

DEAN'S REPORT TO THE TRINITY CATHEDRAL ANNUAL MEETING JANUARY 2023

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.*

2023 - A church in transition needs to consider: “*Disruption, Decline and New Hope for Beloved Community*” by Stephanie Spellers.

2022 Pastoral Care

In 2022 Pastoral Care was once more a major component of Cathedral Ministry. Grateful to all the members of our congregation who diligently check on and support one another. Anxiety and isolation is even more present since the advent of COVID-19, and as such compassion is at a premium.

Property

The challenges continue to be 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 to complete work on the fire proof doors in the education wing. We also undertook extensive cleaning, replacement and repair of gutters on the church; access to these was most challenging and quite costly. Additionally a subcommittee headed up by Georgia Koenig and Irene Sanz and including Bernard McMullan, Susan Remmers and Cn. Terry Cooper did significant work on improvement to the landscaping of the Cathedral grounds. Several members of the congregation have made significant contributions to this effort, and for this we are most grateful.

Justice Issues

Our Lenten theme was “Beloved Community”; once again grateful to Dr. Janet Weathers and Kimme Carlos for leading us in some very spirited discussions. In 2023, The Rev. Rachel Tyler will lead our Lenten Program.

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. Deacon Chris continues to organize our support of a young person we've adopted and support overseas. We applied for and received support from the Diocesan Global Goals Task Force for 2023.

In 2022 we celebrated the 18th anniversary of our George E. Councill Community Day Golf Outing. On this occasion, St. Martin's Bridgewater was again victorious. Thanks La'Tonya Johnson, our new chair for her outstanding leadership; thanks to Bishop Chip Stokes, Richard Koenig, Tom DiMuzio, Bill Harmer, Patrice D'Angelo, Susan Zitofsky, David Miller and Willie Coleman. This event in 2023 is on October 9th.

Rummage Sale - in 2022 we were once again grateful for the hardworking efforts to organize the Rummage sale. Ellen Wanser, her trusted sidekick Terri Holzbaur and a host of individuals were instrumental in executing a wonderfully successful Rummage Sale. Thank you, thank you, thank you all.

Grateful to Bobbie Powell, Bernard McMullan, Katherine Young, Patrice D'Angelo and Dennie Higgins for a beautifully executed World Premiere Keith Spencer Concert. Very well received to much acclaim and financially beneficial. The committee is most grateful for the tremendous support of many.

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. Rachel Tyler 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 2022. We are also blessed by members whose companies do matching funds, significantly boosting the coffers with much-needed funds. We were pleased to receive many other generous gifts designated for our Organ Fund by Brann & Ellen Wry and Susan Remmers - greatly appreciated as both organs are in need of work. Our most significant gift in 2022, was a one hundred thousand dollar unrestricted gift, from Bill & Linda Mitchell.

Our relatively new Ministry, the Grief Support Group headed up by Regina Thompson Jenkins and her husband Jon Jenkins, continues to meet 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.

A new initiative for 2023 is our work with Salvation and Social Justice. Founder Dr. Charles Boyer, Pastor at Mt. Zion AME Church. Several churches in Trenton have come together to use funds, once targeted for incarceration by city agencies, now developing programs for restoration in our communities, "Restorative Justice". Homicides were down significantly in

2022 and the city leadership is grateful for our partnership and hard-working teamwork. Thanks to all whose efforts make this possible.

Returning of ECS grant - In 2022 we received an ECS grant to work with citizens re-entering the workforce after incarceration. Unfortunately in spite of her best efforts, and Ellen Wanser's passion, a few stumbling blocks derailed this initiative.

Appreciations

Cathedral Staff

Let me express my profound appreciation for our Cathedral Staff, in particular, Mrs. Patrice D'Angelo (this year marks her 20th year working at the Cathedral). Bravo for long and distinguished service; thank you most sincerely for all you do! Dr. Kerry Heimann, Al Shaw and Michael "PJ" Pettyjohn: thanks for all your efforts during what continues to be a very challenging time.

My sincere thanks to former Altar Guild Shop Director, Andrea John; and volunteers Howard Ebersole, Ginny Harmer, Georgia Koenig, Linda Lengyel, Sharlie Ross and Cheryl Nagy for their tireless efforts to fulfill the mission of the Altar Guild Shop. Pleased to announce a new head of the Altar Guild Shop, Joyce Gibbs-Spears.

Outstanding leadership with our Food Pantry - Ellen Wanser, as Director continues the high standards set by those who served before her. The needs continue to increase and are ably met by Ellen, Terri, Clara, J. Gil, Willie, Lourdez 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), Christ the King, Willingboro and St. Luke's Church, Ewing.

Parish Life - This ministry needs leadership. We are grateful to those who 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 a part of this area of our common life, and speak to the Dean or Wardens if interested.

Many thanks to our Associate Clergy: Noel Amadi, Peter Bridge, Bruce Montgomery John Luttrell (part-time Assistant) and Deacons Carol Gilbert, Chris Cox and Rachel Tyler. 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; Kimme Carlos, Edward Greenfield, Samuel Richards, Nancy Hood-Boczar, Margaret Nartey, Sharon Scipio, Chinweze Ahaghotu, Ellen Wanser and Bobbie Powell.

Thanks to Dr. Kerry Heimann, and Fay Manicke for their yeoman efforts, particularly this year in navigating worship in-person and for online consumption. 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, Cn. 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 and Soup Kitchen), Evangelism, Choir, Altar Guild, Flower Guild, Prison Ministry, Sunday School, Youth Group, Adult Education, 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.

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, Salvation and Social Justice 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 livestreamed worship.

My sincere thanks to Susan Remmers for her tireless efforts with the Flower Guild ministry, providing beautiful altar arrangements, flowers and plants in celebration of Easter and Christmas, and arrangements to benefit our shut-ins; 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, Howard Ebersole, Sharon Scipio, Brenda Whiteman, and Jocelyn Francis-White.

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 may serve at the Cathedral in 2023 and beyond. We continue to need help with the hospitality and greeters ministries. In addition to which, all 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 2022

Rest in peace:

Carl E. Foster

Irene Gibson

Jared Charles Jennings

Margaret M. Jackson Mitchell

Fred Rogers

"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