



# CAMMINOS

## OUR ROAD TOGETHER

EDITION 4 FALL 2018

Serving The Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania



“WE ARE JUST  
ONE FAMILY” p.6

“Revolutionary”

# LETTER FROM THE BISHOP

THE RT. REV. DANIEL G.P. GUTIÉRREZ  
XVI BISHOP OF THE DIOCESE OF PENNSYLVANIA



## Revolutionary Spirit

Our life as Episcopalians begins with Jesus Christ. Everything we do, everything we are and everything we aspire to be. Our love of the Bible, prayer, the Eucharist and our engagement with the world.

This Diocese has an extraordinary history and a dynamic future.

When people think of the Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania, they think of the birth of the Episcopal Church, the founding of our country, William White, Absalom Jones, the Philadelphia 11, justice and hope.

There is truly a revolutionary spirit in this diocese. As your bishop, my call is to be a shepherd, a pastor, to cast the vision, to plant the seeds and work in the field with you. To serve and empower you. And, most importantly, to love you.

Our purpose is to know Jesus and change the world. We can do that by proclaiming the Gospel, empowering our churches, and addressing the pain and poverty. We have the gifts, resources, people, and faith. Together we are change agents for Christ.

We are one body in Jesus Christ. Every day we journey together as a community. Let's be co-creators in Christ, innovative, resourceful and faithful.

Let our work change the Church. Let us embrace and welcome people into our communities and churches, support those that are vulnerable and address inequality. What starts here will indeed change the world – in his name – for the better.

Our future shines bright and we will thrive, not simply survive. We have Jesus Christ and we are called to make him known.

Everything we do begins, continues and ends with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. So, let's make history together.

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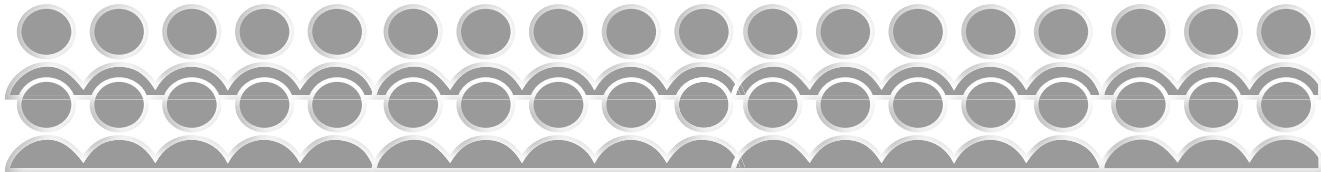
RESOURCE  
**PARISH  
WELLNESS  
CENTERS**

## FRONT:

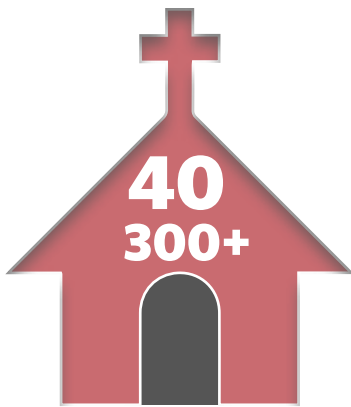
Pictured here from St. George St. Barnabas (from left): Paula Clark, parish administrator; Kurt Williams, senior warden; and the Rev. Al Holland, interim rector.



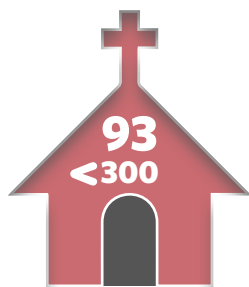
# The Diocese by the Numbers



**Parish membership: 41,929**  
**Average Sunday attendance: 12,219**



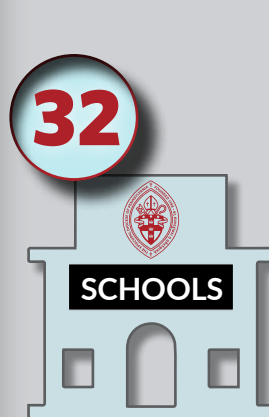
**40 churches have more than 300 members**



**93 churches have fewer than 300 members**



**Three languages spoken in our churches: English, Spanish and Swahili**



**33 Episcopal pre-schools**



**1 primary Episcopal school**  
**2 secondary Episcopal schools**

## SPIRIT

# One Family



From left: Deborah Chappelle-Gaye, her daughter Avyane, and her aunt Sandra Bonner



Kurt Williams (left) readying for the service

For the past three years, St. George St. Barnabas (SGSB) has been searching for a rector. This process can be filled with anxiety, and sometimes overwhelm entire communities. Not here.

The Sunday school program under the direction of Tamika Jenkins has been growing. Originally a parishioner of St. Barnabas, Jenkins started volunteering with the church when she was 17. The weekly healing service draws people in from work and home each Thursday. There is an insatiable curiosity here, to learn, to grow.

“My late father sang in the boys choir at the old St. George’s 90 years ago,” said interim rector the Rev. Al Holland. “If he were to return today on a Sunday there would be much about the building and our worship that was familiar to him from those long-ago days – vestments, incense, bells, the sung Mass, the great High Altar, the Lady Chapel. But, what would please my father is the joyous gospel music which empowers our worship.”

## Getting “in the game”

“We’ve been working on the building itself and drawing new people into being acolytes, Eucharistic ministers, altar guild,” noted Kurt Williams, the senior warden of the church. “This has always been a loving place. You weren’t allowed to be a benchwarmer,” Williams remarked on first coming here. “You had to get in the game.”

In 2010, the parish moved from mission to parish status. Williams credits the The Rev. James Wynn, rector from 1996 to 2012, for guiding a series of small improvements that positively impacted the church. “New paint on walls, flowers out front ... we all

rolled up our sleeves.” When asked what has kept him here for all these years he said, “the people and the Spirit.”

Located in the Cobbs Creek section of West Philadelphia, the church, then just St. George’s, opened its doors in 1871. Some of the oldest homes in West Philadelphia surround it. The Rev. Edwards, who is memorialized at the back of SGSB, was the rector from 1934 until his death in 1972. His initial training was at St. Clement’s Episcopal Church, where he was a curate. Both then and now, this church embraces its Anglo-Catholic history.



Marianne Pearson

## Embracing change

Edwards, noted Holland, is credited for making this church part of the neighborhood and embracing the changing demographics. “We were the third family of color to move onto our street,” explained Deborah Gaye-Chappelle. “This was an all-white church when I was four years old. Father Edwards, (who was white) gave a sermon to the congregation telling them that the neighborhood was changing. That there would be people coming in that would not look like them and they needed to get used to it. He was very direct about that.” By the 1950s, the African-American population in West Philadelphia had increased by 72 percent.

SGSB holds the history of both churches, and that of St. Cyprian's, in photos inside the church. Founded in 1912, St. Cyprian's, an African-American congregation in Elmwood, later joined with St. Barnabas in 1964 as part of “an urban challenge” to merge two racially distinct congregations. In 1993, both St. George and St. Barnabas became one.

There is no doubt this congregation is unified. “We are home folk,” notes Marianne Pearson, who has been a parishioner for 30 years. On not using “and” in the name of the merged churches of St. George and St. Barnabas, Pearson added, “we are just one family. We didn't want the separation.”

→ Unified Congregation



Members of the church's gospel choir



Piano, drums and a trumpet regularly accompany the choir

“...what would please my father is the joyous gospel music which empowers our worship.”

REV. HOLLAND



Tamika Jenkins with her church school children



## RESOURCE

# Yá'át'ééh

## (Let us help you tell your story)

Teaching has been a passion of mine, especially helping Navajo children," said G.J. Gordy, the manager and web developer at Cheii Web Development in New Mexico. Aside from teaching coding to young students, Gordy and her shop provide an array of web services.

Cheii is located in the Navajoland Area Mission, a region created out of sections of the Episcopal dioceses of Utah, Rio Grande and Arizona to better unify the area in respect to Navajo language and culture.

In Navajo the word "Cheii" means grandfather. "Hearing our grandfathers tell stories of teachings and wisdom and becoming better as a person is important for us as Navajos."

You get a sense of Gordy's heritage when you read her bio on the website: "She is a proud member of the Navajo Nation and identifies herself with her clans: One Who Walks Around born into the Salt People, maternal grandfather is Edge Water, and paternal grandfather is of the Mud People."

Bishop Gutiérrez helped start Cheii while working with the Navajoland Area Mission. Recognizing their talents, he introduced Gordy and her team to the Diocese of Pennsylvania when he began as Bishop.

Today, churches in need of low or no-cost website development can receive those services through a partnership between the Diocese and Cheii. "We have four churches working with Cheii now," said the Rev. Betsy Ivey, canon for growth and support, who coordinates the program. "Cheii gives churches a cyber footprint that they have not had. It puts them on the map and makes them more visible. It also raises their consciousness of how to evangelize to their community."

**“We are an all Navajo Web Development Shop and active members of the Episcopal Church. We each grew up on the Navajo reservation and are cradle Episcopalians. We each bring different backgrounds to the table and had to overcome difficult obstacles in our lives. We grew up on the reservation where alcoholism is an epidemic, where children live in homes plagued with domestic violence and the struggle of not knowing where your next meal is coming from because full-time work is scarce. With the help of the Church, we are now stronger. We strive to build a great company to better the future for our selves, for our families, for our church and our church families.”**

**CHEII WEB DEVELOPMENT**

Teachings & Wisdom

*For information on how to get started with Cheii, contact Canon Ivey, [bivey@diopa.org](mailto:bivey@diopa.org).*



# BEYOND SUNDAY

The boxing program at Christ and St. Ambrose Episcopal Church provides an after-school activity for children in this North Philadelphia neighborhood. But more than that, it gives purpose and confidence.



## PROGRAM

# Teach a Man to Cook

“Organic is the word,” said the Rev. Paul Hunt of his church’s kitchen ministry. “This fell into place because of a hundred little things that were all in the right place to make it happen.”

For the last 30 plus years, the Episcopal Church of the Holy Trinity West Chester has been feeding people. “It has always been integral to the actual heart and soul of this place,” said Hunt. Their signature outreach program began as a soup kitchen and evolved into a community-feeding program, aptly named Friday Night Supper (FNS). It has become a place where all in the community are welcome, regardless of need, to receive a hot meal.

About two years ago, Hunt challenged the FNS leadership, “believing that Jesus is always calling us to stretch ourselves, [to] try and move forward, and always dream and vision what’s next, I asked that question of the leadership group — what’s next for us, how can we move forward in this ministry in the direction God is calling us?” Parishioners Joe McAllister and Hallie Romanowski took Hunt’s question to heart and it became clear how God was calling them to transform ministry.

Aside from the Friday Night Supper, the parish’s commercial kitchen was sitting idle. McAllister had an idea to capitalize on his time and talent — a culinary training ministry. As a classically trained professional chef, he has worked in the culinary industry for more than 20 years. As Executive Director of ACT in Faith of Greater West Chester (AiF), Romanowski leads an interfaith non-profit organization that serves the un- and underemployed and is housed in the church. Together they could be the perfect partnership.

In order to facilitate such a program the parish’s kitchen would need to undergo improvements. Through various grants, fundraising and congregational support, more than \$100,000 in renovations were completed. Combining the updated parish kitchen with McAllister’s skill set along with AiF’s ability to reach underserved individuals, everything was in place.

In June of 2017, a new nonprofit, named Parish Hall Kitchen, Inc. (PHK) was created comprised of three separate ministries: the original Friday Night Supper ministry; Trinity Restaurant Training (TRT); and Trinity Community Catering. Together



Heart & Soul



From left: Angela Quail, Rev. Hunt, Joe McAllister, Hallie Romanowski and Derran Smith

these programs seek to feed, train and empower individuals and their families. Trainees are recruited through a partnership with AiF.

Released from prison last October, Derran Smith came to AiF in search of resources. He had no culinary background, but was passionate about the opportunity to learn new skills and rebuild his life. He quickly became the obvious choice as the first TRT trainee. Smith took a leap of faith and accepted the challenge.

McAllister has tailored and compressed his program to teach what one would learn in the first six months of a culinary training program into approximately eight weeks—averaging 10 hours of paid training a week. Each week Smith and McAllister met, focusing on a different unit: from knife skills, stocks and sauces to pasta making, baking and everything between. “I knew what I wanted to do but I didn’t know what was going to happen,” said McAllister. “Working one-on-one has been a really interesting experience.”

In addition to weekly courses with McAllister, Smith was able to hone his skills with hands-on experience through Trinity Community Catering, which currently provides catering for parish and AiF events. Not only are trainees employed by PHK, all catering profits are put back into PHK to support the various ministries.

PHK is partnering with businesses across the local food service industry to facilitate job placement. As McAllister put it, “We are offering someone real hands-on experience, the opportunity to learn actual techniques, retain those techniques, and be able to translate that into a new job.”

Understanding the importance of supporting the trainees, AiF provides related materials and expenses including knives, chef coats, pants, shoes, textbooks and the cost of the National Restaurant Association’s ServSafe Manager’s Certification.

As Romanowski explained, “We want to remove any barriers that are preventing our trainees from successfully completing the program and from becoming self-sustaining. This includes connecting them to other services outside of AiF.” In addition to covering training expenses, AiF provides assistance with items as simple as bus tokens and cell phone minutes to greater expenses such as utility bills, eviction prevention and groceries, all of which are services that fall within the scope of the AiF mission.



“Sometimes I can’t even put it into words, but a thing I’ve never thought that I would be doing — cooking, and the response I get from people is ‘that is wonderful.’ That is the best thing ever.” **DERRAN SMITH**

After logging more than 80 hours of training and hands-on experience, culminating in completing a five-course meal for his final exercise, Smith became the program’s first graduate.

He is currently employed full-time, managing the prepared food section at a local Shop Rite Supermarket. The program has provided him with more than just a new skill set; it has given him hope.

“Sometimes I can’t even put it into words,” said Smith. “But a thing I’ve never thought that I would be doing — cooking, and the response I get from people is ‘that is wonderful. That is the best thing ever. I’ve never felt that before, and I get that type of intention in all walks of life now.” Graduation does not mark the end for Smith in the training program, it is a new beginning in more ways than one.

Upon completion of the program graduates are expected to pay it forward and volunteer 20 hours through Friday Night Supper, catering assistance, or other food prep. In addition to his position in the supermarket, PHK has hired Smith as its first employee to participate in the screening of potential trainees and mentoring of trainees.

“I hope that it continues to grow,” said Smith. “With more people, more trainees, more everything. I hope I’m here every step of the way.” He has already begun mentoring Angela Quail, the latest trainee. Quail has been a part of the AiF community for many years, and is participating in the program with hopes of elevating her current career path in the culinary industry.

As PHK looks to the future it is hopeful. In November, two new restaurant trainees will begin training. Once the restaurant training program is fully established there are plans to launch a full-service, non-profit restaurant and expand the catering services beyond the church walls.

As the Chinese proverb says — give a man a fish and you feed him for a day; teach a man to fish and you feed him for a lifetime. “We can make a huge impact on the tiny little corner of God’s kingdom that has been given to us as our responsibility,” said Hunt. “Jesus has called us centrally to have that impact, in a positive way, to use all the blessings and gifts He has bestowed upon us to reach out and serve in His name.”

# BEYOND SUNDAY

Be the Gospel. On an almost weekly basis, missionaries from the Episcopal Church of St. Mark's in Frankford, as well as Franciscan brothers and the brothers from Padre Pio, walk the streets in Frankford. Forging relationships with those that are unsheltered and addicted.



# Interview with the Rev. Canon Arlette Benoit Joseph, Office of Transitions

**Q** *What are key steps in a discernment and formation process?*

**A** “Discernment is the process of making careful distinctions in our thinking about truth.” The various steps of the discernment and formation process can seem intimidating and complicated. It is really important at all stages of the process that you remember one key word: discernment. The whole discernment and formation process in the Diocese of Pennsylvania is designed at one main goal – to hear clearly God’s call. This Diocese is filled with wise, dedicated, gifted lay people, some of whom are called to ordained ministry. We honor their gifts and are constantly discerning how their gifts meet the needs of the church. We also acknowledge that looks differently for everyone, the common denominator in this Diocese however is that we need people who know Jesus, and have a desire to change the world.

When someone begins feeling the nudge or call to ordained ministry, contact your parish priest. If no parish priest is currently assigned, you can reach out to my office to be connected to a priest. After several meetings with a parish priest a meeting should be scheduled with me to go over the discernment packet and understand the process and next steps.

**Q** *How would you describe the discernment and formation process in the Diocese of Pennsylvania?*

**A** The beauty of the Episcopal Church is that discernment is done in community and the Church at large participates in the discernment and formation of individuals. This includes but is not limited to family, friends, parish priest, a parish discernment group, the Commission of Ministry and the Bishop. The Application for Holy Orders in the Diocese of Pennsylvania adheres to the canonical requirements of The Episcopal Church and diocesan policies. The Canons (laws of The Episcopal Church) say that “all Baptized persons are called to minister in Christ’s name, to identify their gifts with the help of the Church and to serve Christ’s mission at all times and in all places.” Every child of God is called. The discernment and formation process in the Diocese of Pennsylvania is one that is prayerful, holy and sacred.

**Q** *What are some common misconceptions about the ordination process?*

**A** One of the main misconceptions for ordination and formation processes is that it’s a cookie cutter, “one size fits all” process. This is not the case, because discernment is individual and formation looks differently for each person. This is why it is important to be in touch with the Commission of Ministry and my office to ensure that requirements and deadlines are being met to move towards ordination.

**Q** *What resources are available to priests that they might not know about?*

**A** We want all our clergy to be successful in their ministerial roles because health clergy mean healthier congregations. Once ordained we are available to recommend and offer resources for mentoring, coaching, spiritual directors, and therapists. A clergy person should never hesitate to reach out to my office for assistance.



Canon Benoit Joseph

Discernment & Formation

*For those discerning a new call to ministry or those looking for clergy, please contact Canon Benoit Joseph, [abenoitjoseph@diopa.org](mailto:abenoitjoseph@diopa.org).*

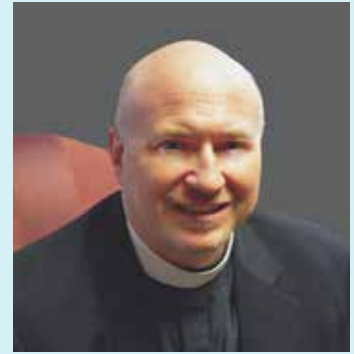
# Welcome!

A warm welcome to those recently called to serve.

Following the Calling



**Rev. Ernest Galaz**  
Christ Episcopal Church, Media



**Rev. Mike Giansiracusa**  
St. Gabriel's Episcopal Church, Philadelphia



**Rev. Bonnie McCrickard**  
St. Timothy's Episcopal Church, Roxborough



**Rev. Edward Thompson**  
Trinity Episcopal Church, Swarthmore

## BEYOND SUNDAY

A bingo night is part of a new program at St. James Episcopal Church in Collegeville to stretch across the generations. "As part of Church Family Night, approximately once a month we host an event that is applicable to a large age group and open to everyone. Something where we can come together in fellowship and fun." On the schedule after bingo? Movies, ornament decorating, game nights and more.



# BEYOND SUNDAY

Darby Mission coordinated the Mural of Hope, letting children curate the images that felt hopeful. Ten children created artwork for the wall and 100 children added their hand prints. Of his “God is waiting” piece, community member Jay said “God is waiting for you to let go of the past.”



## REVIVAL

# Reigniting St. Alban's

When I first visited St. Alban's Episcopal Church in Newtown Square in March, there were 56 people in the pews. The rector, the Rev. Matthew Dayton-Welch, pleased with the attendance, jokingly notified the congregation that it was not Easter yet.

This church community has come a long way, facing an unfortunately common problem. With an average Sunday attendance nearing 200 from the 1980s into the early 2000s, the lifeblood of the church slowly dwindled to a weekly attendance as low as 25 over the course of the following decade. In 2017, when the parish was beginning to come out of the long period of decline (in part due to considerable support from St. David's Episcopal Church in Radnor) Dayton-Welch was called to come on as rector.

Entering his first post as rector, Dayton-Welch arrived with an open mind, excited about what St. Alban's had to offer: location and community. More than location, the parishioners were the real draw. The small congregation remained passionate about supporting one another and the outreach ministries that have been central to St. Alban's for decades. "The church was eager to grow, but not beholden on how to grow," Dayton-Welch explained. "As long as we tried it together, both they and I were up for anything." Despite going through a period of decline, the fire of the Holy Spirit was never fully extinguished. "The message I got from them was that they wanted to be a church, not a community center with a chapel, but an honest-to-God church that did church things: quality worship,

meaningful outreach, bible studies and adult education, and family-centered fellowship," said Dayton-Welch. "They were so excited to be Christ's heart and hands in the world." The new rector did not want to make all changes alone and instead created an open dialogue with parishioners. "My mantra was to do things collaboratively, transparently, and without surprising one another." The first goal was to make Sunday morning a soul-enriching draw. "We knew we'd grow out if we grew deep," he said. "We didn't just want people to come on Sunday; we wanted Sunday to be such a central opportunity to deepen our shared faith in a living and loving God that our people would want to be here, and they'd want to invite others in to join us, our friends and neighbors. And they've done just that."

{ In their own words, thoughts from parishioners }



“From day one we knew St. Alban's was what we were looking for. It had a very warm community; we got that sense from the start. They were doing so much community work and that is something we really enjoy. For my family, Sundays are a centering experience between the service and being with the community as a whole. Once you get there and experience it, it becomes part of you. It makes you want to sink into service. It makes you want to do more for the people in the community and to go out and tell people about St. Alban's. Matt coming in has really added to that algorithm. He brings an inspiring, forward-moving, high-level energy to the community. I am hopeful that the St. Alban's community will extend its reach and continue its growth. We love everything about this place and are equally as grateful it found us.”

—MIKE STAIBER, PARISHIONER FOR 3 YEARS  
(WIFE RENEE AND DAUGHTERS EVELYN AND NORA)



“At no time since our arrival in 1974 did we seriously consider leaving St. Alban's — we regard our fellow parishioners as friends and family. Although we've seen ups and downs over four decades, we always trusted that God's plan included a Christian community like St. Alban's in Newtown Square. Since calling Father Matt to be our Rector, our parish family has truly been infused with the Holy Spirit.”

—ED AND BONNIE BUCHAK,  
PARISHIONERS FOR 44 YEARS



“The message I got from them was that they wanted to be an honest-to-God church that did church things: quality worship, meaningful outreach, bible studies and adult education, and family-centered fellowship.” **REV. MATTHEW DAYTON-WELCH**



Dayton-Welch with parishioners



“I used to pass [St. Alban’s], one day I decided to pop in. Father Matt came out and greeted me. A couple of days after we had a chat and a couple of weeks later I actually went to church on Sunday. The people were so accepting, there was a good feeling. To me that’s what makes St. Alban’s – the community and the people. People have had the courage and trust to invite me to get involved. It’s encouraging, if somebody’s asked you there’s a good reason, they’re bringing you in. I’m learning not just from Father Matt, I’m learning from other people. Matt is innovative. He’s excited about his church, his people, his community. I’m a freshman, but he makes the walk easy. The importance of St. Alban’s is that you are something. The most disappointing thing about St. Alban’s is that not enough people know about it. There is so much good, and so many good people. People are committed, not because they have to. The narrative certainly has changed. We need to just let people know that it’s there.”

–MARK BOYLE, PARISHIONER FOR 1 YEAR



“The community at St. Alban’s is very open and welcoming. My daughters are very involved. St. Alban’s is part of their life, they feel very comfortable here and they feel very proud of the fact that they go to church. The good things they have learned to do through their church they also do in their school communities as well. When there was a turn and most of us thought the doors were going to have to close, it was heartbreaking. It is just awesome to see the transformation, and to see people that grew up at St. Alban’s coming back. Now church is much fuller, we are getting more kids coming in, and at times you think it really was a miracle. If we continue on the path that we are on it’s not impossible, nothing is impossible, I think we’ve already shown that.”

–JILL PERSICO , PARISHIONER FOR 13 YEARS  
(DAUGHTERS GABI AND ALLY)

Continued on page 18

Dayton-Welch and his congregation are simultaneously building confidence in one another. It is contagious enthusiasm. Like enduring embers of a faded fire being tenderly stoked to ignite new, St. Alban's is seeing itself reignited once again. In the past 15 months, St. Alban's has added 50 parishioners. Weekly attendance now averages in the high fifties, and according to Dayton-Welch, "We are not out of the woods yet, but we can see a way out."

The church maintains a five-day-a-week, all volunteer thrift shop that supports both the parish and local community programs. The weekday Mother's Day Out program offers affordable childcare to parents of 18-month-olds through 4-year-olds in a safe and healthy environment, and the 4,000-sq. foot model railroad in the basement is one of the largest, regularly maintained model railroads in the greater Philadelphia area. The parish each August hosts upwards of 50 homeless people through a partnership with Connect by Night, and this year began new outreach partnerships with St. Mary's Food Cupboard in Chester and the St. James School in Philadelphia.

Among these ministries, the parish also offers free meditative yoga, several Bible studies, and a new, intimate Wednesday evening Eucharist.

On what the future holds for St. Alban's Dayton-Welch said, "The image I have is of a baptismal font overflowing, spilling out God's love and providence into our community, our city and the world, so that all the dry patches of the human experience become saturated with hope."



“St. Alban's has always been a remarkable church. When my family began attending St. Alban's in 1982, we were immediately taken by the excellence of the sermons, the beauty and intimacy of the physical plant and by the warmth of the congregation. Skipping ahead several decades to current times, now that our granddaughter attends she becomes the fourth generation of our family to attend St. Alban's. Our newly called rector, the Rev. Matthew Dayton-Welch, is a real gift. He is a terrific preacher and his emphasis on scripture-based sermons is wonderfully refreshing, as is his commitment to extending St. Alban's outreach. He is very enthusiastic and his joy is truly contagious. It makes me want to make the effort to get to church every week.”

—SUE PHILLIPS, RETURNING PARISHIONER FOR 1 YEAR

“St. Alban's feels like my childhood home which I have finally made my way back to. I really can't put into words how special it is to me, it feels like a part of me. I spent a majority of my childhood here. St. Alban's laid the foundation for my faith. It makes me so happy to see my daughter grow up at St. Alban's as I did. I also love seeing my daughter becoming

a part of the community in her own way. I remember listening to a guest sermon a few months back, in the beginning of the sermon we were asked to close our eyes and think of the most relaxing and cherished place where we would want to be. I thought about it and I realized for me it was right where I was sitting — in that very pew. St. Alban's offers me a home

where I can feel safe, a place where I can be at peace and a pathway to be closer to God. It's a place where I desire to know more, to seek a greater understanding of God's love and feel his love as well.”

—LAURIE BRAGG, RETURNING PARISHIONER FOR 1 YEAR (DAUGHTER LYDIA)

# BEYOND SUNDAY

One of the best after-school programs. Schoolchildren learned to grow vegetables through a program led by Trinity Episcopal Church in Swarthmore. Partnering with St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Chester, Chester Eastside, Inc. and the Penn State Extension Agency, food (lettuce, spinach, collards, kale, radishes, broccoli, tomatoes, green beans, peppers, potatoes, squash and flowers) went home with the young gardeners and also went to Chester Eastside's food distribution center. "The children are very enthusiastic and enjoy planting, watering, and harvesting our crops."



“... we have to be mindful that people’s dignity, love and personal freedom in Christ is a birthright, not a privilege. The beloved shouldn’t be part of our project but our project should be to love them as our brothers and sisters in Christ. To open doors of belonging, of community, to build leaders. To treat all who come before the table of Christ as equals.” **RODRIGUEZ**

## PROGRAM

# Belonging and Building

In July 2016, the census estimate for Philadelphia’s Hispano/Latino population rose to 14.4 percent. The majority of Hispano/Latino Philadelphians identify as being Puerto Rican, followed by Mexican, Cuban and other nationalities. Of 134 congregations in this Diocese, only two identify as Spanish-speaking. There is room for growth. We spoke with Tamika Rodriguez who is leading plans to expand and grow places of worship that will serve all Latino generations.

### ***Can you give us an idea of the work you are doing?***

My work and commitment in this calling of ministry is to reclaim and proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ. The Hispano/Latino Committee is here to empower, to grow and develop the plantings of many new communities for the Hispano/Latino people. We will also continue to support and encourage existing Hispano/Latino congregations and bring them into cultural competency. I have been meeting and working with nine congregations and guiding them through their journey of discerning what it means to serve this community. Through our efforts we have participated in retreats, workshops on cultural competency, social justice challenges not limited to racial discrimination, evangelism, etc. For 2018, the focus was to get in touch with existing communities, as well as parishes discerning the work needed to serve the Hispano/Latino community around them. We were able to hear what they are doing, what are their needs (if any), establish a connection of belonging within our Diocese.

### ***What are some of the things you planned that you felt were successful?***

The Soy Latino Episcopal Conference we coordinated (through the Anti-Racism Commission) was a great way for us to share our eclectic culture through prayer, music, food, experience, conversation. Reflecting on this now, I would say that we were actually encouraging cultural humility, rather than competency. We also went on a half-day retreat with six congregations who want to serve their Hispano/Latino neighbors. Ultimately, the attendees were able to get beyond the fear of the “language barrier.” This all helped lead into New Camino, where participants left feeling inspired and ready to do the work. A team of disciples who have a great burning passion of love and humility was now forming to help build a strong community of faith.



**Tamika Rodriguez**



Rodriguez (second from left) with the Bishop and others at Nuevo Amanecer. Translated as “new dawn,” the annual conference has two driving principles: networking and formation

***What about work with lay leaders in the Hispanic/Latino communities?***

We are working with Academia Ecu mica de Liderazgo through The Episcopal Church. This academy promotes and nurtures the leadership and formation of lay and lay leaders of Latino Ministries in an ecumenical way. The academy offers a twin-track approach: 1) A curriculum for those who want to learn more about the Christian faith and the Episcopal Church. The curriculum consists of 12 courses which takes about 2 ½ years to complete. 2) The academy trains lay leaders on the art of facilitating groups with said curriculum. What makes this program different from others is the language (Spanish only). We currently have two active certified trainers from the Academy who have lead our first course this fall. We hope to send four more leaders for training before the end of the year. We are also pulling together a Latino choir that can share the gift of praise in their mother tongue.

***What is your focus for the next year and beyond?***

We want to plant three to five communities bilingual and/or Spanish only (in addition to the seven communities that currently have six month plans) across the Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania; the creation of culturally inclusive Hispano/Latino Rites of Christian Initiation; and a weekend conference for all (including children) who are a part of the Hispano/Latino community in our church. This conference would focus on celebrating, supporting, strengthening and even sharing their journey, tools, and resources. Attending Nuevo Amanecer Conference this year has inspired this seed.

***Can you give any advice to those looking to connect with their Latino neighbors?***

I have discovered love when called to “be the voice of the voiceless.” This language of communication is not English or Spanish. It is through the love of Christ. I do not need a language to know Jesus, to change the world. Walk beyond that language barrier fear. Don’t be surprised that English is understood or spoken. Or, if English is preferred.

Go out and know your community. The population of Hispano/Latinos can come from Puerto Rico, Dominican Republic, Cuba, Mexico, Colombia, Honduras, Ecuador, etc. Understand our culture, and who we are. Understand our generations. Understand our burning love of God and Jesus Christ. We are a community beyond grateful to be able to just pray.

New Camino is an Episcopal program for clergy, vestry and lay leaders that explores the changing face, cultural backgrounds, interests and needs of Hispano/Latino communities, while also welcoming, serving, and involving them in our Congregational Life and Ministry.

Building Leaders

# Time to Thrive

## REVIVAL

### “Intricate and important”

When you step inside St. Mary’s Episcopal Church on Bainbridge Street in Philadelphia, you will feel more than 100 years of African-American history within its walls. In 1897, the church moved to its current location at 18th and Bainbridge from the north side of Lombard Street. It began as St. Mary’s Chapel, an African-American mission founded by the Society of St. Margaret, an order of women in the Anglican Church of St. Mark’s Church. The series of murals, depicting angels to the ornate capitals atop each of its stone columns, provide a look into its Anglo-Catholic history.

Changing demographics have affected this church like others in the Diocese. At one point, in the last five years, the church faced the possibility of closing. “I never believed we were going to get closed because I knew who was in our pocket,” said parishioner Eugena Allen. “God.”



Robert Byrd

Last year, Bishop Gutiérrez made a special trip to the church.

There was anxiety around the visit recalls Senior Warden Robert Byrd. “We had no full-time rector, an empty rectory, no idea how to grow our parish in a radically changed neighborhood; and, needed budget management assistance.”

“The Bishop made us understand that we were an intricate part and we were important,” said Paulette Green-Cox, a vestry member. Of the visit, the Bishop stated that “we need to change the prevailing attitude in the Church that the only way to survive is to close churches,” said Gutiérrez. “We can do more than survive; we can thrive.”

The church is learning to adapt and welcome neighborhood change. “Within the past year, with the help of the Diocese and the dean of the Southwark Deanery, the Rev. Donna Maree, we have been able to renovate the rectory which will give us

an increase in income so we can do more community outreach,” said Byrd. Working with the Rev. Betsy Ivey, canon for growth and support, repairs were made to the church rectory and it now rents for \$3500 per month. The church was the recipient of the Growth Development Fund, which allots 10 churches a year \$30,0000 each.

The new priest-in-charge, the Rev. Modayil Philips, arrived from South India in January 2016. “Tremendous,” is how he described changes in the last two years. From concerts to street ministry, the church community continues to grow. “We have an outreach ministry to Bethesda House where each night 20 to 30 men sleep in our basement; we have Alcoholics Anonymous, Overeaters Anonymous; and we have a Saturday soup kitchen that feeds from 15 to 30 men,” said Byrd.

Of the future, Green-Cox said “We want to make sure we are doing our part in the community to make it better.”



From left: Paulette Green Cox and Eugena Allen



The Bishop, Philips (to his left) and some of the congregation

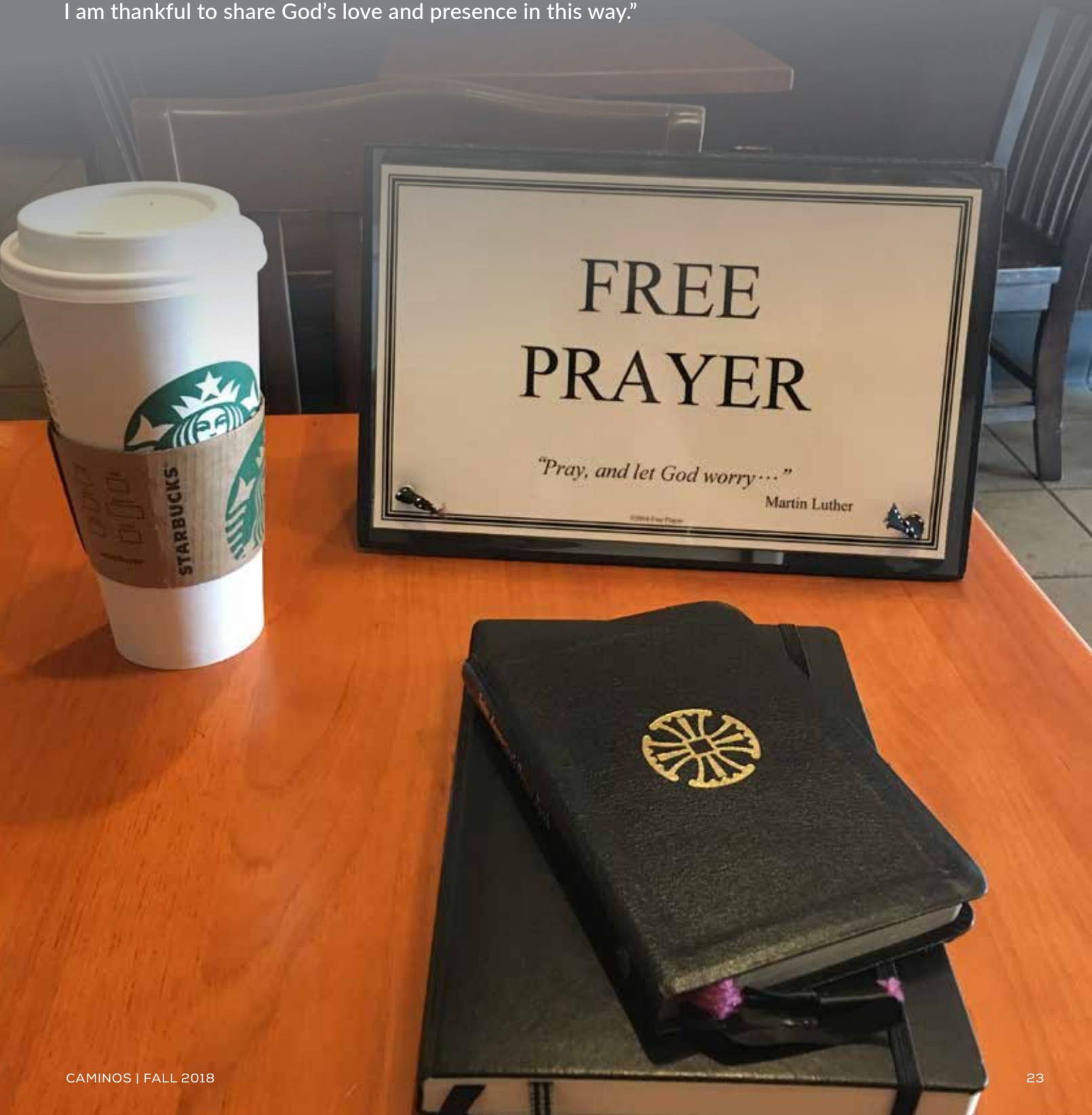
“I never believed we were going to get closed because I knew who was in our pocket. God.”

EUGENA ALLEN

For support in growth and development contact Canon Ivey, [bivey@diopa.org](mailto:bivey@diopa.org).

# BEYOND SUNDAY

Go to where the people are. That is what the Rector, Paul Adler, at the Church of St. Alban in Roxborough does each week. Armed with a sign, prayer books and a friendly smile he goes to a coffee shop to offer free prayer. "Sometimes I pray with college students before exams, sometimes with those discerning a new job or celebrating a promotion, and unfortunately sometimes with those fleeing abusive relationships or economic hardship. No matter who sits next to me, I am thankful to share God's love and presence in this way."



RESOURCE

# \$1.5M in Infrastructure Grants

This unique grant fund will distribute \$1.5 million to Diocesan churches over five years. Each year, 10 churches can receive up to \$30,000. In its first year more than 50 churches applied. “This is innovative,” said Gutiérrez. “We are one of the only dioceses in the country that are investing in our churches in this way.”



The Growth Development Fund creates transformation across churches. Here are some images from work at the Episcopal Church of St. Alban, Roxborough, a grant recipient.



During the Bishop’s pilgrimage, he discovered several congregations needed small to medium capital improvements to expand their capacity for ministry, hospitality and community engagement. For some churches, this meant renovating a room for youth; repairing an old HVAC system; improving access with handicap ramps; repaving a parking lot; or replacing old windows with new energy-efficient ones. Unfortunately, many of the congregations that shared these needs did not have the funds to undertake such projects. With the approval of the Standing Committee, the Growth Development Fund was created to help parishes make these improvements.

“We’re seeing growth because of this grant,” said Gutiérrez.

*Please contact Canon Doug Horner, [dhorne@diopa.org](mailto:dhorne@diopa.org), if you have questions about applying or want to renew your application from last year.*



# Parish Wellness Centers



In our efforts to be active in advocating for social and economic equality, we have created partnerships with local universities so our parishes can be points of access to care in addition to places of worship. These wellness centers will be staffed by nursing and social work students to provide needed services to the community.

No appointments are necessary.

No insurance is necessary.

Here is a schedule of wellness centers across the Diocese.

The full list and any changes

is listed on our website,

[www.diopa.org/news/wellness-centers](http://www.diopa.org/news/wellness-centers)



## Wellness Center @St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Frankford

Social Work students from West Chester University

- Monday, 3 p.m. to 8 p.m.
- Friday, 4:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
- Saturday 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.



## Wellness Center @St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Center City

- Monday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Wednesday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- Thursday, 6 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Housing assistance from Project Home and Jefferson University nursing students available on some days



## Wellness Center @St. Michael's Episcopal Church in Yeadon

(begins January 2019)

Nursing students from Widener University

- Tuesdays, 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.



## Wellness Center @St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Chester

(begins January 2019)

Nursing students from Widener University

- Wednesdays, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.



## Wellness Center @Christ and St. Ambrose Episcopal Church in North Philadelphia

Social Work students from Temple University

- Thursdays, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.
- Fridays, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.
- Saturdays, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

\*Youth program began October 13, 2018



One of our social workers and peer specialists outside a wellness center at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, Philadelphia

For questions about the wellness centers, including creating one within your church, please contact Canon Toneh Smyth, [tsmyth@diopa.org](mailto:tsmyth@diopa.org).

# A Look Back

For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them. **MATTHEW 18:20**

## MENTAL HEALTH DAY & RECOVERY DAY



## WOMEN'S TEA



## CITY CAMP



## GENERAL CONVENTION



## PROGRAM

# Taking it to the Street

Each Friday morning, about a dozen volunteers take to the streets outside the Episcopal Church of the Holy Trinity in the heart of Lansdale to feed the hungry.

The volunteers stand on the sidewalk at the busy corner of Broad and Fourth Streets, where the church has stood since 1890, and hand out bags with handmade peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, as well as frozen sandwiches and other goodies donated by Wawa and bread donated by the local Hearth Bakery.

"I think there's a very underserved community in Lansdale," says Lorraine Flagg, a longtime member of Holy Trinity who volunteers regularly for the sandwich ministry. "You see it when you're standing out here."

On a typical Friday, Holy's Trinity's sandwich ministry gives out about 75 bags with peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, chips, a piece of fruit or a fruit cup, and a pastry. They also pass out about 75 bags of frozen Wawa hot dogs, pretzels, cheese sticks, breakfast sandwiches and other food, and another 75 bags of fresh-baked bread from the Hearth Bakery—hoagie rolls, loafs, and dinner rolls.

It is an inspiring example of a church and community working together to help its most vulnerable people.

"This is what we should be doing as a church family," says rector's warden Ray Medlin, who was instrumental in starting the sandwich ministry four years ago. "There is a community need, and this ministry benefits them greatly."

The seed was planted by a visitor to the church's rummage sale in the spring of 2014, who wondered if Holy Trinity would be interested in hosting a food pantry or food ministry of some kind.

Medlin brought the idea to the Rev. Amanda Eiman, who was the priest-in-charge at Holy Trinity at the time and is now associate rector at St. David's Episcopal Church in Wayne. They came up with the idea of doing a sandwich ministry on Fridays, which would complement Manna on Main's established food pantry and soup kitchen to help those in need.

"The first week, we made 25 peanut butter and jelly sandwiches and took them out in baggies to Broad Street in front of the church to hand out," Medlin recalls. "There were three of us, and it took 2 ½ hours to hand them out."

They persisted, and as word spread, so did the number of people stopping by for sandwiches. Within a few weeks, volunteers started adding a piece of fruit and a small bag of chips to the sandwiches.



Working through the national Harvest program ([www.foodtodonate.com](http://www.foodtodonate.com)), which connects restaurants and stores looking to donate excess food to charitable organizations seeking to feed the hungry, Medlin arranged for the new sandwich ministry to start getting frozen food donated by Wawa several days each week to hand out on Fridays. The church bought a freezer to increase its capacity to handle the growing amount of food being donated.

Wegman's and BJ's also contributed gift cards to help the ministry grow, and within the past two years, Hearth Bakery agreed to donate excess bread on Thursday nights to hand out on Fridays.

"The community came in strong," Medlin says, mentioning that many Lansdale businesses also donated prizes for a bingo fundraiser last year that benefited the sandwich ministry.

The volunteers—members of the church and people from the community, along with high school students who help out during the summer months—are out on the corner on Fridays year-round, regardless of weather. The only exceptions are when the ministry moves to Wednesdays before Thanksgiving (turkey sandwiches, instead of the usual PB&J) and Easter (ham sandwiches).

The Rev. Alan Broadhead, a retired Episcopal priest and member of Holy Trinity, picks up donated food from Wawa for the sandwich



**Top to bottom: Lorraine Flagg; Ray Medlin; and parishioners making sandwiches in the kitchen**

ministry several days each week, and helps out on Fridays. He says working in the ministry not only helps others in the community, but has been a blessing for him as well, as he looks forward to the company of the close-knit group of volunteers.

"This is what it's all about," says the Rev. William Rex, interim priest-in-charge of Holy Trinity. "A church that reaches outside itself into the community is going to find itself alive in this chaotic world."

When asked why she braves rain, sleet, snow, and scorching sun to help out most weeks, Flagg answers simply: "Because it's my turn to give back. I've been fortunate. Put it this way—I have a lot more than a lot of the people I meet out here. I want to show the Lord I am grateful."

BY JACK CROFT, FREELANCE WRITER AND PARISHIONER AT HOLY TRINITY

For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. **JEREMIAH 29:11**

SUPPORTING MINISTRIES

# Growing Together



**Our vision as the Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania is to know Jesus and change the world. Together, we make this vision a reality by:**

1. Proclaiming the good news of Jesus Christ (through discipleship, evangelism, communications and building relationships).
2. Empowering our congregations (assisting them with leadership, management, resources, reorganization and support)
3. Addressing the pain of the world (through mission, outreach, growth and participation in The Episcopal Church)

Following my ordination, I began my pilgrimage to visit each parish. I listened and learned your hopes, dreams, and victories as well as your concerns, setbacks, and challenges. During many of those visits, I often heard a sad and troubling question: "Are you going to close our church?"

I rejoice in the fact that after our first two years together, people no longer ask whether I am going to close or sell their church. Instead, people envision "how can we grow together?"

I gave the commitment that we would work to empower our churches, provide a three-year hold on raising assessments and allow our churches to dream and grow. I also shared with you my desire to turn the pyramid on its head. No longer would the Episcopacy be a center of power into which resources flowed. Instead, the Bishop and Bishop's office are here to serve you. This Episcopacy is about directing as many resources as possible to our congregations.

To this end I am pleased to tell you that together as a diocese we continue to discern the move toward incorporation. As we do the sacred work of building community, developing systems, growing ministry, and serving our congregations, incorporation will enable us to increase the efficiency of our governance and thus better

serve our Diocese. Other large, established dioceses, including Massachusetts, New York and Chicago have moved to incorporate over the past several decades with many positive outcomes in the effectiveness of the ministry and business of their diocese.






The 2019 budget process began in January. The Diocesan Treasurer, staff, and the Finance Committee worked diligently, offered numerous options, reviewed suggestions and explored all available possibilities to address the needs of our Diocese.

I also want to take a moment to remember Ann Booth Barbarin. Ann was the chair of the Finance Committee when she passed unexpectedly. She was involved in this process and her work is reflected in this budget.

After providing a draft budget, the Diocese was invited, for the second year in a row, to offer input at 10 budget hearings. There was crucial sharing, suggestions were reviewed, and we made changes. This gave us all the ability to craft a living document. All of the information related to the budget is online.

This budget reflects a commitment to growth and stability. We are at a pivotal point in our commitment to move forward together.

# This budget will:

- 
 • Increase our ability to serve our parishes and the people of God. We will start a new worshipping congregation connected to the Darby Mission, continue to support ministry restarts in Norristown and Center City, bring new life to the Church of the Crucifixion, and partner with parishes in innovative and growing ministries.
- 
 • Increase our ability to plant 10 Hispano/Latino congregations and continue the critical work of the Anti-Racism Commission, and the expansion of Veteran's Ministry.
- 
 • Empower our congregations to do more outreach ministry, media and web development, marketing, community engagement, discipleship and Christian education, vacation bible school, and feeding and outreach programs so that we might transform our neighborhoods in the name of Jesus.
- 
 • Increase our services to congregations through the Canons and a staff that devotes more than 50% of their time in direct support of our churches, creating parish wellness centers, recovery work and addressing addiction and childhood poverty.
- 
 • Increase support for Youth Ministry through the formation of the Diocesan Youth Advisory Committee, providing more diversified youth programming at the deanery and parish level.

To do all this, we need to take out an additional draw from the Endowment. This is the last year in which Endowment funds will be used to balance the Administration and Mission budget with no increase in the asking from our parishes.

The following information from the Finance Committee helps put our fiscal reality into fuller context.

Parochial report data demonstrates that the capacity of our parishes is growing. But, for years our churches have given less to the Diocese while the need and work that we are doing for the poor and disenfranchised has grown.

Our endowment has grown from \$38M since the market crash in 2008 to \$72M at the end of our last reported quarter.

We are investing more than \$1.5M directly into our churches.

We are one of the wealthiest dioceses in The Episcopal Church (TEC), but have consistently given less than our fair share to TEC despite their increasing work on behalf of the poor and disenfranchised.

Our time to fix this is now. We must do this together to secure our future and meet the need that exists in all of our communities.

- We have reduced and restructured our staff and increased accountability to our churches.
- We are engaged in long-range planning, and we are meeting regularly to look at the budget.
- We have a plan, for the first time, for missional congregations and for closed-churches.
- We are asking all churches to assess their own giving within a 5-year window.

Continued on page 30

I do not like deficits. In my professional life prior to ordination, I made fixing deficit budgets a top priority. Over the coming years, we are going to continue our commitment to address our deficit spending. We will continue to emphasize transparency and accountability. Together, we will build the church.

People may ask, "Why give to the Diocese for the mission?" Participation in your diocesan mission demonstrates a willingness to expand the circle of God's love, to spread the Word and address pain and poverty on a larger scale and thus to be His living body to the larger community. Diocesan mission addresses pain and poverty that is often not evident or visible from our individual perspectives. This mission is also evangelism and opens the heart of Christ and brings to the corners of our community that is often hidden and forgotten. It is the living faith of your Diocese.

In much the same way our connection to The Episcopal Church expands the circle and then goes further with the Anglican Communion. As Archbishop William Temple wrote: "If you have no loyalty in the parish toward the diocese there will not be a great sense of loyalty to the wider fellowship. In practice, it is only through loyalty to the next higher unit than our own that we can effectively serve the wider circle with which we have fellowship."

While our individual church outreach efforts should be encouraged since they are essential to our localized ministry, as both Christians and Episcopalians we are called to go to the corners of the world. Yes, it requires a certain amount of trust. However, our diocesan mission also reaches out to touch places that are beyond the scope or capacity of any one parish. This collective ministry is grounded in prayer and the courage of Christ. We must trust in one another as we take these next steps with faith. In much the same way, we are called to support The Episcopal Church as they do the same throughout the world.

We are a historic and revolutionary diocese. We are called to build upon the legacy we

have inherited. It serves no purpose if in 50 or 100 years we have doubled our endowment and only have half the number of churches. We are called to know Jesus and change the world. The only thing that will ever hold us back is a theology of scarcity over abundance and fear over faith. We are extraordinarily blessed with time, talents and treasure. We have journeyed together, and we are proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ, empowering our congregations, and touching the pain and poverty of the world.

Together, let us see Jesus. Together let's challenge institutions, churches and structures to do the same. Our vision is to know Jesus and change the world. It is not just a statement; we are the living embodiment of that vision.

Let the world see our faith, our love for Jesus and for one another. When people think of the Church, let them see us. Let the world see our faith, our love for Jesus and for one another. We have the gifts, resources, people, and hope. We have an extraordinary history. Let us make history. Let us drop the old linens from the tomb of the past and walk into the light of the risen Christ.

In 50 years, let us be not the fourth largest diocese but the largest. Not 134 congregations, but 268. Let's start now. In five years, 10 years, 100 years, our goodness, our work, our hope, our prayers and faith, our belief, will change the church.

Let us continue the revolutionary work that started here. When we live into this sacred calling we can change the world – for the better.

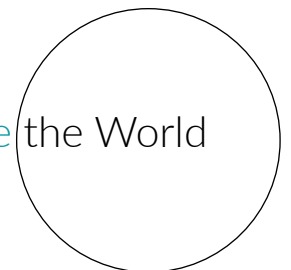
Let us know Jesus and change the world.



The Rt. Rev. Daniel G. P. Gutiérrez  
XVI Bishop of The Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania

“... our diocesan mission also reaches out to touch places that are beyond the scope or capacity of any one parish. This collective ministry is grounded in prayer and the courage of Christ.”

Let's Change the World



*For this and a full explanation of the budget from the Finance Committee, Budget Committee and the Treasurer please visit [www.diopa.org](http://www.diopa.org) or contact Canon Doug Horner, [dhorner@diopa.org](mailto:dhorner@diopa.org).*



# Diocesan Staff Directory

To reach any of the staff, please contact 215-627-6434  
except where noted. Extensions are listed below each name.

For questions on how we can help you, please visit the staff directory  
on the website, [www.diopa.org/about-us/staff-directory/](http://www.diopa.org/about-us/staff-directory/)

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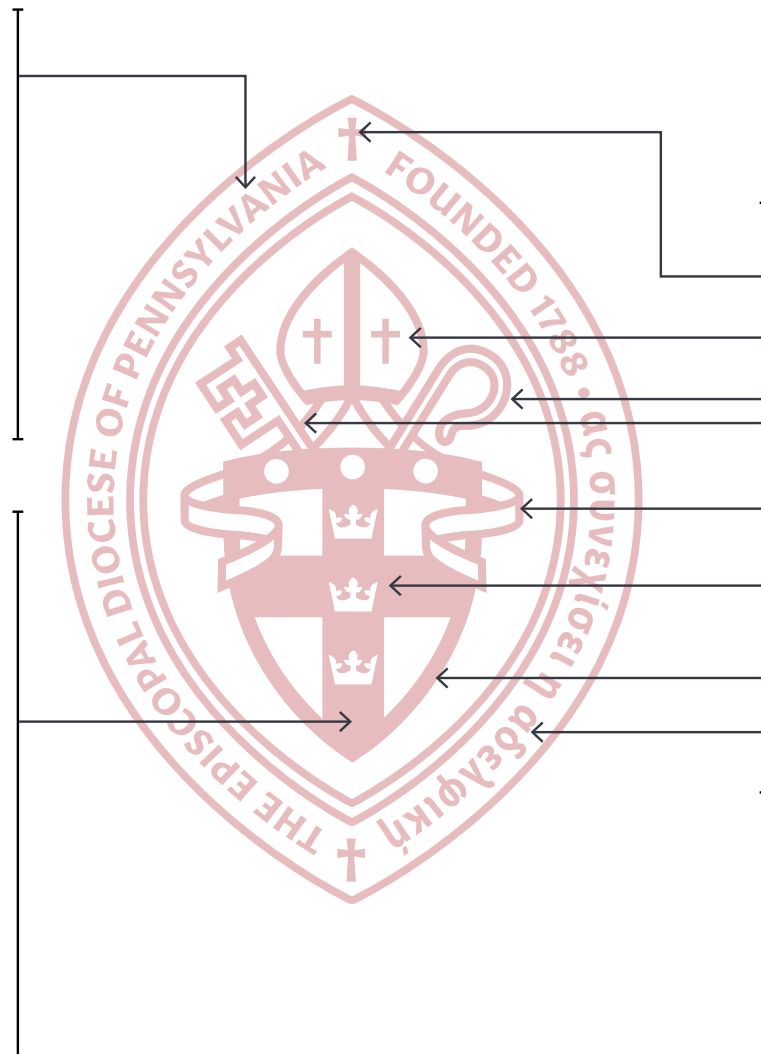
At Your Service



The Diocese has a new seal for use in communications and advertising which puts the focus on the Church's vibrant future, while celebrating the past. The traditional seal will still be used by the Bishop in specific circumstances.

The biggest goal for the new seal was **increasing legibility of text** and elements in order to more clearly tell the story of the church.

The **one color** application is not only practical for 21st century use, but was directly **inspired by the earliest version** of the seal which had a one color application.



All **original elements** of the seal were thoughtfully **maintained** and amplified to tell the story of its rich history.

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