

**REPORT TO THE TRINITY CATHEDRAL ANNUAL MEETING, JANUARY 2019  
AND DIOCESAN CONVENTION**

Please permit me to share some achievements, blessings and challenges for 2018 and beyond.

### **Property Issues**

Once again we continued the exhaustive work required in attending to the myriad of property issues to be addressed re: our Buildings & Grounds: the never-ending restoration of the Cathedral and Chapel roofs under the direction of Leland's Slate Roofing. Mike Raab acquired the services of a new Heating Company to attend to the various challenges plaguing the proper heating of our Administrative Facilities. In the sacristy two electric heating units were installed, in an attempt to address some of the issues re heating of that space. They are not as efficient as perhaps we would like them to be, but they help some. I want to thank Mike Raab, our Property & Maintenance Chair, for his faithfulness in attending to the completion of these projects to the best of his ability. Inspections by the Fire Department (required annually) continue to pose challenges to our daily operation, but we are addressing the issues brought to our attention and will keep you abreast as we move forward. Regrettably many of the light fixtures on the perimeter of our buildings were damaged and needed to be replaced. One of our biggest challenges is the cost of maintaining these facilities; they are a blessing and a challenge. We have certainly opened up our space, very generously to many non-profits and community minded partners but let us be mindful, all this comes at a cost.

We look forward to your support as we press forward. Please be as generous as you are able, your assistance will be greatly appreciated.

### **Justice Issues**

In 2018 thanks to Kimme Carlos, Executive Director of UMHA (United Mental Health Alliance) and Vestry member we continue to advocate and promote the importance of Mental Health awareness and care for all. Episcopal Bishops have identified mental health as something seriously impacting our communities across the country.

Canon Clara Gregory offers outstanding leadership on various fronts re: AIDS testing, alleviation of poverty in our communities and reform of our criminal justice system. Working with Trenton Health Team, we sought to establish Health Liaisons so that when persons are admitted to Robert Wood Johnson Hamilton, St. Francis Medical Center or Capital Health, persons with responsibility for Pastoral Care will be able to minister to their needs.

### **Mission & Ministry**

For the Third Annual Diocesan MLK Day of Service, the speaker was The Rev. Angelo Wildgoose. This program continues to be a tremendous success and a wonderful celebration of the life of The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King. In January 2019, we will host the Fourth Annual MLK Day of Service, sponsored by the Diocesan Youth Commission. Thanks to Bishop Chip Stokes, Canon Phyllis Jones, Tonya Wildgoose, Fr. Ricardo Sheppard, Canon Clara Gregory and the Diocesan Youth Council for coordinating

this spirit-filled, engaging opportunity for outreach and service to the community. This year's speaker will be Ryan Haygood, President and CEO of the New Jersey Institute for Social Justice. For our 2018 Lenten Soup and Study, we used *The Go Guide* by The Rt. Rev. Robert C. Wright, Bishop of Atlanta and Donna S. Mote, Missioner for Engagement and Innovation in the Diocese of Atlanta. Presenters included Dean René John, J. Gil Williams, Frances O'Brien and Phil Lewis. Discussion was healthy, around the issues of Evangelism. Thanks to all who so generously contributed to the discussion and fellowship.

On Palm Sunday we welcomed seventeen new members to the Cathedral: Richard Davis; Vance, Lucia and Olivia Smith; Evelyn Vah; Nancy, Bruce and Christian Hood-Boczar; Tony Wootson; John & Rosemary Luttrell; Rosemary West; Theodore L. Ganges; Janet Weathers; Annmarie Paisley and Kathleen McVey. Many of those individuals have gone on to become very productive members of the Cathedral.

We participated for the sixth year in the Battle Against Hunger Bike Ride. Our Co-Captains were Manuel Tejada and John Major; significant funds for Cathedral outreach ministries were collected. Thanks to Willie Coleman, Mike Raab and Sharon Tejada, the support team. Thanks to Canon Clara Gregory, who continues to provide major leadership on this front as Jubilee Officer for the Diocese of New Jersey.

2018 was our eleventh year of partnering with Princeton University's Pace Center for Civic Engagement, hosting 10-15 students who spend one week, residing at the Cathedral whilst volunteering at various service agencies in Trenton.

Our second Seminarian, John Francis Maher graduated and was Ordained Deacon and later Priest this December. He is now an Assistant Priest at St Paul's Westfield.

This fall The Rev. Dr. Shawn and Karen Armington moved on to pursue other mission work in the Diocese of New Jersey. We celebrated their time amongst us gave them a fond farewell. Canon Dr. Noel and Mrs. Nkiru Amadi celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary and we celebrated them as well on this monumental occasion.

We formulated a Pastoral Care Committee: Stephanie Merryfield, Liaison; Deacon Chris Cox; Deacon Carol Gilbert; Dennie Higgins; Kimme Carlos; J. Gil Williams; Matt McDermott and Richard Davis.

I want to thank Deacon Chris Cox for his diligence and faithfulness in the leading of our Adult Education Programs at the Cathedral. In the fall he invited Ms. Stephanie Merryfield to assume this responsibility. She rose to the occasion and initiated spirited programs, which were very well received. Thanks to Ms. Merryfield for introducing Intercessory Prayer by phone; another initiative very well received by our congregation.

In 2018 we celebrated the 14th anniversary of our Cathedral Community Day Golf Outing. On this occasion St. Martin's, Bridgewater was once again victorious. Thanks Richard Koenig for his stellar leadership of this major fund raising effort on behalf of the Cathedral. Thanks to Bishop Chip Stokes, Canon Chuck Perfater, Fr. Hugh Brown, Tom DiMuzio, Cn. Don Muller, Bill Harmer, Patrice D'Angelo and Willie Coleman. Community Day 2019 is on October 14th.

The 15th annual African Festival was a huge success and continues to be a major support for Cathedral Ministry. Thanks to Gaw Jones, Canon Noel & Nkiru Amadi, Rev. Dr. Peter Bridge, Rachel Mathis, Veronica Ngwayah and many faithful volunteers who make this event the treasure it has been.

A new fund raiser, Go for the Gold, was initiated in 2018 by the Cathedral Chapter, invited by Bishop Chip Stokes and led by Dru Kegeress and our Wardens. We were extremely grateful to all who worked tirelessly to make this a reality. We realized approximately seventeen thousand dollars net. The winners are: 1) Jeffrey Perfater, 2) The Mission of St Mark's & All Saints, Galloway and 3) Althia Muse. Thanks to all the congregations and individuals who generously supported this 2018 initiative.

Stewardship giving in the last seven 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 the leadership of J. Gilbert Williams as New Consecration Chair this year. Thanks to Gil and Speaker Keith Adams, together with testimonies by Georgia Koenig, Canon Chuck Perfater, Bobbie Powell and Sharon Tejada, we are on track to realize potentially our highest pledge commitment.

## **Appreciations**

A great loss to Trinity Cathedral and the Diocese of New Jersey was the death of The Rt. Rev. George E. Councill, Eleventh Bishop of the Diocese, in the Spring of 2018. His passing however was eclipsed by a tremendous outpouring of love and appreciation for his Ministry amongst us. Thanks to Bishop Chip Stokes, George's family, our Diocese as well as many other members of the wider Church who came together to celebrate a humble and holy man.

Cathedral Sunday 2018 was another great success, thanks to the efforts of David Miller, Susan Remmers, Mike and Debbie Raab, The Right Rev. Chip Stokes (for his sponsorship of the floral displays and overall leadership), Canon Karen Mitchell (Preacher) and several congregations throughout our Diocese.

My sincere thanks to 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.

Sincere appreciation to Georgia Koenig and her contingent of volunteers, for coordinating yet another successful rummage sale. To effectively run this fundraising opportunity requires a tremendous amount of work. It, however, affords all an opportunity to get involved in a variety of ways. Please consider how you may get involved and be supportive. Items unsold are donated to the Rescue Mission of Trenton.

In the Fall of 2018 we hosted a wonderful workshop; "Through the Valley of the Shadow: A Faithful Journey through the end of Life and Other Losses." I'm grateful to Stephanie Merryfield for putting this together, in consultation and under the leadership of Chaplain Tedford J. Taylor, Director for Pastoral Care at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital Hamilton. It was well received and we will probably do it again as it provided much useful sharing.

We are also eternally grateful to Chuck Toal and Wigwam for their continued generous support of our "Sock Ministry", providing socks, hats, scarves and gloves to Trinity Cathedral for our outreach ministries. Thanks to Ellen Wry for acquiring the materials, who together with several volunteers

stepped forward to sort this massive supply, which was then distributed to our neighbors and community partners.

We are also especially appreciative of all the energies, planning and diligent efforts of Vickie Ann Tuomari, and her team of volunteers, including her dear husband Darrell. They have taken our Food Pantry ministry to a new level, building on the foundation of those who served faithfully before. The needs continue to increase and they meet and far surpass any challenges they encounter along the way. 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 (Sonya and Antonio Brockington.)

Many thanks to our Associate Clergy: Noel Amadi, Peter Bridge, (former Associate, Shawn Armington) 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: Willie Coleman, Dennie Higgins, Ron Zilinski, Treasurer, Canon Paul Cooper, Clerk, Althia Russell Muse, Kimme Carlos, Wipson Joseph, Jocelyn Francis-White, J. Gilbert Williams, Mike Raab, Sharon Tejada, William Harmer and Lee Whiteman.

My sincere thanks to the Cathedral staff: Patrice D'Angelo, Canon Deborah Ford, Dr. Kerry Heimann, Al Shaw and Michael "PJ" Pettyjohn for their faithful service in the exercise of their labor and ministry.

Thanks to Canon Deborah Ford and Dr. Kerry Heimann, and our faithful Choir members for their weekly, wonderful presentations at our many occasions of worship. The countless rehearsals and uplifting presentations by a choir do much to inspire our worship to God.

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, Episcopal Church Women, 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.

Thanks to Barbie Bach and Keith Adams for beautiful banners which speak to the heart of who we are as 'Church'. Two adorn the Cathedral Building outside, and one inside.

Thanks to Dr. Phil and Gail Lewis for a new upright piano for Synod Hall. The one we had there before was totally shot.

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, United Mercer Interfaith Organization (UMIO) and the Trenton Ecumenical Area Ministry (TEAM).

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 all year.

Congrats to Tom Aiken and Dulce Lawton, recognized for their contributions to the Cathedral and the Diocese at the Diocesan Celebration of Older Adults.

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 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, Willie Coleman and Dennie Higgins; Deacon Chris Cox, and all our convocation delegates for consistently attending Trenton Convocation meetings: Canons Paul and Terry Cooper, Howard Ebersole, Larry Gustin, 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.

Congratulations to Richard Davis, who has been accepted to Princeton Seminary for the fall of 2019; to Mother Ruth Hamilton Fitzgerald, Janet Byard's mother, who will turn 100 years old on July 26, 2019; and to Evelyn Green, Suzette Price's mother, who will turn 100 years old on November 7, 2019.

A happy anniversary to our Administrator, Patrice D'Angelo, who celebrated 15 years here at Trinity Cathedral in 2018!

### **Future considerations**

On December 5, 2018 I met with Dr. Gail Hilliard-Nelson who shared with me: "I have this idea about working with middle and high school students to help them and their parents prepare for college. It would be great if we can get some funds (I have written over \$13 million in funded grants), but I could actually get this off the ground with volunteers (I have lots of connections who would help). I don't know what else Trinity does with middle and high school students, but we should connect this with whatever supports you offer." Dr. Hilliard-Nelson has an outstanding resume, including a Doctorate from George Washington University. I've asked Gail Lewis, Jocelyn Francis-White, J. Gil Williams and Melissa Mantz to work with Dr. Hilliard-Nelson and friends to formulate plans to make this happen.

Please consider how you may serve at the Cathedral in 2019 and beyond. We continue to need help with the hospitality and greeters ministries, and the flower guild. 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**

Rest in peace: Jean Aller, Dorothy Ann Stine, Dean Chet Grey, The Rt. Rev. George Councill, Malessa McCrownsey, and James Notte.

We have, by the grace of God, managed to accomplish quite a few things in 2018. We are grateful to countless individuals, too many to mention. We are also grateful to so many churches throughout the Diocese, whose support - monetary and otherwise - enabled us to achieve much by way of God's mission. To God be the Glory.

“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