

# An Incredible, Honorable Woman of The Episcopalian Diocese of South Dakota

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Everyone has a journey in life! Everyone has a purpose! We should be recording many of the amazing things that were accomplished through the grace of GOD throughout our lives. Those stories should be written for the future generations, but that is another topic of discussion.

There is one such person in our midst that has lived her life for the Lord and continues to bolt forward in her commitment to GOD, to her husband and family and to the blessed Episcopal Church! In fact, she has done this throughout decades with love and determination . . . for the love of ALL GOD'S PEOPLE and for noting and nudging us to appreciate the beauty and love that envelops each of us; she continually encourages everyone to get involved, *do what they can do*, as she may gently remind us that we can each contribute something to our local church, or to the larger universe. You can hardly separate her from her loving partner of 55 years, who too, exemplifies the spirit of our loving Lord with his vitality and effervesce in preaching the Gospel.

This is *not* a new name unfamiliar to you in the State of South Dakota, in the Province VI, or in our South Dakota Diocese. In fact her name, her face, her vibrancy of spirit are all quite remarkable and significantly noted throughout the years . . . wherever (i.e. South Dakota, North Dakota, New York, Virginia, Florida, California, and lastly Texas) they have lived. She and her husband have made full-circle in the journey of life and leadership. Her name is synonymous with loving ACTION. Her name is Elizabeth Ann Campbell.

## **Background:**

Elizabeth was born and raised in rural South Dakota, the oldest of 10 children. She enjoyed the beauty of a creek and *rolling*, pastures of Grant County. Elizabeth and her family lived with her Scottish grandparents, and she was confirmed in the Swedish Covenant Church in Stockholm. She considered it "perfect growing up" years!

She went to school to become a registered nurse and she became specialized in quality assurance practices in medicine. In fact, during her senior year at Sioux Valley Hospital (now Sanford) she had just started a fall rotation. She had to address needs on the second floor and the patient in Room 233 was most challenging. The patient had a broken neck and was in traction. She asked to be removed from his roster; the patient's name was Mr. Campbell. Mr. Campbell wanted a date with Miss Thompson and that was NOT part of the plan. However, after several calls, and rejections, Mr. Campbell persisted and called to ask her out for Christmas Dinner after she was done on shift. She accepted. The rest is history! She ended up marrying Mr. Tom Campbell on September 3, 1960! Again noted, they have been married 55 years!

Elizabeth and Tom realized that it was most important to “go where people want you, and where you can do the most good!” God had His calling, and many times there was interim work which enlightened her world with “good learning experiences.” Many times, it would not be to places where they had not been, but to places where they needed to be planted.

### Interesting Career Path – (Doing What was Needed)

While Elizabeth worked in North Dakota at the N.D. Health Department, she was hired as a nursing consultant and investigated medical complaints. Her supervisor told her, “You’re the broom that sweeps the place clean. You have the courage to do it!” Appropriate actions were taken and **problems were solved**. She realized that it was very **necessary** for **each** person to **play their part!** She sees herself as a “cheerleader,” ready to serve and support others. She also knows that it take **perseverance** to get the job done. She works at speaking clearly. She has undeniable respect for her lay ministry. It has been the Great Commission . . . “Go ye into the entire world and . . .” Matthew 28: 16- 20

“Women can make it Happen”

### At a Bible Study – (Encouraging)

Going around a table discussion, one woman would typically pass and make no comment. Elizabeth kept hoping and praying that this sweet woman would speak up; she was sure that she had a voice and opinion. Elizabeth could see over time, “desire being borne.” Soon, it was like watching a butterfly coming out of its cocoon. Elizabeth and others had role-modeled and mentored and the results were amazing . . . another lovingly, kind and enthusiastic leader was born.

### At ECW - ACTION: 2006 - As National Treasurer for ECW – (Promoting & Providing)

At the National Episcopal Triennial in 2006, the ECW raised the question of how they were going to meet the overwhelming needs of the Katrina Hurricane victims in New Orleans in August of 2005. This hurricane was the largest and third strongest recorded to hit landside in the United States. The chaplain passed a plastic bowl around and put her \$20.00 bill into it and it followed with the other women in attendance; the ECW Treasurer, assured the group of 400 that their dollars would be matched by ECW funding. A couple hours later, the women had a check for \$10,000 to give the Louisiana Bishop for critically needed discretionary funding! Elizabeth, as ECW treasurer for the National Episcopal Church Women’s Board, the ECW continued following Triennial Project promoting the Jericho Road Building Project in the Cathedral community within their New Orleans’ neighborhood. Offerings of the Episcopal Lay Women totaled more than \$125,000 over then following 3 to 4 year period. *They cared with the HEART AND GAVE . . . to people with NO money, and who were SO weary, and emotionally drained and overcome with hopelessness!*



Along with raising four sons: John, Andrew, Robert (Robb) and Alec, the Campbell family moved wherever God had planted them. (Now, Elizabeth is a grandmother of 10!) She would attend the services, straighten Father Tom's shawl, count the participants, bake delicious pies, teach Sunday School, and zipping in the car around the diocese, if necessary, to plant a new ECW or volunteer to represent South Dakota for Province VI! She was THERE; SHE WAS HERE; SHE WAS "DOING WITH GOD," . . . THINGS THAT JUST NEEDED TO BE DONE! She would call it, "Filling in the cracks," and serving wherever there was a need.

Elizabeth many times would say, "Women of the church --- make magic happen!" She knows it to be TRUE! In one of the church kitchens, there was a sign that said: "Priests may come and priest may go, but the church women go on forever!" Talk about being blessed with energy, and zest for living life to the fullest . . . that is who Elizabeth Campbell is . . .

Elizabeth Campbell has great respect for the past, appreciation of the present, and hope for the future. She notes that we have a "cloud of angels" as our witnesses. She is steeped in love and forgiveness and believes in the inclusiveness and love of all individuals.

#### **Local, State and National - (Serving throughout the Years)**

Throughout the years in the church, Elizabeth has served and served well as Sunday School teacher, Confirmation Class teacher, member of Daughters of the King, nursery care, voluntary church secretary in smaller parishes, choir member, State Diocesan ECW Secretary, Region VI ECW Secretary, historian/archivist (local, state). Elizabeth now, also serves on the National ECW History Board (EWHP), gardener, and choir member. Recently, Elizabeth Campbell was placed on the National Episcopal Church Women's Board overseeing the United Thank Offering Board. *And the story and song go on . . .*

*"So many people are waiting to be asked to participate in mission and ministry of our church; it truly is a JOY for people of all ages to be involved." Elizabeth Ann Campbell*

Sir Winston Churchill noted of Eleanor Roosevelt that she left a "golden path" behind her wherever she went! If he were alive today, he would have said the same thing resembling another tremendous woman, Elizabeth Ann (Thompson) Campbell, as she too has left a "golden path" behind her! May we take time to give thanks to GOD and Honor Him and honor Elizabeth Ann Campbell in 2016 as our South Dakota Episcopal Diocesan Honorable Woman!