer. We are so blessed to know Jesus as our Lord and Savior.



When Bishop Gale asked me to pray about having images that will speak to the designated focus for our weekly prayer time, I felt a warmth come over me. God knows me, this child of His is Visual and I know He will guide me to use this gift, of Vision, to His glory!!



"Be Still and know that I am God" Psalm 46:10



ECM Christmas Lunch Celebration

"For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." – Isaiah 9:6

The Entrusted Connections Ministry celebrated the birth of our Lord and Savior in our annual Christmas Luncheon virtually. We are yet grateful that through the advancement of technology we were able to enjoy our lunch, share with our ECM Sisters in games and fellowship, and most of all celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior.

The Luncheon was opened with prayer and scripture, followed by a blessed Christmas Praise, "O Holy Night" and an ECM Trivia activity. While enjoying lunch and fellowship, the ladies modeled their 'Ugly Christmas Sweaters' that were being judged, followed by a scavenger hunt and a gift exchange.

Bishop Gale Williams concluded the luncheon with a powerful Christmas Blessing and Benediction, "The Gift, Emmanuel, God With Us".

We bless God for this Christmas season and all He has done and continues to do in the Entrusted Connections Ministry. Because of the birth of our Savior, we know and believe He is with us and will continue to allow us to do His will. Blessings!

Elder Doreen Freeman - ECM Member





Entrusted Connections Ministry
Bishop Gale LeGrand Williams
President and Founder



Entrusted
Connections
Life House

Proverbs in the Morning
"WISDOM and PRAISE"

Please join us each weekday at 7:30am to
"CELEBRATE THE GOOD"

Dial-in Number 712-775-7031
Access Code 571493130#



WAYS TO GIVE

TO ECM & ECLH

Please use IN PERSON and ONLINE for ALL ECM & ECLH donations.

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ECM Newsletter Editor-in-Chief Deacon Daisy M Banks