

## Recovery Ministries of the Diocese of New Jersey Report to the 229<sup>th</sup> Diocesan Convention

Over the past year a number of significant goals have been achieved. Our fifth annual Diocesan Recovery Sunday service was celebrated at Trinity Cathedral. We appreciate Bishop Councill's leadership, support and encouragement to continue this as an annual event. We were honored to have The Rev. Stuart Hoke as our guest preacher and Bishop Councill as our celebrant for the Recovery Sunday service held on March 22, 2012. Our 2013 Recovery Sunday will be held April 14, where we will be blessed by having the Rev. Mark Van Sant as our preacher. We are working to secure our guest preacher for 2014. In addition to the diocesan recovery service, we have more churches reaching out to us for assistance and preaching for their own Recovery Sunday Service. There are a couple of churches that provide this service on a regular schedule and others that do one a year. Ultimately, our goal would be to have every church do a recovery service. We hope these events open the doors of communication as we continue to seek to nurture a healthier environment for all while addressing, in a spirit of love and pastoral response, the very real vulnerabilities of those affected by the disease of alcoholism and/or other drug dependency.

To achieve another goal of increased recognition and education, we are putting together a one day training program for clergy. The training program will use interactive skits and presentations as a means of helping members of the clergy and the laity to recognize and assist in the healing processes available to those who need them.

We continue our involvement with recovery ministries in the broader church through Recovery Ministries of the Episcopal Church, Inc. Deacon Cathy Brunson continues to serve on the board. Her involvement has connected us with a much wider network of Episcopalians who share in this ministry. Finding solidarity with other clergy and lay colleagues in recovery ministries has been invaluable.

We once again benefited from one retreat designed to give us the chance to examine our work as a committee more deeply. We used this retreat to focus on our Step One retreat. We also discussed how we can better provide information on recovery to clergy, the school for deacons, and to the youth. At our 2013 convention we are grateful for the opportunity to once again offer an open 12-step meeting for any and all in recovery during the hospitality hour preceding our convention banquet. Much to our delight, the attendance at this meeting is growing and those who attend express their gratefulness in having a place to go at this time.

As always, we are pleased to provide information, assistance in planning a Recovery Sunday, prayer and referral for any congregation or individual within our diocese seeking to address issues of dependency and recovery. Feel free to call on any of us listed below.

In Christ's Healing Love,

*Cathy*

*Mary Ann*

The Rev. Catherine Brunson, Dcn, Co-Chairperson    The Rev. Mary Ann Jensen, Dcn, Co-Chairperson

### *Recovery Ministries of the Diocese of New Jersey*

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