



# ECS-NJ

*New Life  
in Community*

# 2023 IMPACT REPORT



[ecs-nj.org](https://ecs-nj.org)

*A message from*

# The Right Reverend Sally French



*The Diocese of New Jersey*

THE RIGHT REVEREND SALLY J. FRENCH, BISHOP OF NEW JERSEY



Dear Friends,

One of the strengths of the Diocese of New Jersey is its commitment to Gospel Justice. I was drawn to this even before becoming your Bishop. Now that I am immersed in the role and see the challenges facing our churches and communities firsthand, I am even more impressed by the dedication of the diocese, by your ongoing commitment to work together to address immediate human needs and combat social and racial injustice through Episcopal Community Services of the Diocese of New Jersey (ECS-NJ).

This Impact Report shows that ECS-NJ has established itself as an organization and as a key part of the diocese in a short period of time. I am grateful to the many volunteers, congregations, and donors who have made those accomplishments possible. I also give thanks for the work of Deacon Trisha Thorne, our outgoing Executive Director, and Canon Phyllis Jones, who served as Treasurer and Diocesan Staff Liaison. Their efforts have helped ECS-NJ to grow and have strengthened the work of Gospel Justice throughout our diocese.

As befits a report whose theme is "New Life in Community," this is only the beginning, and I look forward to working with the ECS-NJ Advisory Council, Board of Directors, and staff on the next phase of its important and life-giving work.

Faithfully yours,

A handwritten signature of Sally French, preceded by a cross symbol.

The Right Reverend Sally French  
Bishop of New Jersey

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Episcopal Community Services (ECS-NJ) increases the capacity of the Diocese of New Jersey to proactively address community-identified human needs, such as food and shelter, and relentlessly work against both social and racial injustice.

## Our Mission and Vision

We accomplish these goals by:

Providing grants to church ministries and projects

Offering educational and training opportunities

Opening crucial connections and networks

Advocating for meaningful systemic change

*In 2023, Episcopal Community Services of the Diocese of New Jersey was recognized as a nonprofit 501c3 charitable organization by the IRS. ECS-NJ may be eligible for matching gifts from your employer, [email us to learn more](#).*



Thank you to Canon Phyllis Jones, Diocesan staff liaison, for all of her work over the past three years to get ECS-NJ established and on firm footing!

# Messages from our Leadership

## Dear Friends,

This Impact Report shares highlights from Episcopal Community Services-New Jersey's third year of forceful support of and advocacy for Gospel Justice. In everything we do, we respect the dignity of all persons and seek to love our neighbors as ourselves.

In 2023 we said good bye to Bishop Chip Stokes at a farewell gala and welcomed Bishop Sally French, who led the ECS-NJ Advisory Council in a strategic planning session in September. We convened Gospel Justice Summits on Barriers to obtaining green jobs and Alternatives to incarceration for substance use disorder. We were able to accomplish so much due to the inspiration and dedication of our Executive Director, Deacon Trisha Thorme, who will be relocating to Rhode Island in June 2024. We shall miss her contagious joy in doing the work of the Lord. We are also grateful for the leadership and commitment of Canon Phyllis Jones, whose efforts have strengthened ECS since its inception.



For 2024, we are planning a Spring Summit on April 25, a workshop in May, and a Fall Summit. In addition, we shall continue to support Gospel Justice through education, advocacy, fundraising, grantmaking, and prayer.

We continue to be grateful to all the people and churches throughout the Diocese who support our mission, both with their gifts and with their time. We are particularly grateful to the members of the Advisory Council, including our newest members: the Rev. Carolyn Bradley – Deacon Trinity Church, Asbury Park; the Rev. Jorge Martinez – Rector St. John's, Elizabeth; Meyer Pincelli – Holy Trinity, South River; and the Rev. Tammy Young – Rector St. John's, Little Silver. Together we shall make an impact on the lives of those in need.

Faithfully,

Rosina (Nina) Dixon  
Chair, ECS-NJ Advisory Council

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## Dear Friends,

This Impact Report covers a key year in the development of Episcopal Community Services of the Diocese of New Jersey. As you'll see in these pages, in 2023 we took significant strides forward as an organization. Highlights include compelling events and advocacy trainings, the celebration of ECS Sunday on the first Sunday in May, a successful gala, and a comprehensive overhaul of our grant program.

2023 was also a year of change. Father Dave Snyder stepped down in May after doing an amazing job as our founding Director of Development, and Melanie McLaurin started as our Assistant Director of Communications and Development at the end of October. We said goodbye to Bishop Stokes and welcomed Bishop French. New members joined the Advisory Council and, after official recognition by the IRS as a nonprofit organization, we began to establish a Board of Directors for ECS-NJ. Canon Phyllis Jones has been a big part of ECS-NJ since the beginning and will be missed.



Working for the Kingdom is a group project, and I am grateful to the many donors, volunteers, and churches who partner with ECS-NJ to rebuild our communities at every level in the light of God's abundant love. Thank you for the opportunity to serve.

The Reverend Trisha Thorme, Deacon  
Executive Director

# EDUCATION & ADVOCACY: Imagining and Working for a New World

## Gospel Justice Summits 2023

### **Alternatives to incarceration for substance use disorder, October 2023**

Co-sponsored by the Diocesan Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse (CADA)

Starting with the powerful example of his own experience, former State Senator Raymond Lesniak described the transformative potential of diversion programs in New Jersey and how to build support for them.

### **Environmental Justice: It Takes a Village, April 2023**

Co-sponsored by the Urban Revitalization Task Force, the Global Goals Task Force and the Creation Care Commission

## The Impact of Green Jobs on Communities of Color



Rev. Ronald Tuff, NJ Organizer for GreenFaith, spoke at the ECS-NJ Spring 2023 Summit on environmental justice. In July, ECS-NJ co-sponsored a meeting in Newark on barriers to green jobs. Participants included representatives from labor unions; green businesses including offshore wind, electric vehicle community solar companies; the NJ Board of Public Utilities, and the NJ Dept. of Clean Energy. In October 2023 Rev. Tuff received a \$10,000 grant from the League of Conservation Voters to hold similar meetings in 5 additional cities during 2024. ECS-NJ continues to be involved.

*Will you strive for justice and peace among all people,  
and respect the dignity of every human being?  
I will, with God's help.*



# GRANTMAKING: Creating New Opportunities

**ECS-NJ** grants are designed to expand existing compassion and justice ministries of congregations and make new ones possible. Since the Fall of 2021, we have awarded almost \$380,000 to 29 churches in the Episcopal Diocese of New Jersey. Projects proposed for ECS-NJ funding should address at least two of the following objectives:

- To meet human need in underserved and marginalized communities, especially communities of color
- To engage, collaborate and partner with other organizations, including faith-based, secular, community, governmental, etc.
- To encourage advocacy for issues relating to social justice, including spearheading new advocacy efforts, particularly those affecting underserved or marginalized communities.



Because of the generosity of donors, we have been able to support the launch or expansion of many ministries across the Diocese, supporting churches providing food, shelter, education, legal assistance, medical equipment, employment assistance & training, community support and so much more.

***Ministries supported in part  
or in whole with ECS-NJ  
funds served over 20,000  
people in 2023.***



*Bishop Stokes celebrates ECS-NJ funded improvements at St Barnabas by the Bay in Villas in January 2023*

*“My wife Gail and I have contributed to Episcopal Community Services of the Diocese of New Jersey since the outset. We believe it is our Christian duty to do so, and we think that ECS has done a remarkable job ensuring that the resources provided to it are distributed throughout the Diocese as an expression of care and the love of Jesus.”*

**-Dr. Phil Lewis, Trinity Cathedral**

# Grant Spotlight: Inaugural Class Graduates with HVAC and Plumbing Certificates



*Program graduation at Camden City Hall in late December*



*Tools provided to participants after completing the training*

**I**n Spring 2023, ECS-NJ awarded a grant to San Andrés in Camden to create and offer an intensive, three-month, bilingual (Spanish/English) evening training course to provide participants with sufficient skills to gain an entry-level (helper) position with plumbing and HVAC service providers. The project is geared to local residents facing barriers to living wage work, including recent immigrants, under-employed workers, women, and workers lacking English proficiency. Twenty students completed the training and received a certificate and toolbox in late December 2023. More than half the class already have jobs!

## Facing Challenges. Meeting Needs.

*In Spring 2023, we awarded **\$29,897** to two projects in the Diocese in the areas of job training, recovery, and mental health.*

### **Church and County**

St. Andrew the Apostle, San Andrés, Camden Co.  
St. Michael's, Trenton, Mercer Co.

### **Project**

Skilled Trades Pilot Project/Proyecto de Camden, Oficios y Habilidades  
12 Steps & More Bookstore - Phase 2: Sustainability

*In Fall 2023, we awarded **\$45,204** to four projects in the Diocese in the areas of food insecurity, housing insecurity, and education.*

### **Church and County**

St. Stephen's, Whiting, Ocean Co.  
Christ Church, Riverton, Burlington Co.  
St. Peter's, Freehold, Monmouth Co.  
St. Augustine's, Asbury Park, Monmouth Co.

### **Project**

St. Stephen's Community Garden  
Christ Church Fishes and Loaves Ministry  
The Lockers and Laundry Program  
St. Augustine's Asbury Park Sunday Feeding Program and After School Program

# A Festive Farewell



*The Right Reverend William "Chip" Stokes*



*L to R: Canon Ann Notte, Canon Mary Ann Rhoads and Mary Anne Clisham*

**Last** May, over 800 family, friends, and supporters gathered together at the DoubleTree by Hilton in Cherry Hill to honor and celebrate The Right Reverend William "Chip" Stokes, Susan Stokes, Canon Ann Notte, Canon Mary Ann Rhoads, and Mary Anne Clisham. We are grateful to all the honorees for their years of dedication and service in the Diocese.

The gala was co-sponsored by the Transition Committee, and the Most Reverend Michael Curry, Presiding Bishop and Primate of the Episcopal Church, was the evening's keynote speaker.

ECS-NJ would like to express our sincere appreciation and heartfelt thanks to Father Dave Snyder for his exceptional leadership and dedication as the chair of the gala. After expenses, over \$52,000 was raised by the event for the Stokes Endowment for ECS-NJ.

We also extend our gratitude to all those who supported and helped to make the event a wonderful success.



*The Most Reverend Michael Curry*



*The Reverend David Snyder*



# Farewell Gala Highlights

*Gala Photographs courtesy of Christopher Gregory*



# ECS Sunday Prayer



*Compassionate God, you called us to establish Episcopal Community Services of the Diocese of New Jersey: endow us with the vision to balance charitable giving with advocating justice, so that both the source and symptoms of oppression will be overcome; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.*

## Coming up in 2024!

Monday, March 18, 2024 at 7 pm

ECS-NJ Grant Information Session

[Click here for more information](#)

April 1-30, 2024

Required Letter of Intent to Apply for an ECS-NJ Grant Due

April 25, 2024

Gospel Justice Summit “Data that Makes a Difference: Using Neighborhood Data to Inform Justice Work”

May 5, 2024

ECS Sunday

May 16, 2024

Gospel Justice Summit “Asset Mapping: A Tool for Understanding Your Community”



# With Special Thanks to our Founding Congregations



*“We are honored to be a Founding Congregation supporting the compelling and meaningful work that ECS-NJ is catalyzing in the Garden State.”*

*-Church of the Holy Spirit, Lebanon*

Trinity Church, Asbury Park  
St. Mark's, Basking Ridge  
All Saints, Bay Head  
St. Bernard's, Bernardsville  
St. Peter's, Clarksboro  
Trinity Church, Cranford  
St. Francis, Dunellen  
St. Peter's, Freehold  
St. Luke's, Gladstone  
St. Thomas, Glassboro  
Grace, Haddonfield  
Holy Spirit, Lebanon

St. John's, Little Silver  
Grace-St. Paul's, Mercerville  
Trinity Church, Moorestown  
Christ Church, New Brunswick  
St. Matthew's, Pennington  
Trinity Church, Princeton  
St. George's-by-the-River, Rumson  
St. John's, Salem  
St. Peter's, Spotswood  
Trinity Cathedral, Trenton  
St. Paul's, Westfield  
Holy Apostles', Yardville

# Board of Directors

The Rt. Rev. Sally French, *President*  
Cn. Paul Ambos, Esq., *Secretary*  
Mr. Kirk Bonamici, *Treasurer*  
Dr. Nina Dixon  
The Very Rev. Marshall Shelly  
The Rev. Trisha Thorme, Dcn., *ex officio*

# Advisory Council

Dr. Nina Dixon, *Chair, St. John on the Mountain, Bernardsville*  
Ms. Catherine Ambos, *Christ Church, New Brunswick*  
The Rev. Tom Bartlett, Dcn., *Grace-St. Paul, Mercerville*  
The Rev. Carolyn Bradley, Dcn., *Trinity Church, Asbury Park*  
Ms. Neva Rae Fox, *St. John's, Somerville*  
Mr. John Gallup, *St. Luke's, Gladstone*  
Cn. Clara Gregory, *Trinity Cathedral, Trenton*  
Ms. Marisa Henry, *St. Paul's, Camden*  
The Rev. Jorge Martinez, *St. John's, Elizabeth*  
The Rev. Robin Pierre, *St. Elizabeth's, Elizabeth*  
Mr. Meyer Pincelli, *Holy Trinity, South River*  
The Very Rev. Marshall Shelly, *St. Peter's, Spotswood*  
The Rev. Tammy Young, *St. John's, Little Silver*

# Staff

The Rev. Trisha Thorme, Dcn., *Executive Director*  
Ms. Melanie McLaurin, *Assistant Director of Communications and Development*