

**DEAN'S REPORT TO THE TRINITY CATHEDRAL ANNUAL MEETING  
JANUARY 2022**

*Adapted from the New Zealand Book of Common Prayer:*

**God of the present moment,  
God who in Jesus stills the storm  
and soothes the frantic heart;  
bring hope and courage to us  
as we wait in uncertainty.  
Bring hope that you will make us the equal  
of whatever lies ahead.  
Bring us courage to endure what cannot be avoided,  
for your will is health and wholeness;  
you are God, and we need you.  
Amen.**

2022: If you asked me for a theme for this upcoming year my choice would be: **Keeping our focus on God's Mission, not on the moment.** We've been blessed to accomplish much this past year in the midst of a seeming unending pandemic.

### **2021 Pastoral Care**

In 2021 one of the most amazing opportunities, was working with the city of Trenton to get a considerable portion of the Cathedral membership vaccinated. The Mayor reached out to Trenton pastors and congregations to encourage and enable the vaccination of their members. One Sunday afternoon Mrs. Andrea John and I reached out to members to inquire of their interest. The response was phenomenal, and we were very pleased as this meant we could hopefully begin to chart a way forward. Mrs. John was also instrumental in getting many other members vaccinated at her workplace, the Henry J. Austin Health Center in Trenton. Canon Clara Gregory and Sharon Tejada were also instrumental in organizing vaccination clinics here at the Cathedral where many members of the community were vaccinated. Beyond this effort I'm most pleased with our ability to address the pastoral concerns of an aging congregation. Thanks to Canons Terry & Paul Cooper, Rose Cooper, Tammy Gibson, Nancy Hood-Boczar (our intrepid and faithful social worker), Rachel Mathis and Kimme Carlos. For these and so many others, God's holy name be praised.

### **Property**

The challenges are many for an aging building. I'm grateful to Mike Raab for his commitment and faithfulness in dealing with a myriad of issues. This year Mike worked tirelessly to resolve the many violations raised by the City Fire Inspector. The Sprinkler system for the Crypt is installed, inspected and passed. The boiler loan payments have been completed, but the usual extensive work on pumps continues. Leeland's Slate Roofing completed considerable repairs to the cathedral roof. Major restoration work was done to the cathedral organ. (However, work on the chapel organ is outstanding.)

## **Justice Issues**

For the Sixth Annual Diocesan MLK Day of Service the speaker was The Rev. Rupert Hall from Turning Point. The day of service continues to be a tremendous success and a wonderful celebration of the life of The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Our Lenten theme - Living with a Courageous Heart - led by Janet Weathers was a spectacular success, with spirited conversations and wonderful participation. These conversations inspired gatherings all during the year as members sought ways to be involved and make an impact, based in part on quotations from *The Time is Now: A Call to Uncommon Courage* by Joan Chittister.

My sincere thanks to our Cathedral family for helping the Cathedral fulfill its initial pledge to the newly formed Diocesan Episcopal Community Services. An important program, it was called for by our Bishop to help give important direction and support for outreach and advocacy across the Diocese. Our Bishop sent us an acknowledgment of our commendable support

## **Mission & Ministry**

I want to thank Deacon Chris Cox for his diligence and faithfulness in the leading of our Adult Education programs at the Cathedral. His presentations have been extremely well received in our lifelong Christian formation community. I'm grateful to Deacon Chris for assisting one of our guests in getting her vaccination and booster, as well.

A new Ministry for 2021: a Grief Support Group headed up by Regina Thompson Jenkins and her husband Jon Jenkins, meets every second Saturday of the month. They share stories and resources with grieving members who have lost loved ones to violence in the City of Trenton.

## **Fundraising**

In 2021 we celebrated the 17th anniversary of our Bishop George E. Councill Memorial Golf Outing and Community Day. On this occasion St. Martin's, Bridgewater was victorious. Thanks to Richard Koenig for his stellar leadership of this major fund raising effort on behalf of the Cathedral. Thanks to Bishop Chip Stokes, Tom DiMuzio, Alan Erickson, Bill Harmer, David Miller, Van Gibson, Hugh Brown, Patrice D'Angelo, Susan Zitofsky, La'Tonya Johnson, Willie Coleman, Bob Conte and Ann Notte. Community Day 2022 is on October 10<sup>th</sup>.

## **Rummage Sale**

In 2022 we were finally able to get the rummage sale back up and off the ground. Ellen Wanser, her trusted sidekick Terri Holzbaur, Georgia Koenig and a host of individuals were instrumental in executing a wonderfully successful rummage sale. Thank you, thank you, thank you all.

## **Stewardship**

Giving in the last ten years has been trending upwards significantly, in part because of the New Consecration program, which has been well received, but also because over many years we've emphasized to our members the importance of being good stewards. Lessons learned from Jim Murphy, Jerry Keucher and the Episcopal Church Foundation have helped in this regard. We were extremely pleased with our speaker, The Rev. Megan Thomas for a wonderful Stewardship message. On behalf of the Wardens and Vestry I want to express my profound appreciation to our congregation for their faithfulness in being consistent in the upkeep of their pledges to the Cathedral throughout 2021.

## **Parish Life**

Our Parish Life Ministry currently needs leadership. We are grateful to those who have led in the past. The person or persons who lead this area of our common life are greatly valuable to who we are as a community. Please prayerfully consider taking on this area of our common life (speak to the Dean or Wardens if you are interested.)

## **Appreciations**

Cathedral Staff - Let me express my profound appreciation for our Cathedral Staff, in particular, Mrs. Patrice D'Angelo. Thank you most sincerely for all you do. Dr. Kerry Heimann, Al Shaw and Michael "PJ" Pettyjohn: thanks for all your efforts during a very challenging time.

My sincere thanks to Sharon Scipio, Althia Muse, Jennifer Ahaghotu, Kimme Carlos, Erica Warner and Phil Lewis for their invaluable work with our youth. Helping to coach, shape and mentor youth is one of the most important things we do as adult Christians. Our 2021 Confirmation candidates were Aniyah Emma McKoy, Euphenia Elizabeth Maria Tejada, Magnus Onuche Ameh, Jordan Tyler Scipio and Carlo Israel Cesar.

My sincere thanks to Altar Guild Shop Director, Andrea John; and volunteers Howard Ebersole, Ginny Harmer, Georgia Koenig, Linda Lengyel, Joyce Gibbs-Spears, Sharlie Ross and Cheryl Nagy for their tireless efforts to fulfill the mission of the Altar Guild Shop. Things have been on hold because of the Pandemic but Mrs. Andrea John was still able to get some sales.

We are grateful for Ellen Wanser's outstanding leadership with our Food Pantry for the past year and a half. Ellen continues the high standards set by those who served before her. The needs continue to increase and are ably met by Ellen, Clara, Terri, J. Gil, Willie, Sharon and our community partners. Thanks, Food Pantry team! We are grateful to so many individuals and churches who faithfully support this ministry, from our community and our Diocese. Special thanks to Holy Apostles Church, Yardville (Canon Art Powell and Archdeacon Denise Cavalieri) and St. Luke's Church, Ewing (Rev. Megan Thomas.)

Many thanks to our Associate Clergy: Noel Amadi, Peter Bridge, Bruce Montgomery John Luttrell (part-time Assistant) and Deacons Carol Gilbert and Chris Cox. We are greatly indebted to them for their generous support and service to the cathedral and its community.

My sincere thanks to the Wardens and Vestry for their generous support and service to our cathedral and its community: Dennie Higgins and J. Gil Williams, Wardens; Ron Zilinski, Treasurer; Canon Paul Cooper, Clerk; Althia Russell Muse, Kimme Carlos, Wipson Joseph, Nancy Hood-Boczar, Mike Raab, Sharon Scipio, Chinweze Ahaghotu, Lee Whiteman and Bobbie Powell. Althia, Lee and Mike's terms are up this year and we are greatly indebted to them for their outstanding service.

Thanks to Dr. Kerry Heimann and Fay Manicke for their yeoman efforts, particularly this year in navigating worship online during the pandemic. We owe them a great debt of gratitude. We continue to keep in prayer our faithful Choir members: Laretta Ketter, Bobbie Powell, J. Gil Williams, Brenda Whiteman, Paul Cooper, Kim Neighbor, Susan Remmers, Sue Gummere, Ellen Wry, John Gummere, Howard Ebersole, Mike Raab, Bernard McMullan and Eugenia Collins.

Thanks to the many Cathedral commissions and organizations: Finance and Budget, Outreach (Food Pantry, Loaves and Fishes and Soup Kitchen), Evangelism, Choir, Altar Guild, Flower Guild, Hamilton Grove Care and Rehab. team, Prison Ministry, Sunday School, Youth Group, Adult Education, African Festival, Parish Life and Hospitality, and the Trinity Cathedral Altar Guild Shop. Their members are owed a great debt of gratitude for constant energies expended in fulfilling the mission and ministry of our Cathedral, especially in the continued challenging circumstances in which we live.

Thanks to the many organizations with whom we are affiliated; we are so appreciative of what we are able to accomplish together, for our community and God: Trenton Health Team, Trinity Academy, Urban Promise, Interfaith Caregivers of Greater Mercer, St. Francis Hospital, Hyacinth Foundation, Rescue Mission of Trenton, the Anti-Poverty Network, Eastern Service Workers and United Mercer Interfaith Organization (UMIO.)

My sincere thanks to Lee Whiteman for his efforts to capture Cathedral memories with his photography throughout the year - we owe you a great debt of gratitude - and to Susan Remmers for keeping the photo bulletin boards around the cathedral updated. This year Lee Whiteman and Tony Wootson have become the point persons operating the camera for our livestreaming ministry. Many thanks for enabling us to reach those parishioners and guests who cannot attend Mass in person.

My sincere thanks to Susan Remmers for her tireless efforts with the Flower Guild ministry; providing beautiful altar arrangements, flowers and plants throughout the year and in celebration of Easter and Christmas, and arrangements to benefit our shut-ins and parishioners. Thanks to Rose Ananthanayagam for her posting of hymn numbers, and Canon Terry Cooper and Rachel Mathis for their diligence and dedication as leaders of our Altar Guild ministry.

I want to once again thank the Wardens, Dennie Higgins and J. Gil Williams; Deacon Chris Cox, and all our convocation delegates for consistently attending Trenton Convocation meetings: Willie Coleman, Deborah Raab, Terry Cooper, Sharon Scipio, Brenda Whiteman, and Jocelyn Francis-White. And our Diocesan Convention Delegates, as well: Jocelyn Francis-White, Margaret Nartey and Judith Miller.

Thanks to Sherri Anderson, Stretto Youth Orchestra and the Trinity Strings for their faithful Ministry of music development amongst our youth.

### **Future considerations**

Looking ahead we will need to continue to be creative and imaginative in staying connected with our congregation and other potential members. Please consider checking out the Diocesan School for Ministry. It will help you harness God's gifts as you seek to love and serve God and your community.

Please consider how you might serve at the Cathedral in 2022 and beyond. We continue to need help with the hospitality and greeters ministries. In addition to which, all of our committees could benefit from your energy and input. At baptism we were asked, "Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?" Our response: "I will, with God's help." Let us get on with God's mission and our ministry.

### **Remembrances 2021**

Rest in peace:  
Charlene Brennfleck  
Evelyn Green  
Albert Creed  
Nicola Creed  
Joyce Lawson Moore  
Charles Cera

"Christ has no body now but yours. No hands, no feet on earth but yours. Yours are the eyes through which he looks compassion on this world. Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good. Yours are the hands through which he blesses all the world. Yours are the hands, yours are the feet, yours are the eyes, you are his body. Christ has no body now on earth but yours." ~ Teresa of Ávila

Respectfully Submitted,

The Very Rev. René R. John, Dean